

**Can this year 2023 be a vector of Peace between peoples.
Make peace with yourself to be able to make peace with your own , and to make peace
around you.**

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1. Actions of AIAP/IAA inside UNESCO : Customs duties for artists

As a follow up to the report submitted to the Directrice-Générale, to the Office of the Directrice-Générale, and to the Member States in view to have the WAD voted (a report presenting the situation of Art and of artists worldwide), following the Covid 19 crisis which wiped out all initiative, and as announced during the penultimate AIAP/IAA Europe GA, AIAP wrote again to the Directrice-Générale asking for :

- the abolition of customs duties for the artists traveling with their works
- free admission to Museums and art galleries in all the Unesco Member States for holders of the AIAP/IAA card

in order to draw the attention of the Directrice-Générale to the economic situation of many artists after the Covid 19.

After a VERY long time, the Sector of Culture replied that « *The waiving of customs duties for artists depends of the mandate o the Unesco member States. Unesco can only encourage action.* » (by the Mmember States)

In order to share this item, the Secretariat of the 2005 Convention reminded in this answer that it was appropriated for the AIAP/IAA National Committees to respond to the questionnaire which was mailed to all the Ncs, through their Delegations to Unesco.

In 2023, during the forthcoming General Conference, a new report on the condition of the Artist will be published. « *Unesco will use the data and information provided by the Member States and the NGOs in support of the assistance and protection of artists.* »

This also means that, to make the measures concrete, each NC must collaborate with its own

Delegation, ONLY the States are in a position to take this type of decision which must be voted by the local Parliaments on the proposal of a/or several Ministers.

Asking for the repeal of Customs duties is not enough to obtain it. It is obvious that a number of factors, some of them being economic, others legal (deriving from national and international laws) have to be taken into consideration, the problem raised up by this decision being complex and subject to debate.

2. 2022 International Conference of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

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As every two years, on December 14-15-16, the Unesco NGOs Liaison Committee convened all of the 400 organizations working in close collaboration with Unesco.

On one hand to elect the new Liaison Committee and its President, on the other hand, to discuss on the topic « *Breaking the barriers. What role for civil society in favor of sustainable development ?* ».

Throughout this meeting, it was reminded that :

- Common values should prevail over sectorial values.
- Those values have to stay rooted in the values that Unesco defends

One of the speakers, working for non-formal education, reminded, in a short history, the spirit which presided over the creation of Unesco and which was implemented over time.

After the second World war, an Institute of research and reflection wondered about what to do and how to do to avoid a new disaster.

- How to change mindsets, values, lifestyles for influencing mentalities, to work on education, cultural, scientific, anthropological approaches, and others ?
- How to communicate to get along better on education ?

The conclusion that emerged was that civil society through the education given in the families, at school, and through other sectors, could have an influence.

They identified what was already existing in the field of arts, culture, science, and youth activities, in order to create federations of existing forces instead of imposing structures from above.

This situation, after the failure of the League of Nations, led to the creation of the United Nations and to Unesco.

At first, Unesco was not an UN agency. Its rôle was to be a 'thinktank', a 'laboratory of ideas', as constantly repeats the Directrice -Générale.

The aim of Unesco is to work to highlight intellectual values and to find out ideas able to change mentalities.

In a second step, the conclusion was that it would be not by giving money to the Member States that this could take place, but by bringing together the existing realities.

Over time, NGOs have forgotten where they were coming from, and what they were used for.

However, for a large number of years now, the UN came back to its roots, and understood that it was not by inviting emeritus specialists to plead « in favor of », and by giving money to the States and to the NGOs – as this was the case for a while – that things were going to change.

The vision of UN and of Unesco, which only 'GIVE', is totally outdated. These institutions are not (are no longer) donors.

The compartmentalized vision of categorical interests (each one in his own box, doing what he likes and what he can do) is completely beyond also.

In this time of major crisis, what is requested from NGOs, is to cooperate with it. We are living in a world that needs a radical transformation. The 17 SDO (Sustainable Development Objectives),

working each one in their side (in their box) are not going to change the world. «

The conclusion of this presentation was as following :

« - Member States cannot work and act alone. They need a systemic, multipartite approach, to co-create the solution , and not a presentation of categorical interests

- It is necessary to go from the historical model which does not led to the sustainable development (Ex : North helps the South and gives it lessons) to a model in which the intellectual borders and the limits must be exceeded in sharing and understanding, by taking everyone's opinion in consideration.

This means including civil society in the debates. «

3. Unesco publications

**“The 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist : an overview» 2022
= objectives of the 2022 convention
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark/48223/pf0000382658_en**

**“Freedom and Creativity: Defending Art, Defending Diversity. ”
Specialedition
<https://unesco.unesdoc.org/ark/48223/pf000037358>**

**"The creative and cultural industries face of Covid 19: prospects for economic impact"
<https://unesco.unesdoc.org/creativity/publications/cultural-creative-industries-face-Covid-19>
<https://unesco.unesdoc.org/ark/48223/pf0000377863>**

**“Why investing in culture and creativity? »
<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publications/investing-in-creativity?qt-view>**