



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

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

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions for UNESCO

Ref.: ERI/MSP/2016/23

30 June 2016

Sir/Madam,

I was very pleased to meet many of you at the Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, held from 13 to 15 June last, in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. At the outset, I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude to the Chinese National Commission and the Municipality of Shanghai, for their kind generosity and excellent organization of this important meeting, which offered to the National Commissions a unique platform for reflection on global issues and exchange of local experiences, in the presence of heads of UNESCO Field Offices.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your active participation in and valuable contribution to the meeting, which has concluded successfully, providing the Network of National Commissions with a new impetus for cooperation, to which I alluded as the "Elan of Shanghai". I believe that we will benefit from this new elan born in Shanghai, in our future cooperation, in particular with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

[The final report](#) of the meeting and [the list of participants](#) are now available.

10-20 July 2016 - 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, Istanbul, Turkey

During its forthcoming 40th session in Istanbul, Turkey, the World Heritage Committee will consider applications for inclusion of new sites on the World Heritage List and examine the state of conservation of sites already on the List.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). It defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

As part of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee and in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the Istanbul Site Management Directorate are also organizing the World Heritage Youth Forum 2016: "At the Crossroads of Multi-Layered Heritage" from 29 June to 12 July 2016. Young representatives, aged from 22 to 28, from 35 countries, will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, contribute to the discussions and immerse themselves in topics within the scope of multi-layered heritage.

I know that many of you are actively involved in the implementation of the 1972 Convention, and wish you fruitful discussions and achievements at the forthcoming Committee's session.

You will find all necessary information on the site of the 40th session: <http://40whc2016.istanbul/>.

Contact: Ms Mechtild Rössler (m.rossler@unesco.org)

6 September – Launch of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report "Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all"

Following my presentation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions in Shanghai, I am pleased to inform you that the 2016 GEM Report establishes a new monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education, and examines which education policies and programmes are most effectively linked to progress towards other goals in the new sustainable development agenda. The Report's findings will be discussed at launch events around the world on 6 September 2016. Information on dozens of other presentations will soon be available at <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report>.

I know that the National Commissions for UNESCO have been very active in supporting the launch of this Report in the past. We encourage your active participation this year to ensure that the launch events are a success, and that the Report's important messages are carried forward to international and national decision makers.

Contact: gemevents@unesco.org

Important reminder concerning the patronage and the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO

As you know, the use of the name and logo of UNESCO in connection with the Organization's patronage is strictly regulated by the *Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO*. I wish to emphasize that their use is not automatically authorized for our various partners and that the National Commissions play an important role to ensure the good use of the name and logo of UNESCO.

In this connection, I would like to recall that patronage is a form of UNESCO's support for those activities which are entirely organized by other entities. UNESCO is not involved in any way in their organization, and is not responsible for them.

Activities that meet the following criteria can be considered by UNESCO for patronage:

- the content of the activity has a connection with UNESCO's missions and programmes;
- the activity's organizing entity can illustrate that it has sufficient financial resources for the planned activity;
- the activity is a short-term event, such as a conference, a forum, a meeting or a festival. Activities longer than 6 months cannot be considered for UNESCO's patronage.

Requesting entities should complete the UNESCO Patronage Request Form, which can be found on [UNESCO's website on the subject](#), and send the completed form to the concerned National Commission(s) for UNESCO (the National Commission of the country where the requesting entity is based as well the National Commission of the country where the activity will take place).

National Commissions will forward the request, together with a letter of its recommendation, to the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO.

The evaluation process at UNESCO Secretariat takes between six and eight weeks. If patronage is granted by the Director-General, the activity organizers will be given the permission to use the UNESCO logo accompanied by the mention "Under the patronage of UNESCO" on their communication materials for the activities.

For further information, please consult [UNESCO's website](#) on the subject.

Contact: Ms Jinchai Clarke (j.clarke@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- A new policy paper titled *No more excuses*, jointly released by the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report and the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) prior to the World Humanitarian Summit, reveals new data showing that only 50% of refugee children are in primary school and 25% of refugee adolescents are in secondary school. You can download the study in English [study under this link](#).
- The report *World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate* provides an overview of the increasing vulnerability of World Heritage sites to climate change impacts and the potential implications for and of global tourism. It also examines the close relationship between World Heritage and tourism, and how climate change is likely to exacerbate problems caused by unplanned tourism development and uncontrolled or poorly managed visitor access, as well as other threats and stresses. It documents climate impacts at iconic tourism sites including Venice, Stonehenge and the Galapagos Islands and other World Heritage sites such as South Africa's Cape Floral Kingdom; the port city of Cartagena, Colombia; and Shiretoko National Park in Japan. It is available in English only under [this link](#).

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

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

In Botswana, Mr Kgosi-Kgoglo Puso Gaborone has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Rahim Abdool Khan.

In Japan, Mr Koichi Morimoto has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Yoshio Yamawaki.

In Paraguay, Mr Tomas Zapattini has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Andrea Weiss.

In Saint Lucia, Ms Gale Rigobert has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Robert Lewis.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt