NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

PAX/DRX/RMS/NAC

Training Toolkit
OUTLINE

- About UNESCO
- About National Commissions for UNESCO
- Interaction between National Commissions & Field Offices
UNESCO

UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945 as a UN specialized agency charged with building peace in the minds of men and women by promoting international collaboration through education, science and culture.

It pursues these objectives through five major programme areas: Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, and Information & Communication. UNESCO’s programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Global Priorities: Gender Equality and Africa

Priority groups: Youth, Small Island Developing States

UNESCO has 193 Member States and 11 Associate Members (as of 2020).
UNESCO’s Governing Bodies

- **3 constitutional organs**: the General Conference, the Executive Board, and the Secretariat

- The **General Conference** consists of the representatives of all 193 Member States and meets every two years. Its duty is to determine the policies and main lines of work of the Organization. It adopts the programme and corresponding budgets. It also elects the members of the Executive Board and appoints, every 4 years, the DG.

- The **Executive Board** ensures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out.

- The **Secretariat** is the Executive Branch of the Organization. It consists of the **Director-General** and the Staff appointed by him or her.
Wider Family of UNESCO

- 26 subsidiary bodies (category I Institutes, intergovernmental science programmes, International Conventions etc.)
- 1121 World Heritage sites: 869 cultural, 213 natural, and 39 mixed properties, in 167 states parties
- 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries, including 21 transboundary sites
- 80 category II Institutes, 854 Chairs/UNITWIN in 134 countries, over 11,500 Associated Schools in 182 countries, over 4,000 Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in 77 countries
- 290 UNEVOC Centres in 167 Member States
- SC IGPs - IHP, MAB networks
- A network of networks (ANSTI, TWAS)
UNESCO’s Strategic Documents

C/4 Medium-Term Strategy (8 years)

C/5 Programme (4 years)

C/5 Budget (2 years)
# Preparation of 40 C/5 Budget (2020-2021) and 41 C/4 (2022-2029) and C/5 (2022-2025)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>DG’s Preliminary Proposals on Draft 40 C/5 Budget 2020-2021 presented by the DG, including programmatic and structural adjustments, if any. Decision of the Executive Board on the Draft 40 C/5. Draft 40 C/5 Budget 2020-2021 presented by the DG, including programmatic and structural adjustments, if any.</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Exec Board</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>40th GC Work plans</td>
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<td>End</td>
<td>Finalization of the 40 C/5 RP Work plans. Adaption of 40 C/5.</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>41st GC</td>
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<td>Regional and subregional meetings of National Commissions on the Draft 41 C/4 and 41 C/5.</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Exec Board</td>
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<td>Draft 41 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025.</td>
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**Note:** BSP: 2018-2021
41 C/4 DG Preliminary Proposals
Key principles: Achieving the vision of Agenda 2030

- Working as One UNESCO towards common goals
- Focusing more on UNESCO’s leadership and comparative advantages
- Positioning UNESCO strategically in the United Nations system
- Reinforcing international cooperation in the Organization’s fields of competence
- Promoting universal values across UNESCO’s fields of competence
- Leaving No One Behind: eradicating poverty, bridging divides and reducing inequalities
- Expanding and diversifying partnerships
- Ensuring continued improvement of UNESCO’s efficiency and effectiveness
- Enhancing the strategic results framework of the Organization
- Focusing on Africa and Gender equality, and responding to the needs of priority groups
ABOUT NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO

- UNESCO is the only UN agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions for UNESCO.

- Set up by their respective governments in accordance with the Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, the National Commissions operate, on a permanent basis, for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of the Organization.

- 199 National Commissions across the world, constitute a truly global family with an authoritative network of stakeholders, partners and experts. At the country level, they are UNESCO’s privileged partners for outreach, engagement and amplifying messages about UNESCO’s vision and mission.
Role and Missions of National Commissions

- Acting as agencies of consultation, liaison and information, and mobilizing and coordinating partnerships with national partners, including the civil society, the National Commissions make substantial contributions in the advancement of UNESCO’s objectives and in the implementation of its programme.

- Brochure on "The Role and Missions of National Commissions for UNESCO" (EN / FR) presents an inventory of National Commissions’ varied and numerous roles on the basis of existing normative and regulatory texts.
Important Documents

- Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution [1945] (EN / FR)
- Charter of National Commissions [1978] (EN / FR)
- Legal Texts on National Commissions [2002] (EN / FR)
- Review of the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with the National Commissions for UNESCO [2011] (EN / FR)
- Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions [2013] (EN / FR)
- Guidelines for Interface and Cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO [2015] (EN / FR)
Meetings of National Commissions

- **Critical for enhancing communication with the Secretariat and strengthening collaboration among National Commissions**

- **Interregional meetings** of National Commissions held on an annual basis
  - 2014: Astana, Kazakhstan
  - 2015: UNESCO HQs
  - 2016: Shanghai, China
  - 2017: UNESCO HQs
  - 2018: Diani, Kenya
  - 2019: UNESCO HQs
  - 2020: Lugano, Switzerland (postponed due to COVID-19)
  - 2021: UNESCO HQs

- **Informal meetings** of National Commissions held on the margins of the Executive Board meetings
Communication and Visibility Tools for National Commissions

- Offer different formats for showcasing National Commissions’ activities and best practices, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among their members

- Monthly Newsletters – issued since 2011
- Annual Reports – 7 editions produced since 2013
- National Commissions web page on UNESCO’s official website
- UNESCO.int – website for Member States and their National Commissions launched in 2011
- Online Platform – intranet tool launched in April 2019

User Guide (EN /FR)
Video-tutorial
Capacity-building opportunities for National Commissions

- National level
  - Tailored trainings on Skype, organized upon request in accordance with specific demands of NatComs

- Subregional/regional level
  - Trainings, organized on the initiative and in close collaboration with Field Offices and NatComs (eg, East African subregional capacity-building workshop, July 2019)

- Interregional level
  - Training seminars for new Secretaries-General and other NatCom officials (Training Workshop for new SGs of NatComs at UNESCO HQ, 14 November 2019; Online Training Workshop for new SGs of NatComs, 2 November 2020)
Monthly online thematic discussions with National Commissions

- Launched on 30 November 2020 with the presentation of the UK National Commission’s Report “National Value of UNESCO to the United Kingdom”

- **Tentative schedule and topics for upcoming meetings**
  - 17 December 2020 - Introduction of the Constituency Relationships Management (CRM) Portal
  - January 2021 – UNESCO’s 75th anniversary
  - February 2021 – Associations and Clubs for UNESCO
  - March 2021 – UNESCO’s Strategy towards SIDS
  - April 2021 – Youth Engagement in National Commissions
  - To be continued...

- **Ideas and suggestions for the thematic focus of these discussions can be submitted through a discussion forum on the National Commissions Platform**
Logo Use by National Commissions

- In accordance with Article IV.1 of Resolution 34C/86 of the General Conference, National Commissions for UNESCO can use the UNESCO logo block.

- There are two graphical possibilities: either the UNESCO logo block accompanied by the name of the National Commission, or the UNESCO logo block accompanied by the name as well as the emblem of the National Commission.

- National Commissions should not use the UNESCO logo alone without their own name.
Logo Authorization by National Commissions

- When granting their own patronage or establishing their own partnerships at national level, National Commissions can authorize the use of their own logo accompanies by the wording “Under the patronage of” or “In partnership with”.

- Under the patronage of Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO

- In partnership with Singapore National Commission for UNESCO

- Under the patronage of United Arab Emirates National Commission for UNESCO
Logo Authorization by National Commissions (cont.)

- In accordance with Article IV.3 of the Resolution 34C/86 of the General Conference, National Commissions can also give permission to coordinating bodies of intergovernmental programmes, programme networks to use a combined logo which will specify the identity of the concerned programme or network be in compliance with the specific regulations of the given entities, programmes or networks.

- Specific logos for each individual member are no longer used. A generic logo is used instead.
Associations and Clubs for UNESCO

- Established under the aegis of the National Commissions, Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are groups of volunteers of different ages and socio-professional status who become activists in the service of UNESCO’s ideals. Nowadays, some **4000 Clubs, Centres and Associations for UNESCO** operate in more than 75 countries.

