

*Meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme
Kuala Lumpur, 14-15 March 2017
Agenda Item 2*

MOST National Committees

This document is submitted for the consideration of the MOST Bureau and provides overall information related to MOST National Committees.

New and continuing efforts in relation to the MOST National Committees respond to a specific request by UNESCO Member States, as articulated in the Comprehensive Strategy for the MOST Programme, 199 EX/7.INF, 22/0/2016, paragraph 19.1: “Ensuring the leading role of National Commissions for UNESCO and MOST National Committees in promoting engagement with the programme at the national level, within the flexible framework defined by the guidelines laid out in annex 2, notably by strengthening multisectoral relations, in particular between academic research and public policies, and mobilizing National Commissions and National Committees to support international cooperation within the programmatic scope of MOST.”

Action expected of the MOST Bureau: proposed indications for future work and support of the MOST National Committees in paragraph 6.

1. Positive developments with regard to the establishment or revitalization of MOST National Committees are being reported by a number of Member States, notably by Argentina, France, Portugal, South Africa, Indonesia and Viet Nam. To successfully implement the MOST Strategy and to boost delivery at the level of individual countries, it is critical to sustain and scale up such efforts especially in the Member States of the Intergovernmental Council.
2. Information received from the Member States confirms the existence of 18 MOST National Committees, the establishment of 10, and the revitalization of 3. Additional information is sought on 12 Committees.
3. In view of supporting such work, the Guidelines for MOST National Committees were developed and adopted as an integral part of the MOST Strategy (Annex 2). These guidelines are designed to frame the thinking and guide the efforts of relevant country-level parties throughout the design and establishment of such Committees.
4. Recognizing variations in national systems of social science knowledge valorisation across policy and planning circles, the guidelines are flexible. They provide three possible scenarios (see below, detailed information in the guidelines) on which interested parties can draw when designing and deciding upon the functioning of such bodies.

Type 1: Policy and advisory committee

Type 2: Practice-oriented committee

Type 3: National Commission-affiliated committee

5. MOST National Committees should carefully consider how they acquire funding for their programmatic interventions and their own functioning. The National Committees and the concerned Member States are responsible for the sustainability of these bodies and their work. Typical sources of funding include, but are not limited to, governmental allocations, including through national research councils and national research grants; contributions, including in-kind, from host institutions; work of the Committees themselves, such as revenue-generating publications and conferences; bi- and multi-lateral funding mechanisms; private and other non-governmental donors; and the UNESCO Participation Programme. It is to be underlined that, although not assuming responsibility for direct funding of the National Committees, UNESCO can, to a limited extent, provide assistance through the Participation Programme for particular projects. Such applications follow the standard process and are subject to a competitive selection.
6. Further indications are required on the organization and support of the MOST National Committees, especially the following issues:
 - 6.1. Timing and modality of conducting a full inventory of the MOST National Committees, including their immediate and upcoming work
 - 6.2. Establishment of reporting mechanisms on the work of the MOST National Committees
 - 6.3. Regional and sub-regional networking and cooperation mechanisms amongst the MOST National Committees
 - 6.4. Connection and programmatic links of the MOST National Committees with the other MOST pillars and activities, as detailed in the MOST Strategy
 - 6.5. Budgetary implications of priority action to support the MOST National Committees