

UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Accredited NGOs Statutes



UNESCO 2001 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE ACCREDITED NGOS

Operational Statutes

1. Establishment

During a meeting of NGOs hosted by the 2001 Convention Secretariat, 18 December 2018, the Accredited Non-Governmental Organisations of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris 2001) was established to act as a coordinated group.

2. Mission

The UNESCO accredited NGOs work in support of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage within their fieldwork activities, outreach, dissemination, training and advocacy.

3. Structure

3.1 The accredited group will compose a minimum of a Steering/Management Group with a minimum of three and a maximum of six. Positions will include the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary, along with other roles identified by the main committee as required, plus up to three further sitting members selected from the NGOs by consensus at full meetings.

UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Accredited NGOs Statutes

3.2 Their term of office shall be two years to coincide with the biannual Meetings of the States Parties and, subject to a group consensus, they are eligible for a maximum of two further consecutive two-year terms, up to a total of six years.

3.3 Additional Members or Observers could be seconded to join the working group on a task-by-task basis to aid with delivery.

3.4 Nominations and elections: In the event of multiple candidates and where consensus cannot be reached in a full NGO meeting, an election, by secret ballot, may be required, with one vote held by each NGO.

4. Membership

4.1 Organisations are required to apply for Accreditation to the UNESCO Convention Secretariat where membership is evaluated and approved (or not approved) by the 2001 Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB). Additional guidance may be provided from the existing Accredited NGOs as required.

4.2 The group of Accredited NGOs' Committee shall actively seek to reflect in its membership regional cultural diversity.

4.3 Following a decision of the majority of its members, the Accredited NGOs can invite non-member organisations to be Observers during its meetings and/or other initiatives and events. Observers should have a constitution, be not-for-profit, actively engaging in UCH or UN Ocean Decade actions and agree with the statement endorsing the 2001 Convention.

5. Reporting and Re-accreditation

5.1 Accredited members will provide bi-annual reports to the Secretariat on their activities that directly and indirectly support the 2001 Convention.

5.2 Every four years, NGOs are required to apply to the 2001 Convention Secretariat for re-accreditation, subject to the evaluation by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board (STAB) before being formally re-accredited by the bi-annual Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention.

**UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
Accredited NGOs Statutes**

6 Meetings

The accredited NGOs and its working groups shall:

- 6.1** Meet as often as necessary to conduct their business.
- 6.2** Attend and contribute to in-person and online meetings.
- 6.3** Facilitate discussion to help NGOs fulfil their objectives.
- 6.4** Where it is not possible for members to attend in person, make provision, as far as is reasonably possible, for on-line/remote participation in meetings and events.

7 Working groups

- 7.1** The role and responsibilities of each **Working Group** will be specified and agreed by the NGOs.
- 7.2** The term of office for the working group shall be until the task of the group is completed or two years.
- 7.3** Members of the Working Group shall be eligible for re-appointment for a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms or until the working group has completed its task.

8 Language

The **Accredited NGOs** will use English and French as working languages. The use of other languages (such as Spanish) will be encouraged.

9. Nothing contained with these provisions shall be interpreted as modifying the governance of the individual member organisations.