- National Commissions are responsible for accrediting, monitoring and assessing as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs in their respective countries.
Participation Programme

- Participation Programme since 1957 provides direct financial assistance to projects conceived by National Commissions.
- Budget of $11M mainly reserved for Africa, Least developed countries and middle-income countries.
- High GDP countries are not eligible.
- Global priorities Africa & Gender equality (more than 65% of the approved funds).
- 2-phase online submission of PP requests.
- National Commissions consult the Secretariat and UNESCO Field Office in elaborating project proposals (max. 7 per country) and, following implementation, submit the required financial and evaluation reports in conformity with the financial rules and regulations.
- Emergency assistance may be accorded when there are insurmountable circumstances with catastrophic consequences in UNESCO’s fields of competence.
Anniversaries Programme

- UNESCO is associated since 1956 with the commemoration of historic events and anniversaries of eminent personalities that are celebrated by Member States and Associate Members, with the aim of giving them worldwide significance and enhancing the visibility of the Organization.

- National Commissions, for each biennium:
  - submit a maximum of two requests, one of which should relate to gender equality;
  - organize activities for the celebration of anniversaries (exhibitions, concerts, seminars, etc.) at the national, regional or international level, using free of charge facilities provided by UNESCO for these celebrations at UNESCO HQs;
  - promote anniversaries, launch national public information campaigns, through message multipliers such as schools, universities, civil society and the media;
  - submit the activity reports within the deadlines, in accordance with the approved procedure.
INTERACTION BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND FIELD OFFICES
UNESCO’s presence in the world

53 field offices, including the four liaison offices in New York, Geneva, Brussels and Addis Ababa
## Field Structure – Types of Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office type</th>
<th>Africa: Multisectoral Subregional Offices (MRO)</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Other regions</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Multisectoral Subregional Offices (MRO)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Main platform of delivery for all UNESCO activities</td>
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<td>• Multidisciplinary in nature, ideally with each sector represented in the office.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• DIRs represent the Organization in a group (cluster) of Member States, except in those Member States where there is a national office</td>
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<td>• DIRs have executive role for the implementation the programme through programme specialists covering the various sectors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• DIRs/MRO (Africa) supervise the national offices in their cluster</td>
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<td>Other regions: Cluster offices</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>• Serve a group of Member States in all of UNESCO’s areas of competence but do not supervise national offices under their coverage.</td>
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<td>Other regions: Cluster offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Regional Bureaux</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provide expertise to Member States in the region</td>
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<td>• Support to cluster and national offices, providing quality knowledge and technical input into programmes</td>
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<td>• Responsible for regional programmes in that particular sector, which are implemented through the cluster and national offices</td>
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<td>• Located in a cluster office and as such benefit from staff in a variety of fields, but often have additional staff in their specific sector</td>
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<td>• Do not oversee the cluster and national offices in hierarchical terms</td>
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<td>Other regions: Cluster offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>National Offices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Implement national programmes</td>
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<td>• Directors/Heads represent the Organization in one Member State only.</td>
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<td>• Directors/Heads assist in devising the programme of the cluster office</td>
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<td>Other regions: Cluster offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Antennas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Set up in countries where the Organization’s presence is considered essential and where there is no established structure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Implement specific extrabudgetary projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Serve as liaison with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and national authorities, and to follow-up on the implementation of UNESCO activities</td>
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<td>• Have no representational functions.</td>
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<td>Other regions: Cluster offices</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
<td>Liaison Offices</td>
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<td>• Ensure sustainable relations with the organs to which they are assigned (UN, EU, AU)</td>
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<td>• Foster cooperation, collaboration and exchanges with other organizations</td>
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<td>• Represent UNESCO in all relevant fora.</td>
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National Commissions & Field Offices

- **Unity of purpose**
  Contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture

- **Unity of action**
  Work together to accomplish UNESCO’s mandate.

- **Different legal/administrative structures**

- **Different reporting lines**
Benefits of collaboration between National Commissions & Field Offices

- Synergy created for wider coverage or greater impact in promotion of UNESCO ideals;
- Regular exchanges to share progress and ideas on programme implementation and to align further work;
- Mutual technical and budgetary support;
- Co-implementation of activities and participation in each other’s events;
- Shared wide range of partners for resource mobilization;
- Stronger positioning of UNESCO at country level in the context of UN reform and UNSDCF, and
- Greater visibility of UNESCO and the National Commission.
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