



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General  
of National Commissions  
for UNESCO

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2016/26

29 JUL. 2016

Sir/Madam,

While I am sure that many of you were present at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 10 to 17 July 2016, I am pleased to announce that 21 properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List at that session, which include 12 cultural sites, six natural sites and three “mixed” sites that are both natural and cultural. Thus, the World Heritage List has now 1,052 sites in 165 countries and you can learn more about these newly inscribed sites through this [link](#).

Please note that the 40<sup>th</sup> session will resume at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 24 to 26 October 2016 to examine outstanding issues that could not be discussed, as the Committee adjourned its work three days before schedule. You may know also that the 41<sup>st</sup> session will be held in Cracow, Poland, in July 2017.

In the field of education, I am also pleased to inform you that the Education Sector has just launched the first edition of our Education Podcast on Sound Cloud. This new tool will give you news, updates and highlights on the Organisation's key activities in education. This month we focus on World Refugee Day and our work on the prevention of violent extremism through education. Follow us on SoundCloud to stay updated, through the link URL : <https://soundcloud.com/user8258563/unesco-education-podcast> or the short link: [on.unesco.org/29BI0eF](http://on.unesco.org/29BI0eF)

### 8 September 2016 – International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day celebrations are held every year at the global, regional and country levels to remind the international community about the centrality of literacy to lifelong learning and to the creation of sustainable and inclusive societies.

In 2016, UNESCO is organizing a global event celebrating the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day, ‘Reading the past, writing the future’, at its Headquarters in Paris on 8 and 9 September. The two-day global event will comprise a high-level component and a technical meeting, as well as the launch of the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) and UNESCO’s Third Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE III). On this occasion, an Award Ceremony of the 2016 edition of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes will also take place on 8 September.

As usual, we count on your support in making this year's International Literacy Day a success by advocating in favour of literacy, peace and social cohesion and by demonstrating stronger commitment in creating literate societies for the well-being of all.

For more information on the International Literacy Day, I invite you to visit this dedicated UNESCO webpage:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/literacy/>

Contact: Mr Muhammad Bilal Aziz ([literacy@unesco.org](mailto:literacy@unesco.org))

### **9 September 2016 - Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Executive Board members, Paris**

In view of the 200<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board which will take place from 4 to 18 October 2016, this fourth intersessional meeting of Executive Board members will examine, among others, the following points:

- Progress report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated Lima MAB Action Plan (200 EX item 5.I)
- Budgetary situation of the Organization (200 EX item 4.II); and
- Draft 39 C/5 (Preliminary proposals and Integrated Budget Framework) (200 EX item 13).

The Fifth Intersessional Meeting is planned to take place on 27 September.

### **19-20 September 2016 – UNESCO International Conference “Preventing Violent Extremism through Education: Taking Action”, New Delhi, India**

This international conference organized by UNESCO together with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development will bring together senior education policy makers from around the world and experts in the field. The aim is to build a common understanding and vision of the required educational interventions and approaches needed to ensure that education systems contribute appropriately and effectively to the prevention of violent extremism.

The event will also provide the opportunity to present preliminary elements of UNESCO's Guide for Policy-Makers on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education and discuss its implementation. I wish all the participants a fruitful discussion on this important theme of actuality.

Contact: Mr Alexander Leicht ([a.leicht@unesco.org](mailto:a.leicht@unesco.org))

### **National Commissions' Community Board – Sharing initiatives**

### **27-30 September - 7<sup>th</sup> International Global Geoparks Conference at the English Riviera, under the patronage of UNESCO**

This conference to be held at the Riviera International Conference Centre, UK, will be the first International Global Geoparks Conference to be held since the Global Geoparks were officially adopted as a key work programme by UNESCO in November 2015. It is also the first time that the bi-annual Global Geoparks Conference will be hosted in the UK. The English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark have worked with Torbay Council, the UK National Commission for UNESCO and many other partners to deliver a packed programme.

The full programme of the Conference as well as the registration form are available at the websites: <http://ggn2016.com/programme> and <http://ggn2016.com/register/>, respectively.

For more information, please visit the Conference's website <http://ggn2016.com/> or contact the UK National Commission for UNESCO at [info@unesco.org.uk](mailto:info@unesco.org.uk).

### UNESCO Publications


- The new issue of the World Heritage Magazine is available in English and French: It is devoted to Turkey's fifteen World Heritage sites, from the Historic Areas of Istanbul to Pergamon with its acropolis. Published in English and French, it is available under <http://fr.calameo.com/read/0033299722069186ad2cf>.
- The report entitled "Supporting Safety of Journalists in Kenya" is the result of the Journalists' Safety Indicators assessment in Kenya under the auspices of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication. It documents the national state of journalist's safety and the issue of impunity by providing an overview of the safety situation of journalists in Kenya. It also points out the context of safety and the responsibility of all stakeholders in addressing the issue of journalists' safety in the Kenya. Please consult the following link for the English version: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002449/244914E.pdf>.
- The multilingual English/French/Portuguese anniversary publication - From ideas to actions: 70 years of UNESCO - shows how UNESCO has taken its mission forward over the past 70 years. It highlights, through stories and pictures, decade by decade, the ideas and actions developed and put in place, to translate into practice the noble words in the Organization's Constitution: building the defences of peace in the minds of women and men, through cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Please consult [this link](#) for the English version.

### Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (July 2016)

I am pleased to welcome to the National Commissions network the following new member:

In Canada, Mr Sébastien Goupil has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Louise Filiatrault.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt