



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
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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

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26 July 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

During the summer holidays, we are in the midst of preparations for the next three regional consultations, as well as the 190th session of the Executive Board, which will be held at Headquarters from 3 to 18 October.

Those of you who will be in Paris are invited to attend the traditional meeting for National Commissions, scheduled for Friday 5 October in the morning, on the sidelines of the official meetings.

190th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO (3-18 October 2012)

Several items on the agenda of the Executive Board are particularly important for our cooperation with National Commissions and are dealt with in specific documents which are currently being finalized for submission to the Board.

The first of these is document 190 EX/37, on the remit and mandate of an open-ended tripartite working group to follow up the review of cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions. This document has been drafted on the basis of the preliminary discussions held during the regional consultations in Africa and the Asia and Pacific regions. It will be complemented, if necessary, after the regional consultations that will take place in Montevideo, Bratislava and Muscat.

Should these terms of reference be confirmed by the Board, and in order to take advantage of the presence of numerous delegations in Paris, we are planning to hold a one- or two-day brainstorming session on Friday 19 October. We would kindly ask you to keep this possibility in mind. We will try to confirm the date and further details as soon as possible. Document 190 EX/37 will be available online on www.unesco.int during the month of August.

The Executive Board will also examine the Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Participation Programme and the emergency assistance for 2012-2013 (190 EX/5).

An audit of UNESCO's Participation Programme will be carried out by the Organization's External Auditor beginning at the end of August. The first phase of the audit will focus on the procedure and management of the programme at Headquarters. The second phase (from mid-September to mid-November) will consist of a review of requests submitted within the framework of the Participation Programme and their realization, conducted with the National Commissions of a number of beneficiary countries. We are confident that you will provide us with the necessary collaboration to ensure the success of this undertaking.

The Autumn session of the Executive Board will also examine a global partnership strategy for the Organization (190 EX/21), to be refined and expanded by specific strategies for the various partners: private sector, media, NGOs, UNESCO Clubs, parliamentarians, Associated Schools and UNESCO Chairs. The role of National Commissions will, of course, be an integral part of that strategy.

Launching of EFA Global Monitoring Report 2012: advocating for youth

www.efareport.unesco.org

This new edition of the *EFA Global Monitoring Report* on the theme of *Youth, Skills & Work* will be launched on 16 October 2012. The Report seeks to show how skills development programmes can be improved, and their field of application extended, to boost young people's opportunities for decent jobs and better living conditions.

All activities aimed at contributing to the launch worldwide on that day are therefore encouraged. I am certain that I can count on your participation in the observance of this important event in your respective country. For further information please consult the following tools, using the links:

- A [note](#) presenting the key topics which will be covered by the Report
- A [booklet: Youth – Skills – Work](#)
- [Reference documents](#) (to date available in English)

(Contact: EFA Monitoring Report Team: efareport@unesco.org).

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27 October)

By celebrating this day on the theme “Memory of the Audiovisual Heritage – time is short”, UNESCO seeks to draw international attention to the issues in this field, such as the importance of audiovisual documents as an integral part of national identity.

National Commissions are invited to organize activities and events involving national heritage institutions and schools, as well as other interested parties.

The theme of the Day is reflected in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Memory of the World Programme. In connection with this celebration, UNESCO will be holding an international conference from 26 to 28 September 2012 in Vancouver (BC), Canada, to explore the main issues affecting the preservation of digital documentary heritage. This celebration also encourages the launch of specific initiatives related to digital preservation and to the fostering of access to documentary heritage through digitization.

(Contact: Ms Joie Springer: j.springer@unesco.org).

Forthcoming UNESCO publications

- ***Assessment of Media Development in Nepal***

Communication and Information Sector – Launch date: September 2012

The report provides an in-depth study of Nepal's media landscape, based on UNESCO's Media Development Indicators. It presents recommendations based on factual data on the five categories of Media Development Indicators addressed to media stakeholders and governments. Special attention is given to the situation of gender equality in Nepalese media. The publication is the first of its kind, providing media professionals with completely new information and analysis on Nepal's media landscape.

- ***Scripting the Future: Literacy policies and practices across the world***

Education Sector – Launch date: September 2012

The publication brings together original articles, some produced for the series of regional conferences in support of Global Literacy, some specially commissioned. The collection is unique in that the chapters provide a global perspective on aspects of literacy that are otherwise inaccessible. The book will provide professionals, planners and policy-makers in literacy with a source of data and analysis of policies, strategies and financing. This is entirely the kind of publication that UNESCO alone can produce, as global coordinator/leader in literacy.

- ***The Future of Mobile Learning: Implications for Policy Makers and Planners***

Education Sector – Launch date: October 2012

This publication complements the 12 existing titles in the series. In contrast to the other works, which examine the current state of mobile learning, this title directs attention to how the field could play out in the year 2030. In a field as fast moving and technologically driven as mobile learning, it is necessary to keep one eye fixed on the ground (“what is”) and one eye locked on the horizon (“what will be”). From this more informed vantage point, policy-makers will be better able to develop plans that ensure mobile learning can help learners in the future.

Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (mid-June/mid-July 2012)

In Albania, Ms Venera Domi was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Eni Jucja.

In Andorra, Ms Elisenda Vives was appointed President, succeeding Mr Joan Peruga.

In Ghana, The Hon. Lee Ocran was appointed President, succeeding The Hon. Alex Tettey-Enyo.

In Iceland, Mr Páll Skúlason was appointed President, succeeding Mr Valdimar Tryggvi Hafstein, and Ms Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir, Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Einar Hreinsson.

In Romania, Ms Ecaterina Andronescu was appointed President, succeeding Mr Daniel Petru Funeriu.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt