



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a white school uniform with a dark collar, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom. In the background, another student is visible, and the wall is decorated with colorful educational posters.

# National Commissions for UNESCO *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2016

Cover photo: © UNESCO Office in Santiago. Pisagua (Municipality of Huara) region of Tarapaca, Chile

Huara, Tarapaca region, Chile

Education transforms lives: closing the gap of school infrastructure after the Huara earthquake in Northern Chile.

- Over 1100 inhabitants of Huara, among students, parents and education officials, benefited from investment in infrastructure for schools in the community.
- These projects reaffirm that quality education must be an even greater aspiration after a disaster.

National Commissions for UNESCO  
*Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2016





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السلام PAZ  
PEACE  
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# FOREWORD

National Commissions play an essential role in embedding UNESCO in civil society, the academic world and the private sector, anchoring our action as close as possible to actual needs. Over the last years, National Commissions have also become spearheads of reform, embodying a dynamic and positive movement to rethink the Organisation's way of working, to improve impact and influence.

This Annual Report shows the outstanding commitment of National Commissions to promoting innovation and, in particular to take forward the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 2016 Report highlights National Commissions acting across the board, through the Associated School Network, the Man and the Biosphere Programme, World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Memory of the World programme as well as the International Hydrological Programme and Geoparks, underlining also their dynamic cooperation with the Secretariat, including all Field Offices, Institutes and Centres. This Reports shines light also on the increasing networking and partnerships led by National Commissions with non-governmental organisations, UNESCO Clubs and civil society as a whole.

In this respect, I wish to pay tribute to the Chinese Government for generously hosting the *3<sup>rd</sup> Interregional Meeting of National Commissions*, in Shanghai in June 2016, gathering participants from more than 110 National Commissions.



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This provided a powerful platform for reflection and exchange on such key issues as the actions of National Commissions in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the role of UNESCO in empowering youth and preventing violent extremism, and in protecting humanity's common heritage in the event of armed conflict or attack.

The message of this Report is clear. In turbulent times, the mandate of UNESCO has never been so important, and the action of National Commissions in advancing our shared values and goals is more essential than ever. This Report opens a window onto the remarkable work led by the National Commissions – it is also an insightful way to share best practices and experience.

In this spirit, I wish to thank all National Commissions for their leadership, and I encourage them to deepen ever more their action and coordination to support UNESCO in building the foundations for a peaceful and sustainable world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Irina Bokova". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Irina Bokova,  
Director-General of UNESCO

# AVANT-PROPOS

Les commissions nationales jouent un rôle essentiel pour ancrer l'UNESCO dans la société civile, les milieux universitaires et le secteur privé, rapprochant ainsi notre action au plus près des besoins réels. Ces dernières années, les commissions nationales ont également été les fers de lance de la réforme, incarnant un mouvement dynamique et positif visant à repenser les méthodes de travail de l'Organisation, ainsi qu'à accroître son impact et à étendre son influence.

Le présent rapport annuel fait ressortir la volonté exceptionnelle des commissions nationales de promouvoir l'innovation et, en particulier, de faire progresser le *Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030*. Le Rapport 2016 souligne ainsi le travail effectué à tous les niveaux par les commissions nationales, que ce soit à travers le Réseau du système des écoles associées, le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère, le patrimoine mondial et le patrimoine culturel immatériel, le Programme Mémoire du monde, le Programme hydrologique international ou bien encore les géoparcs, mettant également en exergue leur coopération dynamique avec le Secrétariat, y compris les bureaux hors Siège, les instituts et les centres. Le présent rapport met enfin en lumière le nombre croissant de réseaux et partenariats conduits par les commissions nationales avec les organisations non gouvernementales, les Clubs UNESCO et la société civile dans son ensemble.

À cet égard, je souhaite rendre hommage au Gouvernement chinois qui a généreusement accueilli la 3<sup>e</sup> réunion interrégionale des commissions nationales à Shanghai, en juin 2016, avec la participation de plus de 110 commissions



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nationales. Cette réunion a été l'occasion d'une réflexion et d'un échange sur des questions essentielles telles que l'action des commissions nationales dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et le rôle de l'UNESCO en matière d'autonomisation des jeunes et de prévention de l'extrémisme violent, ainsi que de protection du patrimoine commun de l'humanité en cas de conflit armé ou d'attaque.

Le présent rapport délivre un message clair. En ces temps troublés, le mandat de l'UNESCO n'a jamais revêtu une telle importance, et l'action menée par les commissions nationales pour porter nos valeurs et objectifs communs se révèle plus que jamais essentielle. Le rapport, qui laisse entrevoir le travail remarquable

accompli par les commissions nationales, est aussi une manière instructive de partager les bonnes pratiques et les expériences.

Dans cet esprit, je souhaite remercier toutes les commissions nationales pour leur rôle moteur, et je les encourage à toujours approfondir leur action et accroître la coordination afin d'aider l'UNESCO à poser les fondements d'un monde pacifique et durable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Irina Bokova". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'I' being particularly large and stylized.

Irina Bokova,  
Directrice générale de l'UNESCO

# INTRODUCTION

Unlike previous Reports, the fourth edition of the Annual Report of the National Commissions for UNESCO is published online only and on a single combined English/French document. This is due to the financial difficulties that the Organization has been facing. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to note that this publication reflects our joint efforts on enhancing the cooperation between the National Commissions and the Secretariat of UNESCO. The number of contributions received for each edition shows the great interest of the National Commissions in this publication.

The National Commissions for UNESCO are national entities that are established by Member State governments in accordance with UNESCO's Constitution (Article VII) and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO. They serve as important bodies for liaison, advice, information and programme implementation. Through the direct links to their governments and their close contacts with academia and civil society networks, the National Commissions contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives; especially in regards to programme delivery, partnerships with civil society and visibility at national, sub-regional and regional levels. They are considered to be constituent elements of the Organization.

You may recall that Recommendation 7 of the *Action Plan for Strengthening the Cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO* stipulates that the National Commissions should regularly report on their concrete actions and major achievements, and that they should endeavour to

share and promote best practices among themselves. Thus, it was three years ago that the Organization produced for the first time an annual report, in English and in French, summarizing the various efforts and achievements made by the National Commissions in each of their individual country.

In response to this Recommendation, the Secretariat has continued to invite all National Commissions to provide an update of their activities in 2016, including one success story and a photographic illustration. Based on the contributions received from 123 out of 199 National Commissions around the world, during the period between October 2016 and February 2017, the Secretariat has been able to compile the relevant information and produce this fourth single English/French edition of the Annual Report of National Commissions for UNESCO. This publication is intended to demonstrate the real value of our National Commissions and their contribution to UNESCO's ideals and programmes. This was portrayed through their actions, and their cooperation among other National Commissions. We hope that the next edition of this Annual Report will reflect the activities of an even larger number of National Commissions.

Please note that the contents of this Annual Report were edited to fit a common format. However, every effort has been made to retain the essence of the information provided. The Secretariat wishes to apologize for any possible oversight or misunderstanding.



# INTRODUCTION

Contrairement aux précédents rapports, la quatrième édition du Rapport annuel des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO n'est disponible qu'en ligne et uniquement dans une version mixte anglais/français, cela en raison des difficultés financières traversées par l'Organisation. Il est néanmoins encourageant de constater que cette publication reflète nos efforts conjoints en vue d'approfondir la coopération entre les commissions nationales et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO. Le nombre de contributions reçues pour chaque édition montre le grand intérêt que les commissions nationales portent à cette publication.

Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO sont des entités nationales établies par les gouvernements des États membres conformément à l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation (article VII) et à la Charte des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO. Elles jouent le rôle important d'organes de liaison, de conseil, d'information et de mise en œuvre du programme. Grâce aux liens directs qu'elles entretiennent avec leur gouvernement et à leurs contacts étroits avec le milieu universitaire et la société civile, les commissions nationales contribuent à la réalisation des objectifs de l'UNESCO, notamment en ce qui concerne l'exécution du programme, les partenariats avec la société civile et la visibilité aux niveaux national, sous-régional et régional. Elles sont considérées comme des éléments constitutifs de l'Organisation.

Vous vous rappellerez peut-être que la Recommandation 7 du Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO invitait les commissions nationales à rendre compte régulièrement de leurs actions concrètes et de leurs

principales réalisations, ainsi qu'à s'efforcer de partager et de promouvoir entre elles les meilleures pratiques. C'est ainsi que l'Organisation, il y a de cela trois ans, publiait un premier rapport annuel en anglais et en français récapitulant les différents efforts et réalisations des commissions nationales dans chacun de leurs pays respectifs.

Pour donner suite à cette recommandation, le Secrétariat a continué à inviter l'ensemble des commissions nationales à fournir des informations actualisées sur les activités qu'elles ont menées en 2016, dont un exemple d'activité réussie et une illustration photographique. À partir des contributions envoyées entre octobre 2016 et février 2017 par 123 commissions nationales sur 199 à travers le monde, le Secrétariat a pu compiler les informations pertinentes et produire cette quatrième édition en version anglais/français du Rapport annuel des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO. Cette publication a pour but de démontrer la valeur réelle de nos commissions nationales et de leur contribution aux programmes et aux idéaux de l'UNESCO, ce qui est présenté à travers leurs actions et leur coopération avec d'autres commissions nationales. Nous espérons que la prochaine édition du Rapport annuel pourra présenter les activités d'un nombre encore plus grand de commissions nationales.

Veillez noter que le contenu du présent Rapport annuel a été remanié pour obéir à un format commun. Cependant, tout a été mis en œuvre pour conserver l'essence des informations fournies. Le Secrétariat tient à présenter ses excuses pour tout oubli ou malentendu éventuel.



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Photo from the UNESCO book *The Power of Sport Values*  
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# Africa

# BENIN

## Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Salimane Karimou,  
Ministre des Enseignement Maternel et Primaire

**Secrétaire générale** : Mme Adélaïde Fassinou Allagbada

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

Du fait de l'épuisement de son budget initial et du retard dans la mise à disposition des ressources financières, la Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO n'a pas pu mettre en œuvre toutes les activités prévues pour l'année 2016.

La tenue de la 1<sup>ère</sup> session du Comité exécutif de la CNBU a permis de préparer l'Assemblée générale qui a eu lieu du 14 au 16 décembre 2016. Cette Assemblée générale a été

consacrée au renouvellement des organes directeurs de la CNBU. A l'issue de cette session, des recommandations ont été faites à l'endroit du Président de la Commission, notamment, la révision des textes régissant la CNBU afin de la doter d'un statut juridique et d'une autonomie de gestion.

Dans le but de faire connaître aux acteurs de l'éducation l'agenda 2030, la CNBU a organisé la vulgarisation de l'ODD-4 dans ces écoles associées à travers des tournées effectuées dans tous les départements du Bénin.

La CNBU, en collaboration avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Abuja, a organisé, le 10 novembre 2016, la consultation nationale sur l'ODD-4. Ce forum qui a réuni les acteurs de l'éducation ainsi que la société civile a permis d'une part, de présenter au public les indications générales pour comprendre les buts et les cibles de l'Objectif de développement durable-4 et d'autre part, de requérir les orientations du Gouvernement dans la mise en œuvre de sa politique pour l'éducation en vue de la réussite de l'agenda 2030.



Le Sous-Directeur général de l'UNESCO pour l'éducation entouré des Ministres béninois en charge de l'éducation et de la Culture au forum de la Consultation nationale sur l'ODD-4

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### Une activité réussie

Le renforcement de la collaboration entre la CNBU et le Bureau régional a permis de conclure avec le gouvernement du Bénin, un nouveau type de coopération avec l'UNESCO dénommé Accord-cadre de coopération, adopté par le Gouvernement du Bénin en Conseil de Ministres du 28 septembre 2016. C'est une nouvelle approche de mobilisation de ressources financières internes et externes dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO dont le Bénin est le pionner en Afrique. Cet accord d'un montant global de 49 142 296 USD prévoit de mettre à la disposition de l'UNESCO 9 828 593 USD sur 5 ans à partir du budget national du Bénin pour financer des Projets dans cinq ministères.



# BOTSWANA

## Botswana National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Alfred Madigele, Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology

**Secretary-General:** Ms Nnosang Mhutsiwa

**Website:** [www.moe.gov.bw](http://www.moe.gov.bw)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Botswana National Commission's responsibility is to enhance UNESCO's visibility and programme priorities by ensuring outreach to non-governmental organizations and civil society partners. The National Commission is also mandated to extend its services to harnessing relations with youth organisations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture and information.

The Commission comprises of high-level officers from government and non-governmental organizations. The Commissioners serve as a link between Botswana and UNESCO Headquarters. Their role is to advise the Government and other relevant stakeholders on issues relating to UNESCO programmes and their implementation at national level.

In collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office in Zimbabwe, the National Commission fosters sub-regional cooperation through joint execution of programmes. The National Commission also participated in the 9th Council of the Information for all programme (IFAP) held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the regional consultation meeting regarding Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) held in Zambia, the UNESCO SADC Water Net Special Session on water security held at Gaborone International Conference Centre on World Water Day, the Youth Volunteers Work Camp at World Heritage Site Tsodilo Hills focusing on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as the Associated School Project Network (ASPnet) held at Moeti Junior Secondary School in Maun. Several International Days were celebrated in 2016, such as the World Technology Information Society Day, Literacy Day, World Press Freedom Day, and Science Day.

In addition, the UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017 provided technical and financial assistance to four out of seven proposed projects. The four projects were Curriculum Development for Learners with Special Needs, Tlhale Workshop, Promotion of Heritage Tourism at Tswapong Hills Cultural Landscape and Mosadi Khumo ICT Empowerment. Out of the activities undertaken above, one has been selected as a success story. This is the project on Bridge Africa, which is geared towards augmenting the Government of Botswana's efforts in promoting the Early Childhood Care and Education.



Bridge National Committee (BNC) members at the first BNC Workshop  
© Ms Moonju Kim, Project Manager at Korean National Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

The Bridge Africa Programme initiated by Korea National Commission for UNESCO was sponsored by Korea Ministry of Education and individual donors in Korea. The funds are supporting Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Literacy and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Moreover, the programme aims at the improvement of the educational environment, capacity development and provision of teaching/learning materials.

The Director of the Department of Basic Education, as the Chairperson of Bridge National Committee in Botswana and on behalf of the Botswana Government, thanked both the Korea National Commission and the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO for striving hard to provide support at the first Bridge Botswana National Committee workshop held on 20 October 2016.



# BURUNDI

## Commission nationale du Burundi pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente:** Mme Janvier Ndirahisha, Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

**Secrétaire général:** M. Salvator Nyabenda

## Compte rendu des activités 2016

Le Secrétariat général de la Commission nationale est de petite taille et est doté de ressources humaines et financières très limitées. La grande part de ses activités est liée au Programme de Participation biennale de l'UNESCO.

En 2016, le Secrétariat général de la Commission nationale a travaillé en collaboration avec le Siège de l'UNESCO, la Maison de l'UNESCO pour une Culture de Paix au Burundi, les ministères partenaires, la société civile, les associations et les médias pour mettre en œuvre les programmes, les projets et les activités et donner une visibilité à l'UNESCO dans le pays. En effet, il a réceptionné, analysé et sélectionné les projets présentés par des organisations de la société civile et des services gouvernementaux. Par la suite, il les a transmis à l'UNESCO pour demande de financement. Il a coordonné et a suivi la mise en œuvre des projets déjà approuvés au titre du Programme de participation pour le biennium 2016-2017. Il a participé aux conférences, ateliers et réunions organisés par l'UNESCO, les Bureaux hors Siège et ses partenaires.



Madame la Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique lors d'une visite guidée dans le centre de prise en charge des enfants polyhandicapés de l'Institut Médico-Pédagogique de MUTWENZI dans le cadre du projet " Formation en techniques de rééducation, de réadaptation et de la scolarisation des auxiliaires médicaux et auxiliaires de vie scolaire des enfants en situations de handicaps". (5 au 9 décembre 2016).

© Commission nationale du Burundi pour l'UNESCO

## Une activité réussie

En 2016, avec l'appui financier de l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme de Participation 2016-2017, le Secrétariat général de la Commission nationale du Burundi pour l'UNESCO par le truchement de l'Association Action pour l'Éducation, la Santé et le Développement Intégré, AESADI en sigle, a organisé un atelier sous le thème «Formation en techniques de rééducation, de réadaptation et de la scolarisation des auxiliaires médicaux et auxiliaires de vie scolaire des enfants en situations de handicaps».

Cet atelier avait pour objectif d'appuyer la rééducation, la réadaptation et la scolarisation des enfants vivant avec handicap des centres de prise en charge des enfants en situation de handicap de la province GITEGA, à travers la formation de leurs auxiliaires médicaux et auxiliaires de vie scolaires.

Les résultats escomptés ont été atteints car les capacités techniques de diagnostic, de rééducation et de réadaptation des différentes catégories de handicap pour trente et un auxiliaires médicaux ont été renforcées; les compétences éducatives et pédagogiques de vingt auxiliaires de vie scolaire ont été améliorées et les conditions d'apprentissage de vingt-quatre enfants polyhandicapés intégrés dans les écoles ordinaires à orientation inclusive ont été améliorées par l'octroi des kits scolaires. Des exercices d'application ont été pratiqués. Les bénéficiaires de la formation ont pu exprimer leur savoir-faire.

# CAP-VERT

## Commission nationale cap-verdienne pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente:** Mme Maritza Rosabal Peña,  
Ministre de l'Éducation

**Secrétaire générale:** Mme Maria da Glória Rendall  
Ribeiro Serrano Santos

**Site internet:** [www.cvunesco.org](http://www.cvunesco.org)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

En 2016, la Commission nationale du Cap vert pour l'UNESCO a organisé avec le soutien du Siège et du Bureau multipays de Dakar de nombreuses activités dans les domaines de l'éducation pour le patrimoine culturel et naturel, l'éducation pour la culture scientifique, l'éducation pour la citoyenneté et l'éducation pour le développement durable en partenariat avec des institutions publiques et privées du Cap Vert. Le renforcement des connaissances et l'éducation à la paix des jeunes ont été une priorité dans le cadre des écoles du réSEAU. Une grande visibilité a été accordée à toutes les activités.

Dans le domaine de l'éducation, la Commission a réalisé un programme de cycles de conférences, expositions itinérantes, visites d'études et cinéma, destinés aux élèves de l'enseignement primaire et secondaire du réSEAU ainsi qu'aux universités. Les thématiques développées sont liées au patrimoine – histoire et

mémoire, aux sciences exactes et naturelles et aux sciences humaines et sociales. Plus de 10.000 enfants et jeunes ont bénéficié du programme, avec la collaboration des académies, écoles, secteur privé et instituts publics. Avec des fonds du Programme de participation, le Programme de développement de la Lecture a connu de nouvelles actions, et des livres et cahiers ont été publiés et distribués. Le Programme Sandwatch a connu sa continuité.

La Commission nationale a appuyé le Ministère de l'Éducation dans l'organisation de La Plus Grande Leçon du Monde, sur les ODD.

La Commission nationale a coordonné et inauguré en janvier 2016 le projet « Accès à l'eau potable dans les écoles » appuyé par l'UNESCO, avec la présence de son mécènes, l'actrice brésilienne Cléo Pires.

Dans le domaine de la culture, des initiatives ont été développées dans le cadre de « La Route de l'Esclave » avec plusieurs expositions et conférences dans des écoles et universités. Avec des fonds du Programme de participation, une édition critique du livre « L'Esclave » de José E. Almeida, a été publiée et sera étudiée dans les écoles.

Dans le domaine de la Science, la Commission nationale a coordonné le projet « Maison de la Science de Mindelo », cofinancé par le Programme de [participation.la](http://participation.la) Commission a aussi cofinancé et appuyé le projet « Lab in a Box » de sciences expérimentales dans plusieurs écoles.

La Commission a célébré les Journées Internationales de la Paix et de la Science avec des élèves du réSEAU.



La plus Grande Leçon du Monde" sur les ODD, par le Premier Ministre, M. Ulisses Correia e Silva. Le Premier Ministre et à ses côtés la Ministre de l'Éducation et la Coordinatrice Résidente des Nations Unies et quelques uns des centaines d'enfants participants, le 23 septembre 2016.

© Cabinet de Communication et Image du Gouvernement.

## Une activité réussie

L'évènement le plus marquant de l'année 2016 pour la Commission nationale du Cap Vert pour l'UNESCO fut la Semaine de « La plus grande leçon du monde » du 19 au 23 septembre, pendant laquelle des centaines d'enseignants des écoles des neuf îles du pays ont parlé des ODD à des milliers d'élèves de l'enseignement primaire, et surtout des objectifs les plus urgents du pays, notamment la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'éducation inclusive, équitable et de qualité, l'équité du genre, l'accès à l'eau potable et la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le Premier Ministre, M. Ulisses Correia e Silva et la Ministre de l'Éducation Mme. Maritza Rosabal, ont pris part personnellement dans l'initiative, donnant leurs « Plus Grandes Leçons » sur les ODD le (20 et 23 septembre) dans deux écoles différentes, face à un public d'environ cinq cents élèves.

Le niveau d'engagement du Gouvernement dans cette initiative promue par l'UNESCO/Project Everyone/GPE/UNICEF, a été considéré comme remarquable au point d'être distingué « pays étoile ».

# RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

## Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Aboubakar Moukadas Noure, Ministre de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique

**Secrétaire Générale** : Mme Georgette Florence Koyt-Deballe

**Site internet**: [www.unesco.cf](http://www.unesco.cf)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

Dans le cadre du Programme de participation, six projets ont été validés sur les sept soumis par la Commission nationale, au titre du biennium 2016-2017. Aussi, la coopération avec le Bureau Multisectoriel de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique Centrale a été renforcée comme en témoignent leur présence constante lors des activités réalisées en République Centrafricaine.

Dans les domaines de l'Éducation, Sciences Sociales et Humaines, deux projets ont été validés et commencent à être réalisés dès le mois de décembre 2016. L'un concerne la *Relecture des textes organiques de l'Université de Bangui, et l'autre mesure l'ampleur et établit une typologie des violences faites aux femmes dans des situations de crises.*

Dans le domaine des Sciences exactes et naturelles, plusieurs activités ont été mise en ouvres :

- Les termes de référence pour l'atelier national d'évaluation de la faisabilité de la restauration de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du Parc National Manovo-Gounda St Floris, bien du Patrimoine Mondial, en application de la (Décision : 40 COM 7A.34) prise lors de la 40<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité du patrimoine mondial sont élaborés. La Commission nationale

a participé au Comité interministériel national de pilotage du Programme de Renforcement et de la Résilience des Systèmes Socio-Ecologiques du Bassin du Lac Tchad (PRESIBALT). Le programme a pour but d'ériger la Bassin du Lac Tchad en patrimoine mondial. Il est financé par la BAD et exécuté avec l'appui scientifique et technique de l'UNESCO et l'UICN (Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature).

- La Commission soutient, en coopération avec les Bureaux d'Études ODE et TERREA, la préparation de l'Étude d'Impact Environnemental et Social (EIES) du Permis d'Exploitation et d'Aménagement (PEA 190) contigu au Parc National Dzanga-Ndoki (partie intégrante de la Tri-Nationale de la Sangha, bien du Patrimoine mondial).
- Deux projets sont en cours de réalisation, *l'un vise à évaluer le programme l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB), et prépare le lancement du Rapport de l'UNESCO sur la Science et de la Stratégie MAB 2015-2025 en République Centrafricaine. Un autre projet vise le renforcement des capacités en analyse des données sur la biodiversité et l'environnement.*

Dans le domaine culturel, un projet faisant l'Etat des lieux des sites du patrimoine culturel et naturel des régions du Centre et de l'Ouest de la République Centrafricaine est en cours.

Au niveau de la Commission nationale, un projet a été réalisé concernant *l'équipement de la Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO en matériel informatique.* Ce projet a permis la formation des cadres à l'utilisation du matériel acquis.

Aussi, la Secrétaire générale de la Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO a participé aux réunions interrégionales des Commission nationales en Chine et au Cameroun.

Par ailleurs, la République Centrafricaine a pris part aux différentes réunions de programme (Lutte contre l'extrémisme violent par l'éducation, Programme MOST, Conférence internationale sur l'emploi des enseignants contractuels à Addis-Abeba).



### Une activité réussie

La formation de 100 apprenants dans le cadre du projet de la sécurisation et de réinsertion sociale des enfants victimes de la crise centrafricaine conjointement financé par l'UNESCO et la Juventus de Turin en Juin 2015 a été conclue par la remise des certificats et des kits d'installation aux apprenants au mois de juin 2016 par S.E.M. Aboubakar MOUKADAS NOURE, Président de la Commission nationale.

S.E.M. Aboubakar MOUKADAS NOURE remettant le certificat à une récipiendaire

© Jean-François MALENGUINZA



# TCHAD

## Commission nationale tchadienne pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Ahmat Khazali Acyl,  
Ministre de l'éducation nationale

**Secrétaire général:** M. Abdelkérime Adoum Bahar

### Compte rendu des activités 2016

En 2016, la Commission nationale a travaillé en très bonne harmonie et en confiance avec les Ministères concernés par les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO et les organisations de la société civile. C'est ainsi que plusieurs Tchadiens ont bénéficié de bourses coparrainées par UNESCO- Pologne, Chine et Corée. La Commission nationale a réussi à établir une coopération très fructueuse avec le Ministère de l'Education nationale et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé. De plus, en l'absence d'un Bureau de l'UNESCO au Tchad, la Commission nationale a été désignée comme Point focal par lequel transitent les fonds destinés aux activités des structures du Ministère chargées de la mise en œuvre de la « Stratégie Intérimaire pour l'Education et l'Alphabétisation » (SIPEA), pour la période 2013-2015 et du « Plan Décennal pour le Développement

de l'Education et de l'Alphabétisation » (PDDEA) pour la période 2017-2027. La SIPEA et le PDDEA sont des stratégies sectorielles de l'Éducation qui ont bénéficié d'importants financements du Partenariat Mondial de l'Éducation (PME) et du Qatar; l'UNESCO et l'UNICEF étant désignées par le PME comme Agences de gestion.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des Conventions de 1972 sur la protection du Patrimoine culturel et naturel et la Convention de 2003 sur la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine culturel immatériel (PIC) la Commission nationale a participé avec succès à la préparation du dossier de candidature du Massif de l'Ennedi désormais inscrit depuis août 2016 à Istanbul, comme site mixte sur la liste du Patrimoine mondial de l'Humanité. La même coopération se poursuit pour la candidature du Parc National de Zakouma pour 2017. En novembre 2016, la Commission nationale a organisé, avec l'appui financier du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO, un atelier de renforcement des capacités des cadres du Ministère de la culture dans la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la sauvegarde du Patrimoine Culturel immatériel. La Commission nationale coopère également avec grand succès avec le Ministère de la Communication et les organisations des journalistes, dans le cadre du PIDC. « L'Union des Radios Privées du Tchad » a ainsi bénéficié d'un fonds pour la formation des journalistes de 40 radios communautaires à l'occasion de la couverture des élections.



Une potière Kotoko de Gaoui démontrant son art.

© Direction du patrimoine culturel Tchad

### Une activité réussie

L'organisation d'un Atelier de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles du Ministère de la Culture dans la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 2003 pour la sauvegarde du Patrimoine culturel immatériel fut un véritable succès. La Commission nationale a en effet, sollicité et obtenu un appui financier du Bureau Régional de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé pour l'organisation de l'atelier. Grâce à un appui technique d'un expert en PCI et du Chef du Secteur Culture du Bureau régional, 24 cadres du Ministère et 3 jeunes des organisations de jeunesse ont été formés pendant 3 jours sur l'identification et l'inventaire d'un élément culturel; sur le remplissage d'une fiche d'inventaire et sur la participation des communautés à l'établissement des inventaires ». Pour illustrer cette formation, une visite à une chefferie traditionnelle, a été effectuée à Gaoui, une localité de la communauté Kotoko à 20 km de N'Djamena. Ce qui a permis aux séminaristes de s'entretenir avec le Sultan Kotoko sur les us et coutumes et savoir-faire de sa communauté, dont la poterie exercée par les femmes. Ce savoir-faire est encore vivant car il se transmet naturellement de mère en fille.

# CONGO

## Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua,  
Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur

**Secrétaire Général** : M. Gabriel Bokoumaka

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO joue le rôle d'organe consultatif auprès du gouvernement et des Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) en vue de mettre en œuvre des objectifs de l'UNESCO. Elle assure la liaison entre l'UNESCO et l'Etat congolais et informe le public des objectifs et programme de l'UNESCO.

Au cours de l'année 2016, la Commission nationale congolaise a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec l'UNESCO, les ministères et les agences relevant des domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville ainsi que la société civile. Cette collaboration a tant soit peu facilité la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO. En dépit des difficultés d'ordre budgétaire, la visibilité de l'UNESCO au Congo a été assurée.

La Commission nationale congolaise a participé à la 200<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil Exécutif de l'UNESCO, a préparé et présenté des rapports et des demandes d'aide au titre du Programme de Participation.

La Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO a pris également une part active à la 18<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil National de l'Enseignement Primaire et Secondaire tenu du 12 au 14 septembre 2016 sur le thème de la question enseignante en République du Congo. A cette occasion, le Secrétaire Général de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a présenté un exposé magistral sur le thème : « *Les enseignants dans les initiatives de l'UNESCO et l'objectif de développement n°4* ». Cet exposé a consisté à sensibiliser le Conseil National de l'Enseignement Primaire, Secondaire et de l'Alphabétisation, sur les initiatives et programmes de l'UNESCO et de l'ODD4 de l'Agenda 2030, en rapport avec la formation des enseignants.

Les Clubs et Associations UNESCO continuent à jouer un rôle clé dans l'exécution des programmes de l'UNESCO.

La Commission nationale a participé à une rencontre des partenaires de l'UNESCO et des Commissions nationales des pays de la CEEAC tenu à Yaoundé du 20 au 22 avril 2016.

La Commission nationale a également renforcé la coopération avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville. Cette coopération s'est illustrée par l'élaboration du document UNESCO de Programmation Pays (UCPD).

Enfin, il est à souligner que la Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO continue à travailler dans un cadre infrastructurel inadéquat, attendant que le Gouvernement la dote de bureaux convenables.



### Une activité réussie

Au titre des activités, la Commission nationale a constitué un groupe de travail chargé de rédiger, avec la collaboration du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville, le tout premier document UNESCO de Programmation Pays (UCPD) pour la Période 2015-2017.

Ce document a pour objectif de renforcer le positionnement du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville dans le cadre de l'appui du système des Nations Unies au Congo, tout en présentant les différents axes d'intervention stratégiques de l'UNESCO, en tenant compte des priorités nationales.

Les deux parties se sont félicitées du travail réalisé, et croient en une collaboration encore plus renforcée entre le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville et la Commission nationale.

La Commission nationale a constitué un groupe de travail chargé de rédiger, avec la collaboration du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville, le tout premier document UNESCO de Programmation Pays (UCPD) de l'histoire pour la Période 2015-2017

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# CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente:** Mme Kandia Camara, Ministre de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle

**Secrétaire Général:** M. Lou Mathieu Bamba

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

En 2016, la Côte d'Ivoire reste toujours engagée dans la reconstruction post-conflit, le renforcement de la cohésion sociale et la recherche d'une paix durable.

Dans ce cadre, la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO, fortement impliquée dans sa mission pour la paix, a participé à plusieurs activités et en a réalisé d'autres.

La Commission nationale a été impliquée, à Abidjan, du 31 mai au 6 juin 2016, dans l'élaboration du rapport national 2012-2015 sur la Convention et la Recommandation concernant la lutte contre les discriminations dans le domaine de l'enseignement, en qualité de membre du comité scientifique dudit rapport.

Du 13 au 16 juin 2016, la Commission nationale a activement participé à un atelier de formation à Yamoussoukro à l'attention des journalistes de la presse en ligne et des bloggeurs de Côte d'Ivoire, sur le code d'éthique et de déontologie qui régit leur métier.

Du 29 au 30 août 2016, un atelier de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et analytiques de la Direction d'Alerte Précoce (DAP) de la CEDEAO a été organisé à Abidjan pour évaluer les risques et la vulnérabilité au sein de cette communauté.

Du 17 au 20 septembre 2016, à Gagnoa, une formation destinée aux animateurs de radios de proximité a été organisée pour s'attarder sur la couverture médiatique des élections et la production d'émissions promouvant la paix.

Un atelier sur la consultation nationale pour la préparation et l'appropriation de la mise en œuvre de l'ODD 4 en Côte d'Ivoire a été mis en place à Abidjan du 4 au 5 octobre 2016.

La Commission nationale a participé à un séminaire de renforcement des capacités des managers opérationnels des structures centrales du Ministère de l'Education Nationale à Abidjan, pour préparer le plan d'action de la politique de l'école obligatoire (du 10 au 15 octobre 2016).

Le 22 décembre 2016, la Commission nationale a pris part à un atelier sur la Révision de la Recommandation relative à la condition des chercheurs scientifiques organisé en collaboration avec la Chaire UNESCO de la Bioéthique, à Bouaké.

## Activités réalisées par la Commission nationale

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO (recommandation 3), la Commission Nationale a entrepris une restructuration profonde. Le projet de Décret relatif à cette restructuration est à l'étude à la Direction des Affaires Judiciaires du Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle.



Activités de la Coordination Jeunesse et Sport de l'UNESCO-Côte d'Ivoire  
© Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO

## Une activité réussie

Sous l'égide de la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO, la Coordination Jeunesse et Sport de l'UNESCO-Côte d'Ivoire, a organisé des séminaires de formation sur les agendas de développement pour préparer leurs générations aux défis du monde nouveau.

La première activité concerne les Objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD). Elle a permis aux participants de maîtriser les 17 ODD et les 169 cibles, sans oublier les conséquences du changement climatique sur nos modes de vie et comment s'y adapter.

La deuxième activité a porté sur « Côte d'Ivoire Vision 2040 ». Elle a permis aux participants de comprendre les grandes réformes entreprises par le gouvernement, le secteur privé et les partenaires au développement.

La troisième, concerne « la Vision de l'Afrique 2063 ». Il s'agit d'une projection sur l'Afrique pour les 50 prochaines années. Elle consiste à « bâtir une Afrique intégrée, prospère et pacifique, gouvernée par ses proches citoyens et représentant une force dynamique sur la scène mondiale ».

Ces démarches disposent les jeunes à une citoyenneté mondiale.

# REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

## Commission nationale de la République Démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Gaston Musemena, Ministre de l'Enseignement primaire, secondaire et professionnel

**Secrétaire-général:** M. Lazare Liema Ibongo Botie

### Compte rendu des activités 2016

La Commission nationale de la République Démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO a entrepris, au cours de l'année 2016, diverses activités en rapport avec le mandat de l'Organisation en dépit des difficultés rencontrées, notamment matérielles et budgétaires. Ces activités ont couvert tous les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO (Education, Science, Culture, Communication et Information) grâce à une collaboration soutenue par les Ministères et les administrations concernés.

Faisant suite aux recommandations formulées par la « Table Ronde » sur la Place du Patrimoine Culturel Matériel et Immatériel de la République Démocratique du Congo sur les Listes du Patrimoine Matériel et Immatériel de l'UNESCO organisée à Kinshasa, au Centre Wallonie Bruxelles, du 22 au 25 Octobre 2013 (par la Commission Belge Francophone et Germanophone pour l'UNESCO et la Commission Nationale de la République Démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO),

la République Démocratique du Congo a mis sur pied les structures ci-après en vue de s'approprier et de procéder au processus d'inscription de son patrimoine aux listes du Patrimoine Mondial ainsi que de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1954. Il s'agit notamment :

- de la Commission de Classement du Patrimoine Matériel et Immatériel ;
- de la Commission des Experts chargée de procéder à la documentation de la « Rumba » pour son inscription à la liste nationale et mondiale ;
- de la Commission des Experts chargée de procéder à l'appropriation de l'Os (Bâton) d'Ishango et du Site d'Ishango ainsi d'entamer le processus de leur inscription dans les listes du Patrimoine Mondial. Il y a lieu d'indiquer que les Experts ont produit deux documents de travail pour la réalisation du projet à savoir: « le Cadre Global ainsi que la Feuille de Route » ;
- du Comité Consultatif National pour la Protection des Biens culturels en cas des conflits armés en République Démocratique du Congo (Convention de 1954) qui a été créé par le Décret du Premier Ministre et ses animateurs ont été aussi désignés.

Toutes ces structures sont à pied d'œuvre pour la réalisation des objectifs assignés. Il est important de noter que la coopération entre la Commission Nationale et le Bureau UNESCO/Kinshasa devra être citée en exemple. Les deux structures poursuivant les mêmes objectifs, travaillent en tandem. C'est à ce titre qu'un Atelier sur l'Etat des lieux du Programme MAB en République Démocratique du Congo a été organisé grâce au financement du Bureau. Plusieurs réunions de concertation entre les deux structures ont été tenues afin d'arrêter des stratégies de mise en œuvres des activités.



### Une activité réussie

Le meilleur exemple de réussite au cours de l'année 2016 est sans conteste, la tenue de l'Atelier sur l'Etat des lieux du Programme MAB en République Démocratique du Congo.

En effet, la Commission nationale, en collaboration avec le Programme MAB et de son Réseau des Réserves de Biosphère (WRB) a organisé, avec l'appui financier du Bureau UNESCO-Kinshasa, ledit Atelier.

Le Plan d'Actions de LIMA et la stratégie du MAB (2015-2025), ont permis aux participants de partager les connaissances et surtout de :

- redynamiser le Comité MAB (Comité National, Bureaux terrains MAB Luki, Lufira et Yangambi) ;
- se faire dater d'un plan d'action national ; obtenir l'engagement du Gouvernement à soutenir la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action qui constitue un appui majeur pour le Programme MAB/RDC.

Réserve de la Biosphère de YANGAMBI

© Mr Samuel Begaa, Coordonnateur de l'Union Internationale de la Conservation de la Nature

# DJIBOUTI

## Commission nationale de Djibouti pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Moustapha Mohamed Mahamoud, Ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la formation professionnelle

**Secrétaire général:** M. Isman Ibrahim Robleh

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

Redynamisée depuis le 26 juin 2016 (réf note de service n° 199/MENFOP), la Commission nationale pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture a connu depuis cette date un développement notable à travers la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre d'activités suscitées et générées grâce aux opportunités nationales et internationales favorables.

Cette initiative de remise en route de cette entité a permis de réaliser un certain nombre d'actions qui ont permis de partager et de faire progresser l'initiative et les idéaux de l'UNESCO.

Ces activités ont aidé la Commission nationale à atteindre la société civile et à avoir une certaine visibilité sur le plan national.

On peut citer parmi les actions réalisées les plus saillantes :

- L'élaboration de la reconnaissance juridique et sa mise en circuit
- L'organisation de l'atelier sur le Biogaz
- L'organisation de la journée internationale de la paix
- La réflexion sur la mise en œuvre des clubs de la paix dans les écoles
- La participation à l'organisation de la consultation sur l'ODD4-Education 2030

De même, d'autres actions sont en cours

- Le lancement de la réflexion sur les mécanismes de la Commission et leur fonctionnement
- La définition des orientations stratégiques de la Commission
- L'élaboration d'un plan de développement



Le Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle avec la Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO en visite à Djibouti

© M. Houssein Abdillahi Meraneh of the CRIPEN

### Une activité réussie

À l'instar des autres pays du continent africain, la République de Djibouti se soucie fortement de l'exploitation de ses ressources naturelles et cherche à créer les conditions favorables au développement des énergies renouvelables et à augmenter leur part dans l'approvisionnement énergétique car celles-ci peuvent participer au développement économique local et à la création d'activités industrielles.

La volonté des autorités d'assurer la formation dans le domaine de biogaz et de contribuer à la sensibilisation des acteurs concernés sur l'intérêt de l'utilisation du biogaz demeure de plus en plus manifeste.

L'organisation de l'atelier de transfert de technologie de Biogaz organisé par l'UNESCO en partenariat avec la Commission nationale pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture (CNESC) et placé sous le haut patronage du Ministre de l'éducation nationale et de la formation professionnelle trouve toute sa justification et sa pertinence dans le domaine de la formation et de renforcement des capacités des personnels appartenant aux entités publiques et privées de la filière du biogaz.

# GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE

## Commission nationale de Guinée équatoriale pour l'UNESCO

**Président :** M. Jesús Engonga Ndong Eyono, Ministre de l'Éducation et de la Science

**Secrétaire général :** M. Santiago Bivini Mangué

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Guinée équatoriale agit en vue de formuler une politique de l'enseignement supérieur et de la formation professionnelle adaptée aux normes préconisées par l'UNESCO afin de concevoir un système pour la science, l'ingénierie, la technologie et l'innovation en Guinée équatoriale. Ce projet a déjà été adopté par le Mozambique, le Sénégal ainsi que d'autres pays d'Afrique.

Les activités initiales comprenaient la tenue de deux ateliers dans les villes de Baney et Nniefang. L'information recueillie lors de ces réunions a été validée à l'occasion d'un autre atelier similaire à Bata, organisé avec le soutien du Siège de l'UNESCO et du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé.

Par la suite, un projet actuellement en cours d'analyse par le gouvernement, a été formulé en vue de renforcer les capacités de la Guinée équatoriale en matière d'évaluation continue de son système national d'enseignement supérieur et professionnel

ainsi que de son système scientifique, technologique et d'innovation ; l'objectif du gouvernement étant d'atteindre cet objectif d'urgence pour 2020.

La Commission nationale a pris une part active à la ratification de la *Convention concernant la lutte contre la discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement*. Adoptée par l'UNESCO en 1960, la Convention n'avait pas encore été ratifiée par la Guinée équatoriale.

À cet égard, la Commission nationale a dû remplir des documents, clarifier des concepts et plaider devant le Parlement national en faveur de la ratification de la Convention. La ratification de la Convention par cette institution a effectivement eu lieu en août 2016.

Dans le domaine des activités conjointes de la Guinée équatoriale et de l'UNESCO, il faut mentionner la Troisième édition de la remise du Prix international UNESCO-Guinée équatoriale pour la recherche en sciences de la vie à Paris, où la Commission nationale a fait partie de la délégation officielle du pays et a apporté son aide à l'organisation et à la coordination de cette rencontre internationale (10 octobre).

La délégation officielle de la Guinée équatoriale était conduite par le deuxième Vice-Premier Ministre Chargé des relations avec le Parlement, représentant Son Excellence M. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Président de la République de Guinée équatoriale.

La participation d'un membre de la Commission nationale au programme des Jeunes talents de l'Agence Japonaise de Coopération Internationale (JICA), parrainé par le gouvernement du Japon avec le soutien de l'UNESCO, doit également être signalée. Cette activité a eu lieu à Nihonmatsu, dans la région de Fukushima, au Japon (7 - 24 novembre).



Journée internationale de la paix (21 septembre 2016)

© Esteban Mba Obiang

### Une activité réussie

La Commission nationale a pris part à la célébration de la Journée internationale de la paix (21 septembre) sous le slogan: *Culture différente, une seule langue: la paix*, adressé en particulier aux pays d'Afrique centrale dont le point focal est fixé à Libreville, Gabon.

Des sujets tels que l'importance de la paix, et la paix comme condition préalable du développement des peuples ont été mis en exergue par les intervenants et leurs messages diffusés par les stations radiophoniques de portée nationale.

En cohérence avec d'autres actions radiophoniques émises par les pays voisins, les journées d'éducation des jeunes aux valeurs de la paix ont contribué à la normalisation et à la sérénité de la jeunesse dans la région de l'Afrique centrale et en particulier en Guinée équatoriale.



# GABON

## Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Florentin Moussavou

**Secrétaire Général Adjoint** : M. Jean Claude Engo Bekui

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO a été créée le 5 janvier 1961, à la suite de l'adhésion de notre pays à l'UNESCO par décret n°1/MEN/IA modifié par le décret n°28PR/MEN du 5 janvier 1965 et par le 288 du 4 avril 1995.

Comme toute Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, elle a pour mission de promouvoir les objectifs, les programmes et l'œuvre

de l'UNESCO et d'assurer la liaison entre les partenaires nationaux concernés, les gouvernements et l'Organisation.

La Commission nationale, jusqu'en 2016, a toujours évolué dans un environnement particulièrement difficile. En effet, en dehors des contraintes budgétaires auxquelles elle est confrontée, il y a également la non application du décret 288 du 04 avril 1995 portant attributions et réorganisation de la Commission nationale en vigueur.

Ainsi en 2016, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau de UNESCO à Libreville a organisé son 1<sup>er</sup> Conseil Exécutif le 17 février; puis le 71<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de l'UNESCO et de l'adhésion du Gabon à l'UNESCO, le 16 novembre 2016 ; et enfin la signature du Programme de Coopération entre l'UNESCO et le Gabon pour la période 2016 - 2017, le 9 décembre 2016.

Sur les trois activités, la première a été financée par le Gabon et les deux dernières par le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Libreville.



## Une activité réussie

Le 16 novembre 2016, s'est tenue au Bureau de UNESCO à Libreville, la première édition relative à la célébration des 71 ans de l'UNESCO et des 55 ans de l'adhésion du Gabon à l'UNESCO. Cette rencontre a rassemblé des représentants Gabonais comme le Ministre d'Etat, le Ministre du Développement Social et Familial, de la Prévoyance Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale, M. Paul BIYOGHE MBA mais aussi des représentants des Nations Unies tels que le Chef de Bureau de UNESCO à Libreville, M. Vincenzo Fazzino et la Coordinatrice Résidente du système des Nations Unies au Gabon, Mme Marie Evelynne Petrus Barry. La rencontre visait à rassembler la famille UNESCO du Gabon pour faciliter la communication entre la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, les Ministères en charge des domaines de l'UNESCO, les Clubs UNESCO, les Ecoles Associées, les chaires UNESCO et les comités nationaux des programmes scientifiques de l'UNESCO.

Pour cette première édition chargée d'échanges fructueux, les différents membres de la famille UNESCO ont présenté leurs structures, missions et activités mises en œuvre avec l'appui de l'UNESCO. Les participants ont émis le vœu de se retrouver régulièrement pour se familiariser autour des idéaux de l'UNESCO. La journée s'est achevée sur un sentiment de satisfaction.

Bureau UNESCO/Libreville: Au centre M. Vincenzo Fazzino (Représentant de UNESCO au Gabon), M. Michel Kiki Mbou (Secrétaire général du Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de l'Education civique), Mme Pétrus Barry (Coordinatrice du système des Nations Unies au Gabon), M. Paul Biyoghe Mba (Ministre d'Etat, Ministre du Développement social et familial, de la Prévoyance sociale et de la Solidarité nationale) et au fond à gauche, M. Jean-Claude Engo Bekui (Secrétaire général adjoint de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO)

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# GAMBIA

## Gambia National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Claudia Cole, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education

**Acting Secretary General:** Mr Ousman Senghore

**Website:** [www.unesco.gm](http://www.unesco.gm)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Gambia National Commission for UNESCO has enjoyed over the past years a stable financial environment through the increased support of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. The professional staff of the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO has been actively involved in activities organised by local partners in various aspects such as policy development, technical advice and support in key specialised areas such as capacity building, data analysis, etc.

Greater UNESCO visibility has been pursued during the year through the implementation of various UNESCO sponsored activities in Gambia. For instance, the BANJUL +10: 10 Years

Implementation of The African Youth Charter – Accelerating Youth Development in Africa, 21 – 25 May 2016 Banjul – Gambia: this activity attracted the participation of youths from across Africa. The International Mother Language Day Celebrations “My Local Language, My Culture, My Identity”: 12 participating schools were sensitized on the importance of local languages. TV, voice and print media were also used to discuss issues related to identity and cultural heritage. The launching of the Global Monitoring Education Report “Education, Sustainability and the Post-2015 Development Agenda”: 100 participants came from youth organisations, mothers clubs, parent-teachers associations, school children, media personnel, parliamentarians to community leaders. The World Teachers’ Day 2016: a total number of 1200 teachers from all regions, officials from MoBSE/MoHERST, representatives of civil society organizations, NGO’s, and students attended and on the eve of the day, 4 October, the Minister for Basic and Secondary Education made a television broadcast to the Gambian population. The 2016 International Literacy Day: literacy service providers, members of National Technical Committee, traditional communicators, Government and Non-government Institutions, local Government authorities, National Assembly Members, media, Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres were brought together to discuss the importance of literacy in our societies.



The celebration of the International day of Peace organized by the National Federation of Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers

© NAFGUC

## A success story

The celebration of the International day of Peace could not have been at a more perfect time considering the political environment that preceded the country's 2016 presidential elections.

This year the National Federation of Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers (NAFGUC) observed the day on 21 September 2016, in Essau a rural town, North Bank Region of the Gambia.

Cultural performance from the local traditional communicators (kanyeleng) were part of the celebrations, songs and messages of peace were shared with the community in local languages in proverbial forms 'the importance of maintaining peace: to accept our cultural and religious differences in our communities'. These groups are very vital in the local communities when disseminating information and educating people. The celebration was followed by a symposium, another interesting part of the program, in which everyone participated. Contributions came from the participants, the village elders and other youth groups. The issue of youth migration was among the discussions and reasons why they should stay and prepare the Blocks for building peace. The occasion was graced by the community of Essau, especially community elders, religious leaders and village chiefs. All UNESCO Clubs across the nation were represented including stakeholders and youth organizations.

# GHANA

## Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Matthew Opoku Prempeh

**Secretary-General:** Mr Riche-Mike Wellington

### Update of activities in 2016

As a follow-up activity to the celebration of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015), the Government of Mexico organized a closing ceremony in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, in February to review the global celebration. The local organizing committee for the celebration in Ghana duly participated in this event. The Ghana National Commission is currently in the process of actualizing its four outcomes aligned with the celebration.

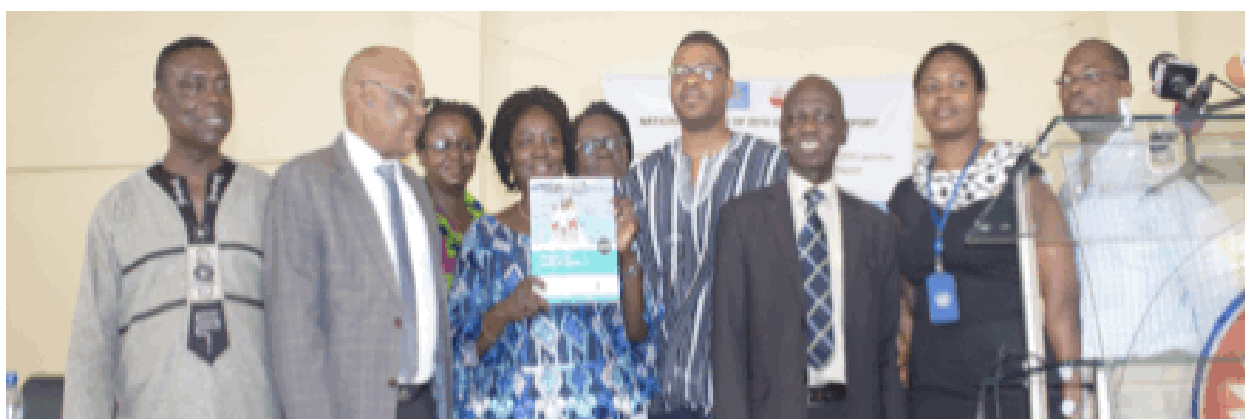
Within the Framework of the Seeta Project Agreement and following the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals, the National Commissions for UNESCO of Germany, Kenya and Uganda organized a capacity-building training workshop in Nairobi. The workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of staff of National Commissions for UNESCO in East Africa and Ghana to effectively deliver on their mandates. The Ghana National Commission was privileged to have the

capacity of three of its staff enhanced. The trainees have since organized two separate trainings for interns and National Service Personnel.

In addition, within the framework of the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves (GEBR) Project, which is being implemented in the Biosphere Reserves in Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania, UNESCO organized a capacity-building workshop in Tanga, Tanzania. Ghana was privileged to have participated in this workshop too.

Furthermore, Ghana participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves: A New Vision for the Decade 2016 - 2025, which took place in Lima, Peru. In actualizing the targets of the Lima Plan of Action, the National MAB Committee is initiating a sustainable monitoring programme in the Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve as part of the efforts to establish a long-term hydro-climatic research station. The National MAB Committee has also initiated cooperation between Songhor Biosphere Reserve and Principe Island Biosphere Reserve, which was aimed at sharing knowledge on sustainable handcraft (e.g. bead-making using recycled glass) to empower women in the Biosphere Reserve with sustainable source of income.

Moreover, the Commission facilitated the participation of Ghana in the first Global Capacity-Building Workshop on Global Citizenship Education Development (GCED) in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



### A success story

As a means of strengthening cooperation between National Commissions and Field Offices, the UNESCO Office in Accra in collaboration with the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the University of Education, Winneba, launched the 2016 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The GEM, being the first of a new series to monitor and report on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, was launched in Winneba, outside Ghana's capital city of Accra. The objective was to involve all and sundry in understanding and committing to the attainment of the SDG 4. The event brought together over 1200 participants from the academia, education stakeholders, students, civil society, the media and others.

Launching the report, the Hon. Minister for Education and the Chairman of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, informed that an action plan for the implementation of the Education 2030 agenda was already in place for Ghana. She therefore implored stakeholders to lend their support in its roll-out.

Hon. Minister for Education, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, officially launching the 2016 Global Monitoring Report in Ghana

© UNESCO Accra Office

# LESOTHO

## Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Motlalentoa Letsosa,  
Minister of Education and Training

**Secretary General:** Ms Palesa Montšhi

**Website:** www.unesco.org.ls

### Update of activities in 2016

2016 was a very hectic year for the Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU) as it strived hard to support the Organization's programmes in education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

The year has been an outstanding one as LNCU for the first time in its history celebrated many international days and weeks, sometimes without any financial support from UNESCO. These events attracted varied stakeholders and media attention. The most noteworthy are as follows: the World Radio Day, the Mother Language Day, the World Press Freedom Day, the Teacher's Day; the International Day for Universal Access to Information, and the Africa Code Week.

In the field of Education, LNCU in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, organized a three-day workshop themed "National Consultation on Sustainable Development Goal 4: *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities*

for all". The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss, clarify and unpack SDG4 and Education 2030 agenda and to agree on roles and responsibilities for taking forward the Education 2030 agenda. The workshop targeted national stakeholders involved in implementing and coordinating programs that address the seven targets of Goal 4.

In Culture, LNCU undertook a Community Based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Matukeng – Maseru, Lesotho. The inventorying exercise took almost three months from October to December 2016. Inventorying was done to allow communities to take ownership on how their ICH should be documented, as they are the custodians and bearers for its transmission. Inventorying was done to safeguard, preserve and promote the ICH of Lesotho and this will be reflected in the country's ICH database. The inventorying of three ICH elements in Matukeng reflected on domains such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship, for example the Birth of a Mosotho Child, the Rituals associated with prevention of evil spirits and witchcraft, and the Playing a tinned resonated instrument made out of an empty 5 litre tin with one end completely removed (*Ho letsa 'Mamokhorong / Sekhankula*).

Under the CI programme, Lesotho managed to be a recipient of the IPDC funding that assisted in the sustainability of UNESCO funded Moeling Community Radio (MCR). Under the project MCR managed to purchase production studio and logger system equipment, connect to the internet, and develop a website. They also trained staff and board members on ownership and management of the community radio, marketing and income generation as well as in principles of journalism.



October 2016 STEP Graduates during the Graduation ceremony Held in Maseru

© Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Within the framework of partnership between the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK) and the Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO, and in response to the high youth unemployment rate in Lesotho, the German National Commission supported the implementation of an entrepreneurial training called "Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP)". The main objective of the STEP training is to provide an answer to the adverse labour market conditions and the limited employment opportunities by providing trainees with knowledge and skills for alternative career option: self-employment.

2016 marked the second year of the STEP training programme in Lesotho. So far, about 500 Basotho youth received the STEP training and some of them are running successful small businesses. These include inter alia, construction companies, car rental business, kid's fun games company and many more.

STEP targets university students in their final year of study and recent graduates. There are five beneficiary institutions of higher learning based in Maseru, namely: Lesotho Agricultural College; National University of Lesotho- IEMS branch; Limkokwing University of Creative Technology; Lerotholi Polytechnic, and Centre for Accounting Studies. The training course includes 12 sessions which are undertaken in a period of 12 weeks.

# MADAGASCAR

## Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Paul Andrianiana Rabary,  
Ministre de l'Éducation nationale

**Secrétaire générale:** Mme Fanjamboahangy Ratsimisetra

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

L'année 2016 a été une année riche en activités pour la Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO. Une année axée sur la promotion des valeurs phares de l'UNESCO avec un accent particulier pour une éducation – notamment à la paix et à la citoyenneté - comme moteur du développement durable.

Dans le secteur de l'Éducation, plusieurs journées internationales de l'UNESCO ont été célébrées pour sensibiliser le public sur l'importance d'une éducation inclusive de qualité et une formation tout au long de la vie. Encore cette année, le Président de la République a tenu à s'associer à la Journée de l'Alphabétisation durant laquelle il a réaffirmé sa volonté de poursuivre toutes les actions nécessaires pour faire de cette démarche un levier de développement.

Pour le secteur Sciences Exactes et Naturelles, l'objectif était essentiellement de créer chez les jeunes un esprit scientifique et de les orienter vers des études scientifiques. Ainsi, plusieurs journées scientifiques ont été organisées au niveau d'une vingtaine de lycées. Différentes animations scientifiques ont pu

être effectuées et avaient pour finalité de créer un espace de partage et d'expérimentation entre étudiants. En marge de ces animations, l'UNESCO a octroyé des kits de laboratoires à plusieurs établissements.

Autrement, en collaboration avec la Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire, le secteur Sciences Humaines et Sociales a célébré pour la première fois, la «Journée Internationale du Sport Universitaire» à l'Université d'Antananarivo. Il était question de faire du sport et de ses valeurs, un outil de renforcement des liens, de promotion de la paix, de fraternité, et de solidarité.

Sinon, le secteur Culture, en collaboration avec l'Office Malagasy du Cinéma et le Centre de Documentation pour l'Éducation, la Science, la Culture et la Communication a mis en avant la Recommandation pour la sauvegarde et la conservation des images en mouvement à travers la Journée Mondiale du Patrimoine Audiovisuel. Un atelier de formation sur les métiers du cinéma, intitulé CINEDUC, a été ainsi organisé sur plusieurs semaines auprès de jeunes lycéens afin de promouvoir l'éducation à l'image.

Quant au secteur Communication/Information, les efforts ont été concentrés sur les actions de sensibilisation en faveur du droit à l'information. Pour ce faire, un KIT de sensibilisation sur l'accès universel à l'information a été élaboré avec le Comité pour la Sauvegarde de l'Intégrité, en partenariat avec l'UNESCO, dans le cadre de la célébration de la Journée Internationale de l'Accès Universel à l'Information.

Enfin, 2016 aura aussi été marquée par la validation par l'UNESCO de 6 projets dans le cadre du Programme de Participation 2016-2017.



Des écoliers laissant leurs empreintes colorées sur le « Mur de la Tolérance ».

© Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO.

## Une activité réussie

Cette année, la Journée Internationale de la Tolérance avait pour thème : «Tous uni, dans la diversité» et a été célébrée avec l'appui de l'Organisation Internationale pour la Francophonie. Des milliers de jeunes ont ainsi pu participer à différentes activités éducatives en faveur de la tolérance à l'école, gage de la paix sociale. Au-delà des messages de paix et de tolérance, la journée a été marquée par l'édification du « mur de la tolérance » sur lequel les participants ont pu laisser l'empreinte de leurs paumes dans différentes couleurs pour marquer cette diversité sociale qui fait la richesse de notre pays, Madagascar. En outre, plusieurs films d'animations courts ont été diffusés pour entrecouper le débat entre les écoliers et avaient pour objectifs de les amener à comprendre que la tolérance est une condition nécessaire pour un développement durable. Parallèlement, un concours intitulé «Dessine-moi la tolérance» a été lancé auprès des établissements, notamment ceux membres du Système des Ecoles Associées et Clubs UNESCO de Madagascar. Enfin, cette journée a aussi marqué le lancement du processus d'élaboration de la « Charte de la tolérance en milieu scolaire ».



# MALI

## Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente:** Mme Assétou Founè Samake Migan

**Secrétaire général a.i.:** M. Amadi Hamadi Diarra

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO a mis en œuvre en 2016, un certain nombre d'activités malgré ses ressources limitées.

La première fut la restitution du rapport de la 38<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.

La deuxième était la remise officielle de kits et mobiliers scolaires aux écoles de DJABALY et de KONNA grâce au Programme d'aide d'urgence de l'UNESCO. Cette activité a permis de rééquiper les écoles de DJABALY et de KONNA et de fournir aux élèves des kits scolaires.

La troisième concernait le lancement, au niveau national, du rapport mondial de suivi sur l'éducation (EPT 2016). Cette activité a été délocalisée au Conseil régional de Ségou dans la 3<sup>ème</sup> région administrative du Mali. Sa délocalisation avait pour but de mieux impliquer les élus régionaux et d'accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO.



### Une activité réussie

L'activité la mieux réussie est l'organisation de l'atelier de formation en procédure de Programme de participation UNESCO/ISESCO et de gestion de dossier. Cette formation a été organisée à l'attention des cadres de la Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO/ISESCO avec l'appui du Ministère de l'Éducation nationale du Mali.

Durant 11 jours, les cadres du Secrétariat général et les membres des sous commissions de la Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO/ISESCO ont été renforcés dans les procédures d'élaboration, de suivi de projets et dans la méthodologie de traitement des dossiers au sein de la structure. En outre elle a permis d'accroître la visibilité des deux organisations susmentionnées.

Atelier de formation en procédure de Programme de participation UNESCO/ISESCO et de gestion de dossier

© Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO

# MAURITIUS

## Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research

**Assistant Secretary General:** Ms Aneeta Ghoorah

**Website:** <http://ministry-education.govmu.org>

## Update of activities in 2016

2016 has witnessed a significant increase in the number of UNESCO Clubs in Public and Private Secondary Schools. Many activities promoting the ideals of UNESCO were organized.

Officers from the Ministry have participated in various Conferences organized by UNESCO during 2016, including: the World Education Forum (January 2016) in London, UNESCO SADC/TVET Qualification Framework (March 2016) in Lilongwe, Malawi; TVET Regional Forum for Eastern Africa (March 2016) in Mahé, Seychelles; the International Ministerial Meeting on Education Sector Responses to Violence based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression (May 2016) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO (June 2016)

in Shanghai, China; the Regional Workshop on Education Statistics for East and South African Countries (July 2016) in Windhoek, Namibia; the Regional Workshop on Capacity in Data Development in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development in Africa (November 2016) in Johannesburg, South Africa; and the Capacity Building Training Workshop (February 2016) in Nairobi, Kenya.

In culture, Mauritius has recently been honoured by events with regard to: the traditional Ségua (Sega tipik) which has recently been inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Geet Gawai which got listed in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the nomination File of 'Sega Tambour' for its listing in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage has also been submitted.

In communication and as a follow-up of the high level Ministerial and Experts Consultative Workshop held in Mauritius in 2014, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation and with the assistance of the Mauritius Research Council, organized a Regional Workshop to promote innovation through SIDS in November 2016. Technical Sessions were held on: Research and Innovation, Capacity Building to address Innovation, Innovation and Sustainable Development, and Industry and Innovation.

Recommendations were made on the discussions and it was envisaged to develop a common Framework to address Innovation in the region.



Ms Aneeta Ghoorah, Assistant Secretary General of Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Criana Connal, Senior Education Development Professional Representative of UNESCO, Hon. Ms Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, and Mr Simon Springett, UN Resident Coordinator, at the National Consultation on the Implementation of SDG-4 Education 2030

© the Government Information Service (GIS)

## A success story

The Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO organized a two-day National Consultation on the Implementation of SDG- 4 Education 2030 on 7 and 8 September 2016, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research. The objective of the National Consultation was to build a common understanding of SDG- 4 Education 2030 and ensure a sound foundation for its translation into national education system policies and plan as well as its implementation. The National Consultation was opened by the Hon. Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research. There were about 75 participants from different Ministries, Parastatal Bodies, NGOs, National Unions of teachers as well as officers from the organizing Ministry. The National Consultation provided a platform for all stakeholders to express their views and contribute to the input for the Analysis Matrix which was submitted to UNESCO. Dr Criana Connal, Senior Education Development Professional (Consultant) Resource Person from UNESCO conducted the sessions. The outputs of the National Consultations will lead to the Regional Forum for Eastern Africa, scheduled for early 2017.

# MOZAMBIQUE

## Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Conceita Ernesto Sortane,  
Minister of Education and Human Development

**Secretary-General:** Ms Élia dos Anjos Vaz Bila

### Update of activities in 2016

During the year 2016, due a critical economic situation in the country, the Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO could not implement fully its activities throughout the country, however working under the UNESCO's fields of competence namely education, science, culture, information and communication, the Mozambique National Commission implemented the following activities.

In the field of Education, the National Commission implemented a Language Teacher Training Programme in Bilingual Education Methodologies. The Programme has been designed to train teachers to teach typical school subjects (Maths, Biology, Geography, etc.) based on Portuguese and an additional local

language. A Workshop on the Dissemination of Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Education Quality, with emphasis on the goals for the Education and Training of Young People and Adults (Literacy and Technical Vocational Education) was also organized by the Mozambique National Commission in partnership with DVV International and the UNESCO Representation in Maputo.

In the field of Culture, the Commission organized a Training Workshop on the Implementing of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Inhambane, Mozambique, 27-28 October 2016. The Workshop had 60 participants. Another event was the 9<sup>th</sup> National Culture Festival held in Beira in the Central Province of Sofala. More than 900 representatives from all over the country participated in the event in the city of Beira, Mozambique's largest city after the capital, Maputo. The festival is a representation of the African Identity, particularly in regard to the oral transmission of knowledge from generation to generation.

In the field of Science, a MAB National Committee was established early this year in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Maputo. The Committee is working on establishing the first Biosphere Reserve, the "Quirimbas National Park".



Training Workshop on Education in Climate Change for Sustainable Development

© Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Organized by Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO and in cooperation with the Provincial Directorate of Education and Human Development of Zambezia, a training workshop on Education in Climate Change for Sustainable Development was held in Quelimane, Province of Zambezia from 2 to 4 November 2016. It was co-funded by the Government of Mozambique and Rizwan Adatia Foundation. It took place at the Quelimane Primary School.

The event was attended by representatives from the Provincial Directorate of Education and Human Development of Zambezia, Municipality Council of Quelimane City, High School of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO as well as students and teachers from several selected schools, in a total of 50 participants. It was facilitated by lecturers from the High School of Marine and Coastal Sciences.

The objectives were to raise awareness on the importance of climate change, the maintenance of life on Planet Earth, and the importance of conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources; encourage students to continue their higher studies in the areas of natural science; create Eco-clubs in schools for the environment; and combine theory with practice.



# NAMIBIA

## Namibia National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Itah Kandjii-Murangi,  
Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

**Deputy Secretary-General:** Mr Roderick Graham April

### Update of activities in 2016

Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, who is the Chairperson of the National Commission, appointed the new members of Executive Committee and Programme Committees of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO. For the next five years (2016 – 2021) these new members will steer the work of the National Commission.

In order to enhance policy and provide direction, the Namibia National Commission, with technical support from the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in Harare, organized information workshops on the Natural, Social and Human Sciences and Culture programmes of UNESCO. This was to discuss Namibia's priorities in the respective programme sectors against the preparation of the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5). The National Commission also collaborated with the UNESCO Windhoek Office, ministries and organisations to prepare the UNESCO Country Programme Document (UCPD).

Under the Sector of External Relations and Public Information at UNESCO Headquarters, three requests were approved under the Participation Programme.

Cooperation with other National Commissions was enhanced through the exchange programme between Namibia, Kenya, Uganda and German National Commissions. Three Namibians benefitted from the UNESCO/People's Republic of China Great Wall Fellowship.

With regard to the Programme Sectors, a National Consultation on SDG4, took place in Namibia with support from the ROSA.

In Science, the National Commission facilitated initial discussions on the establishment of a National Committee for the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme.

In Culture, the National Commission attended sessions of the Intergovernmental Committees for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage and World Heritage. Namibia also submitted a Quadrennial Periodic Report to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Furthermore, Namibia submitted four project proposals for funding under the International Fund for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (IFCD) and one was selected for funding.

Finally, activities are planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Namibia National Commission on 21 January 1992, in 2017.



Debate time during World Heritage in Young Hands

© Namibia National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The Annual UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Camp was held from 27 April to 1 May 2016, under the theme, "World Heritage in Young Hands". The objectives were to promote the ideals of UNESCO, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and intercultural learning; to concretize the four pillars of learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together; to share research findings on the theme; to learn about local places of Heritage; and to create a platform for debates and discussion on sustainable development and the Heritage Sites in Namibia.

More than 156 participants comprised of the ASPnet Coordinators, Learners, and staff of the Namibia National Commission, the UNESCO Windhoek Office, the National Heritage Council, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the Namibia National University of Science and Technology attended the camp. Participants from schools had to present their projects on why certain sites could be declared as heritage sites. In addition to the presentations, participants also had an excursion to Twyfelfontein, one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Namibia. The outcome of the Camp was an increased awareness on heritage and the concretization of the UNESCO pillars of learning, namely, learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together.



# NIGER

## Commission nationale nigérienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO

**Présidente** : Mme Ali Mariama Elhadj Ibrahim,  
Ministre de l'Éducation nationale

**Secrétaire exécutif par intérim** :  
M. Djibrin Malam Almajiri

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

Les activités phares ayant marqué l'année 2016 se sont articulées autour des activités suivantes :

- Mise en œuvre de quatre requêtes dans le cadre du Programme de Participation dont le Niger a été bénéficiaire à travers la Commission nationale, puis trois structures de la société civile que sont : la Fédération des Clubs UNESCO; le Réseau Ouest Africain des Enseignants pour l'Intégration et la paix (ROA-E-IP, Section du Niger); le Réseau Nigérien des Journalistes pour l'Éducation et le Développement, RENJED.

Les activités ont porté respectivement sur :

- L'organisation de deux ateliers de formation en éducation environnementale au profit des Ecoles Associées des huit régions du Niger regroupées sur deux sites notamment Tillabéry et Zinder. Celui de Tillabéry a regroupé les régions de Niamey, Dosso, Tahoua et Tillabéry et le second de Zinder a regroupé Agadez, Maradi, Diffa et Zinder.

- L'organisation d'un atelier de formation des jeunes leaders sur le genre et l'éducation citoyenne qui s'est tenu du 30 au 31 décembre 2016 au Stade Général Seyni Kountché de Niamey. Il a regroupé pendant deux jours, cinquante jeunes issus des clubs UNESCO et autres associations de jeunesse de l'ensemble du territoire national afin de les mettre en contact avec les valeurs véhiculées par l'éducation citoyenne et la politique nationale Genre ;
- L'organisation d'un atelier de formation au profit des réfugiés et des populations déplacées, qui s'est déroulé du lundi 2 au vendredi 6 janvier 2017 sous la présidence du Secrétaire Général du Gouvernorat de Diffa ;
- L'organisation de trois ateliers de formation et de sensibilisation des journalistes sur la promotion du genre et la prévention des violences faites aux femmes par voie de presse.

Les autres activités phares ayant marqué l'année 2016 au Niger dans le cadre de sa coopération avec l'UNESCO sont les suivantes :

- La mise en œuvre du programme CapEfa;
- La mise en œuvre du Projet pilote d'électrification solaire des zones rurales dans la région de Tillabéry principalement au collège d'enseignement général du village de Jangoré à environ 60km au sud ouest de Niamey ;
- L'appui à la scolarisation des filles par l'expérimentation d'un dispositif de renforcement des capacités des encadreurs pédagogiques et enseignants en Mathématiques sciences et technologie en faveur de la scolarisation des filles ;
- Le Projet d'appui à huit centres des jeunes;
- L'inventaire des éléments du Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel dans les régions de Tillabéry à Boubon et à d'Agadès au niveau du Centre Historique.



Des images ont été prises pour matérialiser les différents moments des ateliers  
© Commission nationale nigérienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO

### Une activité réussie

Ateliers de formation et de sensibilisation des journalistes sur le genre et la prévention des violences faites aux femmes à travers les médias (Gouvernorat de Dosso, le 17 septembre 2016)

Au titre du Programme de Participation (2016-2017) de l'UNESCO, le Réseau Nigérien des Journalistes pour l'Éducation et le Développement, RENJED, a obtenu un financement pour l'organisation de trois ateliers de formation et de sensibilisation des journalistes sur la promotion du genre et la prévention des violences faites aux femmes par voie de presse.

Les trois ateliers couvrent les huit régions du pays à travers des centres de regroupement à Dosso pour les régions de Dosso, Niamey et Tillabéry ; à Tahoua pour les régions de Tahoua et Agadez et, enfin, à Zinder pour les régions de Zinder, Diffa et Maradi.

Les trois ateliers se sont effectivement tenus dans les différents centres de regroupement. Le but recherché est de promouvoir le genre et prévenir les violences faites aux femmes dans la perspective de garantir l'égalité des chances entre femmes et hommes pour une paix sociale durable.

# NIGERIA

## Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Malam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General a.i:** Ms F.E. Oguah

**Website:** [www.education.gov.ng](http://www.education.gov.ng)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with local Ministries, Agencies, UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, and civil society organisations to promote the programmes of UNESCO in Nigeria during 2016.

Recognising that UNESCO Clubs and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) provide a platform for fostering UNESCO ideals among youths, the Commission carried out a reorganization and strengthening of the network in Nigeria. Inactive clubs were re-activated and a training workshop for club coordinators was organized. Consequently, clubs are now implementing activities to promote UNESCO's mission in their schools under the supervision of the Commission's Youth Desk and ASPnet coordinator.

The Commission held an Interactive Forum on Conflict-Sensitive Reporting for radio journalists from both the electronic and print media on 15 March. The forum focused on ensuring accurate and balanced reportage on conflict situations.

For effective coordination of activities and to expose Nigerians to the UNESCO opportunities, the Commission organized a Sensitization Workshop on UNESCO Fellowships, Prizes and Awards on 12<sup>th</sup> May. A monitoring exercise of all UNESCO Centres and Chairs was also carried out.

A Technical workshop on Water Quality Management on Agenda 2030 in the sub region was organised by the Regional Centre for the Integrated River Basin (RC-IRBM), a UNESCO category II institute in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office, Abuja. It was to among others, ascertain the situation of water quality management in the countries of the sub-region. Participants were drawn from Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia and Burkina Faso.

In the area of capacity building, the Commission organised a training workshop for its staff on UNESCO activities. Ms Nnandi-Esom from the Nigerian Nuclear Energy Commission, won the UNESCO/People's of Republic of China Fellowships Programme. The Commission also facilitated the award of UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (UGNLC) to four cities: Abuja, Ibadan, Kano and Owerri. The Commission facilitated the organization of an international exhibition and launched a book on "Durbar in Northern Nigeria" hosted by the Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO. This was in collaboration with a Nigerian artist, Adeniyi Olagunju of "Art Heritage" at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in July.

The observance of International Days has been a vehicle for promoting UNESCO ideals and giving visibility to the organization. In 2016, the Commission collaborated with relevant agencies and UNESCO Clubs to commemorate the following Days: the International Mother Language Day, the World Press Freedom Day, the International Day to end impunity for crimes against journalists, the World Radio Day, and the International Year of Light and Light- Based Technology.

The *Revitalizing Adult and Youth Literacy in Nigeria* programme, for which Nigeria provided \$6.4m fund-in trust to UNESCO, came to a close in December 2016. The programme, which was to accelerate and underpin national efforts to increase literacy rate among youth and adults, ensured that 5,101,719 learners were enrolled and 4,589,637 made literate.



### A success story

To further strengthen the cooperation between Nigeria and UNESCO, the country hosted the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, in August 2016. During her visit, a Joint Communiqué on a new phase of the Nigeria-UNESCO Special Plan of Cooperation, which will include actions in the Lake Chad region and on reconstruction of the education system in the North-East, was signed.

The President of Nigeria receives the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, at the State House with Honourable Ministers of UNESCO Line Ministries, the Nigerian Ambassador/Permanent Delegate, staff of UNESCO and the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

© State House, Abuja

# RWANDA

## Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO

**Secretary-General:** Mr Eliphaz Bahizi

**Website:** www.unesco.rw

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO undertook a variety of activities to increase awareness of UNESCO and its main objectives. It began by publicizing more through TV shows, press releases, radio broadcasts as well as several articles on the Commission website.

The Rwanda National Commission has also facilitated several meetings and workshops organized by the UNESCO Nairobi Office. Several TV and Radio broadcasts were carried out, articles and announcements related to CNRU/UNESCO activities were also published.

There are 43 UNESCO clubs in Rwanda, including Media clubs in schools by members trained in regards to SDGs and the culture of peace.

The National Commission provided both technical and financial support to partners in the country for several projects. Technical

and financial assistance were also extended to UNESCO partners. For example, 15 journalists/chief editors were trained and 7 projects were submitted to UNESCO Participation Programme for grant and implementation monitoring.

The Commission hosted the 9th young volunteers exchange from the Germany National Commission for one year (this has been taking place since 2009) and Ms Christine Maingi from the Kenya National Commission has facilitated a 3-day workshop on "Mobile Applications Development".

To strengthen cooperation with other National Commissions, the Rwanda National Commission hosted the 11th and 12th volunteers from the Germany Commission (DUK) for 6 months each. As well as a capacity building common project with the East African National Commissions and finally cooperation strengthened with the Korean National Commission.

The MoU which was signed in 2013 between the Commission and the Korean National Commission (KNCU) was renewed in 2016, to host an event within the framework of the KNCU Bridge Project. This was to build a Community Learning Centre (CLC) in Bugesera district, Eastern Province.

The National Commission celebrated several International days, such as the World Press Freedom Day, the World Science Day, the World Philosophy Day, the World Water Day, the World Mother Tongue Day, the World Poetry Day, and the World Teacher Day.



Bisate primary school

© Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Distribution took place of little sun lamps and chargers to students and teachers of Bisate primary school (rural area), in Musanze District, Northern Province.

The Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO (CNRU) supported technically and financially the implementation of the "Solar Kids School Project" which was for environmental awareness, especially for the local communities that are surrounding the Volcanoes Biosphere Reserve and National Park. The Commission collaborated with SaferRwanda (local NGO specialized in promoting renewable energy and women empowering in rural communities) to deliver 996 little sun solar lamps and 33 little sun solar phone chargers to Bisate Primary School students.

The school is located in a remote countryside rural area in Musanze District, Northern Province at the foot of the Karisimbi volcano. The students come from the communities cells in the villages, which surround the Volcanoes Biosphere Reserve and the National Park. Many of the households from these cells are not yet connected to electricity.

Solar Kids School Programme is an innovative package that fosters learning by providing the opportunity to study and read for longer after the sun goes down, with safe, healthy solar light.

Every lamp or Charge that replaces kerosene lamps or candles helps to eliminate the use of fossil fuels which of course is a step forward in preventing climate change.



# SENEGAL

## Commission nationale sénégalaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Serigne Mbaye Thiam,  
Ministre de l'Éducation nationale

**Secrétaire général** : M. Aliou Ly

**Site internet** : [www.unesco.sn](http://www.unesco.sn)

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale sénégalaise a mené plusieurs activités courant 2016 parmi lesquelles on peut citer :

La tenue de la troisième édition de l'Université d'été des « Navétanes » en août 2016 sur le thème de l'éducation au développement durable et à la citoyenneté mondiale.

La célébration de la journée internationale de l'alphabétisation 2016.

L'organisation d'un atelier de sensibilisation des communautés de la zone des niayes et du bassin arachidier sur la gestion et la protection des ressources aquifères.

La tenue d'un séminaire sous-régional de renforcement des capacités de protection et de diffusion des expressions culturelles minoritaires transfrontalières.

L'organisation d'une session de formation technique et professionnelle pour les jeunes femmes et filles déscolarisées dans le domaine de la couture et de la broderie.

Le lancement du Rapport mondial de suivi sur l'Éducation 2016 intitulé « L'éducation pour les peuples et la planète : Créer des avenir durables pour tous ».



Atelier international sur la prévention des génocides et violences de masses, 24-25 novembre, 2016 à Dakar

© la Commission nationale sénégalaise pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

La Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, en partenariat avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Dakar, avec l'appui de la Fondation Rosa Luxembourg et de la Fondation du Mémorial de la Shoah, a organisé au mois de novembre 2016, un atelier international de formation des responsables de l'Éducation sur la Prévention des génocides et violences de masses.

L'objectif dudit atelier était de contribuer à la capacitation des responsables des systèmes éducatifs de la sous-région pour enseigner l'histoire de l'holocauste et des autres génocides et atrocités de masse.

Avec la participation des pays de la sous-région, la rencontre a été un moment de partage d'expériences didactiques dans l'enseignement de l'histoire des génocides en vue de construire une résilience sociale à la violence par la promotion d'une véritable culture de la prévention des conflits afin de préserver une coexistence pacifique entre les peuples.



# SEYCHELLES

## Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Joel Morgan, Minister of Education and Human Resource Development

**Secretary General:** Mrs Marie-Reine Hoareau

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016 Seychelles organized several activities to commemorate most UN International Days in collaboration with other stakeholders with extensive media coverage.

For the further implementation of the Seychelles General Education Quality Analysis Framework (GEQAF) Phase 2, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with UNESCO-IBE, organized a training workshop on 16-19 February on Competency Based Approach (CBA) and a second one on 20-24 June in the three national priority areas: Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), ICT in Education and Competency Based Approach (CBA) in curriculum. On 1-5 August, a three-day workshop was held for the finalization of the concrete action plans followed by a two-day national workshop for the validation of the developed programmes and action plans.

The Seychelles National Commission attended the *Training workshop on Sub Regional Capacity Building programme*

for East Africa in Kenya (10 -13 February) and also the *Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO* in China (13-15 June). Education officers attended three workshops in Senegal (30 May-3 June), Namibia (18-22 July) and South Africa (21-23 November), which was organized by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

UNESCO funded three projects under the Participation Programme 2016-2017. The first project led by the Seychelles Heritage Foundation from the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, seeks to empower youth with knowledge on the cultural heritage of Seychelles. The second project, a capacity-building project involves the administration and calculation of the National Multidimensional Poverty Indicators of Seychelles from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The third project submitted by the National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISTI) aims to validate the national policy and strategy for the Development of Science, Technology and Innovation in Seychelles for 2016-2025 for sustainable economic growth.

The Ministry of Education organized a national conference entitled '*Transforming TVET in Seychelles: Building Skills for Work and Life*' (3-4 October) to celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Teachers Day. The conference sought to provide a platform for participants to discuss and propose recommendations on the transformation of TVET in Seychelles. The representative from the UNESCO Regional Nairobi Office made a presentation on the UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2016-2021.



Participants in group discussion at the *TVET Sub-Regional Forum for Eastern Africa: Skills for Youth and Entrepreneurship* (16-18 March)

© Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO 2016

### A success story

The key activity implemented by the National Commission was the organization of a regional forum entitled '*TVET Sub-Regional Forum for Eastern Africa: Skills for Youth and Entrepreneurship in Eastern Africa*' (16-18 March) in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean and in partnership with the UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC). The forum brought together representatives from 13 member states of the Region. Participants had the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge in various aspects of TVET. The UNESCO TVET Strategy (2016-2021) was also presented. Member states received tools to support them in the monitoring of the 2030 Education Agenda and the related TVET targets under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). The forum came up with major recommendations namely development of quality assurance mechanisms; enhancement of the quality of TVET teacher training; strengthening of teaching of entrepreneurship, basic and generic skills in TVET; facilitation of transition to self-employment; development and strengthening partnerships with the private sector. The major outcome of the workshop was to pave the way forward for the establishment of a regional platform for cooperation and support on the further development and sustenance of TVET.

# UGANDA

## Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Janet Kataha Museveni

**Secretary General:** Ms Rosie Agoi

**Website:** [www.unesco-uganda.ug](http://www.unesco-uganda.ug)

### Update of activities in 2016

In Education, the National Commission for UNESCO launched the Global Education Monitoring Report on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Kampala. This was in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the UNESCO Office for the Eastern African Region in Nairobi. The report launch aimed to create awareness and attention to the important issues regarding the SDG4 - Education 2030 in Uganda; generate renewed interest for moving the agenda forward and taking stock of progress made in achieving Education 2030 goals in Uganda.

The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education and Sports and the UNESCO Regional office for Eastern Africa organized a National Consultative meeting in Kampala- Uganda from 3rd – 4th August 2016 to raise awareness on SDG4 and to seek the views of a cross-section of key stakeholders. This is in regards to the national timeframe for the SDG4 national roadmap development in line with the national education strategic planning process. The meeting prepared a roadmap for the process of adapting, integrating and managing the SDG4 Agenda in the national context.

In Natural Science, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO implemented a project on the Promotion of Ecosystem

Approaches and Alternative Green Enterprises for Peaceful Coexistence in the Biosphere Reserves in Uganda. The objective was to ensure peaceful co-existence between the Managers and the communities in and around Uganda's Biosphere Reserves (BR) of Queen Elizabeth and Mount Elgon. The project resulted into establishing an inventory of the existing and new means of livelihoods, list of favorable priority alternative green enterprises, training of eight BR Managers and seven hundred eighty five (785) community members from eight tribal communities living in the BRs.

In culture, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with the Ministry of Culture to conduct training in Central and Northern Uganda on the implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention, which was ratified by Uganda in 2015. It aimed at building the capacity of key stakeholders and implementation partners and coming up with an implementation plan. The National Commission also launched in July 2016 the KFIT-UNESCO project. The "Strengthening of the Artistic, Design and Marketing skills of the crafts industry sector Project". This was in partnership with the UNESCO regional Office and the Republic of Korea. The project aims at reactivating the traditions embodied in the handicraft sector and promote environmentally friendly methods of using local raw materials available in the country to produce high quality handicrafts and promote dialogue across cultures.

In Communication and Information, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO worked with fifty Journalists in Western Uganda to promote freedom of expression and access to information using the UNESCO Toolkit on Freedom of expression. In addition, the Commission also trained 60 journalists and radio presenters working with community Radio stations in various parts of the country on local content development.



Hon. Rose Mary Seninde, the Minister of State for Primary Education, Dr Utak Chung Director, APCEIU, Ms Rosie Agoi-Secretary General, UNATCOM and other participants  
© Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

In 2016, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with Asia Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) and National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC), organized a two-day capacity-building workshop for the integration of Global Citizen Education (GCED) into the Uganda Curriculum. The main purpose of the workshop was to increase the level of awareness and knowledge on GCED of key players, enhance the capacity of all stakeholders to deliver GCED content and to exchange insights on ways to effectively integrate GCED into Uganda's curriculum. A national taskforce has been established to foresee the integration of GCED in the curriculum.

As a result of the partnership with APCEIU, Uganda is among the four countries including Cambodia, Mongolia and Colombia selected to pilot this very important intervention for the next three years.

# ZIMBABWE

## Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Jonathan N. Moyo, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development

**Secretary General:** Ms Margaret J. Chirapa

### Update of activities in 2016

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) on the BRIDGE Programme, Zimbabwe is implementing the Adult Literacy project in three Community Learning Centres in Zimbabwe. The programme provides teaching and learning materials and capacity development for tutors at the three centres. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. In 2016 the project availed support for a skills development workshop for the adult literacy tutors under a Participation Programme between the two National Commissions.

The Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO facilitated the training of officers in the Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of Culture and Heritage in community based inventorying of ICH at a 6-day workshop held in Mberengwa district in the Midlands Province. This was followed

by the inventorying of Mbira music by the Ministry in areas close to Harare. Funding was provided by UNESCO from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust.

Zimbabwe submitted its first Quadrennial Report on implementation of the 2005 Convention in June 2016. UNESCO supported the consultation processes for preparation of the Report with Swedish Funds.

The Zimbabwe National Commission in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in Harare mobilised relevant stakeholders to celebrate the following Days: the World Radio Day, the World Press Freedom Day, and the International Day for Universal Access to Information. The celebrations were well attended and helped to raise UNESCO's visibility in the country through extensive media coverage.

In science, a National IHP Committee was established to lead the consultative process of developing programmes on improving water management capacity for food and energy security in Zimbabwe and to respond to the impact of floods and droughts. Members of the Committee are drawn from the academia, civil society and government.

The Zimbabwe National Commission participated in a workshop organised by the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa on Inclusive Cities. The workshop discussed SDG11 with the aim of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Participants were drawn from all the major cities of Zimbabwe.



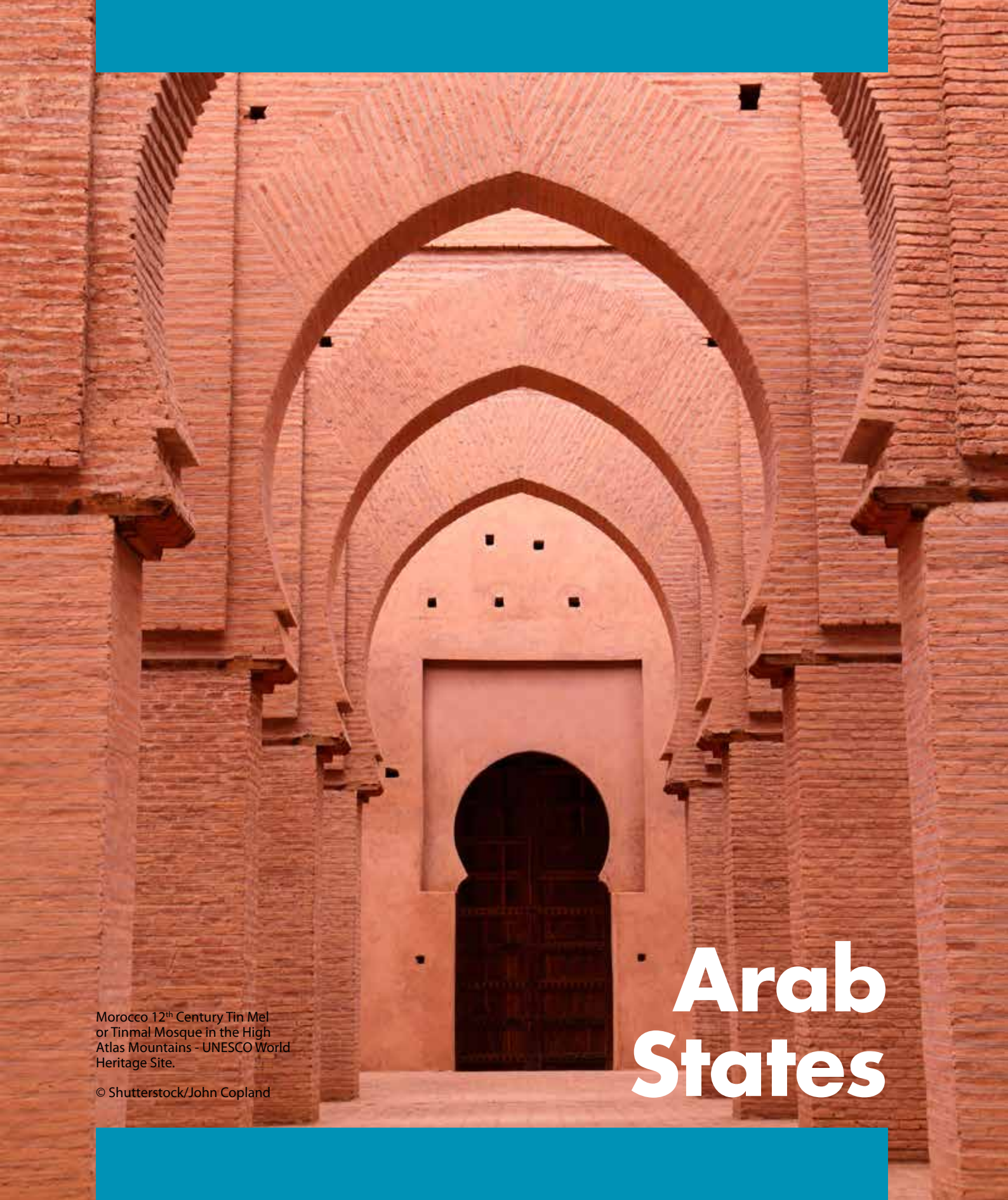
Female Students Network Trust Director, Evernice Manando (Left) after receiving the award

© UNESCO

### A success story

Female Students' Network Trust (FSNT) of Zimbabwe was a co-recipient with Indonesia, of the inaugural \$50,000 Prize for Girls and Women in Education which is sponsored by the Government of China through UNESCO. The organisation was recognized for its advocacy work which aimed to provide a conducive and non-discriminatory environment for female students in tertiary education institutions in Zimbabwe. FSNT promotes women's leadership in tertiary institutions using dynamic strategies including advocacy, feminist popular education, and strategic actions such as campaigns and dialogues in response to any violations of women's human rights, well-being, and dignity. Its main achievements have been registered in the following areas: (i) policy advocacy, (ii) women's participation in leadership of Students Representative Councils, (iii) women's and human rights, and, (iv) legal and psychosocial support services and media advocacy. Founded in 2005, initially at the University of Zimbabwe by a former student leader, Ms Evernice Munando, the organization seeks to challenge multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion which inhibit young female students from exploiting their full potential in tertiary institutions. The dream was to see the voices of female students being amplified and their concerns addressed. Exclusion from leadership meant that the female voices were not heard, their needs were not met and their aspirations were not given space to flourish. Today the organisation had spread its wings to other tertiary institutions thus creating a platform that offers space for female students to understand and challenge norms. The Prize money has assisted FSNT to strengthen its activities for the benefit of girls and women in education.





Morocco 12<sup>th</sup> Century Tin Mel  
or Tinmal Mosque in the High  
Atlas Mountains - UNESCO World  
Heritage Site.

© Shutterstock/John Copland

# Arab States



# ALGÉRIE

## Commission nationale algérienne pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

**Présidente** : Mme Nouria Benghabrit,  
Ministre de l'éducation nationale

**Secrétaire général** : M. Mourad Mahmoudi

**Site internet**: [www.unesco.dz](http://www.unesco.dz)

### Compte rendu des activités 2016

L'année 2016 a été marquée par la publication du nouveau décret exécutif (16-67 du 16 février 2016) portant sur la réorganisation de la Commission nationale pour l'éducation, la science et la culture. Un Secrétariat général, six Comités techniques, un Comité exécutif et une Assemblée générale ont été mis en place entre février et novembre.

Durant l'année, un certain nombre d'activités ont été réalisées au niveau national et international.

En mai, la Ministre de l'éducation nationale, Présidente de la Commission a pris part à la 23<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence Générale de l'ALECSO et en novembre à la 10<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des ministres arabes de l'éducation. Le Secrétaire général a participé à un certain nombre de réunions : la rencontre sur les politiques de l'éducation (janvier) ; les réunions de coordination des Commissions nationales du Maghreb (mars), la réunion traditionnelle des représentants des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO (avril), la 105<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil Exécutif

de l'ALECSO et la 23<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence Générale de l'ALECSO (mai).

Dans le cadre de ses fonctions, la Commission nationale s'est activement engagée dans l'appui et la réalisation de divers projets. A titre d'exemple, elle a lancé un projet de partenariat impliquant un certain nombre d'établissements universitaires et de partenaires socioéconomiques. Elle a soutenu le projet «NET-MED Jeunesse » en organisant des réunions thématiques.

En soutien à la célébration des journées internationales, la Commission nationale a organisé une table ronde sous le thème « les politiques d'alphabétisation en Algérie : Etat-des-lieux et perspectives » pour célébrer la journée internationale de l'alphabétisation (8 septembre) et une journée d'étude intitulée « métier d'enseignant dans le 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle » pour fêter la Journée mondiale des enseignants (5 octobre).

Dans le domaine de la conservation de la biodiversité, l'Algérie a été élu vice-président pour la région arabe (mars) et un nouveau site « les Monts de Tlemcen » a été approuvé par le Programme MAB.

Par ailleurs, en matière de subventions permettant de mettre en œuvre des projets enthousiasmants, le ministère de la jeunesse et des sports a bénéficié d'un Fonds pour l'élimination du dopage dans le sport. Ainsi, plusieurs ateliers d'information et de sensibilisation ont été menés. En outre, 4 projets présentés par la Commission ont été approuvés et financés au titre du Programme de participation (2016-2017).

Enfin, afin de renforcer les liens de coopération, la Commission nationale a accueilli en décembre le Représentant du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Rabat.



Cérémonie de la mise en place par la Ministre de l'éducation nationale, Présidente de la Commission nationale algérienne pour l'UNESCO de l'Assemblée générale de la Commission nationale

© Ministre de l'éducation nationale, Algérie, M. Fateh Dehal

### Une activité réussie

Le 5 novembre, la Ministre de l'éducation nationale, Présidente de la Commission nationale a procédé à l'installation du Comité exécutif de la Commission. Le 19 novembre, la Commission nationale a organisé une réunion de son Assemblée Générale, présidée par la Ministre de l'éducation nationale, en sa qualité de Présidente de la Commission nationale. Cette réunion a vu la participation du représentant du ministre des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationales, en qualité de vice-président, du Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale et les présidents des six Comités techniques couvrant les domaines de l'UNESCO, ainsi que les représentants de chaque département ministériel concerné par les activités de la Commission nationale, le Coordonnateur national des Écoles Associées et Clubs UNESCO, le Coordonnateur des Chaires UNESCO, les représentants du mouvement associatif, les personnalités ayant contribué au rayonnement culturel de l'Algérie. Lors de cette réunion, divers axes ont été présentés et discutés à savoir les projets de règlements intérieurs de la Commission nationale et de l'Assemblée générale, le rapport d'activités de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO (semestre n°1- 2016), le plan d'action de la Commission nationale et des six Comités techniques pour 2016-2017 et enfin le projet du budget pour l'exercice 2018.

# BAHRAIN

## Bahrain National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Majed Ali Al Noaimi, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mrs Lubna Selaibeekh

**Website:** [www.moedu.gov.bh](http://www.moedu.gov.bh)

### Update of activities in 2016

The year of 2016 was rich with prosperous achievements that have been carried out by the Bahrain National Commission through a number of successful workshops and events.

The Bahrain National Commission chaired the Arabic Language Committee in the occasion of joining the world in celebrating the World Arabic Language Day. It is observed annually on 18 December, and was first established by UNESCO to celebrate the Arabic Language and to promote cultural diversity.

Moreover, the Commission commemorated the ALECSO Arabic Language Day, which is on 23 March, at one of the UNESCO's associated schools in cooperation with a number of other schools.

The Bahrain National Commission has made an agreement with the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), which is considered a role model company in the protection of the environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The aim was to enhance and strengthen the mutual cooperation, and in coordination with the Sustainable Development Committee in the company to serve the UNESCO Associated Schools Project.

The National Commission has conducted training workshops for the ASPnet schools' coordinators. The workshops aimed to enrich the coordinators' information, as well as to develop and utilize their creative potential.

The number of Bahraini Associated Schools has increased during the year 2016 reaching to 70; 13 private schools and 57 public schools and they are rapidly growing. Last year the number of the ASPnet schools was 60, including 12 private schools and 48 public schools.

The National Commission is in the process of preparing the project "Knowledge Asset" in partnership with other departments of the Ministry of Education. This is to establish a specific database for the Commission's work to cover all of its aspects which are: education, science and culture.

Lastly, the Commission is working on establishing a Media Production Unit, specialized in communication, as well as archiving and documenting all the commission's achievements in order to utilize them as an evaluating tool.



Bahrain National Commission in cooperation with Arabian Gulf University conducted a successful workshop for the UNESCO ASPnet schools' coordinators, held in the university's campus

© Bahrain National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

In 2016, the Bahrain National Commission, in cooperation with Arabian Gulf University, conducted a successful workshop for the UNESCO ASPnet schools' coordinators at the university's campus (4-5 October).

The workshop was organized in order to help the coordinators build and implement their own operational plans on solid scientific foundations that fall under this year's theme "Education for Sustainable Development" and specifically the subject of "Climate Change". This is considered one of the most important and impactful subject correlated to the sustainable development in the present era. The workshop was carried out by a number of specialists in the Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Management Systems. The topics of the workshop revolved around the theoretical and practical aspects that clarified the methods of planning a proper environmental project at the school level, in regards to climate change and sustainable development.

# KUWAIT

## Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Mohammed Al-Fares, Minister of Education

**Acting Secretary-General:** Mrs Nadia Al-Wazzan

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO undertook several successful activities in cooperation with foreign and local authorities.

Due to the fact that Kuwait has been nominated by ISESCO as the Islamic Cultural Capital for the year 2016, Kuwait National Commission celebrated this event by organizing many activities. Exhibitions were organized within ASPnet schools and in cooperation with cultural authorities in order to expose the Kuwaiti Cultural Heritage, which is also part of the Islamic Culture. Also in this context, the Kuwait National Commission organized a closing festival under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Information. The festival included a variety of cultural episodes presented by ASPnet students that reflected the Islamic culture.

In April 2016, Kuwait hosted, for the first time, the Working Groups of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of UNESCO (COMEST). The meeting of the Working Groups was organized by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in cooperation with UNESCO and Kuwait National Commission, with financial support from the Government of Kuwait. The IBC Working Group focused on bioethical questions arising from the condition of refugees, while the COMEST Working Group focused on the ethics of water and the ocean.

In October 2016, the Kuwait National Commission, in cooperation with UNESCO Doha Office, organized a workshop during which the outcomes of the research study which conducted by the office on improving the quality of learning was revealed. The study aimed at assessing national progress in the six EFA goals, and shaping the future education development agenda in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In November 2016, the Kuwait National Commission honored the winners of the National Commission Excellence Prize for awarding teachers in the field of developing their educational institutions. It is worth to be mentioned that the prize was announced for the first time this year. It was created by the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO and financed by the Ministry of Education.

In a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarter on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, the awarding ceremony of the late Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah prize for "Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities" was held. Kuwait's long-term contribution to this event and its persistence in helping to facilitate and improve life for the disabled was highlighted by UNESCO officials and other participants.

The award ceremony was attended by Emir Jaber's own son, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who conveyed the greetings and support of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti government, which was represented by Education Undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari. Also in attendance were the Kuwaiti Ambassador Sami Al-Sulaiman and UNESCO Ambassador and Permanent Delegate Dr Mishal Hayat.

This year, the award was given to Dr Alireza Darvishy, a visually-impaired Swiss researcher, who has developed a digital application to permit blind people "knowledge access" through an inclusive digital system that has proven its usefulness and looks certain to have a broad dissemination. In accepting the \$20,000 award, Darvishy said he is "willing to work with all countries" to help others and implement his application.



### A success story

Kuwait National Commission, in cooperation with ASPnet schools, organized a Walkathon at Al-Shaheed Park, which aimed to promote youth to practice sports in order to gain a healthy lifestyle. During the Walkathon, a competition was organized for students under the theme "Promoting Islamic values". It was a successful sport event.

Walkathon for students at Al-Shaheed Park

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# LIBAN

## Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Henri Awit

**Secrétaire Générale:** Mme Zahida Darwiche Jabbour

**Site internet :** [www.lncu.org](http://www.lncu.org)

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO a mené au cours de 2016 plusieurs activités en rapport avec les quatre domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, et ce en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau Régional de l'UNESCO, le Conseil National pour la recherche scientifique, les Universités et les organisations de la société civile.

Dans le domaine de la Culture, la Commission a accordé un intérêt particulier à la sensibilisation des jeunes au patrimoine culturel. Dans cet objectif, elle a lancé une compétition pour la production d'un livret documentaire sur la Vallée de Qadicha, site inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine mondial. 40 élèves de différents établissements scolaires de la région ont participé à cette compétition et ont suivi un atelier de sensibilisation animé par des spécialistes.



Remise du certificat à une école associée de l'UNESCO par la Secrétaire Générale de la Commission

© Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

Dans le domaine des Sciences, la Commission a lancé en partenariat avec le Conseil national pour les recherches scientifiques et le Ministère de l'Éducation une grande campagne de sensibilisation à la prévention des dangers en cas de catastrophes naturelles, à laquelle ont participé de nombreux responsables d'établissements scolaires et d'enseignants.

Dans le domaine des Sciences Sociales, et dans le cadre de l'application du programme MOST, la Commission a mis en place, en partenariat avec l'Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth et le Bureau Régional de l'UNESCO, un Consortium d'universités dans le but d'élaborer un plan d'action et d'organiser des séminaires sous forme d'Écoles MOST".

Dans le domaine de l'Éducation et dans le cadre de ses activités en faveur de l'Éducation inclusive, la Commission a organisé une compétition de lecture à l'adresse des élèves non-voyants, en mettant à leur disposition un roman libanais imprimé selon la méthode "Braille".

La Commission a accordé une attention particulière à la consolidation du réseau des Écoles associées, dont le dynamisme s'avère remarquable.

Dans le domaine de la Communication, le Comité Mémoire du Monde, créé au sein de la Commission a élaboré le dossier d'inscription de "Kamed al-Lawz" sur la liste de la Mémoire du Monde.

### Une activité réussie

Projet éducatif « Notre patrimoine, notre identité » clôturé par un Colloque national sur le rôle du patrimoine culturel immatériel dans la conservation de la diversité culturelle et la promotion de la citoyenneté et du développement durable (15 novembre à l'Université Saint-Esprit Kaslik)

La Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO et l'Université Saint-Esprit Kaslik-Département de Sciences Sociales de la Faculté de Philosophie et des Sciences humaines représenté par Dr Mirna Abboud Mzawak, Chef de Département, ont collaboré pour l'exécution d'un projet éducatif intitulé « Protection et consolidation du patrimoine culturel immatériel » qui vise à déclencher une prise de conscience du patrimoine culturel immatériel en tant qu'élément essentiel dans la formation d'une identité culturelle collective.

16 écoles associées de l'UNESCO ont participé à ce projet en intégrant dans le curriculum la notion du patrimoine culturel immatériel et ont rempli des questionnaires sur l'identification du patrimoine. Les résultats des enquêtes sur le terrain ont été objet d'analyse par les chercheurs, et le projet fut couronné par l'organisation d'un Colloque national sous le patronage du Ministre de la Culture S.E.M. Raymond Araygi.

La conférence a été structurée autour de trois axes : Le patrimoine immatériel composante essentielle de l'identité culturelle, le rôle de l'Art dans la promotion et la sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel, les sciences agroalimentaires au service de la promotion du patrimoine immatériel, le colloque comporta une séance de présentation des activités réalisées par les écoles auxquelles a été remis un certificat « Ecole favorisant le patrimoine culturel immatériel libanais ».



# MAURITANIE

## Commission Nationale mauritanienne pour l'Éducation, la Culture et les Sciences

**Présidente:** Mme Vatma Vall Mint Soueina,  
Ministre des affaires étrangères

**Secrétaire général:** M. Ismail Ould Chouaib

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

De par son rôle de médiation entre l'Etat et les différentes organisations internationales avec lesquelles elle est en relation, la Commission nationale pour l'Éducation, la Culture et les Sciences (CNECS) œuvre, promeut et participe à tous les projets qui contribuent à l'évolution de l'éducation, de la culture et des sciences. Elle travaille en étroite coopération avec tous les ministères en rapport avec les idéaux de l'UNESCO et la Société civile. C'est dans ce sens que, s'appuyant sur les Clubs UNESCO, elle réalise périodiquement depuis 2011 des activités de renforcement de la paix et du dialogue interculturel

par la lutte contre l'extrémisme et les réclusions identitaires. En s'appuyant sur le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Rabat, la CNECS a réalisé une vaste campagne culturelle de sensibilisation sur #Unité4Héritage en mobilisant 9 écoles associées de l'UNESCO, en décembre 2015. Il en était de même pour les ateliers de la « Diplomatie de l'Eau » avec le Secteur des Sciences Naturelles au Bureau de Rabat et celui du « lancement du Manuel de l'Éducation à la Démocratie, à la Citoyenneté et aux droits de l'Homme » avec le Secteur des SHS. La CNECS est convaincue qu'elle continuera à construire sur du sable, tant que la femme et l'enfant ne sont pas au cœur de sa politique de développement.



La CNECS a réalisé une vaste campagne culturelle de sensibilisation sur #Unité 4 Héritage en mobilisant 9 écoles Associées de l'UNESCO

© Commission Nationale mauritanienne pour l'Éducation, la Culture et les Sciences

### Une activité réussie

Des ateliers dont la thématique porte sur : « l'éducation des filles et des femmes rurales aux droits humains, pour un meilleur ancrage de la démocratie et le développement économique en Mauritanie », en renforcement à d'autres ateliers déjà réalisés à Kaédi et Néma en 2015, ont été organisés dans le cadre du Programme de Participation de l'UNESCO 2016-2017. Les ateliers ont été réalisés en collaboration avec l'UNESCO et avec l'appui technique du Ministère des Affaires sociales, de l'Enfance et de la Famille, au profit de quatre-vingt femmes issues de la Société civile (40 à Atar en nov.2016 et 40 à Tidjikja en déc.2016). Ils ont permis à ces femmes-bénéficiaires d'aborder des thématiques intéressantes telles que l'Éducation à la Démocratie, à la Citoyenneté et aux Droits culturels, la Création de petits projets et la Gestion des fonds, pour ne citer que celles-là.

Ces ateliers avaient pour objectifs de contribuer au renforcement du statut de la femme dans la société mauritanienne, de faire de celle-ci un véritable levier au développement à l'échelle locale et nationale, de contribuer à sa prise de conscience de ses droits fondamentaux pour une réelle inclusion sociale.

# MAROC

## Commission nationale marocaine pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Salaheddine Mezouar,  
Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération

**Secrétaire Général** : M. Abdeljalil Lahjomri

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale marocaine pour l'Unesco a mis en œuvre différentes activités conformément à son mandat et a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec ses partenaires, en voici les événements marquants de l'année 2016 :

Les Commissions nationales du Maghreb, ont tenu une réunion au Siège de l'Académie du Royaume du Maroc, événement co-organisé par la Commission nationale marocaine pour l'UNESCO et le Bureau Multipays de Rabat, afin de traiter la situation de la région du Maghreb au vu des priorités stratégiques de l'UNESCO (29-30 mars).

La Commission nationale marocaine a célébré plusieurs journées internationales en collaboration avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Rabat.

Elle a participé à la célébration de la Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse le 2 mai à Casablanca, ainsi qu'à la Journée internationale du droit d'accès à l'information le 25 octobre qui s'est tenu à Rabat.

La tenue de deux ateliers de formations et de réflexion sur la bioéthique au Maroc (31 mai - 4 octobre), auxquels ont participé des comités universitaires ainsi que des ONG concernées par la bioéthique au Maroc. Ces ateliers ont été organisé par la Commission nationale marocaine pour l'Unesco et le bureau de l'UNESCO.

La Commission nationale a participé à la réunion Sous-régionale, concernant la création des Comités Nationaux Chargés de la Mise en Œuvre des Conventions de l'UNESCO dans le domaine de la Culture et de leurs ratifications, tenu à Casablanca (05-07 octobre).

La Commission nationale marocaine a piloté une série de réunions du comité intersectoriel chargé de l'élaboration d'une stratégie nationale pour la prévention contre l'extrémisme violent, suite à un accord de coopération signé entre la Commission nationale et l'UNESCO (20 juin).



### Une activité réussie

Suite à l'accord signé entre la Commission nationale marocaine et l'UNESCO, concernant la réunion de groupe ad-hoc des experts pour l'élaboration d'une déclaration non contraignante de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique, la Commission nationale a accueillie au Siège de l'Académie du Royaume à Rabat cette réunion, qui a été fortement marqué par le message vidéo de Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice générale de l'Organisation, dirigé aux participants de cette réunion, qui a abouti à l'élaboration d'un texte préliminaire de projet de déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique (20-24 septembre).

Dans ce cadre, la Commission nationale marocaine a organisé une table ronde le 24 septembre, sous le thème : « Les principes éthiques liés au changement climatique : Quels fondements ? Quelles perspectives? ».

L'UNESCO et le Royaume du Maroc ont signé le 1er septembre 2016, au Siège de l'UNESCO à Paris, l'Accord pour la tenue de la première réunion du Groupe d'Experts Ad Hoc (GEAH) à Rabat, pour lancer la préparation d'un texte préliminaire d'une Déclaration non contraignante de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique

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# OMAN

## Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**President:** Ms Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibania,  
Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Mohamed Saleem Alyaqubi

### Update of activities in 2016

The Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and a number of local and international organizations and institutions, carried out a number of events and activities during 2016. One of these event was organizing a gathering of researchers from the Sultan Qaboos University. The meeting included a brief presentation of the Commission, a review of UNESCO scientific Chairs and discussion on related information.

The NATCOM received a visit by Dr Mmantsetsa Marope, the director of the IBE, on the sidelines of a workshop under the General Education System Quality Analysis/Diagnosis Framework (GEQAF). This was organized from 30 may to 1 June. As a result of this visit and in order to support the Ministry of Education in developing concrete programs and action plans in the following five areas, including Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), ICT in education, curriculum framework, overall efficiency and development of indicators for

monitoring, IBE has organized two new missions in November and December in this regard.

The NATCOM also participated in launching one of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) case Study report on Momentum for education beyond 2015, which was prepared by the UNESCO Doha Office. Moreover, The Commission organized in October a "Regional Education Forum" for curriculum officials and authors of school curricula on Digitizer for curricula and courses school.

In order to meet the UNESCO requirement in measuring the ASPnet schools effectiveness at achieving their targeted goals and implementing their planed programs and projects, the National Commission carried out a field visit that covers all the ASP schools in Oman. These visits revealed that most schools had successfully achieved their goals and implemented projects that cover environmental and cultural aspects.

There were many events associated to culture that the National Commission has achieved in 2016. One of them was a Seminar on Omani manuscripts on the occasion of celebrating the Arab Manuscript Day on 4 April 2016. Also it held an international symposium at UNESCO Headquarters for a Omani physician and a pharmacist named Rashid bin Omaira. The Omani Scientist who is labeled "Ibn Aldhahabi" received considerable attention in a lecture about him in Spain. Furthermore, The Commission succeeded in issuing booklets on Omani figures included in the UNESCO program of events as well as significant figures in the world. It submitted a manuscript named "Secrets Metal in Marine Science" to be included in the Memory of the World Register.



Regional workshop entitled: "Enhancing Memory of the World program in the GCC" organized by the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

© Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

### A success story

The Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science organized a regional workshop entitled: "Enhancing Memory of the World program in the GCC" from 5 to 7 December 2016 at the National Museum in Muscat. This workshop was carried out for the third consecutive year in the Sultanate. Many specialists in documenting heritage participated in this workshop from Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia and Oman as well as participants from UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO office in Doha".

Experts from UNESCO presented work papers to identify the Memory of the World program, and talked about development mechanisms for the program in the GCC and proposed standard tools for the documentary of heritage preservation in the region. Each country displayed its own experience in the field of documentary heritage preservation to attain their own desired objectives. The participants were divided into working groups to analyze working papers and brainstorm the workshop themes. The workshop also trained participants on how to fill a candidate form for the World Memory Record.



# PALESTINE

## Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**President:** Mr Mahmoud Ismael

**Secretary-General:** Mr Murad Sudani

**Website:** [www.pncecs.plo.ps](http://www.pncecs.plo.ps)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Palestinian National Committee for UNESCO implemented a musical programme through the participation programme of UNESCO, which reflected the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, a Palestinian national poet. The program shed light on music and poetry specifically from the Palestinian perspective and it focused on sharing this experience with younger generations in Palestine. This was done through schools, conservatory universities, radio stations and TV programs, hoping to promote Palestinian poetry and music, especially for the French speakers and French press. Finally, a recorded CD of songs written by Mahmoud Darwish was produced. The poems chosen in the CD highlight various themes, such as the journey of the poet and the experience of his people.

Within the framework of the Palestinian National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, a visual documentary about the cultural heritage of Palestine was created. This was supported by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). The aim was to make sure that Palestinians hold on to their roots and national identity and prevent it from being stolen. The book was titled "The Land of Roses" and the photos in the book were by the Palestinian photographer Osama Silwadi.

Several educational sessions by the Palestinian National Committee were funded by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). This was to improve the situation of Palestinian women.

Vocational courses took place under the title of "Rehabilitation and Training Women to Self-employment" which focused on crafting and training women on how to start their own business.

Another session was titled "Your Rights", this was to educate Palestinian women on their social, economic, psychological and cultural rights. Moreover, empowering the Palestinian women and raising awareness by creating campaigns that reflected legal and human rights issues.



Reception of the delegation in Jericho to Participate in the eight Palestinian Educational Cultural Forum held from 21 to 27 August 2016

© Palestinian National Committee for Education, Culture and Science

### A success story

Under the sponsorship of the President of the Palestinian State Mr Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian National Committee held the Eighth Cultural, Educational forum from 21 to 27 August 2016. The title of the forum was "Palestine, Freedom and culture". A group of educational thinkers, writers and poets from America, Latin America, Vietnam, India, Spain, Britain, Jordan, Palestine and Disapora participated in the forum.

The Palestinian National Committee held an official opening ceremony, which was attended by representatives from cultural, educational and civil associations. Several meetings were held between the delegation and the writers, poets and intellectuals. This was conducted through several occasions and events. The topic of most meetings was about the role of poets, writers and intellectuals and how to spread the message of peace from Palestine to the whole world. The writer's contributions were translated into multiple languages. The delegation then visited the tomb of the President Yasser Arafat and the tomb of the poet Mahmud Darwish as well as many historical and cultural places such as Al-Aqsa Mosque, the old city of Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem city.

The PNCECS held this forum to create dialogue between artists, intellectuals and poets from all around the world. The forum was an opportunity to maintain the role of Palestine in the world's cultural map.



# QATAR

## Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**President:** Mr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahid Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti

**Website:** <https://qnc.edu.gov.qa>

### Update of activities in 2016

In education, the National Commission with the UNESCO Regional Office in Doha and the Regional Center for Educational Planning in Sharjah (UAE) has organized a workshop entitled "Enhancing Capacity to Develop Qatar National Framework for Monitoring and Evaluating Education 2030 Agenda", held in Doha (11-13 January).

Also several seminars were organized with the UNESCO Doha Office such as: Momentum for Education Beyond 2015: a Country Case Study (3 May); Momentum for Education Beyond 2015: GCC Experts Meeting (4 May); World Teachers' Day in collaboration with the College of the North Atlantic (23 October) during which the Secretary-General of the National Commission made a presentation on Education for All; and presentations of a research study on Education Beyond 2015 (24 October); and finally the Global Monitoring Report on Education for All (21 December).

A signed joint Memorandum of Understanding between the College of the North Atlantic (CNAQ) and UNESCO through which CNAQ would be awarded a seat in international organizations to further the outreach, research, advocacy, and programming of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and sustainable development in Qatar.

In Science, the National Commission in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Doha and Qatar University held a seminar on UNESCO's Science Report "Towards 2030 for mapping science, technology and innovation (STI) around the world" (17 February).

In regards to UNESCO's Associated Schools and in collaboration with the Diplomatic Institute, a training workshop was organized for students of UNESCO Associated Schools as part of the UNESCO Ambassadors Programme (25-27 April). The second workshop was in collaboration with the National Human Rights Committee (May), followed by the "7<sup>th</sup> Performing Arts and Music Forum" which was a collaboration between UNESCO Associated Qatari Schools and UNESCO Associated Omani Schools.

A meeting took place for UNESCO Associated School (25 October) to discuss how the programme will be implemented. The National Commission and the National Human Rights Committee discussed the programme and honored the coordinators of the schools.

In environmental issues, "Plant Educational Program" was created to educate primary school students about the importance of environmental conservation and the preservation of plants. The program was organized in collaboration with the Qur'anic Botanic Garden (a member of Qatar Foundation) and UNESCO Associated Primary Schools (November 2016 - April 2017). The National Commission participated in the Environment Fair to award the winners of the Environmental Research Contest (14 March).

In preparation for Qatar's candidates in the Young Professional Programme, a training course in collaboration with the Diplomatic Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was arranged (6-13 November).

Lastly, the National Commission participated in celebrations of the following UNESCO International Days in 2016: the World Teachers' Day; the World Arabic Language Day and the World Tsunami Awareness Day.



The International Cultural Diversity Festival was organized in January 2016 to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures

© Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

### A success story

An agreement between the National Commission, the UNESCO Doha Office and the Cultural Village Foundation - Katara, was agreed to implement a project to promote cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations and cultures.

Firstly, the International Cultural Diversity Festival (January), 21 countries from around the world participated. Secondly, the "International Conference to Encourage Dialogue and Diversity through Cultural Industries" (6-8 December). On the sidelines of the conference and in collaboration with the "Qatar Debate Centre", a discussion panel on "Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Qatar" was held during the period (14-15 December) in which graduate students have participated to train on the art of dialogue and debate on cultural diversity.

# SUDAN

## Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

**Chairperson:** Ms Souaad Abdelrazig Mohammed Saeed, Minister of Education

**Secretary General:** Mr Abdul Gadir Muhammad Hassan Nouredin

### Update of activities in 2016

The Sudanese National Commission implemented, in collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters, the Field Office in Khartoum, the Regional Offices in Cairo and Beirut, several projects for promoting the 2030 Agenda, strengthening literacy, technical and vocational education and training in Sudan, urgent capacity development for managing natural disaster risks of flash floods in Sudan by the support from the government of Japan, and strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Sudan. The National Commission also organized several workshops such as: "Advances in Water Resources Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas, national workshop on the Sudanese cultural heritage in the eyes of children and youth; "empowering of

Sudanese women in media"; and "water harvesting assessment of research needs and priorities", expert meeting on Water harvesting and artificial recharge; as well as training for 60 teachers on the use of intelligent board in teaching, in collaboration with MTN.

The Sudan National Commission celebrated several International Days in collaboration with related institutions, IGOs and NGOs: World Radio Day, World Water Day, closing of International Year of Light, World Press Freedom Day, World Oceans Day, World Day to Combat Desertification, International Literacy Day, World Peace Day, International day for universal access to information, World Day of Arabic Language. Also, UNESCO/L'Oreal Fellowship had been extended for a Sudanese fellow.

The National Commission, in cooperation with related institutions, started the implementation of the seven approved Participation Programme Projects for 2016/ 2017.

About 150 experts and trainees participated in the activities organized by UNESCO, ALECSO and ISESCO in 2016.

The Sudan National Commission has a good relation with the other National Commissions. The National Commission supported the Swiss National Commission's initiative in its Cinema Production.



### A success story

Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dugonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park have been inscribed as serial sites on the World Heritage list. The two National Parks are linked by coastal waters extending for approximately 125Km. It encompasses very significant formations of an atoll and a large bay that contains islands, with some of the most northerly coral reefs in the world. The two protected areas are naturally, geologically, and ecologically connected and functionally linked by open flow and exchange.

Sanganeb, the only atoll in the Red Sea, is a submerged and overhanged predator with a dominated coral reef ecosystem of 13 different bio-physiographic reef zones. It supports an extraordinary marine life and breathtaking underwater vistas, hosting at least 361 fish species. Besides being nurseries and spawning areas for key fishery species, it also hosts resident populations of dolphins, sharks and marine turtles. Dugonab Bay contains an array of several habitat types, including mangroves, sea grasses, dugong and migratory birds.

Sanganeb Marine, National Park -Sudan Natural World Heritage Site

© Sudanese Ministry of Tourism, Antiquities and Wildlife

# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

## Syrian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Hazwan Alwaz, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Nidal Hassan

**Website:** www.syrianatcom.gov.sy

### Update of activities in 2016

The Syrian National Commission for UNESCO is a national platform for policy makers and social events to the world in the fields of Education, science, culture and communication. It coordinates the cooperation between the international organizations and the Ministries, national academic/scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders.

In the framework of the official efforts that face the current crisis and its results, the National Commission focused its activities to promote national capacity building in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut. During 2016, the Director and many experts visited Damascus to study the basic needs during the current crisis and to put forward a strategy to achieve an effective response to the increasing needs in many specialized sectors; especially relating to education and preservation of Syrian human cultural heritage.

Despite the repercussions of the crisis, the National Commission continued its training plan in all fields in Syria and the most important were: the National Training Course on "Condensed Curriculum Delivery and Teaching for Multi-grade Classes" that took place in Damascus, 15-17 February 2016; the First

Workshop on "Preparing Trainers for Educational Psycho-Social Support in Crisis and Emergencies Cases" in Damascus, 10-12 May 2016; the National Workshops on "Education Management Information System EMIS"; and the National Workshops on "Training of the Trainers for the Teachers, on the use of the Educational kite (World Heritage in Young Hands)" in Damascus, 25-27 October 2016 and 8-10 November 2016.

The Commission sought to participate effectively through official delegations in many activities, mainly regional and international conferences organized by UNESCO: the Round Table on "Culture Property" in Paris on 3 March 2016, the Regional Meeting about Capacities Building of Institutions and Educators for The "International Work Program" on Education for Sustainable Development in Cairo on 24 to 25 May 2016, the Third Regional Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO in Shanghai-China from 13 to 15 June 2016, the International Conference on the "Prevention Extremism through Education: Taking Action" in New Delhi on 19 to 20 September 2016, the twentieth session of the ICPRCP at UNESCO Headquarters from 19 to 23 September 2016, and the Euro-Arab Dialogue Initiative in Paris on 9 to 10 December 2016. In addition to that, the National Commission participated in many specialized training workshops and meetings at UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut.

The Syrian National Commission, in collaboration with the concerned ministries, sent the required information and documents related to many surveys that were requested by UNESCO and UNESCO Institute for Statistics in 2016 on education, culture and science data. This will be published by the organization's researches, studies and reports.

The Syrian Arab Republic got two fellowships; the first one is UNESCO Fellowship Program and the second is UNESCO/ People's Republic of China.



### A success story

A remarkable experience of a training project on implementing an intensive curriculum in Basic Education targeting 1-8 graders complementary students and for students of Formal, Vocational and Technical Education (1st and 2nd grades). They are benefited from the efforts of teachers, administrators and educational psychological instructors, who are aware of the importance of this project for students and their families. 407 schools and centers participated from all over Syria. Many educational courses have welcomed the target group, which consisted of 53587 students who compensate for the full or partial educational shortage. These courses have achieved 85% of success among the students.

Training project on "Implementing the intensive curriculum in Basic Education targeting 1-8 graded complementary students and for the students of Formal and Vocational and Technical Education"

© Mr Nidal Hassan, Secretary General of the Syrian National Commission for UNESCO



# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## United Arab Emirates National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**Chairman:** Mr Hussein bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Amal Mohammad Al koos

### Update of activities in 2016

The UAE National Commission for UNESCO implemented a variety of activities in the educational, scientific and cultural sectors through 2016 as part of the ongoing partnership between the United Arab Emirates and UNESCO. Here is a summary of some of the activities.

In April 2016 the activities of the 3rd Environmental Clubs Conference was launched in Abu Dhabi under the title:

Experience, Experiments and Excellence in sustainability actions. 240 students with 140 teachers participated in this activity from Abu Dhabi as a continuation of the initiative "Sustainable Schools" supported by Abu Dhabi Educational Council.

In May 2016, the UAE participated in a meeting about the protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage at UNESCO Headquarters to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention (2001), and studied the progress made in the implementation of this agreement so far. Among the most important topics that have been discussed at this meeting is, the urgent need to achieve an international cooperation in order to implement this agreement on a wider scale.

The UAE National Commission also participated in the World Education Forum in the United Arab Emirates. The World Education Forum offers a comprehensive educational program to help teachers, educators and academics from all levels to develop their skills and learn from other international experts.

Locally, UAE NATCOM held the ASPnet Activation Forum in May 2016. The goal of this forum was to put a policy and strategy for UAE ASPnet. Two councils were established in this forum.



### A success story

UNESCO Trips to the Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia and the UAE.

This is the first trip for UNESCO to the Biosphere Reserves. It is a joint program between Ethiopia and UAE that ended in April 2016. Sixteen youths from the two countries began the visits program in November 2015 by visiting UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia: the Kafa and Tana Reserves. On 6 April, 16 youth met in UAE. The second part of the visit was to Reserves in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Fujairah and Sharjah.

The group members run several projects that included training and raising awareness for schools and university students in waste sorting, planting trees, awareness of pollution at sea and working with the local community to improve the management of wet lands. On 21 April, the UAE National Commission for UNESCO coordinated a meeting with secondary students in Fujairah and discussed the importance of reserving the environment.

The group also visited several reserves in the Emirates along with a group of experts. The most important visit was to "Boteenah Island" reserve, one of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. Two activities were implemented during the Trip program: a cultural evening in Zayed University and a workshop in Fujairah entitled "Education for a sustainable Life".

All the trip activities were supported by the "Global Citizen Foundation", the Environment body in Abu Dhabi, Fujairah Municipality, Zayed University and other supporting bodies from Ethiopia.

Youth visit to UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves © United Arab Emirates National Commission for Education, Culture and Science



Hamdan Prize 2016  
See Beyond Borders, Cambodia

© See Beyond Borders



# Asia and the Pacific

# AFGHANISTAN

## Afghan National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, Minister of Education

**Secretary General:** Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar

**Website:** [www.unesconatcom.af](http://www.unesconatcom.af)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Afghan National Commission ratified the statute of the National Commission in 3 chapters and 19 articles. The National Commission also revised the organized structure and filled all the vacancies. Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar, Master of Education Planning and Management, was appointed as permanent Secretary General of Afghan National Commission under CBR program of the government. Besides, heads of Department Education, Science and Technology, and Participation Program, were recruited. Through international

seminars, workshops and training programmes, the Afghan National Commission provided various opportunities for capacity building for its staff.

The National Commission created an information tab, Facebook page, as well as an independent website to publish reports of day-to-day activities.

Four national projects approved as the participation program of UNESCO, were coordinated and implemented. Eligible candidates from Afghanistan were nominated for international prizes and awards. Moreover, candidates from various governmental agencies were introduced to attend seminars, workshops, conferences and training programmes outside Afghanistan. The Afghan National Commission also monitored the Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA) programme implemented by the UNESCO Kabul Office.

In terms of cooperation, the Afghan National Commission is keeping sustainable and close working relations with UNESCO Headquarters and the UNESCO Office in Kabul. The National Commission is also keeping durable and regular working relation and contacts with other regional and global National Commissions for UNESCO.



### A success story

Today's world is a world of technology and communication. Technology plays a fundamental role in changing the trend of life of human beings, preparation of facilities of training, making easier ways of planning for the development of education, reflection of educational activities and the achievements of these activities. This is why the National Commission sees a need for setting up a website to reflect the achievements of the activities and to communicate with various countries.

The Afghan National Commission bears witness that remarkable activities and efforts have been made in the past one year, one of which was the development and creation of an independent website for National Commission's use only. Considering the importance of this website, the head of the communication department of the National Commission was assigned a job to publish and disseminate all articles written by staff as well as activities performed by the professional members of the National Commission during 2016. It is worth mentioning that Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar has played a significant role in the formation and development of the current website. The efforts by Mr Hayatullah Mehryar in the completion of the website were also appreciated.

The National Commission's sincere appreciation goes to the Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission, who paved the way and assisted the Afghan National Commission to establish and develop its website.

The National Commission's website developed in 2016

© Afghan National Commission for UNESCO



# AUSTRALIA

## Australian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Annmaree O’Keeffe AM

**Secretary-General:** Mr Adam Illman

**Website:** [www.dfat.gov.au/intorgs/unesco/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/intorgs/unesco/)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO has continued to deliver its mandate throughout 2016. The full membership of the National Commission, including ex-officio representatives, has met twice - in April and November 2016.

In May, we were happy to provide patronage to the Australia Press Council’s World Press Freedom Day event. This builds on our ongoing support for domestic bodies working to promote freedom of expression and improved safety for journalists.

The Secretary General marked World Heritage Day by participating in a United Nations Association of Australia panel event in which he discussed UNESCO’s ongoing work to protect cultural heritage at risk in the Middle East.

We were particularly pleased to be able to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Interregional Meeting of National Commissions in Shanghai in June, which provided an excellent opportunity to network and learn from other National Commissions.

Our 2016 grant recipients continued to deliver concrete outcomes for local and regional communities. 2016 grant projects include a spoken word poetry project designed to foster intercultural dialogue and social transformation, an Asia-Pacific regional leadership and capacity-building project managed by Australia’s Memory of the World Committee and a health-focused traditional puppetry project being rolled out in rural Indonesia.

We are very pleased to report that a new UNESCO Chair (focusing on Data Science in Higher Education) was created at Curtin University in Western Australia and several Australian institutions were either shortlisted or received honourable mentions when applying for UNESCO prizes. Our Chair was also very pleased to participate once again in the awards ceremony of the Australia-New Zealand L’Oreal Women in Science Fellowships in Melbourne.

During the last year the City of Melton in Victoria became a UNESCO City of Learning and Adelaide became a UNESCO City of Music. Sydney is already a UNESCO City of Film and Melbourne is a City of Literature. The National Commission hopes to facilitate fruitful collaboration between these Creative Cities in 2017.

A National Commission Man and Biosphere Reserve sub-committee has recently been established to work with state and federal government authorities to review Australia’s reserves and suggest ways to improve our participation in the programme.



### A success story

In November 2016, an exhibition of items held in Australia’s Memory of the World register opened at Canberra’s Museum and Gallery. This exhibition provides an opportunity to learn about the long history Canberra shares with the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme for safeguarding documentary heritage.

We hope all visitors will discover the rich documentary heritage held in Canberra’s premier cultural institutions and the contribution made to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register by Canberra’s librarians, archivists, curators and conservators. The Australian Memory of the World Committee and curators at the Canberra Museum and Gallery hope to challenge peoples’ understanding of what a ‘document’ is in a display that includes film, music and dance, oral history and digital media.

This exhibition is testament to the ongoing commitment of our Australian Memory of the World Committee to promoting the aims and ideals of the programme in Australia and the region.

Rosalie Gascoigne, Tiepolo’s parrots 1976, mixed media, 61.2 x 56.4 x 23 cm National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

© Rosalie Gascoigne licensed by Viscopy

# BANGLADESH

## Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Md. Sohorab Hossain

**Website:** [www.bncu.gov.bd](http://www.bncu.gov.bd)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) continued the spirit of the Consultation Forum throughout the year 2016, which was initiated earlier in December 2015 based on the new education agenda 'Education 2030'. In fact, the Forum initiated discussions among different stakeholders on implementation of Education 2030 in Bangladesh. Eventually, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Dhaka, BNCU conducted a workshop on Preparation of Reports on implementation of CADE and UNESCO recommendation on EIU on 5 September 2016. A follow-up meeting with the same agenda was held on 22 September 2016 at BNCU. The Commission played a significant role regarding SDG based Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 II (APMED2030 II) held in Bangkok from 16 to 18 November 2016. Inscription of *Mongol Shovajatra on Pahela Boishakh* of Bangladesh as part of Intangible Cultural Heritage for Humanity by UNESCO was one of many landmarks this year.

Observation of International Mother Language Day has been a historic phenomenon of Bangladesh. Furthermore, an art competition was held on 24 February 2016 at the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) premises in cooperation with BNCU, IMLI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Students from various schools including ASPnet schools of Bangladesh and children of diplomats living in Bangladesh participated in that competition.

With dedicated supervision and monitoring of BNCU, seven approved projects under UNESCO participation Programme 2016-17 are moving on successfully. BNCU officials in joint collaboration with some of those projects are visiting the project areas countrywide.

BNCU successfully arranged "National Course on Arabic Language for BNCU Officials" as one of the UNESCO affiliated languages learning with the cooperation of ISESCO from 15 July to 15 September 2016 realizing its capacity development. ISESCO based first Islamic Conference on Education Ministers was held on 27-28 October 2016 in Tunisia where the of the National Commission represented the Government of Bangladesh achieving Bangladesh membership of Consultative Council for the Promotion of Education in the Islamic World.

Through the facilitation of BNCU, Shahanj Parvin, a teacher at Upazilla Sadar Model Government Primary School, Sherpur, Bogra, Bangladesh has been shortlisted for nomination of Global Teachers Prize 2016 organized by the Varkey Foundation, Dubai. Similar kinds of facilitation from BNCU proved to be successful with the China Great Wall Fellowship and the UNESCO Korean Fellowship while the Jaggo Foundation won UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa at Khalifa prize in 2016.



### A success story

With the support of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), BNCU successfully implemented a project on "Literacy Campaign and Functional Literacy for the Selected Underprivileged Women of Char Khalifa, Bhola, Bangladesh". The main beneficiaries are illiterate adult women of that locality.

The main goal of this project was to empower women of the community and to encourage women leadership through literacy and vocational training. It provided basic education as part of non-formal education along with developing basic life skills to 200 participants in the following areas: health and hygiene education, family planning, environmental issues, cleanliness campaign, disaster management to improve their living standard. Through the project the selected illiterate women came to realize their basic rights of education leading to improving their standard of living. Later on this realization was transmitted to their family members as well. Following the vocational learning they are now able to earn and contribute to their families by carrying out income-generating activities and thus empower themselves. It also remarkably develops the leadership quality of women in the targeted areas proving a successful story of hope for all of us.

Enthusiastic participants are sharing their experiences with the visiting official during the visit at project area.

© Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO



# CAMBODGE

## Commission Nationale du Cambodge pour l'UNESCO

**Secrétaire Générale :** Mme Tan Theany

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale est sous la tutelle de la Présidence du Conseil des Ministres qui a été présidée par feu Monsieur Sok An, le Vice-Premier Ministre. Cette position remarquable a beaucoup facilité notre collaboration avec les Ministères et Institutions, ainsi qu'avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Phnom Penh.

#### En coopération étroite avec le Bureau et la Commission :

Le Ministère de l'Éducation a approuvé la révision complète du contenu du programme de l'Éducation non formelle, pour mieux répondre aux besoins des apprenants dans un monde en pleine évolution, et surtout en harmonie avec ODD4 pour l'Éducation 2030. Également, avec l'appui du Ministère de travail, un *Online-Based Basic Education Equivalency Programme* est en cours d'être établi.

Avec le Ministère des Affaires Féminines, la mise en place complète de 61 classes d'alphabétisation pour les jeunes ouvrières dans les localités des provinces de Kampong Speu et Kampong Chhnang.

Avec le soutien des ONGs, les classes d'alphabétisation sont en cours dans les six manufactures dont cinq à Phnom Penh et une à Siem Reap.

Conscient de l'Éducation 2030, le Ministère rend opérationnel au fur et à mesure, le Plan d'Action de la Politique de l'Enseignement (*Teacher Policy Action Plan*) sur la qualité de l'enseignement et sur la qualité professionnelle de l'enseignant. Quant au plan d'action vers 2030 de l'Enseignement supérieur, il est en cours.

#### Dans le cadre de la Culture :

Pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1972, la Commission a transmis au Centre du Patrimoine mondial, en janvier 2016, le dossier de nomination du site de Sambor Prei Kuk préparé par le Ministère de la Culture et des Beaux-Arts. Concernant la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1954, la Commission a transmis au Secrétariat le dossier de demande de la protection renforcée pour le Site Angkor, inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial depuis 1992. En collaboration avec l'Autorité gestionnaire du site de Preah Vihear, un deuxième dossier pour la protection renforcée est en cours de préparation pour être transmis dans les jours qui viennent.

Dans le cadre de la Convention de 1970, les négociations pour le retour des bijoux en vente à Londres sont en cours. Quant à la Convention 2003 sur le Patrimoine immatériel, le Comité a inscrit, en décembre 2016, l'élément Chapei Dang Veng du Cambodge sur la liste de sauvegarde d'urgence.

Pour la gestion des deux sites du Patrimoine mondial, chaque gestionnaire est encadré par son CIC, réuni deux fois par an, avec les experts *ad-hoc* qui veillent sur la Conservation et le développement durable du site.



#### Une activité réussie

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre d'un projet au titre du programme de participation, la Commission nationale a pu mettre en place une activité de conservation préventive, en coopération avec le Centre de formation d'Angkor de l'APSARA. Cette activité dirigée par l'équipe de Professeurs italiens de Palerme pour la restauration des colonnettes de la tour de Bakan à Angkor Vat est assurée par nos jeunes. Ils font leur travail avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme.

Les jeunes restaurateurs travaillent pour le renforcement des colonnettes de la tour Bakan (Autorisation de reproduction)

# CHINA

## Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Tian Xuejun

**Secretary-General:** Mr Du Yue

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO continues to promote its cooperation with UNESCO and achieving its mandate. Following UNESCO's efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Chinese National Commission cooperated with UNESCO to organize the International Consultation Meeting on China Education 2030 in the Headquarters from 30 May to 1 June to draw upon the experts' opinions regarding the international education development trend, the 2030 goals and strategy for China, and the modern education governance etc. In June, the first award ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education was successfully organized in Beijing. Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of China and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, attended the grand event and conferred the prizes to two winners together with Director General. In cooperation with UNESCO, the Chinese National Commission organized the second International Training Seminar for Girls' and Women's Education in Beijing with the participation of over 70 international experts, representatives from teachers training

institutions, and officials from UNESCO. In June, we organized three inauguration ceremonies for UNESCO Category II centers in China. The Vice-Premier Liu Yandong unveiled the Intentional Center for Creativity and Sustainable Development together with Director-General, Mr Zhou Ji, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, unveiled the International Center for Engineering Education together with Director-General, and Mrs Wu Yihuan, the deputy mayor of Shenzhen city, unveiled the International Center for Higher Education Innovation together with Mr Tang Qian, Assistant Director-General for education. In order to promoting the exchange and cooperation with other member states of UNESCO, the Chinese National Commission cooperated with UNESCO to organize the third Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Shanghai on 13-15 June. Over 180 representatives from more than 120 member states participated in this important events. In 2016, China pledges continued support to UNESCO. The China-UNESCO Fund-in-Trust was smoothly implemented and won the recognition of the participating countries. China agreed to donate 5.8 million US dollars to support the re-launch of UNESCO Courier, which would be an important channel for the Organization to enhance its visibility and to promote its ideals and mandate. In addition to that, the Chinese National Commission has promoted the cooperation between UNESCO and local governments including Chengdu, Shenzhen which share the ideals of UNESCO and are willing to contribute to the implementation of its mandate. In July, the Hubei Shennongjia and Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape were listed into the World Heritage List. The total number of China's world heritage sites reached 50.



The first awarding ceremony of UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education in Beijing

© Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

On the afternoon of 6 June 2016, the first award ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education was organized in the People's Great Hall in Beijing, China. Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of China and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of girls' and women's education attended the ceremony and conferred the prize to the winners from Indonesia and Zimbabwe together with Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO. In her speech in the ceremony, Professor Peng pointed out that UNESCO Prize on Girls and Women's Education, initiated and supported by the Chinese Government, was the first prize in this field, aiming to promote the individual and institution with outstanding contribution in this filed, to encourage more people to commit themselves to this undertaking, and hence to promote the gender equality. She reiterated that we should join our hands to promote the global education development including girls' and women's education, and commit ourselves to achieve equitable, comprehensive and quality education, enhance the opportunity of lifelong learning for every person. In this process, UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education will play an exemplary role. Ms Bokova expressed her gratitude to China for its support to the Prize and gave highly comment on the efforts and contribution of China and Professor Peng towards promoting the development of the girls and women's education around the world. More than 400 representatives from over 50 countries participated in this event.

