

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS FOR UNESCO ¹

1. Background and rationale

1.1 Over the last 70 years, the “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” have made an important contribution to advancing UNESCO’s mandate and goals and increasing the Organization’s visibility. However, there is a need to better codify the relationship between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, by strengthening an appropriate Regulatory Framework regarding the movement of Clubs for UNESCO.

1.2 In this context, a number of strategic documents were approved by UNESCO’s Governing Bodies, namely:

- Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (document 37 C/Resolution 97);
- “Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide” (last published by the Organization in 2009); and
- the provisions outlined in Part F “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” of the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, contained in document [192 EX/5.INF](#) (2013).

1.3 All these strategic documents were aimed at clarifying the provisions related to the cooperation between UNESCO and National Commissions, Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO. The Consultation Meeting with National Commissions that was held in June 2017 called for the need to simplify the structure of the movement and clarify the role of “Centres for UNESCO” so as to avoid any confusion with the status of category 1 and category 2 centres under UNESCO’s auspices.

1.4 By 37 C/Resolution 93 (November 2013), the General Conference approved “the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres” (which supersedes all relevant prior resolutions by the General Conference on this subject). These institutes/centres serve in their fields of specialization as international or regional centres and poles of expertise/experience to provide services and technical assistance to Member States and cooperation partners. On the other hand, there is no definition legally agreed by the General Conference for the “Centres for UNESCO”.

1.5 It was agreed at the Consultation Meeting that the use of “Centres” as being part of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO movement should be seriously reconsidered and it was suggested that the “Centres for UNESCO” could continue to exist under this name for a transitional period of two years following the adoption of this Regulatory Framework by the General Conference at its 39th session, until such time as they either become a category 2 centre, or change their designation to become either a “Club” or “Association” for UNESCO.

1.6 Given the bureaucratic and operational complexity of changing the name “Centre for UNESCO” to “Association or Club for UNESCO”, the Centres for UNESCO should continue to exist under this name for an additional period of two years until the 41st session of the General Conference and the submission of the report by the Secretariat concerning this decision. At the end of this period, their status should be aligned on 39 C/Resolution 90,

¹ This Regulatory Framework was adopted by the General Conference at its 39th session in 2017 ([39 C/Resolution 90](#)) and amended by the General Conference at its 40th session in 2019 ([40 C/Resolution 98](#))

paragraph 1.5, of the 39th session of the General Conference. (*Amendment adopted on the report of the APX Commission at the 15th plenary meeting, on 25 November 2019*)

2. Definition and purpose

2.1 Definition of “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO”: They consist of groups of people from all ages, from all walks of life and every background who share a firm belief in UNESCO’s ideals as set out in its Constitution and who decide to realize them in their daily life (cf. Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide of UNESCO).

2.2 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are non-profit bodies. They operate on a voluntary basis and are legally and financially independent from UNESCO. They have close links to the general public and other professional and local authorities. “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO” can operate in any sphere of UNESCO’s competence (ref. major programmes of UNESCO).

2.3 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are all different in size and financial and operational capacities.

2.4 The main purpose of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO is to promote understanding of and support for UNESCO’s mission, priorities and programmes at the grassroots level. They thus contribute to the promotion of UNESCO’s values, messages and actions and are instrumental for the realization of its objectives and goals.

2.5 With a view to strengthening this Regulatory Framework, it is decided that after a transitional period of two years only Associations and Clubs for UNESCO will be considered as the two categories of partners within the “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO” movement.

2.6 During that transitional period of two years, the provisions of this Regulatory Framework shall apply to Centres for UNESCO.

3. Strategic objectives of the partnership of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO with the Organization

- foster the interest of the broader public in UNESCO’s mission, programmes and activities;
- contribute to developing and promoting an understanding of UNESCO’s goals and advocacy, including at grassroots level;
- contribute to the implementation of the Organization’s programme at national and local levels, in coordination with the National Commission for UNESCO;
- promote the values of solidarity, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, as well as the values of global citizenship education, human rights and sustainable development among peoples;
- promote the International days, weeks, years and decades proclaimed by UNESCO; and

- contribute to promoting UNESCO's messages by translating UNESCO Secretariat-generated documents and information into national and local languages, through all means of communication, including social media.

