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1. 220 th Session of the Executive Council

In September 2024, the preparatory meetings for the 220th Session of the Executive Board (held on October 9 – 23, 2024) brought together Members States and representatives of the Directrice Generale to define an agenda that takes into account, not only the budgetary orientations of the Organization and its functioning, but also the philosophy of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals), and their implementation by the governments of the Member States, assisted in this by NGOs in official partnership, Foundations and other various partners.

The inaugural speech was delivered by Mrs Audrey Azoulay, Directrice Générale, who sets the tone, is available on the link : <https://unesdoc.org/ark/pf0000391582>

A. The points of discussion concerning more specifically the NGOs, and therefore AIAP, focused on :

- the establishment of mechanisms to provide interaction between Headquarters and Unesco Bureaux abroad
- the expression of a strong support to Unesco's emphasis on intersectorial approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration, expression which underlines the importance of translating those approaches on the field.
This is why, in the framework of « Art Basel, Paris », October 18-20, 2024, a tryptich entitled « Solutions to the challenges », was exhibited, sponsored by Unesco.
Link : <https://unesco.org/en/art-basel-paris-makes-art-and-science-dialogu>
- The urgent need to effectively translate the 43/5 initiatives on the field, fitting with the sub-regional, regional, and national priorities.
- The estblishment (requested by the Member States) of indicators of performance at the level of effects, this in ALL sectors, in order to assess the impact of Unesco at a high level, as well as metadata, with a clear methodology.

B. The budget of the Department of Culture

recorded a a significant decrease from 2021 to 2023, decrease due to the Covid pandemia. However, subsidies were directly paid to Member States.

This budget will be revised upwards in 2024-2025, and allocated as a priority to World Heritage, in order to help the rebuilding of sites destroyed by terrorism, wars, and natural disasters.

- C. The fight against disinformation for the promotion and protection of freedom of expression, as well as to the access to information is, and will remain a priority.

Lien : [Journalism is a public good: World trends in freedom of expression and media development; Global report 2021/2022 - UNESCO Bibliothèque Numérique](#)

It should be recalled that, at Unesco, the Recommendations relative to the freedom of press and journalists also concerns the artists. The provisions implemented by the Member States are valid for both professions.

2. Unesco and the NGOs in official partnership

- A. During the discussion on Unesco's Official NGOs partners (425 totally), the Chairman of the meeting (Bangladesh) reminded that :

- NGOs were a very important tool in the Unesco life, a tool at the disposal of the Member States and intended to act in complementarity with the governments
- NGOs enabled Unesco's links to be strengthened with civil society, and provided a great capacity for bringing people together, and provided innovative solutions thanks to their knowledge of the field.

- B. The representative of the Directrice Générale, for his part, recalled that NGOs in official partnership :

- were working in partnership with Unesco to advance Unesco's mandate, and that they were a key ally in supporting and accompanying the implementation of the Organization's objectives.
- being a 'breeding ground' of expertise covering all types of societies had to – as official partners – to engage the mobilization of all the existing capacities in order to work alongside Unesco, by aligning themselves with orientations and objectives
- that a geographical and thematic mapping of the 425 NGOs was underway in order to better ensure the balance of actions.

NB : At the beginning of the year, AIAP already had to answer to an extremely precise administrative long questionnaire from Unesco, which listed all the fields of action in which AIAP was engaged.

This is why it is imperative to understand that the National Committees reports are of a capital importance in the establishment of the summaries to be submitted to the Unesco Secretariat of Partnership with the civil society. In coordination with the Unesco NGOs Liaison Committee.

It should also be noted that each of the actions presented in these reports is verified, via the Delegations and the Unesco offices abroad.

No detail escapes Unesco.

The synthesis of these reports is then submitted to the Executive Board/ Council for analysis.

It is also reminded by the representative of the Directrice Generale that, if the actions programmes of the NGOs were lacking, or were not aligned with the Unesco objectives, demonstrating that they were actively working in this direction, with clearly defined objectives, in collaboration with the National Delegations and the Unesco offices abroad, there would be no renewal of the official partnership, and this would lead to the official withdrawal

from the network of official partners.

The representative of the Directrice Generale also specified that the conditions of admission and the renewal of the partnerships would be extremely strict, not to say drastic.

- C. The chairman of the Unesco NGOs Liaison Committee, for his part, addressing the Member States and the representative of the Directrice Generale, stressed the importance of the work carried out by NGOs alongside Unesco, their alignment with the objectives, as well as their commitment on the field. He reported on the Forums organized by the Liaison Committee, following the works of the NGOs gathered in commissions, on the themes of « Artificial Intelligence and Youth, The transformation of mentalities, Sustainable Culture, and the Oceans » .
These Forums amplifying the impact of Unesco and strengthening international networks.

As well as the celebration of International Days.

He also emphasized and insisted on the inclusion and importance of Culture in the implementation of sustainable development.

*It is therefore very important for the AIAP NCs to submit their activity reports on a very regular basis to their Regional President, as well as to the AIAP Secretariats, in order to let them able, year after year, to justify the AIAP activities alongside Unesco.
The renewal of the official partnership is only done for this reason.*

The draft decisions adopted by the Executive Board, following those debates (220 EX-31) reiterate the conditions of the official partnership with Unesco.

Link : [Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 220th session - UNESCO](#)
[Digital Library](#)

3. [News from AIAP](#)

1. Building on past experiences of annual exhibitions devoted to « Mail Art », the Latin American Region (RELAC) has decided to organize the first international Mail Art Biennial in order to celebrate – in keeping with Unesco objectives of bringing cultures closer together and respecting their diversity - the 190e anniversary of diplomatic and friendly relationships between Brazil and Mexico.

The exhibition gathered artists from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Republica Dominicana and Venezuela, but also from countries that are represented in the Executive Committee : Korea, Poland, Serbia, Switzeland, United Kingdom, Latvia, Japan and USA.

Inaugurated on September 25, 2024 at the Museo de Correos, Brazilia, it continues for two months at the Quinta Casa de Correos del Palacio Postal, Mexico City.

Link to the video : <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DA5y2sJR-7/?igsh=MWjcXA4bmJkZnA1bQ==>

2. The Europe Region held its General Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October 2024, GA which opened with a Symposium on the theme « Art and War », broadcast live on Youtube.

Link : [Art and War Symposium - IAA Europe](#)

This Symposium gave the floor to artists who have worked on the subject, who are suffering the war in Ukraine, as well as to Lithuanian specialists.

Echoing this very topical theme, which is traumatizing Eastern Europe in particular, a major exhibition entitled « The Atomic Age » is being held at the Musée d'Art Moderne Paris, presenting artists from the 20th and 21 centuries. This exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue including essays by philosophers, art historians, architects, and scientists.

Link : <https://mam.paris.fr/expositions-en-cours>

4. [Miscilleanous](#)

At the United Nations, NY , in October 2024, Unesco welcomed the place given to Culture in « The Pact for the future ».

This Pact for the future, the global digital compact, and the declaration on future generations mark a new beginning, underlined the Secretary-General. Link to Meetings, coverage & press releases : <https://un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future>

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