# COOK ISLANDS

## Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Henry Tuakeu Puna, Prime Minister

**Secretary-General:** Ms Gail Townsend

### Update of activities in 2016

Our National Commission has had a year of increased exposure in our local community.

We have increased our use of social media with our website being complemented facebook page. We were very successful with our Participation Programme applications and this sees us working with NGOs and agencies that we have not previously worked with and therefore developing new networks.

Based on the work of other National Commissions, we developed our own report to make connections between UNESCO programmes and, government and non-government stakeholders in the Cook Islands.

We have successfully used Global Citizenship Education in a pilot programme with schools to introduce the Global Sustainable Development Goals and our own revised National Sustainable Development Plan. We continue to use the uniqueness that our small size gives us to integrate many UNESCO programmes together – particularly looking to strengthen the relationship between Education, Culture and Traditional Knowledge and Practice. Our archives once again benefited from the support of UNESCO and we are on our way to developing our first nomination to a national register of heritage sites.

We were fortunate to receive a short visit from the Officer in Charge of the UNESCO Office for Pacific States and appreciated the opportunity to share with him the work we are trying to do and its alignment to national development.



### A success story

Our Youth have been wonderful advocates for our programmes and our country.

The Commission has a strong working relationship with a number of youth organizations including the National Youth Council. Youth often address events that are inclusive of the National Commission's participation, providing a perspective on inclusion, development and "being global".

We were fortunate to have two representatives at the Asia Pacific Youth Dialogue held in Chengdu, China in September last. This was a wonderful experience both as self-development for the delegates but also for the opportunity to contribute to the Pacific voice as part of this dialogue.

Of particular note to our Commission, and in areas of our own priorities, were the recommendations of the wider Oceania grouping for us to concentrate on youth as enablers of youth, the integration of indigenous knowledge in our programmes and the development of social enterprise for intercultural and intergenerational sharing.

Marino Wichman and Piakura Passfield at the Asia Pacific Youth Dialogue in Chengdu, China, in September 2016.

© Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO



# DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## The National Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr PAK Myong Guk, Vice-Minister for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Mr KIM Chang Min, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the National Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and UNESCO further developed good relations in the fields of education, sciences, culture and information.

In Education, UNESCO approved a request for Emergency Assistance under the Participation Programme submitted by the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea in November 2016, following the devastating strong wind and floods caused by the typhoon Lionrock in August and September. This ensured the country's continuation of educational process in the affected areas thanks to the roofing materials and basic educational equipment provided to 12 schools.

The country participated in the 2016 Sub-Regional Meeting for Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in North-East Asia under the theme of the Role of the Media in Raising Awareness about Intangible Cultural Heritage held in October at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In Communication and Information, the Grand People's Study House, in coordination with the UNESCO Office in Beijing hosted the Workshop on the implementation of the "UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, Access to, Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form" for Memory of the World Programme in late October.

In Sciences, the UNESCO Office in Beijing continues to implement the project 'Biodiversity research, training and management in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea' for Mt. Myohyang in close consultation with the East Asia Biosphere Reserves Network (EABRN) Secretariat and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) National Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



### A success story

In Culture, the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Beijing, organized, in August, a Workshop on Community-based Inventorizing of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the framework of implementation of the 2003 Convention. The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to gain a deep and comprehensive understanding of the community-based inventorizing, and it became a very useful turn in promoting and enhancing the inventorizing and safeguarding of Intangible cultural heritage to a higher level in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"Training Workshop on Community-Based Inventorizing of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" 1 August – 30 September 2016

© The National Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for UNESCO.



# FIJI

## Fiji National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Education, Heritage and Arts

**Secretary-General:** Mr Amani T. Cirikisuva

**Website:** [www.education.gov.fj](http://www.education.gov.fj)

### Updates of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Fiji National Commission for UNESCO provided support to 65 officials, including the Minister of Education, the Permanent Secretary of Education, senior civil servants, academia, and youths to attend UNESCO-initiated conferences, seminars, fellowships and training workshops organized locally and internationally.

A workshop in celebration of the World Press Freedom Day was organized in collaboration with Fiji National University (FNU) on Tuesday 3 May 2016. The coordinator of the workshop was Mr Tukini Cama, Manager of Station -FNU Radio. It was an half-day, open for public event that featured invited speakers, a panel discussion and awareness programmes.

Fiji has progressed significantly to revise and develop its Quality Physical Education Policy (QPEP). The project now has a National Coordinator, Mrs Margaret Eastgate who is a local

consultant. One of her immediate tasks is to establish a Steering Committee, a Technical Working Group and to commence work on the training and consultations nation-wide.

Training of Trainers for sixty Year -7 and -8 primary school teachers were held in Lautoka and Suva on 2 to 7 May 2016. The training was supported by UNESCO and the Malaysia-Funds-in-Trust.

The Sixth Consultation on the Implementation of the Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974) has been completed and is awaiting endorsement.

An application for the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport was sent to UNESCO in September 2016 by the Ministry of Youth & Sport.

This year 100 youths graduated from the Seeds of Success (SOS) whilst 477 graduated from the Empowerment Programme, which included SOS, financial literacy, project management and stakeholders' presentations.

Training for the first focus group to initiate Rotuma's cultural inventory/mapping programme was held in July 2016. Although Rotuma is part of Fiji, it has its own indigenous people and culture. Through cultural mapping the group developed its own approach tailored to suit the various dynamics of the Rotuman culture. One of the highlights of the training was the development of a research platform that was grounded in the 'Tauga Approach' with support from chiefs of Rotuma.



Year 13 Matua students receiving their prizes at the Annual Prize Giving last year

© Fiji National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The 'matua' (meaning matured) programme at Nabua Secondary School began in 2002 and that was to cater for the increasing number of school dropouts and disadvantage groups. Since then the school has run a dual system that offered the normal school programme during school hours and the matua programmes in the evenings. Students are taught the same curriculum and sit for the same external examinations as the day students. The teachers at the school volunteer their services to take evening classes. Enrolments to the matua program showed the following distribution: 80% Fijians, mostly 20-28 years old, 75% females most of whom are single mothers, 15% married, 10% employed. Most rely on their families' support.

Many matua programme students have continued their education at higher education institutions and are now proudly employed in both public and private sectors.

# INDONESIA

## Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Muhadjir Effendy, Minister of Education and Culture

**Secretary-General:** Mr Arief Rachman

**Website:** [www.worldcultureforum-bali.org](http://www.worldcultureforum-bali.org)

## Update of activities in 2016

During 2016, there were two big events organized by the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and Culture.

The first event was the Launching of Global Education Monitoring Report with the theme Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all, in Jakarta on 6 September 2016 of which Indonesia was the co-host. It was opened by the Minister of Education and Culture and attended by 300 people among others: Madame Leonor Briones, Secretary of Education for the Philippines, Mr Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Representatives of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta

and the Secretaries-General of the National Commission of the countries covered by the UNESCO Cluster Office in Jakarta. In his address, the Minister of Education and Culture stated that Education systems should do more than just transferring information; they must ensure providing vital skills and knowledge that can support the transition to greener industries, disaster preparedness, find new solutions for environmental problems and perpetuate progress in sustainable development.

The Second Event was the 2nd World Culture Forum organized in Bali on 10-14 October 2016. The Forum was part of continuous major efforts geared to encourage and promote culture as a driver and enabler of sustainable development. It featured a Ministerial Forum, a Youth Forum and a Cultural Tour to some villages in Bali and it was attended by more than 1500 participants including Nobel Laureates, Ministers of Culture, experts, senior policy-makers, NGOs, youth and academicians, and cultural practitioners.

The theme was "Culture for an Inclusive Sustainable Planet". Along with the Grand Plenary, there were six Symposia: Reviving Culture for Rural Sustainability; Water for Life: Reconciling Socio-Economic Growth and Environmental Ethics; Interweaving History, Urban Space and Cultural Movement; Culture in the New Digital World; Reconciling State, Community and Cultural Divides and Cultural Diversity for Responsible Development.



## A success story

UNESCO ASPnet Indonesia was one of the 12 countries who were invited to attend Training of Trainers forum on Whole Institutional Approach to ESD and Climate Change held in Dakar, Senegal, from 21 to 23 November 2016. The Training was organized by Ms Sabine Detzel, UNESCO ASPnet International Coordinator, in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Dakar and sponsored by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT). Each of the Country was represented by the National ASPnet Coordinator and two teacher facilitators. It is expected that by January-March 2017, they will provide training to 10 UNESCO ASPnet Schools with the funding from JFIT.

Participants of TOT.

© UNESCO Office Dakar

# IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

## Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Mohammad Farhadi, Minister of Science, Research and Technology

**Secretary-General:** Mr Sadollah Nasiri Gheydari

**Website:** [www.irunesco.org](http://www.irunesco.org)

## Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO planned, organized and implemented several programs in line with the objectives of UNESCO, in cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, scientific associations and the UNESCO cluster office in Tehran.

In the field of communication and information, the Iranian National Commission embarked on organizing a training workshop on "Safeguarding the Cultural Heritage (tangible and intangible)" to familiarize journalists with UNESCO's actions and objectives. On the occasion of the World Radio Day, the National Commission also organized a training workshop, in which students were taught how to make a radio by the least equipment, and how to use the radio in case of emergency. This workshop drew the attention of many students and was held several times by the Science and Technology Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The National Commission also organized, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Tehran, a workshop on promoting empowerment of "journalist educators on climate change and water management" within the framework of the international programme for development of communication in Tehran and Yazd.

In the field of education, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO also organized a sub-regional workshop on

Education Statistics in cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran and the University of Tehran. It also organized a meeting to launch the 2016 Global Education Monitoring report (GEM) in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the social and human sciences, the Iranian National Commission worked with the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran University of Medical Science to plan the first International universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN) congress at Tehran. This congress hosted a number of Nobel-prize winners, and Professor Zabta Khan Shinwari, winner of the UNESCO Avicenna prize for Ethics in science in 2015, was invited to deliver speeches in academic gatherings, scientific and cultural centres and scientific associations, and visit prominent Iranian scientists in Tehran and Shiraz.

In the field of natural sciences, the National Commission and the Iranian National Committee for the International Hydrological Programme jointly hosted Ms Blanca Jimenez Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme in UNESCO. She participated in the "International Conference of Water and Environment in the New Millennium" held at the university of Tehran. Establishment of the Iranian National Committee for International Basic Sciences Programme was another major action of the natural science department of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO in 2016.

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the governing Board of the International Center of Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures was held in Yazd and delegates of Algeria, Azerbaijan, India, Iraq and Tunisia took part in the meeting.

In line with the promotion of a culture of peace, non-violence, peaceful co-existence and rapprochement of cultures, some programmes to foster a culture of reading, were held in many cities and rural areas. The Department Culture also held some training workshops with an education-centered approach with emphasis on further linking ethnic groups in four different provinces in the country.



## A success story

Education 2030 National Document was one of the major achievements of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and was presented at a "High-Level National Consultation Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 4". This plan was conducted by establishment of 30 thematic working groups within the framework of four ministries including the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the ministry of Education, ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare and the ministry of Health and Medical Education as well as national experiences and upstream documents of Iran.

Participants at the High-Level National Consultation Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 4, held at the Talash Complex in Tehran

© Iranian National Commission for UNESCO



# JAPAN

## Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Yuichiro ANZAI

**Secretary-General:** Mr Koichi MORIMOTO

**Website:** [www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/index.htm](http://www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/index.htm)

## Update of activities in 2016

After Japan proposed the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in 2002, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO took a leading role in the efforts to promote ESD. As the host country for the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, held in 2014, Japan continued its efforts to promote ESD worldwide.

In March 2016, the Japanese Government formulated "Japan's ESD Implementation Plan," which enumerated various matters that the concerned ministries should undertake in order to implement the Global Action Programme on ESD.

In April, the ESD Activity Support Center (tentative name) was established with the aim of providing support to and sharing information and experience among the concerned communities for their efforts and facilitating the participation and collaboration among various stakeholders that are making efforts for ESD activities.

On 8 December, the *Japan National UNESCO ASPnet Conference* was held at Kanazawa University. With educators

particularly targeted, especially teachers at UNESCO Associated Schools throughout Japan, the Conference attracted 635 participants, including representatives from companies and private organizations cooperating with UNESCO Associated Schools and efforts for ESD.

The Japanese Government has established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The headquarters formulated Japan's SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles with a view to promoting the SDGs. In July 2016, the Japanese National Commission established a Special Committee for the Promotion of SDGs. The Committee held discussion sessions among experts and representatives from various organizations regarding the promotion of SDGs-related measures.

In May 2016, the *G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers' Meeting in Okayama* was held in Kurashiki City in Okayama Prefecture. The Kurashiki Declaration, adopted as the Meeting's outcome document, reaffirmed the commitment to the realization of the SDGs, and pledged members' strong support of UNESCO for the implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD, which seeks to further scale up the efforts for ESD.

In response to giving Global Geoparks a new label as UNESCO site, in January 2016, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO formally recognized the Japan Geopark Committee (JGC), which had recommended global geoparks from Japan, as the National Geopark Committee effectively establishing a formal screening system in Japan. The Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN), an organization of networks of Japanese geoparks and aspiring geoparks, has played a central role in geopark activities in Japan.



## A success story

The UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD was created with the support of the Japanese Government with a view to disseminating throughout the world excellent efforts for ESD. The Okayama ESD Project was selected as one of the three winning projects from among 120 nominations in 2016.

With the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission that comprises a wide variety of organizations acting as the main implementing body, the Okayama ESD Project undertook a whole-city approach in order to promote ESD rooted in communities throughout the city, by conducting various ESD activities through the networks of ASPnet Schools and community learning centers as activity bases and providing training to ESD coordinators, and so on. The Okayama ESD Project has been highly evaluated as a model for promoting ESD in a community-wide approach through collaboration in various fields, and as a method applicable to other communities.

One activity under the Okayama ESD Project

© Okayama ESD Promotion Commission

# KAZAKHSTAN

## Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Arystanbek Mukhamediuly, Minister of Culture and Sports

**Secretary-General:** Ms Assel Utegenova

### Update of activities in 2016

The Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO conducted its activities in line with UNESCO's priority areas and according to the National Action Plan adopted during its annual meetings in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The National Commission mainly delivers its mission by promoting UNESCO's ideals in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region and by participating in key events held by the UNESCO Secretariat and working bodies of the Organization. The National Commission works closely with the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris and advisory bodies as well as other representatives of the UNESCO family.

Furthermore, the National Commission coordinates the activities carried out by the affiliated National Committees for World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, MAB, IHP, MOW etc. During the reporting period, the Kazakhstan National Commission was able to implement several important projects almost in all fields of cooperation with UNESCO.

In the field of education, we would like to highlight the Central Asian Symposium on ICT in Education that was organized in Astana in June 2016, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Cluster Office and the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Significant importance was given to the organization of the 8th session of the Asia-Pacific Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (AFUCA) in Almaty in August 2016. As the result of the meeting, the participants adopted a number of strategic documents aimed at improving realization of the projects in the fields of the UNESCO mandate. Moreover, a representative of Kazakhstan was elected as the President of AFUCA for upcoming 4 years' period.

In cooperation with the Almaty City Mayor's Office and the Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to UNESCO, an event devoted to the celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of Almaty was held in the UNESCO Headquarters during the 200th session of the Executive Board.



### A success story

In order to contribute to the process of implementation of the new trends in UNESCO programme activities and in line with the global development agenda – SDGs, the National Commission initiated the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM) which was held on 24 and 25 October 2016 in Almaty. The event was organized by the National Commission and the National MAB Committee in association with the SACAM Secretariat (UNESCO New Delhi), ECOSF and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The theme of the meeting was “Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development”.

The meeting discussed the progress and challenges related to the biosphere reserves. After the country's presentations, it decided to work together to design the national MAB programmes in line with the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan (LAP) for 2016-2025 and recommended that the National MAB Committees prepare their own strategies using the MAB Strategy and LAP as the key points of reference.

As the result of the meeting, the participants adopted “Recommendations for implementation of LAP in the countries of SACAM region” as well as new amendments to the Statutes of SACAM including the acceptance of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as new members of the regional network.

The 8th meeting of South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM) which was held on 24-25 October 2016 in Almaty

© Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO

# LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

## Lao National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun,  
Minister of Education and Sports

**Secretary-General:** Mr Somboun Masouvanh

### Update of activities in 2016

The Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU) implemented significant activities throughout the year 2016, some examples are: a Training Workshop on International Fund for Cultural Diversity for government officials and NGOs partners (GOL Funding Source); an Annual Meeting of UNESCO ASPnet Schools in Lao PDR (GOL Funding Source); Monitoring and Evaluation the Implementation of Good Practices of ASPnet Schools in Lao PDR (GOL Funding Source); a Dissemination Meeting on the concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Directors General, Heads of Division from Ministry of Education and Sports and Head of Provincial Education and Sports Service in Vientiane Capital 17 provinces (GOL Funding Source); another Dissemination Meeting on The Concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for the School Principals and Teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools in Bokeo Province (GOL Funding Source).

A Capacity Building Workshop on Gender Equality for Women, Youth and Teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools was also organized in Xekong and Attapue Provinces (UNESCO Paris Funding Source).

The National Commission cooperated with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO in implementing the 2016 Crafts Design for Sustainable Development Programme in Luang Prabang Province and participated in the 2016 Crafts Design for Sustainable Development Programme - Training Course on Ceramic Crafts in Korea (KNCU Funding Source).

The National Commission also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Laos Heritage FSP & Champasak Urban Development PADUC/ AFD Project Steering Committee; the Regional Workshop under the Project "Educating sustainable Futures through Integration of Values in School-based and Community-based Programmes targeting Young People" in Bangkok, Thailand; the Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Shanghai, China; and the Training Workshop for the 2016 Website Development Project in the Republic of Korea and LNCU has created and developed the Lao National Commission for UNESCO's Website: [www.lncu.gov.la](http://www.lncu.gov.la) (KNCU Funding Source).

Besides, the National Commission has managed to translate the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report from English into Lao.

Some Examples of Challenges that have faced the National Commission are:

- The fact that LNCU has limited resources both human and financial to disseminate the concepts of UNESCO for other sectors. This constraint leads to the challenge of integration the SDG4 into the annual plan of LNCU.
- Also, in the field of culture, LNCU also has limited knowledge on the UNESCO Cultural Conventions, Cultural Law, etc. because the members did not have a chance to participate in cultural workshops that were held in UNESCO regularly.



Dissemination Meeting on the concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Heads of Provincial Education and Sports Services in all Provinces of Lao PDR

© Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU)

### A success story

To move forward the implementation of the new education agenda, the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Education and Sports held the National Consultation Meeting on Education 2030 in June 2016. This was in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, UN Agencies and other relevant stakeholders. The objective was to build a common understanding of the new education agenda (Education 2030), prepare for and support its implementation including the capacity development to integrate into the national education plan and the strategy of Lao PDR.

Global Citizenship Education (GCED) together with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are connected with SDG4 particularly with target 4.7. The Lao National Commission for UNESCO organized the Dissemination Meeting on the Concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) for Directors-General and Heads of Divisions from the Ministry of Education and Sports and Heads of Provincial Education and Sports Services in all Provinces. This was aimed to provide them with relevant information related to GCED and SDG4 and to ensure that they understand its goals and transforming this knowledge into practice.



# MONGOLIA

## Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Tsend Munkh-Orgil,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar

**Website:** [www.unesco.mn](http://www.unesco.mn)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO enabled Mongolia's participation to the UNESCO's meetings and workshops in Education such as the Asia Education Summit - Flexible Learning Strategies, Policy Forum on Youth & Adult Learning, APMED 2030 II.

The National Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia, UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the UNESCO Beijing Office organized a training workshop on Innovation Indicators on 7 and 8 December 2016.

On the occasion of the World Water Day 2016, the National Commission organized a scientific conference among students under the theme "Water is a key to development" in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, and the National University of Mongolia, on 23 March 2016.

Within the framework of the UNESCO/Monaco cooperation agreement, a workshop on the stabilization of archaeological tomb and preservation and conservation of ancient mural paintings was organized jointly by UNESCO, the MECSS,

the National Commission and the Cultural Heritage Centre of Mongolia, at the site of Shoroon Bumbagar, Bulgan province from 5 to 17 September 2016.

The National Commission, the UNESCO Office in Beijing, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO, jointly organized "Sub-Regional Meeting for Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in Northeast Asia: The Role of the Media in Raising Awareness about Intangible Cultural Heritage" in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 10 to 12 October 2016. The meeting was attended by more than 40 participants from national governmental and non-governmental organizations, representatives from UNESCO Category 2 Centers and international participants.

Four-day Ethics Teachers' Training Course was organized in Ulaanbaatar, from 2 to 5 November jointly with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) and the UNESCO Office in Beijing, in which participated more than 30 teachers and scientists of universities and research institutes of the MAS.

100 young Mongolian women and men, between 16 and 24 years old, participated in the second annual Model UNESCO Mongolia (MuM) conference on 29 October 2016 in Ulaanbaatar. Organized by the National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Beijing Office and UN Youth Advisory Panel Mongolia, the debate centered on Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promoting Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. A series of events were organized, including the celebration of the World Days focusing on Freedom of Press, Philosophy, Audiovisual Heritage, etc., including discussions related to matters of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November jointly organized with NGOs Globe International Centre and Open Society Forum and the UNESCO Office in Beijing.



Group photo of the 24th IHP-Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 24 to 26 October, 2016

© UNESCO

## A success story

The 24th IHP-Regional Steering Committee Meeting in conjunction with the international and national water dialogue on the delivery of SDG 6 in Mongolia and wider Asia and the Pacific region was organized successfully in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 24 to 26 October 2016. This meeting was organized by the National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, IHP-Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for South East Asia and the Pacific and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of Mongolia with the support from UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust and the MET. The aim of the meeting was to showcase the state of the art research and application of research in the field of water security in arid environment, to integrate UNESCO Natural Sciences initiatives (IHP, MAB and IGGP) in Mongolia and for the region. Over 60 participants from IHP-RSC member countries and experts, academicians representatives from local organizations attended the meeting. During the meeting, the participants discussed various issues on regional water problems and exchanged their views and ideas on possible future collaboration at the regional level.

# NEW ZEALAND

## New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Robyn Baker

**Secretary-General:** Ms Vicki Soanes

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.nz](http://www.unesco.org.nz)

### Update of activities in 2016

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO supported and facilitated a range of activities in 2016, aimed at furthering UNESCO's mission in the New Zealand context.

The Commission's major contestable funding round attracted 97 applications. Thirteen projects were successful, ranging from a project connecting New Zealand children to the outdoors, science and each other, to a project to digitise the national archives of the Cook Islands.

The Commission is supporting the Beeby Fellowship, which enables the writing and wide dissemination of an innovative research-based resource, as well as the operations of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme. The 2016/17 Beeby Fellowship recipients were Dr Katie Fitzpatrick and Kate

Wells, who will create a mental health education teaching resource aimed at helping teenagers develop resilience, interpersonal skills and wellbeing. In 2016 four early New Zealand manuscripts and collections were inscribed onto the UNESCO New Zealand Memory of the World register.

The Commission also provided funding towards the New Zealand Human Rights Commission's That's Us campaign, which invited New Zealanders to share their own personal stories about racism, intolerance and hatred, as well as their hopes for the future. This highly successful campaign has reached more than one million New Zealanders.

In September, the Commission drew attention to the global launch of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report by holding its own national launch. One of the guest speakers was Kiwi comic artist and illustrator Toby Morris, who was commissioned by UNESCO to illustrate the youth version of the report. Dame Karen Sewell, former Secretary for Education in New Zealand, also spoke at the event.

The Commission has been focusing many of its efforts around promoting the United Nations' Sustainability Development Goal 4 – Quality education (SDG 4), in particular SDG 4.7, which highlights global citizenship. A major project that came to fruition due to Commission funding was the global citizenship education activities led by the New Zealand Centre for Global Studies. You can read about these activities below.



### A success story

#### Supporting global citizenship

The New Zealand National Commission shone the spotlight on global citizenship in 2016 through its support of the activities of the New Zealand Centre for Global Studies (NZCGS).

A series of events got young people thinking about the concept. This included two conferences aimed at high school students – an academic conference where experts presented on themes related to global citizenship and a creative activism conference called Create1World co-hosted with Massey University Wellington, which focused on how the expressive arts have a role to play in the connectedness and future of our world.

Following the conferences, 11 students were selected from among conference participants to attend a three-day retreat on Waiheke Island. The group drew up a draft statement on how to address some of the world's challenges through global citizenship education, based on the outcome of their discussions.

In addition, the Centre's Global Citizenship Education Director, Libby Giles, travelled to nine countries in April to research best practices internationally in the implementation of global citizenship education. Ms Giles has written a report on how to realise the intent of the New Zealand curriculum through the context of global citizenship education.

Students discuss global citizenship issues at a retreat on Waiheke Island in May 2016.

© New Zealand Centre for Global Studies

# PAKISTAN

## Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training

**Secretary General:** Mr Hafiz Sher Ali

**Website:** [www.pncugovpk.com](http://www.pncugovpk.com)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO under the supervision of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is actively performing its aims and objectives. In 2016, the National Commission planned, organized and implemented several programmes in line with the objectives of UNESCO, as follows:

The National Commission forwarded student's applications for the Six Month UNESCO/Poland Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme in Engineering Cycle 2016 and two students were awarded the said fellowship.

One Pakistani student was selected for the UNESCO/Peoples Republic of China-Great Wall Co-sponsored Fellowships Programme cycle 2016-17.

The Pakistan National Commission coordinated with the UNESCO Secretariat and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to support better access, improved quality and safe learning environment for girls in the hard-to-reach areas of Pakistan under the UNESCO Malala Fund for promoting "girls' right to education" globally.

Coordinated with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) for successful implementation of the Flood Management Project with the technical cooperation of the Institute International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, UNESCO Category II institute) in Japan.

Under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-17, 19 projects had been submitted, and a project for Flood Affected Areas submitted under the Emergency Assistance for US\$ 50,000 was approved and seven projects for the year 2016-2017 are being evaluated by UNESCO.

The Pakistan National Commission, in collaboration with ASPnet, launched a seminar on 8 September 2016 in its premises to raise awareness of the public about the importance of literacy. Eminent scholars from different fields participated, exchanged views and stressed upon "let us take an oath to make our country as well as the world literate".

Professor Zabta Khan Shinwari, Secretary-General of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Chair of the Biotechnology Department of the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, was elected as member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMSATS) for a period of four years from 2016 to 2019.

World Science Day (WSD) 2016 was celebrated in Pakistan. The role of science and technology in achieving national development goals was highlighted at an event organized by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) in collaboration with UNESCO. Officials and representatives of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO, the British Council Pakistan, the French Embassy and representatives from academia and research institutions in Pakistan attended the event.



### A success story

A narrative of a teacher from Roots School System of UNESCO ASPnet School was shared at the World Teachers' Day (WTD) Forum held on 5-6 October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand:

In September 2015, I was assigned a class of the most challenging 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The impact of my values, attitudes and beliefs upon my students struck me, the day I took in a student with a speech disorder. How I treated her was sure to go a long way.

Later, I noticed that as soon as I asked a question, my students would jiggle restlessly in their seats, hands would shoot up in the air, as usual, only to be followed by annoyed groans the moment I would say, "Let's ask Fatima!"\* She would take ages to put together a mere sentence. I leafed through countless articles written by parents and speech therapists, and learned one thing: empathize and do NOT rush her so as to break her train of thoughts!

It was an unsaid agreement for everyone to be patient, celebrate Fatima's difference and develop synergy. Soon, she was a notable partner in class presentations and projects and, much later, started to speak on stage in front of a cheering audience.

A class at the Roots School System of UNESCO ASPnet School  
© Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Nick Kuman, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General Executive Director:**  
Mr Wesley Lakain

**Website:** [www.education.gov.pg](http://www.education.gov.pg)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Government decision to merge the National Commission functions with the Department of Education has been fully implemented. Effective of 2016, UNESCO programme is

managed and coordinated through the department as a major Division headed by the Executive Director (Secretary General). Current staff number on strength for both programme and administration is 18 in total. Certain activities accomplished up to 2016 include the printing of the 2015 EFA National Report for distributions to stakeholders, reactivation of work on the seven sites of Papua New Guinea included in the Tentative List and consultation on the Kuk World Heritage property, National Policy Framework on use of ICT in Education in Papua New Guinea. This project commenced in March 2016 with scoping consultation conducted by experts from the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia.

Currently, the National Steering Committee is conducting the ICT baseline survey with a view to ascertaining its readiness for Papua New Guinea. The Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the Department of Education, National Planning, Treasury, Finance and Communication, Culture organizations, Universities and other concerned communities.



### A success story

A week-long scoping consultation for key stakeholders on the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in education was held in Port Moresby from 2 to 6 May 2016 organized by the National Department of Education. Representatives from various key agencies took part including the Departments of Planning, Treasury, Finance and Communications, which participated at discussions on the use of ICT in teaching and learning in schools countrywide. The meeting was facilitated by experts from the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia.

The meeting analyzed the concept of ICT in education highlighting experiences and some good practices around the world that Papua New Guinea can learn from, as the country intends to apply the use of ICT in education in schools. Despite potential challenges endowed in realizing the concept, the meeting resolved to immediately embark on it as a joint government project. The consultation paved the way for the formation of a national steering committee for ICT policy development, agreement on a proposed work plan that depicts baseline survey with a view to ascertaining ICT in education readiness nationwide.

The new survey instrument designed by the technical team is ready to be piloted in selected schools around Port Moresby after which the survey proper shall be conducted nationwide.

A Specialist from the UNESCO Office in Bangkok presenting at the Consultation on the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in education held in Port Moresby from 2 to 6 May 2016 © Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO

# PHILIPPINES

## Philippine National Commission for UNESCO

**Acting Chairperson:** Mr Enrique Manalo

**Secretary-General:** Ms Lila Ramos Shahani

**Website:** [www.unesco.gov.ph](http://www.unesco.gov.ph)

## Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Philippine National Commission endeavored to improve coordination, collaboration and data collection and analysis, which are crucial in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical and Skills Development Authority, National Economic Development Authority, UNESCO Clubs and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), Department of Foreign Affairs – United Nations and Other International Organizations, and the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology, the Philippine National Commission embarked on cascading education sector thrusts and agreements reached during the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. A Stakeholders' Conference on the Education 2030 Framework of Action was conducted on 9 March 2016 in Quezon City, to serve as a platform in determining strategies and areas of policy convergence to achieve the education goals and targets. The Conference contributed to further consultation and dialogues with other education stakeholders towards developing national perspectives on inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning. About 100 participants actively participated including leaders in education, policy makers, technical staff, and representatives of civil society, the academe, youth, and the media.

In support of lifelong learning and meaningful social transformations, the National Commission, through the Karunungan (Wisdom) Festival, gathered around 100 educators, students, and other specialists to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the theme "Lifelong Learning and Ethics." Mr Irakli Khodeli, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences Sector of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, presented UNESCO's Teaching Ethics programme. Other speakers were local experts who conducted workshops on popular education, brain-based learning, climate change ethics and philosophy for children.

Within UNESCO's framework of sustainable development, the National Commission initiated a workshop series entitled "Pamana: World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve Nomination Series" to build the capacities of key stakeholders and sites managers and representatives of sites in the Tentative List in writing their dossiers and preparing the necessary requirements of the UNESCO Convention/Programme on their respective sites. Two of the three part - series were successfully conducted on 14 -15 April 2016 and 15 -16 September 2016 in Puerto Princesa and the City of Mati, respectively. The third workshop is set on the first quarter of 2017.

The National Commission supported the Philippine delegation to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee and facilitated Experts Review of Nomination Dossiers and State of Conservation Reports to the World Heritage Session that was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 10 to 17 July 2016. The Philippine delegation was headed by the Permanent Delegate of the Philippines to UNESCO, Ambassador Maria Theresa Lazaro. The National Commission also supported the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 November to 2 December 2016. Experts were also tapped to review nomination dossiers.



Albay Biosphere Reserve, Philippines  
© Mr Wang Regalado

## A success story

Through successful multi-stakeholder efforts, the Province of Albay, with a surface area (terrestrial and marine) of 247,919 hectares, garnered the prestigious status of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held in Lima, Peru from 18 to 19 March 2016. In close coordination with the local government of Albay and other concerned government agencies and sectors, primarily the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO extended technical assistance and support towards the completion of the nomination of Albay as a biosphere reserve. Albay has various terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, immense biodiversity, including endangered sea turtles and the whale shark, and is home to one of the most iconic symbols of the Philippines, Mount Mayon. Local communities live in harmony with nature and are imbued with a deep sense of respect and responsibility for the environment. In Albay, protective measures for spawning grounds of endangered sea turtles have been put in place and strengthened. Albay is the third UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of the Philippines (2016), together with Puerto Galera (1977) and Palawan (1990).

# REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## Korean National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr LEE Joon-sik

**Secretary-General:** Mr KIM Kwangho

**Website:** [www.unesco.or.kr](http://www.unesco.or.kr)

## Update of activities in 2016

### Highlights from among KNCU's activities in the field of education

In preparation for the implementation and coordination of Education 2030, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) published a Korean-language version of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, and convened a stakeholder meeting.

As a partner in the UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD, KNCU conducted research on best practices in relation to the ESD whole-school approach. KNCU also supported 18 professional learning communities for ASPnet teachers and organized a workshop on the ASPnet whole-school approach.

KNCU co-organized the Changwon-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference on lifelong learning, with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and Changwon City, and supported 35 Korean cities in their membership applications for the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.



KNCU continued to implement its Bridge Africa Programme in Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with more than 3,000 youth and adult learners benefitting from the programme in 2016. This year, Botswana and Swaziland newly joined the programme, which aims to improve accessibility to non-formal education in rural communities and enhance quality in literacy education, early childhood education and vocational training. In February, the partnering countries participated in the first Bridge Africa Conference, held in Malawi, and agreed on the *Lilongwe Communiqué*, stipulating 8 strategic directions for the programme. The National Commissions for UNESCO in each partnering country also played a leading role in establishing Bridge National Committees, to ensure strategic alignment with national education policies and collaboration across relevant ministries.

### New initiative to strengthen capacities of, and cooperation between Asian National Commissions, and to increase ties with other UNESCO entities

In June, KNCU held the first Training Workshop for Officials of Asian National Commissions for UNESCO in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with the UNESCO Bangkok Office and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO. Around 50 participants attended this workshop, including officials from 21 National Commissions, the UNESCO Bangkok Office, and the UNESCO Headquarters. The training workshop aimed to contribute to the effective functioning of National Commissions in the Asian region through the exchange of information and ideas among participants. Various themes, including “the role of National Commissions in the implementation of SDG 4-Education 2030” and “How to draft a Participation Programme Proposal”, were discussed during the workshop, which received very positive reviews from participants.

### A success story

Since 2009, KNCU has organized regional training workshops for capacity-building of fellow Member States under-represented in the Memory of the World register, in order to increase awareness of the existence and importance of documentary heritage, and contribute to its protection and promotion.

In September 2016, the UNESCO Memory of the World Training Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region was held in Suva, Fiji, co-organized by KNCU, the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, and the National Archives of Fiji, in cooperation with the UNESCO Apia Office and the Fiji National Commission for UNESCO.

Approximately 40 participants took part in the workshop, including representatives from 10 of the region's under-represented Member States (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) as well as local observers.

