



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/NCS/NAC/12.263

29 NOV. 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

The month of November was marked by a number of activities focused on enhancing cooperation between UNESCO and the National Commissions.

Video-conference with El Salvador National Commission

In collaboration with the Permanent Delegation and the National Commission of El Salvador for UNESCO, a video-conference was organized for enhancing the capacities of this National Commission. The training session brought together some twenty members of the El Salvador National Commission.

This innovative and low-cost activity provided participants with an overview of cooperation between UNESCO and El Salvador while also responding precisely to questions raised. A large number of participants were in attendance, including high-level members of the National Commission. The use of Spanish contributed to the success of this training session.

I am pleased with the successful outcome of this video-conference with the El Salvador National Commission and would invite other National Commissions to explore the possibilities of taking advantage of this new form of communication for training.

Open-ended Tripartite Working Group for the review of the cooperation of UNESCO with National Commissions

You recently received the summary of the initial meeting of the open-ended tripartite working group that took place on 19 October at UNESCO Headquarters. This summary is now available online:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/initial_meeting_of_the_open_ended_tripartite_working_group_for_the_follow_up_of_the_review_of_the_cooperation_of_unescos_secretariat_with_national_commissions_for_unesco.

Pursuant to the Executive Board's decision, the working group should meet again to develop an action plan, including detailed timelines and responsibilities for the implementation of the recommendations aimed at enhancing cooperation with National Commissions. This plan will be submitted for consideration by the Executive Board at its 191st session (April 2013). In this regard, we have already received many generous offers to host the second meeting of the open-ended tripartite working group will take place early February 2013. I have the pleasure to announce this meeting very soon.

Electronic Forum of the Open-Ended Tripartite Working Group

As you know, an electronic forum (e-Forum), designed as a workspace to collect proposals on the Action Plan for the implementation of recommendations, was launched last week, following the first meeting of the open-ended Tripartite Working Group. We have organized the e-Forum into six sequential discussion modules, each devoted to one of the recommendations made by IOS in its final report, thus allowing for a more focused and detailed discussion.

We will dedicate two weeks to discuss the first recommendation (clarifying the role of National Commissions) given its general nature and particular importance. We will then allocate a shorter but adequate amount of time to each of the other five recommendations. You will be sent an e-mail reminding you about which recommendation item shall be up for discussion. It is expected that the e-Forum discussions shall end 10 January 2013 at the latest.

If you are already a Google user, you may sign in using your Gmail account, as usual and follow the instructions thereafter. If you do not have a Gmail account, then you will need to create one new account Gmail (e.g. xxx@gmail.com) in order to join and participate in this group. I kindly encourage you to join this e-Forum and would like to thank you in advance for your active participation.

Contact: Section of National Commissions and Related Networks, s.zerroualy@unesco.org / natcom@unesco.org, tel.: +33 1 4 5 68 12 57/88 Website: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en-GB&fromgroups#!/forum/tripartite-group>.

International Conference of NGOs

As you know, we are quickly approaching a grand moment in the relationship between NGOs and UNESCO – the International Conference of NGOs – to be held from 12 to 14 December 2012, at UNESCO Headquarters. This conference brings together all non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO to review the state of cooperation with UNESCO, conduct collective consultations on the main priorities of UNESCO's programmes, and facilitate their networking. Other NGOs may also attend observers.

I encourage you to mobilize NGOs in your country as UNESCO official partners for the success of this conference and to follow its work, which will be broadcast live via the Internet. For more information on the conference, please visit: <http://www.unesco.int>.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo – s.colombo@unesco.org or ngo@unesco.org, tel.: +33.1.45.68.14.98

International Year of Water Cooperation (2013)

At its 65th session in December 2010, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. The UN General Assembly expressed its concern about "the slow and uneven progress in achieving the goal of halving the proportion of people who do not have sustainable access to drinking water and to basic sanitation services, when climate change and other global issues have serious effects on the quantity and quality of water."

UNESCO, applying a multidisciplinary approach which blends the natural and social sciences, education, culture and communication, is preparing to take an active part in the events of the Year, for which the plan will be finalized in early 2013. Given the intrinsic nature of water as a transversal and universal element, the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation naturally would embrace and touch upon all these aspects.

We wish to reiterate the UN's call to take appropriate measures to organize activities and make relevant proposals for activities to be undertaken at all levels to celebrate it. National Commissions could, in this regard, play an important role in the development of initiatives and coordination in their respective countries.

Contact: Ms Alice Aureli, Programme Specialist, Section on Groundwater Resources and Aquifer Systems (tel : +33 1 45 68 39 95 / 41 80; fax : +33 1 45 68 58 11; a.aureli@unesco.org/l.salame@unecso.org)

**Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions
(end October 2012/November 2012)**

In Botswana, Ms Kgomotso Motlotle has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Mavis Mmanane Kelebemang.

In Chili, Ms Myriam Duchens Bobadilla has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Ana María Foxley Rioseco.

In India, Dr M M Pallam Raju has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Shri Kapil Sibal.

In Kiribati, Mr Kinta Eram has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Karabi Bate.

In Mongolia, Mr Luvsanlandan Bold has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Yondon Otgonbayar.

In Peru, Mr Henry Pablo Armas Alvarado has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Ricardo Villanueva Valverde.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt