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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions for UNESCO

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Sir/Madam,

On the eve of the 36th session of the General Conference, I should like to inform you of some recent developments of interest to you this month.

187th session of the Executive Board

Some key points emerged from the Report of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) at the 187th session of the Executive Board.

Review of the consultation process concerning the C/4 and C/5 documents (187 EX/17 Part III and Add.)

The Executive Board, at its 187th session, recommended that the General Conference maintain the current practice of holding regional consultations of National Commissions on the C/4 and C/5 documents during the transitional period (2012-2013). Thereafter, the consultations on the C/5 document would be held every four years starting in 2016.

The organization of the regional consultations will however be reviewed for the 191st session of the Executive Board (Spring 2013). The cycle, format, structure, costs and expected outcome will be included in the review of the consultation process.

*Draft policy framework for strategic partnerships:
towards a UNESCO partnership strategy (187 EX/17 Part IV)*

As part of the follow-up to the IEE recommendations, a draft policy framework for strategic partnerships was considered at the 187th session of the Executive Board and will be submitted to the General Conference at its 36th session. It is based on the "need for UNESCO to develop a comprehensive policy and accountability framework for strategic partnerships that looks outwards to civil society, expert communities and the private sector". The draft framework also stresses the importance of the National Commissions' role of liaising with national partners, including the private sector.

New Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations (187 EX/37)

I should also like to refer to the draft new directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations, which reflects the desire to improve our interaction with civil society. The draft new directives aim to provide a simplified framework in which partnership with NGOs could develop under more appropriate conditions.

The National Commissions, as key discussion partners of NGOs, must clearly play a vital role in establishing a genuine partnership culture enabling UNESCO to legitimize its action, achieve its goals and increase its visibility.

Review of UNESCO's cooperation with National Commissions

On 30 September, I shared with you the General Conference information document "Review of the cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with the National Commissions for UNESCO" (36 C/INF.16).

More recently, I sent you, by email, the draft of the full report of the review, on which you are invited to make comments and suggestions. I should thus like, in advance, to reiterate my sincere thanks for your participation, which is essential to the success of the exercise, scheduled to end on 18 November 2011. It is important that you send us your opinion and contribute to the improvement of the relations between UNESCO Secretariat and the National Commissions and to finding answers on your role and on the way in which the Secretariat cooperates with you.

In this connection, I would like to assure you that your contributions will be taken into account when the report is finalized and that the Secretariat is at your disposal to follow it up with you and with the permanent delegations.

We shall have the opportunity to discuss all of these points and many other matters relating to your terms of reference and your concerns at the interregional meeting of National Commissions on 24 October and during the PRX Commission meetings at the 36th session of the General Conference.

www.unesco.int

In recognition of the important role of National Commissions, I wish to bring to your attention that we have upgraded www.unesco.int website, which now states that this website is designed for "Member States and their National Commissions". You will find all the information you need during the General Conference, including documents, schedules, speeches and even links to the websites of your National Commissions.

Forthcoming UNESCO publications

UNESCO and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) are publishing the African collection "Bouba et Zaza" in partnership with the Michel Lafon Foundation.

The intergenerational collection *Bouba and Zaza – “Cultures of childhood”* – does not refrain from addressing serious topics despite the young age of its readership (3 to 8 years). The fictional stories therefore raise topical issues which affect African family life and which parents do not always have the courage to address. These include problems such as war, conflict, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, water and environmental protection.

“Women and the teaching profession: exploring the feminisation debate”, available in English only, is published by the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNESCO.

This study of the feminization of the teaching profession in the world’s South includes an overview of the decisive trends and issues regarding the phenomenon in the countries of the Commonwealth. It is divided into two parts — a multi-country analysis and case studies of the role of women teachers in the expansion of education systems in such countries as Dominica, India, Lesotho, Samoa and Sri Lanka.

Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO (September-October 2011)

In Papua New Guinea, Hon. Theo Zurenuoc, Minister of Education, has been appointed as Chairperson, succeeding Hon. James Marape.

In Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Ikrama was appointed Secretary-General,.

In Turkey, Mr Mehmet Ocal Oguz was appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Nabi Avci.

In Guinea, Mr Ibrahima Solo Conde was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Hadja Aïssatou Lamarama.

In Rwanda, Dr Fidèle Ndahayo was appointed President, succeeding Dr Rose Gasibirege-Gasakure.

In Luxembourg, Mr Alex Langini was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Paul Klein.

In Libya, the National Transitional Council (NTC) informed the Secretariat that Mr Bahkul Eliagoubi was appointed Secretary-General.

I very much look forward to seeing you next week.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Eric Falt