The workshop provided the participants with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Memory of the World Programme through a series of lectures, as well as practical consultation with international experts, potentially allowing the participants to enhance their nominations to the Memory of the World Register. In addition, the workshop's live discussions and group sessions offered a platform to share experiences and broaden networks among memory institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNESCO Memory of the World Training Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region held in Fiji, in September 2016 © Korean National Commission for UNESCO



# SINGAPORE

## Singapore National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

**Secretary-General:** Ms Rosa Daniel

**Website:** [www.unesco.sg](http://www.unesco.sg)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Singapore National Commission for UNESCO continued to champion UNESCO's mandate on the cultural, science and education fronts, and actively participated in various UNESCO undertakings.

From March to November 2016, the Singapore Botanic Gardens invited visitors to learn more about the UNESCO World Heritage Convention through an eye-opening exhibition following the garden's induction as Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At the UNESCO Creative City of Design Sub-network Meeting & Award Ceremony of SZ+DAY (Thailand, June 2016), DesignSingapore Council presented Singapore's design narrative after the city-nation was named UNESCO Creative City of Design. Details of Singapore's Design 2025 Masterplan and Singapore Design week were also shared at the 10th UNESCO Creative Cities Network Annual Meeting (Östersund, Sweden, September 2016).

In Science and Bioethics, Singapore's Public Utilities Board hosted the third UNESCO International Hydrological

Programme 8th Phase "Theme 4: Water and Human Settlements of the Future" Advisory Committee Meeting, and co-organised a seminar on "Megacities, Water and Climate Change: A Call to Action". These events were well received by the public.

On the education front, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy – National University of Singapore and National Institute of Education was successful in their application to establish a UNESCO Chair on Social Policy Design in Asia and a UNESCO-UNITWIN Network on Arts Education Research for Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development. The Chair aims to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation on public policy, public administration, and social policy.

The Institute of Technical Education's Specialised Schools for Students at Risk of Dropping Out received honourable commendations at the annual Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation 2016. Students at North Light School and Assumption Pathway School receive a customised three-year skills training programme to better prepare them for life.

In October and November, representatives from Singapore shared their knowledge as speakers and panellists at three UNESCO education-related platforms in Thailand, namely the World Teacher's Day Forum, the 18th UNESCO-APEID international Conference, and the Stakeholders Meeting on Indicators for Internationalization of Higher Education in ASEAN+6.

Finally, Mr Richard Magnus, Chairman of Singapore's Bioethics Advisory Committee, accepted invitation to remain as one of the four Vice-Chairs of the International Bioethics Committee. The National Commission also further affirmed its partnership with UNESCO by facilitating the secondment of an education officer to the UNESCO Office in Bangkok.



The Singapore Botanic Gardens' iconic Tanglin Gate marked the introduction of Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

© National Parks Board

### A success story

Following the inscription of Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2015, SBG held an exhibition titled "Exploring Our World's Heritage: An exhibition on the UNESCO World Heritage Convention" from March to November 2016.

This exhibition placed a spotlight on Southeast Asia's rich heritage, and introduced to visitors some of the region's most iconic UNESCO World Heritage sites and landmarks. At the same time, visitors also appreciated the significance of UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the outstanding universal values that a site must illustrate in order to be qualified for listing. This exhibition also supported the learning journey of primary school students in Singapore, where the social studies syllabus touched on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and explained the protection and conservation of our world's heritage through the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. This exhibition was well received and gained traction with local media.

# SRI LANKA

## Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson :** Mr Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

**Secretary General:** Ms Dhammika Wijayasinghe

**Website:** [www.slncu.lk](http://www.slncu.lk)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Sri Lanka National Commission gave its focus in 2016 on climate change mitigation while continuing with programmes related to Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

The National Commission together with other stakeholders, such as other government institutions, non-governmental organizations and schoolchildren carried out several activities to enhance knowledge on environmental issues, climate change adaptations and inculcating sustainable practices among schoolchildren and the general public. The preparation of a 3R Manual for Reduction of Carbon Footprint and the implementation of the Mangrove Conservation Programme were two of the most important activities among them.

UNESCO Students Camp to promote peace and sustainable development was held again at Wayamba Training Institute in Wariyapola from 24 to 28 August 2016. Participating students and teachers were from multiple ethnic and cultural backgrounds representing the Central, Eastern and North Western provinces.



The Director General of UNESCO made a five-day visit to Sri Lanka on a special invitation of the President. During the visit, the delegation of UNESCO was able to visit four out of the six UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites in Sri Lanka and interacted with various stakeholders such as religious leaders, students, officials and community leaders. The Director-General also participated in the National Science Forum in Colombo and the Education Forum at the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe and interacted with the participants. The Delegation was also able to examine the reconciliation programmes initiated by the Government of Sri Lanka. The Director-General also affirmed the key role of 'soft power' drivers to achieve Sri Lanka's vision of sustainable development and reconciliation, during a public lecture at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies in Colombo, on 16 August 2016.

One of our special achievements was the project titled "Solidarity through the performing arts and intercultural collaborative practice" submitted by Mr Parakrama Niriella of "Janakaraliya Association" (Theatre of the People), which received the maximum amount of US\$ 70,000 by the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) in view of its potential to achieve sustainable peace within a country that suffered 30 years of ethnic conflict due to the lack of mutual understanding and trust. With a team of artists representing different ethnic and cultural groups, they were able to create dramas that spoke to the hearts of all people.

UNESCO has also provided opportunities to numerous officials of the Sri Lankan Government and relevant educational institutes, to participate in and benefit from international training seminars and fellowships.

### A success story

Sudeesa-Seacology, a non-governmental organization, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment, has organized a national celebration of the very first International Day for Conservation of Mangroves proclaimed by UNESCO. Through this partnership, we were able to organize a comprehensive programme including a series of seminars, documentaries, TV programmes, competitions among schoolchildren and appreciation of community members who contributed to conservation of mangroves. On 26 July, the Mangrove Museum and Study Centre was declared open by the President Maithripala Sirisena with the participation of all stakeholders and school children.

The objectives of the Said Project are as follows:

- Contribute to the knowledge base on mangroves through the educational facilities
- Coast conservation and greenhouse gas reduction through the mangrove conservation programme
- Livelihood development of associated communities
- Social cohesion as an additional benefit of the programme.

President Maithripala Sirisena viewing the Museum

© Sudeesa-Seacology

# THAILAND

## Thai National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin,  
Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Chaiyosh Imsuwan

**Website:** [www.bic.moe.go.th](http://www.bic.moe.go.th)

### Update of activities in 2016

2016 was an important year for the Thai National Commissions and UNESCO in working towards achieving sustainable development. The Thai National Commission for UNESCO continued its active role in coordinating with UNESCO to meet both national and international development targets. Last year, in line with the Education 2030 agenda, the Thai Ministry of Education continued its efforts to develop and expand quality education to facilitate universal access to diverse sources of learning and knowledge consistent with the learners' interests, and to promote lifelong learning for all people.

The Thai National Commission, jointly with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, organized a Training Workshop for officials of Asian National Commissions for UNESCO from 21 to 24 June 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was a useful and successful forum to shape the future of national commissions for UNESCO, as the key vehicle for UNESCO in pursuing its mission of building peace and sustainable development for the globalized world.

In 2016, a staff member from each of the following National Commissions: Bhutan, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste, was invited to participate in the Exchange Programme of the Staff Members of the National Commissions for UNESCO from 21 to 29 March 2016. These officials had a chance to visit the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Bangkok, an ASPnet school and the site of the Lukphradabos Royal Project, which is one of the projects initiated by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej who had established the school to provide field training to professional technicians.

The Thai National Commission cooperated with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok in organizing the 18<sup>th</sup> UNESCO-APEID International Conference (26-28 October, 2016) under the theme "In Pursuit of Quality Education: The Past, Present and Future" in Bangkok, Thailand.

The three-day event brought together about 180 policy-makers, researchers, academics and teachers to explore the meaning of quality education, and to discuss key obstacles and share innovative practices that are improving learning throughout the region.

The Thai National Commission also collaborated with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok in organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030 II) at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, in Bangkok.

Senior officials from ministries of education from 32 countries, representatives from sub-regional, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, UN agencies, UNESCO institutes and academia across the Asia-Pacific region, participated in this meeting, which aimed to support and strengthen the regional network of national SDG4 coordinators.



Participants at the Exchange Programme of the Staff Members of the National Commissions for UNESCO, held in Bangkok from 21 to 29 March 2016

© Thai National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

On 25 August 2015, the Thai National Commission for UNESCO organized a National Seminar on "Thailand's Integrated Efforts in Mobilizing Achievement of Education 2030". One of the main objectives of this seminar was to raise awareness among ministries and department involved in education, and relevant education partners, about the importance of working together and coordinating efforts to mobilize educational resources and programmes to achieve Education 2030.

At the seminar, Ms Maki Hyashikawa, a representative from the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, shared UNESCO's Education 2030 objectives on a discussion panel on "Setting the State: Overview of SDG 4- Education 2030". Moreover, the senior adviser from the National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand, and the director of the Statistics Department of the National Department of Statistics joined the panel to share their perspectives on how Thailand can move forward to achieve Education 2030 in line with the country's commitment.



# TIMOR-LESTE

## Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr António da Conceição, Minister of Education

**Executive Secretary:** Ms Maria Angelina Sarmento

### Update of activities in 2016

The Ministry of Education decided to adopt the Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) policy in 2013, using pilot project approach, to be implemented with the children of Pre-School and the Primary School of Basic Education in three municipalities, for the duration of three years. The aim is to improve literacy and numeracy, and to achieve quality and inclusive education.

To measure the performance of the MTB-MLE implementation, an end-line survey was conducted in three municipalities by an independent international consultant. The assessment methodology used was the international standard of assessment – Curriculum-based assessment (CBA) and Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA), at sixty-two (62) schools composed of MTB-MLE (L1) schools, standard second language (L2) school and Public Portuguese Reference School (L3). These three modalities are government public schools. A total of 2,341 students from pre-school and Grade 1 to 2 of Basic Education participated in the survey. The results of the assessment showed that the MTB-MLE approach is able to improve the children's cognitive ability to understand basic science concepts and basic reading comprehension, and the MTB-MLE's intervention have increased

the children's performance in all areas of learning such as literacy, math, language and other curricular subjects. Learning outcomes were achieved at 100%.

Due to a lack of understanding about the MTB-MLE approach, which has brought a controversial issue in the country since its implementation, it is extremely important to spread the MTB-MLE learning outcomes to a broad audience. The results of the end-line report have been presented to the key politicians in the country, including the most influential religious groups and the civil society organizations that play a significant role in education, to understand the learning outcomes and to give more space for them to make decisions about language in education policy. A number of presentations were conducted as part of high level advocacy, to ensure people's support on the prospect of MTB-MLE in the future.

In relation to Social Science, the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Social and Solidarity and the Malaysian Funds-in-Trust through the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, as well as with the technical support from experts from Trinity College Dublin and United Nations ESCAP, organized a study on "Enhancing Social Inclusion in Public Policies in Timor-Leste". This project has been piloted in three countries including Malaysia and Cambodia. The main activity is to analyze the public policies using different tools to measure social inclusion. A national working group was established, composed of senior government officials from the relevant ministries, academic and the civil society, to study deeply the "People with Disability" Policy. The results of the study were disseminated widely through a National Dialogue, which was officially opened, by the Minister of Social and Solidarity. Members of the national working group presented the result and recommendations.



Launch of Science and Math Resources

### A success story

Since 2014, the Ministry of Education, entrusted the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO to do the revision of the content of Science and Mathematics for Junior High School level. KNULE's sub-division SESIM concluded the revision process in developing and writing the Teacher's Guidebook and the Manual of Practical Activities. The books were officially launched by the Minister of Education, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNESCO in January 2016, including thorough exposé and for participants at the launch. Comprehensive trainings on the content of each trimester were completed for approximately 300 teachers in 5 districts, and trainings were begun for the 700 teachers in the remaining 8 districts.

Launch in January 2016 of the Teacher's Guidebook and the manual of Practical Activities on Science and Math for Junior High School level

© Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

# UZBEKISTAN

## National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

**Secretary-General:** Mr Alisher Ikramov

### Update of activities in 2016

The National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO carried out its activities in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Tashkent. Its actions were corresponded to the grass root implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy of UNESCO for 2014-2021 and Programme for 2014-2017. A Nation-wide consultation process was organized on proposals of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the draft 39C/5, preparation of reports on implementation of UNESCO's conventions and recommendations, elaboration of national action plans within the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In the field of education, the National Commission provided support to activities on teacher trainings on global citizenship education, development of transversal skills in TVET, networking with 41 ASPnet schools and 9 UNESCO Chairs, follow up to CONVINTEA VI on adult education. The National Commission coordinated the preparation of the country reports on the measures taken for implementation of the UNESCO Convention and the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, UNESCO Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education related

to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In the field of sciences, the National Commission coordinated activities of the National Committees on International Hydrological Programme, "Man and Biosphere", Bioethics and Management of Social Transformation. The National Commission provided support to the workshop on Global Geoparks Network, organized by the State Geology Committee in April 2016. The workshop adopted a Road Map on Development of Geoparks in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which includes nomination process of selected sites to the Global Geoparks Network. In the field of culture, the National Commission focused its operations on monitoring and advisory actions related with the implementation of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions and Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and Their Role in Society. Close cooperation with the National Commissions of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan facilitated preparatory process of the transboundary nomination of the natural site "Western Tien-Shan". The 40<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee inscribed it to the World Heritage List. The National Commission also coordinated preparatory process of the nomination "Palov Culture and Tradition", which was inscribed to the Representative List by the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the field of communication and information, the National Commission concentrated its efforts in promoting "Memory of the World" programme, while the UNESCO Office in Tashkent carried out capacity building trainings in media specialists. The nomination "Turkestan Collection" of the National Library of Uzbekistan has been inscribed to the Asia-Pacific Register of the "Memory of the World".




Participants at the Conference on Traditional Landscape Gardening, held on 9-10 December 2016 in Shakhryyabz.

© National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

### A success story

The scientific conference on "Traditional Landscape Gardening in Uzbekistan" was successfully organized on 9-10 December 2016 in Shakhryyabz. The event was attended by 100 participants representing academia (scholars from Tashkent Institute of Architecture and Civic Engineering, Tashkent Fine Arts Institute, Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute), governmental organizations (Ministry of Culture and Sports, Academy of Arts, State Committee of Architecture and Civil Engineering), mayors of the World Heritage cities (Shakhryyabz, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva), teachers of the schools and colleges, experts from NGO's (Amir Temur Foundation, Oltin Meros Foundation) and representatives of local communities. Presentations and discussions were organized in the line of the implementation of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes. The Conference adopted a set of recommendations on further research and capacity building activities in traditional gardening in urban landscapes and introduction of garden archaeology course in specialized faculties of universities. The venue for the holding of the conference was selected due to the fact that the area of Shakhryyabz (World Heritage site) with neighbouring Gissar Natural Reserve (natural site in the Tentative List of Uzbekistan for the World Heritage List) and Kitab Geological Reserve is a potential candidate for the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

A photograph of three young children in a chemistry lab. They are wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. One child is holding a test tube with yellow liquid, another is pouring blue liquid from a flask into a beaker, and a third is holding a rack of test tubes with various colored liquids. The background shows blue lab cabinets and various glassware.

Schoolchildren in lab coats making experiment with test tubes in chemical laboratory.

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LightField Studios

# Europe and North America



# ANDORRE

## Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Josep Dallerès

**Secrétaire général:** M. Jean-Michel Armengol

**Site internet :** [www.unesco.ad](http://www.unesco.ad)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO (CNAU) a pu continuer à travailler en étroite relation avec tous les partenaires publics et privés tels que les Ministères de l'Éducation, des Affaires Étrangères, de l'Environnement, les mairies et autres entités nationales afin de mieux faire partager les valeurs de l'UNESCO. Les ambassades de France et d'Espagne en Andorre sont des partenaires importants. L'échange d'idées avec d'autres commissions nationales est aussi une des principales sources d'inspiration pour notre commission.

- Parmi les points les plus saillants, nous pouvons relever la promotion au niveau des écoles et de la société civile des Fêtes du feu du solstice d'été dans les Pyrénées, inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine immatériel en 2015, l'inscription d'une nouvelle école au réseau ASP (portant à 6 le nombre d'écoles inscrites), ainsi que l'organisation de la cinquième édition de Art camp, rencontre internationale d'artistes peintres qui se tient tous les deux ans en Andorre. Chaque édition réunit plus de trente artistes. De plus, nous pouvons relever la compagnie nationale d'électricité (FEDA), la mairie d'Ordino et la société philanthropique BOMOSA qui font partie des principales sources de financement extrabudgétaires de la CNAU en 2016. En 2016, la capitale d'Andorre, Andorre-la-Vieille, était par ailleurs la Capitale de la culture ibéro américaine et à ce titre nous avons co-organisé une rencontre des gestionnaires de sites ibéro américains inscrits sur la liste du patrimoine mondial dans la catégorie paysage culturel. Des représentants du Portugal, d'Espagne, de Cuba, de Colombie et d'Andorre ont pu échanger pendant deux jours sur les principaux défis et enjeux autour de ces sites d'exception.
- Enfin nous souhaitons saluer l'arrivée de notre nouveau président, Mr Josep Dallerès !



### Une activité réussie

En 2016, nous avons fêté la cinquième édition de *Art camp*, rencontre internationale d'artistes peintres qui se tient tous les deux ans en Andorre. En 2015 nous avons exporté notre savoir-faire à Malte où s'est tenu un *Art camp* destiné aux artistes de la Méditerranée. La prochaine édition *Art camp* Malte pourrait se tenir en 2017. Pour célébrer cette date nous avons préparé une sélection spéciale d'une quarantaine de peintures des cinq éditions (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016) présentées au siège des Nations Unies dans le cadre de l'Assemblée générale qui s'est tenue en septembre 2016 à New York. Cette exposition rend hommage aux 150 artistes qui ont déjà participé à *Art camp* et a été l'occasion de présenter leurs œuvres auprès des plus hauts dirigeants de la planète et de participer, ainsi, à la diplomatie culturelle en tant que nouvelle voie dans la résolution de conflits.

© NEW YORK, NY SEPTEMBER 21. Opening exhibition at the United Nations. Art Camp "Colors for the Planet" at the United Nations on September 21, 2016 in New York. VIEVpress/Maite H. Mateo

# ARMENIA

## Armenian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

**Secretary-General:** Mr Vahram Kazhoyan

**Website:** [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016 the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat Armenia's National Periodic Reports on the implementation of the 1960, 1970 and 2005 Conventions.

As a country with a rich cultural background, skillful and experienced specialists in safeguarding cultural heritage, Armenia is eager to join international endeavors aimed at safeguarding and promoting this heritage. Consequently, Armenia has welcomed the initiative of the "Group of Friends for #Unite4Heritage" campaign", expressing readiness to provide specialists for UNESCO's restoration activities and proposing to also concentrate on drafting a UNESCO activity plan aimed at the preservation of the cultural heritage of Syria's national minorities.

In June Armenia was elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH, willing to contribute to the efforts aimed at the protection and preservation of humanity's intangible cultural heritage.

In 2016, the Commission transmitted to the Secretariat information regarding the implementation of relevant provisions of the UN SC Resolutions 2199 and 2253.

In October, the Delegation of the Advisory Mission of the World Heritage Center paid a visit to Armenia, aiming to assist, through upstream support, the Armenian authorities in drafting a Programme on the management of its World Heritage Sites. Meetings with the representatives of the Commission, the Ministry of Culture and other stakeholders were convened.

The Commission has encouraged the participation of national institutions and individuals in UNESCO Fellowships and Prizes.

In May, the nomination of "Collection of the Ethno-musicological, Musicological-theoretic and Compositional Works of the Composer Komitas Vardapet" was submitted for inscription in the International Register of the MOW Programme.

A representative of the Ministry of Education was appointed as ASPnet National Coordinator to enhance activities with the UNESCO ASPnet schools in Armenia.

The Secretariat of the Commission has provided for the participation of the cities of Armenia in the UNESCO GNLC, as a result of which Sevan, Sisian, Dilijan and Gyumri became members of the Network.

For the purpose of ensuring Armenia's more active participation in the UNESCO IHP and involvement in the World Geoparks Programme, the Government respectively reorganized the IHP National Committee and appointed a representative of the Ministry of Nature Protection to serve as a focal point for the last. The National Report for 2014-2016 was submitted to the IHP.

The Commission has actively participated in the meetings of the 1954, 1970, 2003 Conventions. Regular contacts continued with the UNESCO Sofia and Tehran Centers.



Session of the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO  
© Artur Adamyan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

### A success story

On 21 March, the Armenian National Commission convened its third session, chaired by the President of the National Commission, Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian. Ministers of Culture, Education and Science, Sports and Youth Affairs, Nature Protection, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, representatives from the Administrations of the President and the Government, the Yerevan City Hall and the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin were among the participants.

The Minister positively evaluated the work of the National Commission in 2016. Whilst speaking of enhancing Armenia's involvement in UNESCO's Programmes, the Minister suggested submitting to the Secretariat of the National Commission proposals for inclusion into the cooperation agenda with UNESCO for 2016-2017.

The participants discussed issues related to Armenia's participation in UNESCO's various programmes and the fulfillment of Armenia's obligations.

# AUSTRIA

## Austrian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Eva Nowotny

**Secretary-General:** Ms Gabriele Eschig

**Website:** [www.unesco.at](http://www.unesco.at)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Austrian Commission for UNESCO operates as an association to advise the federal and state governments and NGOs with a view of implementing UNESCO's objectives. It establishes and maintains contacts between UNESCO and national partner institutions and informs the public of UNESCO's goals and programmes.

Regarding UNESCO's culture programme, the Commission is entrusted by the government with the implementation of the 2003 Convention. Amongst other safeguarding measures, the Commission compiles and maintains a National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. After the inscription of 10 additional traditions in 2016, the inventory currently contains 96 elements.

Likewise, the Commission operates as focal point for the 2005 Convention, tasked with coordinating information sharing and cooperation between all relevant government and non-government stakeholders. In 2016, the Commission prepared the second Austrian Quadrennial Periodic Report to UNESCO. To ensure a participatory process, the Commission organized

an exchange session with civil society stakeholders on the Draft Report. Further, the Commission organized a public launch event on the 2015 Global Monitoring Report and hosted, together with the Federal Chancellery, the First UNESCO-Editorial Board meeting on the next Global Monitoring Report 2017.

In the field of World Heritage, the Commission acts as administrative office for the annual meeting of the World Heritage stakeholders in Austria, providing information for the government, organising training workshops for WH-managers and working closely with Austrian schools on World Heritage Education. ([www.welterbe-schule.at](http://www.welterbe-schule.at))

In education, the Commission coordinates the Austrian ASPnet comprising 90 schools, focusing on Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in practice with the support of experts in the field of global learning, as well as human rights and democracy education. Further, the Commission fostered the promotion of SDG 4 in Austria - together with civil society partners, the Commission organised the Austrian launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report at the University of Vienna. The two launching events focused on development strategies and inclusive education.

In the field of sciences, the inauguration ceremonies of the two new UNESCO Chairs - on Bioethics at the Medical University of Vienna and on Human Rights and Human Security in Graz - took place in January and December. In collaboration with L'OREAL Austria and the Austrian Academy of Science, the Commission awarded for the tenth time already four fellowships "For Women in Science" to excellent young female scientists. On the occasion of the anniversary, a ceremonial address was held by Ms Auma Obama (Auma Obama Foundation Sauti Kuu).



### A success story

Like in recent years, the Commission has defined focal areas for its diverse range of activities. In the field of intangible cultural heritage, the Commission implemented two successful strategies for the safeguarding of traditional craftsmanship.

Over the last decades, decreasing attractiveness and low social status of the crafts have led to a general endangerment of traditional craftsmanship. Consequently, the Commission initiated two projects for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage related to the crafts resulting in the publication of an in-depth research study concerning the status and situation of traditional craftsmanship in Austria (available under [unesco.at](http://unesco.at)) and the inscription of three innovative Austrian craft centres on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (inscribed by the Intergovernmental Committee during its 11th session in Addis Ababa, December 2016): The Werkraum Bregenzwald, Hand.Werk.Haus Salzkammergut, and Textiles Zentrum Haslach are three initiatives governed by craftspeople, to revitalize and safeguard crafts in cooperation with craft businesses as well as educational and scientific institutions. The centres not only contribute to the continued practice of traditional knowledge and skills of Austrian craftsmanship, but also ensure their ecological and economic sustainability through wide cooperation with educational, medical and academic institutions nationally and beyond, while promoting intergenerational and international dialogue.

The research study Traditional Craftsmanship as Intangible Cultural Heritage and an Economic Factor in Austria was published in December 2016.

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# AZERBAIJAN

## National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Elmar Mammadyarov,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General a.i.:** Ms Gulnara Aghalarova

**Website:** [www.unesco.az](http://www.unesco.az)

## Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO continued its promotion of UNESCO's principles and ideas in Azerbaijan, strengthened its role as a coordinating body between UNESCO and national organizations and agencies, and also implemented a number of important projects in Azerbaijan.

From 29 to 30 September 2016, in the framework of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum held in Baku, Azerbaijan, Mr Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr Michael Worbs, Chairperson of the Executive Board, visited Baku and had meetings with UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Ms Mehriban Aliyeva, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Abulfas Garayev, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev.

From 16 to 18 November 2016, the 5th News Agencies World Congress, and the 16th General Assembly of the Organization of the Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) were held in Baku. Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Getachew Engida participated and spoke at the event. UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova also addressed the participants in a pre-recorded video.

On 17 November 2016, on the occasion of the World Philosophy Day at UNESCO, an international science conference titled "Philosophy, tolerance and multiculturalism in Azerbaijan" was organized by the Azerbaijan National Commission for UNESCO, the Institute of Philosophy of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, and Knowledge Fund under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Prominent scientists and personalities in the field of science participated in the event.

From 28 November to 2 December 2016, during the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, "Flatbread making and sharing culture: Lavash, Katyrma, Jupka, Yufka" multinational nomination presented by Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

On 28 December 2016, a conference entitled "Multiculturalism and human rights: equality, cooperation, and development" dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Ombudsman Institution was held in Baku. The event was organized by the Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of the Azerbaijan National Commission for UNESCO.

In 2016, the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, with the support of the National Commission, started a project on the "Cultural Resources of Azerbaijan". The project was realized in three phases, with the first two dedicated to workshops on the restoration and revival of embroideries, and the last one closing the project with an exhibition of the restored embroideries.

In 2016, the National Commission opened its website [www.unesco.az](http://www.unesco.az) which is available in Azerbaijani and English. The aim of the creation of this website is to facilitate communication with the National Commission, to inform the visitors about the main UNESCO events organized in Azerbaijan and abroad and to provide the visitors with the latest news and updates concerning UNESCO and the National Commission.



## A success story

In view of the upcoming anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership of UNESCO in 2017, the National Commission, in partnership with "Irs" (Heritage) Magazine, published a special issue of the magazine dedicated to the 25 years of the UNESCO-Azerbaijan cooperation. This issue gives readers broad information about the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan inscribed on UNESCO lists, both on the World Heritage List and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

A special issue of IRS magazine dedicated to the 25 years of UNESCO-Azerbaijan cooperation  
© "IRS" ("Heritage") Magazine

# BELARUS

## National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Mr Vadim Pisarevich

### Update of activities in 2016

Throughout the year, the National Commission has been deeply involved in continued efforts at promoting UNESCO's objectives related to education, science, culture, information and communication in Belarus.

The Commission organized a number of international and national events in the context of its joint celebration with UNESCO of the 150th anniversary of Léon Bakst, a world-known artist, decorator, theatre and fashion designer. A key event among the latter was the international art project titled "The Time and Creative Works of Léon Bakst" that was held in the National Arts Museum of Belarus, which essentially launched the Year of Bakst on 8 February 2016.

The National Commission attached great importance to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, cultural dialogue and cultural diversity. In particular, it took part in the two large international festivals: the Festival of National Cultures that was held last June in Grodno, and in the Festival called "Beraginya" (Protector) that took place in the Gomel region in June as well. Both were held under UNESCO patronage.

The National Commission participated in two international workshops in September and December in Minsk that were jointly organized with ICOMOS, UNESCO experts as well as with Germany's Institute for the Administration of Heritage. The workshops addressed the issue of preparing a transnational nomination on the topic of "Postwar Socialist Architecture in Eastern and Central Europe" to be presented for inclusion into the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The UNESCO Chair on "Radiation and Environmental Management" in November staged an international conference in Minsk for young scientists called "Urgent Environmental Challenges".

The National Commission's Committee on Science organized training and workshops on UNESCO's strategies related to activities in biosphere reserves, which were attended by international experts.

In partnership with the National Bioethics Committee a workshop on global bioethics for young people was held.

The National Commission supported the UNESCO Chair on "Vocational Education in the Sphere of Information and Communication Technologies of Persons with Special Needs" in its work to advance inclusive education through ICT. A Team from Belarus was 3rd and 5th in the areas related to "Administration and Management of Network Systems" in the 9th competitions International Abilympics Bordeaux 2016 for people with disabilities, held in March.

In the context of the Year of Culture that Belarus celebrated in 2016, the National Commission contributed widely to realize in Minsk in December a large-scale art-project under UNESCO's patronage, titled "From Lisbon via Minsk to Vladivostok" that brought to Minsk an exhibition of art works by contemporary painters from 30 European and Asian capitals, thereby demonstrating to the world our nations' aspiration to create a single cultural space without dividing lines and borders.

In November Minsk hosted a meeting of the General Assembly of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations (EFUCA). The meeting was attended by 70 participants representing national UNESCO clubs and federations from 11 European countries, the USA and Pakistan. 11 memoranda on cooperation were signed, with a number of joint projects related to administration of UNESCO clubs. Dzmitry Subtselny, a member of the National Commission for UNESCO, was elected to the EFUCA's Executive Board and also as a Vice-Chair of the European and North American Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations.



Roundtable "Contribution of Child and Youth Public Entities to Shaping Government's Youth Policies" © National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

### A success story

A major priority for the National Commission is to involve youth more in social work that supports UNESCO ideals. In particular, throughout the year, the National Commission supported the Belarus Association of UNESCO clubs in holding 7 regional round tables in the cities of Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Vitebsk, Grodno, Mogilev and in the Minsk region on the topic of "Contribution of Child and Youth Public Entities to Shaping Government's Youth Policies". The participants had the opportunity to exchange their views and best practices related to various patterns of cooperation between public institutions and civil society, as well elaborate some plans for the future. The National Commission considers these events as a very good example that illustrates the importance of cooperation between public authorities, youth organizations and civil society.

# BELGIQUE

## Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Philippe Busquin

**Secrétaire général** : M. Marien Faure

**Site internet** : [www.unesco.be](http://www.unesco.be)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO a étrenné un nouveau mandat quadriennal en 2016. Ses membres ont défini cette année les termes de leur action future, riche en perspectives.

La Commission a poursuivi sa mission d'information et de sensibilisation aux programmes et idéaux de l'UNESCO, à destination de la société civile et des autorités compétentes.



### Une activité réussie

À l'initiative de la Commission belge francophone et germanophone et avec le soutien de l'ICOM Belgique Wallonie-Bruxelles, une journée d'étude sur le thème du trafic illicite des biens culturels en tant que source de financement du terrorisme et des groupes armés s'est tenue à Bruxelles, le 29 novembre.

Le but était premièrement de tenter d'établir un état objectif de la situation basé sur des données concrètes face aux nombreuses informations, fondées ou non, circulant à ce sujet. D'autre part, le vœu était aussi de contrer les manifestations récurrentes de « Belgium bashing » tendant à faire apparaître la Belgique comme une des plaques-tournantes du trafic illicite des biens culturels.

Après une mise à plat par une série d'experts issus de la société civile et du monde académique de l'ampleur et des réseaux de ce type de trafic, furent développées les réponses apportées à ce phénomène, à l'échelle internationale d'abord, essentiellement dans la sphère inter-gouvernementale, par des délégués officiels du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, de l'UNESCO, de l'Organisation mondiale des Douanes, de l'Union européenne, du Conseil de l'Europe, mais également du Conseil international des musées (ICOM).

Une table ronde fut ensuite consacrée aux pistes développées sur les plans de la recherche, de l'information criminelle et de l'application des lois, notamment dans le contexte belge, avec des représentants nationaux des Douanes et Accises, de la Police judiciaire, de l'Organe de coordination pour l'analyse de la menace (OCAM) et de la Cellule du Traitement de l'Information Financière (CTIF).

Cette journée a rassemblé quelque 150 personnes issues de divers horizons: monde politique, presse, chercheurs, responsables du patrimoine, étudiants.

Le lendemain 30 novembre, s'en faisant l'écho, la radio-télévision publique (RTBF) a consacré une émission au même sujet, à laquelle furent associés les organisateurs.

Le site de la Commission reprendra les interventions et présentations.

En prolongement de cette journée d'étude, sera entreprise la rédaction d'un mémorandum reprenant les actions que la Belgique et ses différentes institutions, y compris ses universités, devraient engager à la suite des différentes recommandations des experts qui se sont exprimés.

En l'occurrence celle de Mr Ieng SRONG, Chef de la Section des Musées et du trafic illicite de biens culturels à l'UNESCO

© Madame Camille Charleux



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## State Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Adil Osmanović, Minister of Civil Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Biljana Čamur Veselinović

**Website:** [www.unescobih.mcp.gov.ba](http://www.unescobih.mcp.gov.ba)

### Update of activities in 2016

The new members of the State Commission of BiH for UNESCO were appointed in 2015 and continued their tenure in 2016 with a scope of very successful activities.

In cooperation with the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe the Sub-regional Workshop "Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites" was held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 10 to 13 October 2016. The event was attended by the representatives of site managing bodies of World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Also, in cooperation with the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo and a special department of the Carabinieri, a seven days long training was organized in Rome for participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina on fighting illicit trafficking of cultural goods and the implementation of 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

The State Commission of BiH for UNESCO submitted the nominations of Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the most famous and most beautiful Hebrew illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages in the world, and the Manuscript collection of The Gazi Husrev-beg Library, which consists of 10,561 units of unique manuscripts, for inscription on the International Memory of the World Register.

In the course of 2016, the State Commission of BiH for UNESCO has closely followed the status of two World Heritage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar and Mehmed-paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad, whose reconstruction, funded by the Government of Turkey, was completed in 2016.

The State Commission of BiH for UNESCO has endeavored to resubmit the revised nomination of Konjic Woodcarving for inscription on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as well as to submit the nomination of the element "Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain".

The Education 2030 -Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action (SDG 4)- was translated and distributed to all competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be incorporated in the future planning of the education sector. As follow up on these activities, representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the Regional Group I and II consultation meeting on SDG4 which took place in October 2016 in Paris.

In addition, the document Teacher's Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through education has been translated into official languages in BiH and distributed.

The Agency for antidoping control of Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented the project "Research on the Application of the International Convention against Doping in Sport and training of doping control officers on collection of blood samples" funded through the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.



### A success story

Stećci - Medieval Tombstones Graveyards has been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the unanimous decision of the members of the World Heritage Committee, during the Committee's 40th session in Istanbul. Stećci - Medieval Tombstone Graveyards, the serial property located in 4 countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia, was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (vi). Stećci was inscribed on the World Heritage List thanks to its unique universal cultural value. The members of the Committee recognized the extraordinary regional cooperation achieved during this project. The total of 28 necropolises were inscribed on the World Heritage List by the Committee's decision. The largest number of stećci are located on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina- around 60 000, around 4400 in Croatia, around 3500 in Montenegro and around 4100 in Serbia. The inscription of stećci is an extraordinary success, which crowned a six year long work of a large number of experts from all four countries, who have invested enormous energy and commitment in this project.

Necropolis with stećci located at Čengića Bara, Kalinovik

© National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

# BULGARIA

## National Commission of Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Rumen Alexandrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Maria Donska

**Website:** [www.unesco-bg.org](http://www.unesco-bg.org)

### Update of activities in 2016

2016 was a special year for the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO, as Bulgaria celebrated the 60th anniversary of its accession to UNESCO. In order to mark the anniversary, the National Commission drafted a National plan with events and initiatives in which a number of governmental institutions and civil society organizations took part. Among others, the plan included photo exhibitions, scientific conferences, concerts, the making of documentaries, the development of multimedia products dedicated to the Bulgarian World Heritage sites, the organization of various fora, contests for high-school and university students and many others.

On the very same day that Bulgaria was admitted to UNESCO's family, on 17 May, the Bulgarian National Commission gave its support to a concert of talented Bulgarian children, organized by the Leonardo da Vinci UNESCO club. Moreover, at the end of the year UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova validated

a special post card dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria's accession to the Organization. In her speech, the DG recalled the rich Bulgarian cultural heritage and Bulgaria's contribution to European and world culture.

In the cultural sector, Bulgaria successfully submitted two properties on the Tentative List, namely Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes in Bulgaria and The Royal Necropolis of the Thracian city of Seuthopolis. We concluded the year with the good news that the Festival of folklore in Koprivshitsa was included in the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices. This is the fifth Bulgarian element recognized officially by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage.

In 2016, Bulgaria celebrated two anniversaries with which UNESCO was associated, namely 150 years from the birth of Bulgarian poet Pencho Slaveykov and 1100 years from the death of Saint Clement of Ohrid. The Bulgarian National Commission contributed to an international scientific conference dedicated to the poetic work of Pencho Slaveykov, organized by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences with the participation of 40 scholars from Europe. The National Commission contributed also to the international scientific conference "Clement of Ohrid – a Symbol of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation among the European Nations".

In the sector of natural sciences, the Bulgarian National Commission conducted for a 6th year in a row the contest "For Women in Science" jointly with L'Oreal Bulgaria and Sofia University "Sveti Kliment Ohridski". Three talented women working in the fields of geomorphology, chemistry and biology are the winners of the 2016 contest.



### A success story

Our success story for 2016 is youth involvement in UNESCO activities. The Bulgarian National Commission attaches great importance to youth participation and initiatives, targeting young people and students. In 2016, the Bulgarian National Commissions supported two major events dedicated to young people. The first one called "Relay race for excelling students" was organized in the spring by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Its main objective was to foster a better knowledge of the nine Bulgarian World Heritage sites, which were presented by nine famous Bulgarian sportsmen, among them Olympic, World and European champions.

In autumn, the Bulgarian National Commission gave its support to the regional simulation Model UNESCO in which more than 60 high-school students took part. The event was organized by the United Nations Association in Bulgaria and targeted schools which are part of the UNESCO ASPnet network. The students had the chance to debate three hot topics, namely education as a fundamental right, world cultural heritage – striking a balance between tourism and heritage safeguarding as well as universal access to information.

Participants in the relay race for excelling students with Tereza Marinova, Olympic gold medallist from the Games in Sydney.

© Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO

# CANADA

## Canadian Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Christina Cameron

**Secretary-General:** Mr Sébastien Goupil

**Website:** [www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) is a network of networks striving for a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future in which no one is left behind. A spirit of cooperation is at the core of CCUNESCO's work. Through its own activities and that of its networks, CCUNESCO supports the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other UNESCO priorities of importance to Canada. CCUNESCO operates under the authority of the Canada Council for the Arts.

In spring 2016, CCUNESCO supported efforts by the Government of Canada to rethink the country's international assistance policies and programs so it can better respond to global challenges and opportunities in light of Agenda 2030. CCUNESCO asked its members to reflect on UNESCO program and network priorities that could contribute to such efforts. The results of this consultation were shared with the Government and the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO.

Youth engagement is paramount to CCUNESCO's work. In partnership with our Youth Advisory Group, CCUNESCO updated its youth engagement strategy in 2016 to increase

outreach to young people in every corner of the country. The Strategy identifies key levers to ensure the meaningful participation of youth in our initiatives and that of our networks. The National Commission has also begun to reach out to youth with extended social media campaigns that highlight our Youth Advisory Group's community engagement. The stories gathered in 2016 demonstrate the many different forms this engagement takes and how they can easily ignite change.

CCUNESCO is committed to the global work of safeguarding freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Its travelling exhibit of editorial cartoons from around the world, *Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes*, passed through several African cities in 2016. On May 3, CCUNESCO co-hosted the 18th Annual World Press Freedom Day Awards Luncheon with the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom.

CCUNESCO actively contributed to Habitat III in Quito. It co-organized two panels with UNESCO, where ICCAR members and city actors shared insights on urban inclusion and sustainable development. Culture, social innovation and Indigenous expertise were at the heart of discussions featuring Canadian leaders such as Becky Sasakamoose Kuffner, an expert on Indigenous inclusion working for the City of Saskatoon. A new report *Creating Inclusive and Equitable Cities* was launched at the conference.

Lastly, CCUNESCO celebrated the designation of a new UNESCO World Heritage Site (Mistaken Point), four new UNESCO Chairs (Island Studies and Sustainability; Diversity of Cultural Expression; Democracy, Global Citizenship and Transformative Education; Screening and Evaluation of Early Childhood Development), and two new biosphere reserves (Beaver Hills and Tsá Tué).



## A success story

Building on its commitment to meaningfully contribute to reconciliation in Canada, CCUNESCO supported the efforts of Indigenous Peoples in the Délı̄ne region of the Northwest Territories (the Sahtúot'ine Dene or Great Bear Lake People) to designate their traditional sacred territory as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This collaboration began in 2014 when CCUNESCO invited Sahtúot'ine Dene representatives to its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting so they could meet with members of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association. The encounter created an opportunity for the Sahtúot'ine Dene representatives to learn more about the network and to exchange perspectives and good practices with biosphere reserve experts. The Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve was designated in August 2016 and CCUNESCO is pleased to welcome the first biosphere reserve in the world that is 100% administered by Indigenous Peoples. The Sahtúot'ine Dene accomplishment provides a successful model for Indigenous-led strategies to safeguard sacred territories, traditional ways of life, and sustainable land use. It is also a model for reconciliation projects that rely on the combined knowledge and collaboration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts.

Tsá Tué Biosphere reserve © Dr. Paul Vescei



# CROATIA

## Croatian Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Radoslav Tomić

**Secretary-General:** Ms Rut Carek

**Website:** [www.min-kulture.hr/unesco/](http://www.min-kulture.hr/unesco/)

## Update of activities in 2016

Croatia has inscribed together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia the transnational nomination of Stećci -Medieval Tombstones on the World Heritage List. Croatia submitted together with Italy and Montenegro Venetian works of defense between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries for the inscription on the World Heritage List.

In 2016, the project of the preservation of intangible heritage of Rovinj through the Ecomuseum Casa della batana has been included in the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices of UNESCO.

The National Commission is also continuing its successful cooperation with the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar, the UNESCO Category II Center.

With the support of UNESCO, the National Commission started working on the project Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS). Technical and Analytical reports will be presented to the relevant stakeholders.

In art education, the Croatian National Commission and the Ministry of Culture together with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports have continued organizing workshops for teachers on the implementation of the World Heritage in Young Hands educational kit in Croatia. International seminars on experiences of teachers in implementing the educational kit *World Heritage in Young Hands* will also be held in Croatia in 2017.

In 2016, the Croatian National Commission successfully coordinated with UNESCO and the Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities and the School of Medicine of the University of Rijeka, Croatia, the establishment of the UNESCO Chair in Social Sciences and Medical Humanities that was opened at the University of Rijeka.

The National Commission works on the promotion of the "World Day of Roma Language". The initiative was started by the Association for promoting education of Roma people in Croatia "Kali Sara". The "World Day of Roma Language" was proclaimed at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015. The Republic of Croatia has been a member of the World Heritage Committee from 2013 to 2017.



ICH Meeting on the Island of Brač  
© Croatian Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage "Intangible cultural heritage and World Heritage: synergies and coordination between UNESCO 2003 and 1972 Conventions" was held in Brač, Croatia from 14 to 15 June 2016. The organizers of the annual meeting were the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture together with the UNESCO Office in Venice and the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO.

Launched in 2007, the Experts Network is the main regional platform for sharing knowledge and good practices on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage among national authorities in South-Eastern Europe, as well as to support regional cooperation on this topic.

The main topic for the experts was the coordination between the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the UNESCO 1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Participants in the meeting have been representatives of ministries of culture and other relevant authorities responsible for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, together with international experts and representatives of UNESCO.

This meeting has reinforced cooperation for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in South-East Europe, as a pillar of the region's cultural diversity and an asset for its sustainable development.

# CYPRUS

## Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel

**Secretary-General:** Mr Pavlos Paraskevas

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.cy](http://www.unesco.org.cy)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO reviewed its statute, composition and resources with a view to enhance its status and operational capacities as an independent body responsible for associating governmental, non-governmental bodies and civil society with the programmes of UNESCO. In November, the Council of Ministers approved the revised status and budget.

On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO, the Commission published a comprehensive volume entitled "Drawing from the Past and Shaping the Future", related to the mission of UNESCO in Cyprus and worldwide. Through texts and historic photographs, the publication presents the activities of the Commission, the Permanent Delegation and the competent ministries and departments entrusted with the management of UNESCO programmes in Cyprus. The Commission will provide free copies of the publication to all primary and secondary schools of Cyprus, as well as to public and university libraries and cultural institutions.

In the field of culture, the Commission was entrusted with the development and updating of the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with communities and experts. In 2016, the Commission examined the nominations submitted, and inscribed seven new elements on the National Inventory. In collaboration with the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, a special funding scheme was launched to support activities which aim to transmit knowledge and practices related to ICH elements.

In recent years, the Commission has been working towards enhancing partnerships between national, regional and international networks and bodies. To this end, the Commission participates in meetings organised by UNESCO field offices, regional centres and networks. In January 2016, with the support of the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in South-Eastern Europe, the Commission organised an informal expert meeting which focused on dry stone as an element of ICH and sought to prepare a multinational nomination file for the inscription of the element on the Representative List of ICH. Moreover, since the election of Cyprus as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH (2016-2021), the Commission, in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of Cyprus at UNESCO and ICH experts, will enhance its role in the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the international level.

In the domain of Human Rights, the Commission participated with various activities in the "One in Five" campaign of the Council of Europe to combat sexual violence against children (2013-2106). Finally, in December 2016, the Commission, in collaboration with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, organized a special concert to celebrate International Human Rights Day.



Traditional bread and bread ornaments made by students

© Annita Yianni

### A success story

Acknowledging the significance of Troodos Geopark's inclusion into the Global Network of UNESCO Geoparks, as well as the key role of formal (and informal) education in promoting and safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the region, the Commission implemented the project entitled: "Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark: Geological, Natural and Cultural heritage". The one-year place-based educational project was designed to be implemented mainly through the national network of UNESCO Associated Schools. It involved the collaboration and input from various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The overall goal of the project was to increase participants' (educators and students) knowledge of the history, heritage, function and role of Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark through activities that were jointly developed and based on real stakeholder input. During the project, students participated in interactive – experiential workshops such as: making mud bricks, constructing dry stone walls, making cosmetics using natural materials, preparing traditional dishes and a democratic structured dialogue workshop. Moreover, they participated in a nationwide poster competition on the topic of Troodos Geopark and worked on various school projects on topics such as endemic plants and herbs of the Troodos mountain range, medieval bridges of Troodos, UNESCO painted churches of Troodos, Troodos nature trails, gastronomy routes in the Troodos region, wine products etc.

# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Czech Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Stanislav Štech

**Secretary-General:** Ms Radka Bordes

**Website:** [www.mzv.cz/unesco](http://www.mzv.cz/unesco)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Czech Commission for UNESCO consists of its Members (in 2016 the total rose to 59), who either represent relevant ministries, important institutions and organisations or who are prominent personalities in Czech science and culture.

In May 2016, the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova paid an official visit to the Czech Republic to attend the celebrations of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles IV of Luxembourg. While here, she had several high-level meetings, namely with the country's President, with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture, and the Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. Ms Bokova also gave a lecture at the Charles University in Prague, which was founded by Charles IV. She met with both students and personalities from the academia and was awarded the prestigious Honorary Medal of the Charles University. She also visited the Lidice Memorial, the Průhonice park, as well as the "Lupáčova" Prague Primary School, which is a member of the UNESCO Associated Network Schools Project.

Throughout the anniversary year of Charles IV – a patron of education, arts and economics - a wide range of related events including exhibitions, conferences, themed tours and street parties were organized all over the Czech Republic.

In 2016, the Czech Commission assumed the patronage of 23 events related to the implementation of the approved UNESCO programmes.

The three subsections of the Commission, re-established in 2015, and the open ad hoc Working group "Memory of the World Programme", continued their active work, coordinating the participation of the Czech institutions and organisations in the various UNESCO programmes and activities.

The Commission initiated two expert level debates on the UNESCO 2015 "Recommendation on the protection and promotion of museums and collections" and the UNESCO 2015 "Recommendation concerning the preservation of and the access to the documentary heritage including in digital form".

The cooperation with the Slovak National Commission for UNESCO continued and its Secretary General came to Prague in April 2016 to talk to her Czech counterpart.

The Commission together with L'Oréal Czech Republic and the Czech Academy of Sciences co-organised again the L'Oréal-UNESCO Programme "For Women in Science" aimed at supporting women researchers and encouraging more young women to enter scientific professions. The programme celebrated its tenth anniversary. Two researchers were awarded annual fellowships for their projects in life and physical sciences.

In December 2016, the Czech and Slovak puppetry was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Three elements - Daguerreotype of Kynžvart, Leoš Janáček Archives and Camocio maps (together with Malta) were submitted to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

In September, the Commission co-organised the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Czech Associated Schools Project Network in Cheb. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for ASPnet coordinators to present the most successful projects of their schools. The Assembly welcomed four new schools to the ASPnet and approved "sustainable tourism for development" as a topic for the Week of UNESCO Schools for the school year 2016/2017.

Finally, the Secretariat continued to publish monthly online newsletter providing information about important UNESCO events and Commission activities.



## A success story

In 2016, the Czech Commission for UNESCO seized the opportunity to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO, by organising a series of events across the whole country to raise awareness of UNESCO goals and its wide range of activities. To celebrate the anniversary, a commemorative stamp was issued by the Czech Post. The stamp carries the nominal value of 32 CZK. It was designed by the academic painter Otakar Karlas and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. On 9 November, the Commission, together with the Czech Post, co-organized a special philatelic event - the first-day cover ceremony – on the occasion of the day of issue of the stamp.

Czech UNESCO stamp issued by the Czech Post in 2016, designed by Otakar Karlas

© the Czech Commission for UNESCO



# DENMARK

## The Danish National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Bo Manderup-Jensen

**Secretary-General:** Mr Jens Dalsgaard

**Website:** [www.unesco.dk](http://www.unesco.dk)

### Update of activities in 2016

2016 has been a year of inspiring change for the Danish National Commission for UNESCO with a renewed sense of relevance and motivation following the adoption of the ambitious and timely UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016 a number of new members and a new Chairperson of the National Commission were appointed by the Minister of Education. The National Commission thanked Ms Linda Nielsen for her valuable contributions in her almost ten years of service at the Commission, and warmly welcome her successor Mr Bo Manderup-Jensen, an independent consultant and director. The members of the new Commission undertook a study tour to UNESCO Headquarters in November, obtaining and exchanging useful information with representatives of the Secretariat and Permanent Delegations.

In order to reach out to a wider audience and effectively communicate the messages and priorities of UNESCO, the National Commission in September launched its own Facebook page - UNESCO Denmark - which has already proven to be a positive step forward.

Other 2016 Highlights in terms of activities included the continued focus on SDG 4 and the need to further inspire and qualify education for global citizenship and sustainable development. In 2016, the Danish ASP-network continued its activities in these areas and furthermore joined the new promising initiative on a whole institution approach to climate change.

- In 2016 a series of Network meetings on the potential of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities were held, and Sønderborg was confirmed as the first member city from Denmark.
- Another important event was the national launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report and the mapping of relevant challenges for follow up in Denmark of the Education 2030 targets.
- The National Commission contributed to a broad national consultation initiated by the Minister of Culture on Intangible cultural heritage.
- The National Commission also made a contribution to a seminar together with Blue Shield Denmark on Culture in conflict called "Heritage Fridays".
- In addition, the application from Copenhagen University for a UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights has been approved.
- The National Commission also noticed a growing interest amongst municipalities and regions for participation in UNESCO's scientific programs and networks manifesting itself in new nominations for the Man and Biosphere Programme and the UNESCO Global Geopark Network.
- Other highlight of 2016 were the awarding of the national L'Oreal – UNESCO prizes to Women in Science for the ninth time as well as the active Danish contributions to the work of IOC Executive Council, CIGEPS and the Council and Bureau of the IPDC.



Attentive audience in the main Hall of the National Museum

© the Danish National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Denmark and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

What are the opportunities and challenges for Denmark in following up on the SDGs, and what is the role of UNESCO's 'soft power' mandate in education, science, culture and communication? This was the theme of a very popular conference organized by the Danish National Commission in April, and opened by our protector, Her Royal Highness Princess Marie of Denmark. The conference attracted a good mix of high-level participants, practitioners, civil society and young activists - all keen to contribute to the discussion and to play an active part in the national follow up. Some of the key issues discussed were the role of intangible cultural heritage, for instance tradition for popular enlightenment, democratic participation and gender equality in the follow up of the SDGs. The conference and the following reception also marked the end of the mandate of the Chair and of several members of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO, and we thank them all for their dedication to the mission of UNESCO.

# ESTONIA

## Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Kristin Kuutma

**Secretary-General:** Ms Kerli Gutman

**Website:** [www.unesco.ee](http://www.unesco.ee)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Estonian National Commission for UNESCO serves as a focal point for liaison and coordination between UNESCO and Estonian national institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as private individuals connected with UNESCO's work. The National Commission consists of a Supervisory Board, an Advisory Committee and a Secretariat.

In 2016, Estonia continued its term as a Member of the Executive Board. We continued our excellent partnership with Samsung in digital competences and developed a new partnership with L'Oreal Baltic with a view to launch the UNESCO-L'Oreal for Women in Science Program in Estonia in 2017. We also moved forward with national discussions on the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda and strengthened our commitment to UNESCO Associated Schools Network. The most important undertaking in 2016 was the preparation process and submission of a joint Baltic nomination to the Memory of the World International Register (see the success story below).



### A success story

In 2016, we prepared together with our partners from Latvia and Lithuania a joint nomination to the Memory of the World International Register. The nomination "The Baltic Collection of Letters Written on Birch Bark in Siberia 1941-1965" demonstrated an excellent cooperation between 20 memory institutions from the three countries. It also marked the growing social importance of this collection and showed a strong will to highlight the shared history of the Baltic countries. The preparation of the nomination was initiated in 2009 by the Tukums Museum in Latvia, with an aim to research these letters and life stories of people concerned. In 2016 several meetings, consultations and workshops were held in order to prepare the nomination file, which resulted in the submission of the nomination to UNESCO.

Workshop on Birch Bark Letters

© Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

# FAROES

## Faroese National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Sigurd i Jakupsstovu

**Secretary-General:** Mr Martin Naes

**Website:** [www.unesco.fo](http://www.unesco.fo)

### Update of activities in 2016

In June 2016, at the incentive of the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO, the Faroese Government undertook the process of accession to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (by becoming part of the Danish ratification of the Convention). By implementing the Convention, the aim is to strengthen the safeguarding and the awareness of intangible cultural heritage and its contribution to sustainable development.

In November 2016 the Government appointed a new Faroese National Commission for UNESCO. This is the second National Commission since the Faroes obtained associated membership of UNESCO in October 2009. Representing expertise in the fields of UNESCO, the objective of the National Commission is to promote UNESCO, advise the Government, and act as a liaison between UNESCO and Faroese authorities, institutes and organizations in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. The Faroese National commission has six members including a representative for the youth. Ms. Rigmor Dam, Minister of Education, Research and Culture, reappointed Mr Sigurd i Jakupsstovu, rector at the University of the Faroe Islands, as Chairperson of the National Commission.



### A success story

The Faroese National commission greatly benefits from the Nordic Network of UNESCO. A joint Nordic meeting is held annually in order to exchange experiences and to discuss issues related to UNESCO. The meeting is held alternately each year in a different Nordic country and is highly valuable in terms of networking and sharing knowledge. When the first Faroese National Commission for UNESCO was established in 2012, the joint Nordic Meeting was held in the Faroes for the first time.

The annual joint Nordic meeting in June 2016 was hosted by the Icelandic National Commission in Reykjavik.

Children performing a traditional Faroese dance game for the Nordic National Commissions at the Nordic House in Torshavn during the joint Nordic meeting held in the Faroes in May 2012. Dating back to medieval ages the Faroese chain dance is a living tradition.

© Arngarð Weihe, the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture



# FINLAND

## Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Jutta Urpilainen, Member of Parliament

**Secretary-General:** Ms Zabrina Holmström

**Website:** [www.minedu.fi/OPM/Kansainvaeliset\\_asiat/kansainvaeliset\\_jaerjestoet/unesco/suomen\\_unesco-toimikunta/?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Kansainvaeliset_asiat/kansainvaeliset_jaerjestoet/unesco/suomen_unesco-toimikunta/?lang=en)

## Update of activities in 2016

The Finnish National Commission for UNESCO consists of a Chairperson and eleven members nominated for a four-year term by the Government. The members represent high-level expertise in the fields of UNESCO's competence. They advise the Ministry of Education and Culture and contribute to the work and visibility of UNESCO. The Commission meets approximately six times per year.

The current National Commission was nominated in the beginning of 2015, and its term will last until the end of 2018. Ms Jutta Urpilainen, Member of the Parliament, former Minister of Finance, is the Chair of the Commission.

Throughout the year, the UN 2030 Agenda as such, press freedom, freedom of information and freedom of expression were predominant themes in the work of the National Commission. Finland hosted the global main event of the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) on 3 and 4 May in Helsinki and

celebrated, together with Sweden, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's first Freedom of the Press Act on 2 December.

In June, several members of the National Commission and experts from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs participated in the annual Nordic UNESCO coordination meeting in Iceland. The meeting focused mainly on the preparation of UNESCO's next programme cycle 2018-2021. The meeting was helpful in terms of both information sharing and overall coordination and cooperation.

In November, the National Commission and the Ministry of Education and Culture, in partnership with the Council of Finnish Academies and the United Nations Association of Finland, organized a public seminar on UNESCO's global science reports and the role of science in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The attendees included a large number of experts, academics and members of the Finnish scientific community, with whom themes such as Open Science were actively discussed.

The National Commission also worked together with the National Board of Antiquities to create an online encyclopedia (wiki-site) about intangible cultural heritage in Finland. Several dozen admissions have been received already, and a list of national heritage entities that should be protected will be formulated in the course of 2017.

The Commission with its Vice-Chair as DG of the National Archives was instrumental during the autumn in taking digital copies of documents that have become endangered due to the Syrian Civil War into safekeeping. The information contents will be preserved for future generations at the National Archives of Finland serving as a safe haven.



Former President Tarja Halonen (left), Director-General Irina Bokova, Prime Minister Juha Sipilä and Mayor of Helsinki Jussi Pajunen in conversation during WPF 2016 in Helsinki, Finland

© Katarina Koch, Ministry of Education and Culture.

## A success story

Finland proudly hosted the main event of the World Press Freedom Day 2016 from 2 to 4 May with more than 1000 participants from over 100 countries. The National Commission was one of the initiators of the event. The main themes were Freedom of Information, Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists. The number of participants, side events (over 20) and partner organisations (about 70) was greater than ever before in the 25 year history of the WPF. For the first time, there was also an Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists running alongside the event.

Freedom of cultural expressions was also highlighted at the WPF. The Nordic Ministers of Culture made a joint declaration on Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Artistic Freedom in a Digital Age.

In addition to UNESCO's Director-General, the Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety, Ms Amanpour and several high-level persons from Finland attended the event. The latter included the President of the Republic Mr Sauli Niinistö (patron of WPF), the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Education and Culture, Foreign Affairs, Communications and two former Presidents, Ms Tarja Halonen and Mr Martti Ahtisaari.

The WPF2016 adopted the Finlandia Declaration to be followed up at the WPF2017 in Jakarta.

# FRANCE

## Commission Nationale française pour l'UNESCO

**Président:** M. Daniel Janicot

**Secrétaire générale par intérim:** Mme Laurella Rinçon

**Site internet :** [www.unesco.fr](http://www.unesco.fr)

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

En 2016, la CNFU a développé ses réseaux traditionnels : Ecoles associées, Clubs UNESCO, Chaires UNESCO. Elle a favorisé l'adhésion de collectivités françaises aux réseaux des villes créatives, des villes apprenantes. Elle a soutenu le programme de la mémoire du monde, lancé une étude approfondie sur l'application par la France de la convention 2013 sur le patrimoine culturel intangible et créé le Comité d'experts français pour le MOST.

Elle a développé ses projets dans l'Outre-Mer français et développé en province des séminaires sur l'éducation à la citoyenneté.

Elle a donné une grande priorité au développement de son site internet qui a connu une fréquentation élevée. [www.unesco.fr](http://www.unesco.fr)

Elle a signé plusieurs mémorandums de coopération avec d'autres commissions nationales et elle a été co-organisatrice de la Rencontre pour le dialogue Euro-Arabe avec la Commission nationale omanaise et le soutien de la Fondation MBI Al Jaber, qui s'est tenue le 9 et 10 décembre 2016.



### Une activité réussie

La CNFU a célébré son 70<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire en 2016. Elle a d'abord rendu hommage à un de ses membres, l'architecte Bernard Zehruss qui a construit le siège de l'UNESCO Place de Fontenoy. Elle a organisé le Congrès mondial sur la pensée complexe, autour de la personnalité d'Edgar Morin. Plus de 800 personnes ont participé à ce congrès.

De très nombreux événements ont contribué à la commémoration de ce 70<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire (colloque sur l'Université et le Numérique, Rencontre sur la révision de la Recommandation de 1974 sur la condition du chercheur scientifique). Une réception, à laquelle ont participé un millier d'invités, a rassemblé la communauté française mobilisée en faveur de l'UNESCO.

# GEORGIA

## Georgian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Mikheil Janelidze, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Ketevan Kandelaki

**Website:** [www.unesco.ge](http://www.unesco.ge)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Georgian National Commission contributed much to ensuring the country's participation in the Organization's programmes and projects in various spheres of its competence: the National Commission submitted nominations to the Memory of the World International Register and actively participated in the selection process of the projects to be submitted in the framework of the Participation Programme for the new biennium. Following UNESCO's recommendations, in partnership with the relevant national authorities, the Commission initiated and contributed much to the work of the pre-selection panel aimed to evaluate and pre-select applications submitted to the International Fund for cultural diversity. Furthermore, the intensive and time-consuming process of the preparation of the quadrennial periodic report of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was a good example of the National Commission's fruitful cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention and

relevant governmental and civil organizations. Traditionally, the Georgian National Commission turned to be an important body for liaison and advice regarding country's partnership with the Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport. 2016 was marked by the enhancement of exceptional cooperation with other countries and their National Commissions (mostly Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria), particularly in the sphere of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The third interregional meeting of the National Commissions (China, June 2016) was a good opportunity for the Secretary-General of the Georgian National Commission to further develop these interactions and partnerships with colleagues from other National Commissions.

As an active participant of the dialogue that the Silk Road Online Platform seeks to promote, the member of the Secretariat of the Georgian National Commission participated in the Valencia, City of Silk 2016, the event that gathered countries along the Silk Roads in order to exchange national visions and projects on the contemporary dimension of this historical route.

The important event, advancing the ideals and objectives of UNESCO, took place in Batumi, Georgia (September, 2016). In the context of the Batumi MusicFest, the UNESCO Artist for Peace Elisso Bolkvadze, in close cooperation with the National Commission and relevant authorities organized a seminar with a special focus on the role of art and music in the peace-building process. Participants and the special guest of the seminar, UNESCO Artist for Peace Cyprien Katsaris, highlighted the sustained efforts of the Goodwill Ambassadors, the people who advocate for UNESCO's fundamental values all over the world.



Award ceremony, winner of the contest.

© Georgian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

For the fifth time this year, the National Agency for Cultural Preservation of Georgia, in close cooperation with the Georgian National Commission for UNESCO as well as the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues, the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics, the Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature and the newspaper New Education, implemented the project - the annual school contest Advocate of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This year, the title of the contest was Tales and Legends from Grandma's Chest.

The project envisaged participation of schools from different regions of Georgia. Students, their family members, rural students and employees of the local museums took part in the process of identifying the ICH elements. The course of the contest, its outcomes and awarding ceremony were widely covered by the mass media.

Recognizing the project's relevance to the pursuit of UNESCO's goals and its contribution to enhance the visibility of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Director-General has generously granted the Organization's patronage and authorized the use of UNESCO logo together with the emblem of the Convention.



# GERMANY

## German Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Verena Metze-Mangold

**Secretary-General:** Mr Roland Bernecker

**Website:** [www.unesco.de](http://www.unesco.de)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the German Commission for UNESCO started a strategy process to better focus its activities on its two key strengths, Education and Heritage. While continuing to address the full UNESCO mandate, these two themes appear to be the best leverage for the overall objectives of UNESCO in Germany, to foster peace, human rights, sustainability and diversity.

In our understanding of Heritage, we seek synergies between World Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Memory of the World, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks. We could strengthen our team for World Heritage and employ a new dedicated team for Geoparks. Co-hosting the Berlin Conference on Safeguarding Syria's Cultural Heritage was a major milestone; the conference also resulted in the creation of a new young experts' network. We also convened European experts on transboundary cooperation in World Heritage. Another highlight was the establishment of a Geoparks national committee by the German government, adopting national criteria and new national procedures. The National Commission successfully supported almost all UNESCO networks in Germany to adopt the Agenda 2030 as a new reference framework.

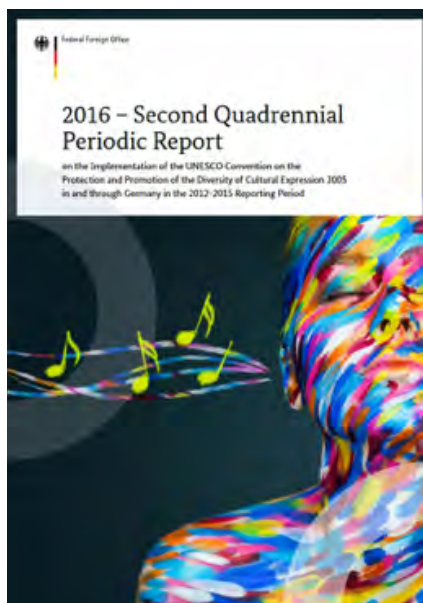
Germany's first inscription into the Representative List of Intangible World Heritage was successful with the "Idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives". In addition, Germany is one of seven partners in the new World Heritage site celebrating the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier.

In Education, priorities have been the national implementation of the Education Agenda 2030 and of the Global Action Programme Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). New quality criteria have been put into place for the German ASPnet, 65 of the best German educational institutions implementing an ESD Whole Institution Approach have received a new award. The Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) and the Education 2030 Framework for Action have been published in a German translation and the GEMR publicly launched for Germany. An OER festival was held in February 2016. Two new UNESCO Chairs and one new UNITWIN network have been successfully launched.

A number of our initiatives further strengthened the global network of National Commissions. The longstanding cooperation with several African National Commissions was further improved through two training workshops in Kenya; the introduction of the Entrepreneurship training methodology STEP was continued in Lesotho and newly launched in Mexico. The cooperation among the National Commissions of EU and EFTA countries was further corroborated through an online platform.

The international volunteer service "kulturweit" has been further expanded. 425 Germans between the ages of 18 to 27 have started their work abroad for 6 or 12 months. Several of them chose National Commissions worldwide as their host.

The seminar "UNESCO and the German Private Sector" brought together companies and UNESCO experts in order to identify mutual goals.



### A success story

The German National Commission for UNESCO has designed and implemented a very ambitious and exemplary process in 2016 to formulate the second German state report on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Bringing together the collective experiences of more than one hundred stakeholders from all fields of society, successful examples of implementing the Convention and best practice in line with its spirit have been assembled. Through a staged consultation involving governments at all levels, academia and civil society, the state report has been a very participatory exercise. The report provides robust evidence that diversity in German cultural institutions has indeed been strengthened in recent years; budgets for culture have increased considerably, the framework conditions for the work of artists have improved. The German government has officially adopted the report before submitting it to UNESCO. The report is published in two languages which are English and German. One of the key follow-up interventions of formulating this report has been an expert seminar of the German Foreign Office on legal measures for improving the international mobility of artists.

The second German state report on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

© German Commission for UNESCO

# GREECE

## Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Ekaterini Tzitzikosta

**Ass. Secretary General:** Ms Christina Boulakaki

**Website:** <https://unesco-hellas.org/>

### Update of activities in 2016

Throughout 2016 the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, promoted UNESCO's programs and priorities in the five sectors through the cooperation with the public and the private sector as well as with the civil society. A selection of our activities includes the following:

In the education sector, "11 Prizes for Educational Contribution in Border and Remote Areas of Greece", were awarded for the second time in Athens, this year by the Assistant Director General of UNESCO for Education, Mr. Qian Tang, a "UNESCO Chair on Conservation and Ecotourism of Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems" at the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology was inaugurated with the participation of 6 UNESCO Chairs from the Balkan Region, the 17th Annual Symposium of ASP-net Schools of Attica entitled "Learning to live together" and the 2nd Symposium of ASP-net Schools of Central Macedonia entitled "Education for Sustainable Development" took place, 10 Greek Municipalities joined UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities and Athens was designated as "UNESCO's World Book Capital for 2018".

Regarding sciences, the Assistant Director General of UNESCO for Natural Sciences, Ms Flavia Schlegel signed in Athens the Final Agreement for the establishment of a UNESCO Category II Center on "Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management" at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. In addition, the 10th Greek «L'ORÉAL - UNESCO Awards for Women in Science» were awarded. Moreover, an Information Center at the Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark was inaugurated. Also, a *Refugee Committee* was created in order to liaise the Greek government with UNESCO on the critical issue of the education for refugees.

Concerning culture, within the context of the promotion of cultural heritage and within the framework of the cooperation of the National Commissions, we organized in Warsaw with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO a joint photographic exhibition of the Greek and Polish World Heritage Monuments, as well as an International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Regarding the communication sector, in 2016 UNESCO was associated with the 2400th anniversary of the birth of Aristotle and throughout the year, we celebrated it with various events including an International Experts Conference in Thessaloniki and an International Conference and a theatrical performance at UNESCO's Headquarters.

The Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO participated at the 199th and 200th Session of UNESCO's Executive Board and at the respective Meetings of National Commissions, as well as at the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO.



The power of many in action: a pioneering initiative for the promotion of social and developmental banking

© the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO.

### A success story

In February 2016, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO joined forces with the National Bank of Greece, the Onassis Foundation, the Latsis Foundation, the Bodossaki Foundation and the CSR Hellas in order to launch the crowdfunding Platform "Act4Greece", a pioneering initiative for the promotion of social and developmental banking ([www.act4Greece.gr](http://www.act4Greece.gr)).

For the first time in Greece, an online Platform has been created to enable the gathering of resources from the "crowd", from anyone interested in the world. The funds raised are donations directed to specific projects undertaken by implementing bodies with a solid track record in their area of activity. The areas of focus are the following: welfare, health and solidarity, social economy and entrepreneurship, culture and cultural entrepreneurship, research, education and training, youth and innovative entrepreneurship, environment and sustainability.

The Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, as a strategic partner, introduces to the Strategy Committee, which is responsible for the selection of proposals uploaded on the Platform, projects that are related to UNESCO's programs and priorities, such as Medical care and humanitarian aid for the Refugees, educational programs and cultural projects. So far, 11 Proposals have been uploaded and 982.000 have been raised.

