**Motion: Political action for arts education and engagement with UNESCO**

The Elected Officers propose the following motion for the IDEA General Council Meeting 2020. UPDATED Motion.

1. **That the General Council approve and endorse the following proposed actions by the Executive Committee elected at this meeting to support the aims of IDEA:**
   1. **IDEA endorses and activates a response amongst members to the Frankfurt Declaration for Arts Education (WAAE)** that calls for action for arts and drama education:
      1. All education leaders, policy leaders and civil society to acknowledge that the arts, in their diversity, and arts educators play a critical role in fostering and transforming humanity,
      2. UNESCO, leaders in civil society and policy leaders to recognise and resource arts education as a vital pillar for fostering and nurturing a culture of sustainability in society, where arts educators work with young people in order to develop artistic practices and 21 C competencies that bring about sustainable development as outlined within the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals,
      3. Arts educators and other educators to form collaborative partnerships with governments, civil society, professional organizations and communities to establish local specific action plans that contribute to the UN sustainable development goals and to understand and transform the present ecological collapse and its impacts on the social, cultural, economic and spiritual lives and institutions of all peoples throughout the world. The Frankfurt Declaration celebrates the unprecedented arts performances linked to climate change movements led by children and young people throughout the world. It asserts arts education as a right for all towards the nurturing of a paradigm of solidarity, cooperation and good living,
      4. UNESCO to continue and strengthen the advocacy and support for the implementation of the Seoul Agenda at local, national and international forums.
      5. UNESCO to evaluate progress of Arts Education according to Seoul Agenda in all member states.
      6. WAAE challenges UNESCO - to respond directly to this call – to focus on the contribution that arts and arts education make to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals – to urgently bring together decision-makers, teachers, artists and all who advocate for arts education in a 3rd World Congress on Arts Education to face the challenges of the world today!
   2. **IDEA endorses and activates a response amongst members:** 
      1. present Seoul Agenda and Frankfurt Declaration to their governments /ministries.
      2. Give an own rough judgement/rate of the development and situation of drama/theatre education
      3. Publish such documents / articles in the media
      4. Request from ministries and different political parties / experts, that they should address UNESCO, resp. the national UNESCO-Commissions
      5. Look for partners in civil society, school-organisations like parents-associations, teacher-associations and others on different levels: local, regional, national.
      6. Share every activity, step forward, successes, new documents etc. with the IDEA community, so that everybody is informed and can learn from each other.
      7. IDEA should provide an international forum for exchanging reports, letters, documents, initiatives etc.

**Rationale for Motion**

IDEA as a founding member under the leadership of IDEA President Dan Baron Cohen, continues to be a partner in the work of the WAAE World Alliance for Arts Education.

The Frankfurt WAAE Summit in October/November 2019 was an initiative of IDEA. This Summit formulated and endorsed the Frankfurt Declaration for Arts Education which has also been endorsed by IDEA.

It is time for IDEA to translate that support into action.

The UNESCO Seoul Agenda (2010) is not only a clear and demanding call for arts education action, it’s an official document which should be a guideline for every ministry of education, ministry of culture and other responsible parts of governments.

Nearly 10 years after the Seoul Agenda IDEA and WAAE set out to challenge UNESCO to activate arts education after closing it down in 2013 when facing funding cuts. The Frankfurt/Germany “International Conference on cultural and arts education” October/November 2019 posed the questions: “Arts Education for everybody? Every student? Everywhere? What’s happened since Lisbon Road Map 2006 and Seoul Agenda 2020? – Evaluation and Planning a way forward!”

The Frankfurt Conference and Declaration publicly addressed UNESCO about progress on the implementation of the Seoul Agenda after 10 years and ask, what has happened in this decade at an international level: We argue that UNESCO should ask all member states for evaluation reports about progress since 2010 And that UNESCO should call for another international Arts Education-conference to discuss these reports.

This motion commits IDEA to action to stimulate advocacy for and implementation of Arts Education including Drama as an educational entitlement for all.

Up to now we only received more words like the wonderful “Seoul Agenda”, but no concrete step forward. Even 2020 in the “International Week for Arts Education”, the official UNESCO voice was as friendly and clear, but without any concrete action plan, proposals, announcements – like the official message of Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on occasion of International Arts Education Week (May 2020):

*“Creativity builds the resilience we need in times of crisis. It has to be nurtured from the earliest age to unlock the imagination, awaken curiosity and develop appreciation for the richness of human talent and diversity. Education is the place where this starts. (…)*

*In an unprecedented context where up to 91% of the world’s students are affected by school closures, more than 90% of museums have closed their doors (…). However, arts education is not only a means to deal with crisis situations. It contributes to socio-emotional well-being and improves learning outcomes. It is a catalyst for social and economic development. It is an important lever to awaken talents, which are essential to maintain and renew artistic creation, ensuring the sustainability of the creative sector. If given greater priority within education systems, arts education can be a formidable resource to open minds to the diversity of the world’s cultural expressions, by creating generations of learners with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that are needed to build stronger, more sustainable and peaceful societies.”*