4. Role of National Commissions for UNESCO

4.1 The direct oversight of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO by their respective National Commissions is a prerequisite for ensuring the supervision of quality of these entities and their adherence to the provisions of the present Regulatory Framework.

4.2 National Commissions are responsible, among others, for:

- accrediting, supervising, assessing, and if necessary, removing accreditation from Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- keeping an updated directory of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- providing supervision for the work of the National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, if it exists;
- ensuring that Associations' and Clubs' goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO's current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- ensuring the proper use of UNESCO's name, acronym and logo;
- encouraging cooperation with Associations and Clubs for UNESCO at the national, regional and international level;
- encouraging exploring avenues for cooperation with other UNESCO's networks in the country, such as UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Associated Schools, UNESCO category 2 centres and institutes, and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO; and
- National Commissions could be allowed to take any initiative, which might help Associations and Clubs for UNESCO to fulfil their mission.

5. Rules of engagement

5.1 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO share UNESCO's ideals, and must commit to compliance with the following basic rules:

- operate under the oversight of the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in which they are located;
- submit to the National Commission an action plan at the beginning of each year, as well as an activity report at the end of the year;
- ensure that their goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO's current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- not to use the Association or Club for political purposes;

- not to make statements in the name of UNESCO or of their National Commission;
- not to use the Association or Club for any profit-making enterprise;
- not to take upon themselves to undertake the rights and prerogatives of UNESCO (for example, appointments of Goodwill Ambassadors, or awarding any other titles; awarding prizes, diplomas or any awards or certificates awarded by UNESCO);
- respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/Resolution 86), in order to prevent any misuse;
- use the UNESCO name, acronym and logo only upon obtaining an authorisation from the National Commission for UNESCO, solely in the following form, which may be displayed in the languages of the country:



- to not use or no longer use the acronym “UNESCO” in the website address, email address or name of social network accounts of the association or club, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.

6. Provisions related to National Federations of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO

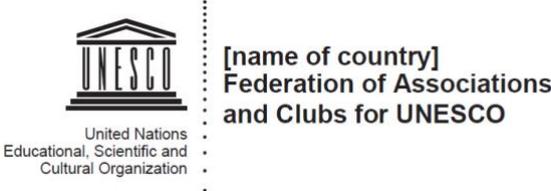
6.1 If there are several Associations/Clubs for UNESCO in a Member State, these Associations and/or Clubs may gather together to create a National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO under the aegis and with the authorization of their National Commission, which could fulfil the following main functions:

- guiding and advising individual Associations and Clubs on how to achieve the strategic objectives of the partnership outlined above;
- if needed, supporting their National Commission in its Clubs-related and coordination work, (including by collecting and compiling individual annual reports of Associations and Clubs and helping to train them);
- alerting their National Commission in case of individual Associations/Clubs non-compliance with the rules of engagement outlined above;
- encouraging contacts, common activities and collaboration between Associations/Clubs in the Member State; and
- organizing their activities based on an action plan validated by their National Commission.

6.2 There must be only one national federation for each Member State or Associate Member. The National Commission guarantees the legitimacy of the concerned National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO.

6.3 In implementing its activities, a national federation may be supported financially by its national authorities or partners, under the supervision of its National Commission for UNESCO. It can submit projects within the participation programme framework.

6.4 Each national federation undertakes to respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/Resolution 86); and use the UNESCO logo only upon obtaining an authorization from their National Commission for UNESCO, and only in the following form, which may be displayed in appropriate translation in the languages of the country:



6.5 National federations do not have the authority to grant the right to use UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and Internet domain to any other entity.

6.6 They also undertake to not use or no longer use the acronym "UNESCO" in their website address, email address or name of social network accounts, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.
