

Taking stock of SDG 4-Education 2030 implementation and planning for the way ahead

8th Global Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs

8-9 May 2017, Siem Reap, Cambodia

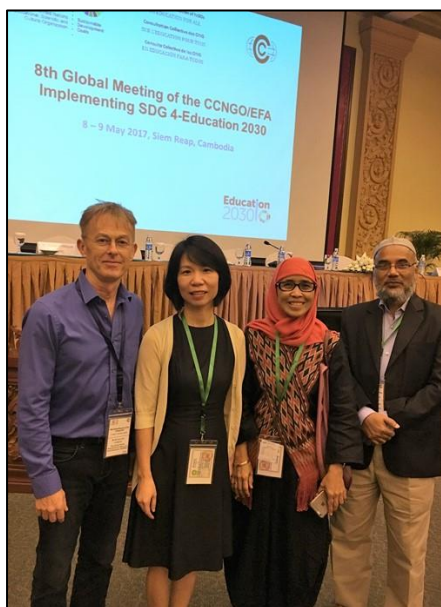
The 8th Global Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation of NGOs (CCNGO/EFA) was held in Siem Reap and brought together representatives of international, regional, and national member NGOs from across the world to discuss and reflect on where civil society stands 18 months after the adoption of the global education agenda, taking into account activities undertaken, key challenges encountered, opportunities identified, and the way forward.

The specific objectives of the meeting were to -

1. Exchange information and take stock of approaches and action taken so far in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 at global, regional, and national levels and increase networking among CCNGO/EFA members, fostering cooperation and collaboration among them and with UNESCO at national, regional and international levels;
2. Agree on the role of civil society in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 and the education-related targets in the other SDGs, including, in terms of advocacy and awareness raising, governance and accountability, partnerships and collaboration, research and innovation, supporting delivery, review, monitoring and reporting, and financing;
3. Agree on the way forward and key areas of action 2017-2019.



The 8th Global Meeting of the CCNGO/EFA reflected on where civil society stands 18 months after the adoption of the global education agenda.



L-R: Bernie Lovegrove, ASPBAE; Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, ASPBAE Executive Council Member; Nani Zulminarni, ASPBAE President; and Ehsanur Rahman, ASPBAE Executive Council Member, at the global CCNGO/EFA meeting in Siem Reap.

The meeting adopted a new set of [Working Procedures](#) to align the CC NGO mechanisms with the new SDG 4-Education 2030 agenda. As part of this, the mechanism will now be referred to the Collective Consultation of NGOs for Education 2030 or CC NGO/ED 2030.

The meeting also agreed on a [Global Meeting Declaration](#) - summarising the main points of the discussions and recommendations arising from the meeting.

The outgoing Coordination Group constituted the core of the Drafting Committee - hence ASPBAE was part of it. Additionally, 3 NGOs volunteered to participate - PCE, Pakistan (Zehra Arshad), Save the Children U.S. (Coco Lammers), and Summer Institute of Linguistics (Ian Cheffy).

The Declaration outlines all major assertions of civil society, analysis of contexts and positions on SDG 4 implementation, the role of civil society organisations (CSOs), and UNESCO, notably -

- on strengthening public education systems; challenging education privatisation and commercialisation

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- in attention to marginalised groups and communities; challenging discrimination and promoting inclusive education, attentive especially to people with disabilities, women, LGBTIQI, migrants, and refugees
- in asserting wider notions of education quality
- in greater priority to youth and adult education within a lifelong learning framework
- in institutionalised participation of civil society in all stages of the SDG 4 processes and at different levels; and engaging in the wider SDG follow up processes, such as the High level Political Forum and through the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group
- in challenging competing international agendas which undermine the full SDG 4 agenda
- in continued UNESCO support for CC NGO

ASPBAE was once again selected as the Asia Pacific regional focal point, as was Rasheda Choudhury of CAMPE (Bangladesh) as one of the Coordination Group members at large. The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA), represented by Christoph Jost of DVV International, ran unopposed as the regional focal point for Europe and North America. The [full list of Coordination Group members](#) is -

- Asia Pacific regional focal point: ASPBAE - Maria Khan
- Africa regional focal point: ANCEFA - Samuel Dembele
- Latin America regional focal point: CLADE - Silvia Alonso Felix
- Arab regional focal point: TCC - Refaat Sabah
- Europe and North America regional focal point : EAEA - Christoph Jost
- INGO focal points: GCE - Camilla Croso and OMEP - Maggie Koong May Kay
- Members at large: CAMPE - Rasheda Choudhury, and the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education - Eqbal Elsamalouty



ASPBAE Secretary-General, Maria Khan (L), addressing the CCNGO/EFA meeting.

The UNESCO Liaison Committee and UNESCO are ex officio members of the Coordination Group.

Approximately 18 Asia Pacific CSOs were represented in the meeting - all ASPBAE members. NGO Education Partnership (NEP) Cambodia, also an ASPBAE member, hosted the event. ASPBAE was represented in the meeting by its President, Nani Zulminarni, Secretary-General, Maria Khan, and Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) Regional Coordinator, Bernie Lovegrove. ASPBAE Executive Council Members, Ehsanur Rahman and Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, participated in the meeting representing the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and the Vietnam Association for Education For All (VAEFA).

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At the front end of the CC NGO Meeting, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) organised a CSO Preparatory Meeting for its members on May 7, to offer an orientation on the CC NGO event and processes and to agree key GCE advocacies to highlight in the meeting. The outgoing Coordination Group of the CC NGO also convened on May 6 to attend to the final preparatory requirements of the meeting, including matters related to facilitation, and organising the drafting of the Meeting's outcome document. The GCE Board convened immediately after the CC NGO Meeting in its annual session. ASPBAE participated in all these meetings organised around the CC NGO event.

This write-up draws from a report of the ASPBAE Secretary-General, Maria Khan, the GCE update of the meeting, and the [UNESCO website](#).

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