# HUNGARY

## Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Miklós Réthelyi

**Secretary-General:** Mr Gábor Soós

**Website:** [www.unesco.hu](http://www.unesco.hu)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Hungarian National Commission continues to see its role as the connection between UNESCO, the national government, civil society as well as academic and professional communities in order to translate UNESCO's ideals into action on the ground in partnership with stakeholders. It has also sought to raise awareness of the public about the Agenda 2030 and has established contact with the UN Information Service in Vienna as well as with the WHO Country Office in Hungary. The National Commission established 11 partnership agreements for specific projects with civil organisations and academic communities whose missions and activities fall within UNESCO's mandate. These have proved to be very efficient in enhancing UNESCO's visibility and for promoting causes, projects and activities directly relevant for the Organization. Another useful way of coordinating national efforts have been the anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated.

The National Commission convened and co-organised with the Department of ICH of the Hungarian Open Air Museum an Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage in May 2016, where experts of intangible cultural heritage from fifteen European countries shared models, practices, and experiences with a view to foster international cooperation. The meeting adopted

the *Conclusion of the European expert meeting on strengthening cooperation for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage under the 2003 UNESCO Convention*.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Interreligious Dialogue Conference "Common reflection on our future – Conference on the unity of man and the environment", was held in the Benedictine Abbey of Tihany on 8 and 9 June. The focus of the conference laid on the document *Agenda 2030* and the role of churches in achieving the SDGs.

*The safeguarding of the folk music heritage by the Kodály concept* was inscribed on the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH at its 11<sup>th</sup> session in Addis Ababa.

A creative anti-discrimination project entitled *Your Decision: Training Bystanders to Become Upstanders* was implemented under the National Commission's patronage. In the framework of this complex pedagogical project, six diverse Hungarian schools from primary to university level have created a traveling exhibition reflecting upon photos taken during the Holocaust, the genocide in Rwanda and about current issues of discrimination. The project produced impressive international media coverage.

In order to revitalize the ASP school network in Hungary, the National Commission organized a workshop focusing on Global Citizenship Education combined with Media and Information Literacy for our ASP schools and several potential future ones. It involved more than 80 participants from all around the country.

A volume dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO was published, highlighting Hungary's participation in the activities of the Organization. Linked to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO, Julian Huxley's role and that of his two brothers was discussed in May, convened by the President of the National Commission.



Human Ecology – Professional Collegium on Global Coexistence

© Dr Gábor Soós

### A success story

Inspired by the desire to make the issues of Agenda 2030 known to the public and especially to sensitize university students about its relevance for their studies and later professional career, in autumn 2016, the National Commission launched, in partnership with the Loránd Eötvös University, a course entitled: Human Ecology – Professional Collegium (*szakkollégium* in Hungarian) on Global Coexistence. The course consisted of two series of interdisciplinary lectures with discussions for students coming from many universities in Budapest from different disciplines, from levels of BA to PhD. Lecturers also came from many universities and research institutions, as well as from high levels of public service. The topics were organised into two sets: "Coexistence" and "Crisis and Transformation" and included the following themes: the limits of growth and Agenda 2030, the historic roots of the ecological crisis; political ecology; localization and the chances of local communities; ecological theories of the economy; the processes of globalisation; migration crisis and its possible management; variations of market economy and its possible improvements; from sustainability to resilience: what the international community can do. A total of 93 students attended the courses which underlines the need for such an inter-university and interdisciplinary approach to issues of sustainability in a global context. The lectures are available on the website dedicated to the course: <http://humanokologia.hu/>



# ICELAND

## Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr. Gunnar Haraldsson

**Secretary-General:** Ms. Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir

**Website:** [www.unesco.is](http://www.unesco.is)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Icelandic National Commission has been active in working more closely with the various UNESCO networks and civil society partners in Iceland, for example the Icelandic UN association and a number of NGOs and associations. This year, more than ever, the National Commission has put emphasis on playing a facilitating, monitoring and coordinating role by exchanging advice, guidance and support. The Commission is now on Facebook and Youtube and has been working on improving its website.

The Icelandic National Commission organized an event to celebrate World Water Day on 22 March, in cooperation with the Icelandic Hydrological Commission for UNESCO. The event was held at the Icelandic Met Office and gathered a diverse group of keynote speakers who explored the connection between water and jobs which is not necessarily an obvious one. The speakers set out to analyze how essential water is, not 'just' for life as is so often and rightfully claimed, but for

jobs and therefore for economic growth, now and in the future. The event was advertised in major newspapers and on social media and was well attended and reported.

The Icelandic Memory of the World Committee was established in 2013 and has been active in working with the Memory of the World Programme. In May, the Committee announced the first national Memory of the World Register. A number of applications were received and the Memory of the World Committee chose four items in this application period, including two items which are already inscribed on the Memory of the World register.

The Icelandic National Commission, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, commissioned a survey and a report to be prepared for the official implementation of the ICH UNESCO convention.

Over a period of fifteen months seventeen meetings throughout Iceland were held about gathering information about ICH in Iceland and about individuals, associations, groups and organizations who are connected with maintaining Iceland's ICH; raising awareness about the importance of ICH; and introducing and discussing the UNESCO convention on the safeguarding of ICH, as well as on getting peoples' suggestions on how best to safeguard Iceland's ICH.

The report from this project ties together tradition bearers from all over Iceland and suggests an implementation process based on the suggestions of the Icelandic people, as well as the experiences and methods tried and tested in cooperation with our Nordic neighbors.



### A success story

In June 2016 the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO hosted the annual meeting for Nordic National Commissions for UNESCO. The meeting was attended by more than forty participants from the Nordic countries, mostly members and staff from National Commissions, from the Nordic countries Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and experts from Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Foreign Affairs. The meeting offered a good opportunity to consolidate Nordic efforts and exchange views to enhance the work of UNESCO in plenary sessions and thematic group discussions.

Representatives from Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Faroes, Finland and Sweden gathered in Iceland to discuss Nordic issues and visited the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pingvellir

© Ms. Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir, Secretary General of Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO

# IRELAND

## Irish National Commission for UNESCO Chairperson: Mr Vincent Landers

**Website:** [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

### Update of activities in 2016

In September 2016, the Department of Education and Skills published its [Action Plan](#) for Education. Under this Action Plan, priorities in terms of SDG 4 include aspiring to have the best education and training system in Europe by 2026 with high levels of literacy and numeracy, access, as well as Education for Sustainable development, wellbeing and citizenship education etc. Ireland currently has a top 5 position in Europe in several important spheres (for example, post-primary literacy, third level participation, take up of STEM at third level) and a top 10 position in others (educational attainment, innovation, low dropout from school).

Ireland has a National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in place since 2014, and has organised two national fora since then, most recently in December 2016, to discuss aspects of the strategy and identify priorities. The most recent forum focused on the contribution of education to the fulfilment of the United Nations' SDGs and the contribution of ESD to the economy and to entrepreneurship. A captivating keynote address was delivered by Gary Fowlie, Head of the International Telecommunication Union Liaison Office to the United Nations.



Celebrating the UNESCO Learning City award

© Cork City Council

In October 2016, as part of the Department of Education Expo to China, Culture Ireland supported the travel costs of a group of artists collectively called 'Meitheal'. The group performed at the official opening of the 17th Annual International Education Conference in Beijing, as Ireland was the country of honour in 2016. As part of the itinerary to promote the knowledge and awareness of our national instrument, the Uilleann Pipes, a visit to the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing was arranged for Uilleann Piper, Mr Mark Redmond. There he met Director LIU Yuening and Qi Lei at the Music Confucius Institute/Centre for the Exchange and Experience of Chinese and Foreign Music Cultures. Mark demonstrated how the Uilleann Pipes are played. He also spoke about the history and heritage of the Pipes and, in particular, about the importance of Ireland's application for registration under the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The new designation of UNESCO Global Geopark was created at the end of 2015, meaning that 2016 was the first year in which the three UNESCO Global Geoparks on the island of Ireland really came into existence. With support from the Irish National Commission, and the Geological Surveys of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the three UNESCO Global Geoparks have been successful in establishing the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee to help coordinate all activities and provide guidance and expertise for all existing and aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks. Highlights in 2016 include jointly promoting all of the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks at the International Conference in September, and a dedicated UNESCO Global Geopark advocacy workshop hosted by the Geological Survey of Ireland.

### A success story

In 2016, Cork was chosen by UNESCO to host its 3rd International Conference on Learning Cities. This is the first time this prestigious conference will be held in Europe, following in the footsteps of previous conferences held in Mexico City (2015) and Beijing (2013).

The conference will take place in City Hall, Cork in September 2017. It will bring approximately 700 delegates from over 95 countries to Cork to share knowledge and experiences in building inclusive and sustainable learning cities.

Securing the conference was a competitive process, and key determining factors in Cork's winning bid were its long standing record in developing education within the wider community and the success of its annual Lifelong Learning Festival. This week long festival is one of the largest learning festivals in Europe and takes place every spring.

Cities are changing dramatically, presenting their citizens with a new set of challenges. Lifelong learning can play a critical role in addressing these challenges and a growing number of cities have started to adopt the learning city concept as a driver of sustainable social, cultural, economic and environmental development. Learning cities can foster global citizenship and environmental stewardship, contribute to health and well-being, and stimulate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

# ITALY

## Italian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Franco Bernabè

**Secretary General:** Mr Enrico Vicenti

**Website:** [www.unesco.it](http://www.unesco.it)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, a new President and a new Secretary General of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO have been appointed.

The Commission has established a fruitful cooperation with the Italian Ministries of Culture, Education, Environment and Foreign Affairs and with civil society, in order to pursue UNESCO's strategic priorities, especially in the fields of utmost importance for Italy.

The Commission has worked with the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe located in Venice, participating in its workshop held in Turin on World Heritage and sustainable development, and with the World Water Assessment Program in Perugia, participating in the presentation of its annual report.

The Commission has successfully coordinated the selection of the Italian candidacies to the various UNESCO's initiatives.

With regard to World Heritage, the Commission has organized the launch of a book dedicated to the Italian renovation measures in the Iraq Museum of Baghdad and the introduction of the Italian translation of the Khaled Al-As'Ad Palmyra archaeological guide, with the participation of Professor Paolo Matthiae.

The Commission has actively collaborated with the Ministry of Culture for the organization of the World Heritage sites conference, which focused on the establishment of a National Observatory and on the delicate relationship between heritage protection, promotion and transmission.

Regarding the 2030 UN Agenda for sustainable development, the Commission has participated in the Ministry of Environment conference on sustainable development. The Commission has also started to cooperate with the Ministry of Education to include sustainable development in teachers' training and education programs.

The topic of cultural diversity has been treated in an event which focused on displaced identities, with the participation of the Italian writer Antonia Arslan and the Iranian director Fariborz Kamkari.

The Commission has actively participated in the inauguration of the University of Florence's UNESCO chair on hydro-geological risk management; in the international conference on films and urban sustainable development, organized by Rome creative city for films as well as in the gastronomy international meeting organized by Parma creative city.

The Commission has organized with the Ministry of Education a meeting with 25 UNESCO Associated schools for the presentation of the best, out of 100, implemented projects dedicated to cultural heritage, cultural diversity and human rights.

The Commission has celebrated UNESCO's World Day of poetry, with an event on performing poetry and philosophy, with a festival of philosophy for children, and with initiatives of the Youth Association on Jazz and human rights.



### A success story

The Commission has given major importance to strengthening an effective communication system utilizing two main tools: the newborn Youth Association and the new National Commission's website.

The Commission has strongly endorsed the birth of the Youth Association, which has today more than 200 young members, coming from all over the country. The Association has organized several events countrywide and launched an extensive use of social media, fostering a better knowledge of UNESCO's activities among young people.

The Commission has launched its new interactive website ([www.unesco.it](http://www.unesco.it)), provided with a geopositioning system allowing the surfers to locate all UNESCO sites in their surrounding area. In this way, it is possible to highlight the wide range of UNESCO cultural and natural sites located in different regions of Italy. Many photos and the street view technology show these locations.

The website contents will be further enhanced in order to make the website the Italian portal about UNESCO and to show the Italian contribution to the implementation of UNESCO's initiatives.

The Dolomites. World Heritage Site

© Google



# LATVIA

## Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Dace Melbārde, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Latvia

**Secretary-General:** Ms Baiba Molņika

**Website:** www.unesco.lv

## Update of activities in 2016

The 25th anniversary since Latvia became UNESCO member state was widely celebrated on the national level in 2016. On this occasion the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO organized the annual UNESCO week in Latvia and campaign entitled "Praise UNESCO Jewels in Latvia". Altogether, there were more than 70 different events organised by libraries, schools, municipalities and other partner institutions of the National Commission across the country.

In order to foster cooperation among various stakeholders, and to fulfill the objectives of UNESCO, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO was coordinating and organizing several events and projects at the international, regional and national level.

From 27 to 29 June 2016, in Riga, the Second European Media and Information Literacy Forum was organized as one of the key regional preparatory meetings leading up to the Global MIL Conference. The Forum was organized by

UNESCO, the European Commission, the Latvian Government and the Sub-Chapter of the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy, under the theme "Media and Information Literacy in Europe: Citizens' Critical Competencies for a Rights-Based, Transparent, Open, Secure and Inclusive Information Environment". The outcome document of the Forum is the "Riga Recommendations on Media and Information Literacy in a Shifting Media and Information Landscape" where all stakeholders are invited to highlight MIL as a life code for sustainable development.

To foster regional cooperation and involve youth in meaningful discussions about today's global challenges, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO in close cooperation with the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO and the Society Initiatives Institute from Ukraine, implemented the project "Strong Youth – Peaceful Tomorrow". The project aimed to inform youngsters about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and share knowledge about important issues, such as climate change, environmental and social sustainability, cybersecurity and freedom of the media. The project had several activities in Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine, but the main event – youth forum and international UN simulation – took place in Valmiera and Riga from 2 to 4 April 2016, gathering more than 100 youngsters from all three countries. A variety of activities took place: from expert discussions and meetings with diplomats to informal events. It was important to engage students in the collaborative process of problem solving and consensus building, and to foster leadership and positive engagement through the discussion on the world's most pressing problems. The next regional youth forum will take place in Lviv, Ukraine in spring 2017.



The Project "Strong Youth – Peaceful Tomorrow"

© Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

The General Conference at its 38<sup>th</sup> session included the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Latvian painter Janis Rozentāls among the anniversaries celebrated in association with the Organisation for 2016-2017. Owing to UNESCO's recognition, this anniversary was widely celebrated across the country with a special program of events. Furthermore the Latvian National Museum of Arts in cooperation with UNESCO and other partners organized an exhibition entitled "Janis Rozentāls, Art and Technique" at UNESCO Headquarters to introduce the intentional community to the works of Janis Rozentāls and to highlight the universal language of art as a unique form for intercultural dialogue.

The arts education project "*Solis gleznā*" ("A Step Inside a Painting") which focused on young people was carried out by the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. The aim of the project was to present art history for school youth and children in an innovative and engaging way. Project participants were asked to use photography to model stories and scenes of the most famous Latvian painters, among which figured also Janis Rozentāls. The selection of the photographs was included as illustrations in a calendar for 2017. The calendar is distributed to the schools of Latvia and the partners of the Commission.

# LITHUANIA

## Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Romas Pakalnis

**Secretary-General:** Ms Asta Junevičienė

**Website:** [www.unesco.lt](http://www.unesco.lt)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO developed an academic and professional platform on sustainability science and its transformative role in society. It was used for building efficient bridges between research, policy and practice. A series of various meetings, consultations, seminars with participation of local and international experts was organized, resulting in a set of recommendations disseminated to all stakeholders.

In cooperation with the Association of Non-formal Youth Education the Commission has implemented the pilot project "Integrating Open Badge Standard in ASPnet Schools in Lithuania" aimed to create and test the non-formal education achievement recognition system in UNESCO associated schools based on an open digital badges platform. The results of the project were presented at the International ASPnet School Badge Workshop held on 18 October in Vilnius.

The Commission together with local and foreign experts participated in preparing a submission form of the historic urban landscape of Kaunas modernism architecture "Kaunas 1919-1939: The Capital Inspired by the Modern Movement" to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. Following the regional and thematic studies, it is obvious that Modernism is

still largely under represented on the WHL. In order to fill in this gap, Lithuania is willing to present a unique urban landscape, which has witnessed a fundamental transformation during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the course of 2016, the Commission coordinated an inter-institutional working group, which collected, shared and exchanged the data on the implementation of the 2005 Convention at the local and international level and submitted the second periodic report to UNESCO. They also submitted a set of recommendations for the list of objectives and priorities of the Lithuanian Council of Culture. On 18 March, the National Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Canada, organized a conference on the Convention and Sustainable Development which was attended by over 100 representatives of ministries, municipalities and NGOs.

The Commission translated the operational guidelines and directives of three UNESCO cultural conventions (1972, 2003, and 2005) into the Lithuanian language and published them.

For World Radio Day, the Commission and the Office of the Chief Archivist organized an event dedicated to the celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voice of America, Lithuanian Office. The organizers presented to the community the records and documents of the VOA; representatives of Vilnius University and Embassy of the United States of America gave lectures on a wider historical perspective of the VOA's role in Lithuanian society during the Cold War period and on the importance of VOA today, given the situation of current world events.

This year the Commission also participated in two joint nominations to the MoW Register: "The Baltic Collection of Letters Written on Birch Bark in Siberia, 1941 – 1965", in collaboration with Latvian and Estonian National Commissions, and "The Act of the Union of Lublin document (1569)", in collaboration with the Polish National Commission.



UNESCO Artist for Peace, Ms. Violeta Urmana at the charitable Gala Concert

© Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

On 30 October 2016, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Society organized a charitable Gala Concert featuring UNESCO Artist for Peace, Lithuania's foremost opera prima donna Ms Violeta Urmana, who shared the stage with tenor Alfredo Nigro and the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra. The concert was dedicated to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Lithuania's accession to UNESCO and sought to support the UNESCO programme for girls' education in African countries. This charity event was held with great success and became one of the most outstanding cultural events of the season in Lithuania. It was widely reflected by the media and had special live broadcasts on the Lithuanian National Television and Radio programmes.

To mark the 25th anniversary, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO also published a collection of twelve articles by well-known Lithuanian researchers on the main areas of activities of UNESCO. The publication was disseminated during the charitable Gala Concert and will be presented more widely to the general public in 2017.

# LUXEMBOURG

## Commission nationale luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO

**Présidente:** Mme Simone Beck

**Secrétaire générale:** Mme Catherine Decker

**Site internet:** [www.unesco.lu](http://www.unesco.lu) (en construction)

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

En 2016, la Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO a mis un accent particulier sur les programmes des Géoparc et l'Homme et la Biosphère. Grâce à sa présence au 4e Congrès mondial des Réserves de Biosphère à Lima et à la Conférence internationale des Géoparc à Torquay, elle a pu nouer des contacts nécessaires afin de promouvoir ces programmes au Luxembourg. Les relations étroites entre la Commission et les ministères concernés garantissent un échange important pour une plus grande sensibilisation à ces programmes de l'UNESCO.

Afin d'attirer l'attention sur certains aspects du patrimoine architectural au Luxembourg, la Commission a organisé deux visites guidées pour explorer le site de Belval, une friche industrielle reconvertie en ville universitaire, et le Château de

Mansfeld, un palais princier prestigieux du 17<sup>e</sup> siècle en passe de restauration.

En octobre, la Commission a participé au 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la « *World Federation of United Nations Associations-WFUNA* », fédération qui a vu le jour en 1946 au Luxembourg. Lors de cette manifestation, la Présidente de la Commission est revenue sur l'historique de la fédération et ses liens avec le Luxembourg. Cette soirée a également été marquée par un discours remarquable de M. Jean Asselborn, Ministre luxembourgeois des Affaires étrangères et européennes, et par la présence de nombreuses personnalités.

En novembre, la Commission luxembourgeoise pour la Coopération avec l'UNESCO a organisé la visite de haut niveau de Mme Mmantseta Marope, Directrice du Bureau international d'Education (« IBE ») de l'UNESCO. Lors de son séjour, la Directrice a pu nouer des relations fructueuses avec différents partenaires en vue d'une collaboration potentielle entre l'IBE et le Luxembourg. Mme Marope a également eu l'occasion de contacter Son Altesse Royale la Grande-Duchesse de Luxembourg, Ambassadrice de Bonne Volonté de l'UNESCO, qui lui a accordé une interview pour le magazine « IBE In Focus ».

Grâce à l'entremise de la Commission et la mise à disposition par le Bureau de liaison de l'UNESCO à Bruxelles, l'exposition photographique « *Culture under attack* » sur le patrimoine mondial en péril a pu être montrée au Centre culturel de rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster à Luxembourg.



Introduction de la conférence sur la patrimoine mondial menacé au Proche et Moyen-Orient

© Luxembourgish UNESCO Commission

### Une activité réussie

Depuis l'automne 2016, la Commission organise à des intervalles réguliers « Les Rendez-vous de l'UNESCO », des conférences-débats destinés au grand public. Des conférenciers de renom présentent un sujet en relation avec les thèmes de l'UNESCO. Ces conférences-débats sont agrémentés par des prestations artistiques en relation avec le sujet.

Ainsi, il a été possible d'accueillir en novembre 2016 Edwige Chirouter, professeure de philosophie et – depuis novembre 2016 – coordinatrice de la chaire UNESCO « *Pratiques de la philosophie avec les enfants* » qui a su enthousiasmer son public par ses approches pédagogiques novatrices.

En décembre 2016, Jean-Yves Monchambert, professeur d'archéologie à l'Université de Paris IV- Sorbonne, a référé sur l'état actuel des sites UNESCO menacés au Proche et Moyen-Orient. Cette conférence a été suivie d'un débat animé par Foni Le Brun-Ricalens, chargé de la direction du Centre national de recherche archéologique. Lors des échanges avec le public, a été proposée une mise en perspective de l'actualité tragique que connaît cette région. Les réflexions abordées ont également questionné la détresse des populations locales ainsi que le rôle, désormais exposé, des scientifiques « passeurs de mémoire » qui œuvrent à l'étude et la conservation de ces sites majeurs pour la compréhension de l'histoire de l'humanité. La Présidente de la Commission, Simone Beck, a évoqué le rôle actif de l'UNESCO dans ce domaine.



# NETHERLANDS

## Netherlands Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Andrée van Es

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marielies Schelhaas

**Website:** [www.unesco.nl](http://www.unesco.nl)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Netherlands Commission executed the first half of its biannual working programme, consisting of activities in all areas of UNESCO's mandate. Special attention was given to the refugee crisis and to heritage in conflict or crisis situations. Raising awareness about UNESCO themes in the Netherlands continues to be a core activity of the Commission: the number of sessions on its website increased to 150.000.

### Education

In 2016, the Commission worked intensively with the schools in the Dutch ASP-network. Key themes included global citizenship education and fighting intolerance. The network grew from 37 to 41 schools. The Commission especially encouraged schools for primary education to join the network because this group is still under-represented.

On International Teachers Day, the Commission organized a meeting with representatives of all ASP-schools in the Netherlands. The Sustainable Development Goals were one of the main themes of the day, with special attention to inequality in education. The event was combined with the Dutch launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report.

### Science

The Commission organized, together with the Open University, a series of six one-hour masterclasses given by the Dutch UNESCO Chairs. The freely accessible online masterclasses focus on the specific expertise of the chair holder in relation to the SDGs.

Other activities included the promotion of women in science, the coordination of the UNESCO Geoparks and Man and Biosphere programmes, and the organization of a roundtable meeting on the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers.

### Culture

The Commission supported the International Arts Education Week, which addressed refugees in the Netherlands. Nationwide volunteers, artists and schools organized cultural activities and debates that emphasized the fundamental human right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community and to enjoy arts and culture.

In light of the increased threat of terrorism, the Commission organized an information event for Dutch heritage institutions aiming to create more awareness and to encourage the incorporation of extra measures in their safety policies.

### Communication and Information

The coordination of UNESCO's PERSIST Project on digital sustainability remained the main focus of the Commission's work within the C&I domain. The Project launched guidelines to provide an overarching starting point for heritage institutions when drafting their own policies on the selection of digital heritage for long-term sustainable digital preservation.



The first UNESCO-debate in the Netherlands, 'World Heritage: treasure or target', was held in Leiden

© Netherlands Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

To enhance the visibility of UNESCO's activities, the Netherlands Commission initiated a series of public debates on major current issues within the domains of UNESCO. It is the Commission's intention to organize one debate each year.

This year's debate "World Heritage: treasure or target?" was held at the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The debate attracted 200 participants and received great exposure. The speakers and audience debated whether the visible and universally recognized World Heritage Status contributes to the protection of heritage, or rather forms a threat. Recent examples of extremists intentionally damaging and destroying iconic historic objects and sites illustrate the increasing tendency to use cultural heritage as an instrument and tactic in armed conflict. These cultural crimes are proudly carried out in front of video cameras to create worldwide indignation.

The renowned Dutch philosopher and publicist Stephan Sanders and Somali-Swedish archaeologist Sada Mire exchanged views on whether world heritage is a target or a threat and what role UNESCO should play in the protection of this heritage. The English texts and a video of the event are available at [unesco.nl](http://unesco.nl). The debate was accompanied by the photo exhibition 'Culture under Attack'.

# NORWAY

## The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Tora Aasland

**Secretary-General:** Ms Tanja Kristine Hegge

**Website:** [www.unesco.no](http://www.unesco.no)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Norwegian National Commission co-organized and participated in several meetings related to education and SDG 4. The national launch of the 2015 GEM report was well attended by NGO representatives, academics and government employees and opened by the vice-minister for Foreign Affairs. The National Commission also participated in seminars on academic freedom and the launch of the Centre of learning for sustainable development, as part of the University College Hedmark's UNESCO chair. It continued to support and stay actively involved in the ASPnet's work.

Press freedom and freedom of expression were also prominent themes for 2016. Experts from the commission contributed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategy for freedom of expression.

Together with UNESCO, a national launch of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development report was organized. The Commission also supported a conference on best practice in teaching conflict, war and peace journalism.

The Commission participated in several science events. Together with central hydrological organizations and institutions, the Commission participated in the celebration of World Water Day and the launch of the report "Water and Jobs". At the presentation of the World Social Science Report 2016 – Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just world, Ms Tora Aasland said: "the world needs more social science and important knowledge about inequality, what governments have to do to leave no one behind, and how to give education based on knowledge about sustainability and the art of living together".

Towards the end of the year, there was a very successful and dynamic presentation of the new applicants for the National Memory of the World-register. The national register now counts 101 entries and the 12 most recent entries ranged from the archives of Nobel laureate writer Sigrid Undset to the archives of Aker mechanical factory. The Commission continued to support UNESCO's campaign #Unite4Heritage and invited UNESCO to a Commission meeting to be updated on the campaign. They contributed in raising awareness on this important topic in Norway and in supporting UNESCO's work.



### A success story

The President of the National Commission for UNESCO attended the celebration of the Sami people's day on 6 February. The celebration was an occasion to inform the Sami community in Norway on UNESCO and the Commission's work and to increase the visibility of UNESCO in the Sami areas and community. The Sami university college and the Commission organized a mini-seminar on UNESCO, which was well received. ASPnet, UNESCO Chair, UNESCO's work on climate and 2003 and 2005 Convention are among the many areas that are of interest and relevance to the community.

Mayor of Kautokeino, Johan Vasara, President of the Norwegian National Commission, Tora Aasland and member of the National Commission, Laila Susanne Vars.

© Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO

# POLAND

## Polish National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Jacek Purchla

**Secretary-General:** Mr Sławomir Ratajski

**Website:** [www.unesco.pl](http://www.unesco.pl)

### Update of activities in 2016

In its role of Government advisory body, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO was focusing in 2016 on the implementation of cultural conventions and documentary heritage issues. Supporting the development of the UNESCO networks in Poland, we collaborated with UNESCO Chairs, ASPnet and creative cities. Our own activities were aimed especially at capacity building programs in the framework of international cooperation. The international event was the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO in Krakow. We published our annual Bulletin in Polish and English.

Our advisory role was assumed in particular in issues related to the World Heritage Convention, especially in relation with the preparation of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Krakow in 2017. We supported the works concerning the implementation of the 2003 Convention on intangible cultural heritage and the debate on the 2001

Convention on the underwater cultural heritage not ratified yet. We contributed to the promotion of the Polish National Register of the Memory of the World Programme and to the Polish translation of UNESCO's 2015 Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form.

The interest of universities to establish UNESCO Chairs being still growing, we assisted them in formulating their projects. The constantly expanding network of UNESCO Associated Schools numbers currently 103 member schools and 30 candidate schools. 2016 saw the continuation of Euro-Arab Dialogue multicultural education project "In the World of Islam". The twelfth in turn workshop for 65 teachers representing all levels of Polish schools was carried out in Gdansk. In 2016, Polish cities inaugurated their activities: Katowice as a new UNESCO Creative City of Music and Wroclaw as World Book Capital.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Polish Nat Com coordinated the UNESCO/Poland Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme for 67 young researchers from developing countries of Africa and Asia in the field of technology and engineering at the AGH University in Krakow. Together with a Fellowships programme for young scientists from Central and Eastern European countries and developing countries who carried out their research at 14 universities in 2016, Poland hosted in total 134 fellows. A six-months workshop for young Belarusian restorers was continued, as well as the International School on Cultural Heritage in Lublin, attended by young specialists from Central, South and Eastern Europe.



Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO, Krakow, International Cultural Centre, 24 – 26 February 2016. World Café workshop activities on 25 February.

© Janusz Ogonowski, International Cultural Centre in Krakow.

### A success story

The Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO (Krakow, International Cultural Centre, 24 – 26 February 2016) was the network's first meeting after its establishment at the constituent meeting in Bonn (2015). This informal network brought together the National Commissions from the EU member and candidate states, the EFTA member states and other European countries using the Euro as currency. Around 60 participants from 31 countries and the UNESCO Secretariat, including Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, attended the Krakow meeting.

Its program reflected the diversity of problems and priorities in the Nat Coms' work, focusing on possible forms of increasing European cooperation over UNESCO's program's and the search for a mutual support in facing the diversity of today's opportunities and challenges, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the transformation of education and science models in the contemporary world, urban development, heritage protection against the risks involved by current armed conflicts, problems of migration, youth, intercultural dialogue, involvement in aid initiatives, as well as UNESCO program networks: intensifying cooperation of national committees of UNESCO's programs, ASPnet, UNESCO Chairs and Clubs.



# PORTUGAL

## Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente** : Mme Ana Martinho

**Secrétaire exécutive**: Mme Rita Brasil de Brito

**Site internet** : [www.unescoportugal.mne.pt](http://www.unescoportugal.mne.pt)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

Les objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 ont été, tout au long de 2016, la pierre angulaire des activités de la Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO dans ses différents domaines d'intervention.

En effet, la Commission a commencé l'année en participant à un Séminaire de présentation détaillée des 17 objectifs, en partenariat avec les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et la Plateforme des ONGD portugaises.

La Commission nationale a également convoqué ses réseaux de Géoparc, Réserves de biosphère, Chaires et Centres et Clubs pour l'UNESCO pour leur présenter les ODD et l'Agenda 2030 et encourager leur mise en œuvre. Une réunion semblable avec le Réseau des écoles associées est prévue pour 2017.

Le développement des réseaux est resté une priorité pour la Commission nationale qui a promu la création des Réseaux portugais de réserves de biosphère et des Chaires UNESCO, ainsi que la participation au Réseau mondial des villes apprenantes. Des réseaux qui viennent renforcer ceux des écoles

associées (87 écoles en décembre 2016) et des Centres et Clubs pour l'UNESCO (53 Centres et Clubs en décembre 2016).

La Commission nationale portugaise a continué à investir dans les prix, notamment le Prix l'Oréal Portugal pour les femmes dans la science et le Prix de journalisme droits de l'Homme et intégration, ainsi que dans les concours scolaires comme le Concours à l'attention des écoles associées sur le thème de l'Année internationale de la compréhension mondiale, le Concours *Geo-Terra mãe* qui a participé au Prix UNESCO-Japon pour le développement durable et le Concours *7 jours, 7 conseils sur le medias* dans le cadre de la Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse.

Profitant de l'activité qui découle du rôle du Portugal en tant que membre du Comité du patrimoine mondial, la Commission nationale et le Groupe de travail constitué à cet effet, ont mené un long travail de révision de la Liste indicative du Patrimoine mondial du Portugal. Ce dernier a d'ailleurs été le thème d'une exposition, d'une brochure et d'un ensemble de présentations dans divers fora nationaux.

Concernant les nombreuses conférences organisées, co-organisées ou soutenues par la Commission nationale, nous soulignons la *Conférence internationale Géoparc mondiaux de l'UNESCO : territoires de science* avec la présence du Professeur Patrick Mc Keever et la 1<sup>ère</sup> Conférence sur le Programme Mémoire du Monde dont le Comité national a d'ailleurs été créé cette année.

2016 a été une année riche au niveau de la coopération avec la CPLP - Communauté des pays de langue portugaise-, notamment avec une formation à São Tomé et Príncipe et diverses activités de coopération avec Cabo Verde.



Vue aérienne du Palais National de Mafra  
© CMM/Ricardo Bravo, 2016

## Une activité réussie

Actualisation de la Liste indicative du patrimoine mondial du Portugal

Membre du Comité du patrimoine mondial pour la période 2013-2017, le Portugal s'est engagé à ne pas présenter de candidatures à la Liste, respectant ainsi les recommandations du Comité. La Commission nationale a alors pris la décision de profiter de ces années pour réviser sa Liste Indicative qui datait de 2004.

En tant que responsable du suivi de l'application de la Convention pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel, la Commission a réuni un panel de spécialistes composé de représentants des ministères de la culture et de l'environnement, d'experts, de représentant nationaux de l'ICOMOS et de l'UICN/l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature et de représentants des régions autonomes de Madère et des Açores.

Conformément au §62 des Orientations techniques, seuls les biens présentant une Valeur universelle exceptionnelle (VUE) potentielle pouvaient être inscrits sur la nouvelle Liste. Les critères invoqués concernant l'authenticité et/ou l'intégrité des biens ont également été pris en compte et une comparaison avec des biens identiques a été faite. Un autre élément important de l'analyse consistait à vérifier si les biens présentés comblaient, ou non, des lacunes existantes dans la Liste du Portugal et dans celle du Patrimoine mondial.

Ce travail de longue haleine a été conclu en 2016 et la nouvelle Liste sera présentée lors de la prochaine session du Comité du patrimoine mondial qui aura lieu à Cracovie, en 2017.

# ROMANIA

## Romanian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Mircea Dumitru, Minister of Education and Scientific Research

**Secretary General:** Mr Ani Matei

**Website:** [www.cnr-unesco.ro](http://www.cnr-unesco.ro)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, Romania celebrated the 60 years anniversary of its accession to UNESCO and the Commission's activities have focused, therefore, on marking this moment. Between 29 November and 14 December, it organized the project "Open Doors at RNC UNESCO", during which a series of events, debates and exhibitions took place.

The multinational nomination of Romania's and the Republic of Moldova's "Traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship" was inscribed on 1 December on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

At the beginning of 2016 the International Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics (Category 2 Centre) was established under the auspices of UNESCO, which focuses on: nanophysics, renewable energy, optics and nanophotonics, astroparticle physics and cosmology.

At the initiative of the University of Bucharest, Hațeg Country Dinosaur Global Geopark and RNC UNESCO, the National Forum of UNESCO Geoparks in Romania was founded, an informal body with the role of supporting the

domestic application of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

RNC UNESCO and L'Oréal România organized for the seventh consecutive year the national scholarship program "For women in science." The program provided support to the local scientific community by granting two scholarships to young scientists in the areas of life sciences and physical sciences.

Ex-Libris international project "Constantin Brâncuși", under the patronage of RNC UNESCO during a decade beginning in 2016, aims to bring to the fore the work and life of Constantin Brâncuși, celebrating 140 years since his birth.

The debates organized this year on gender equality, which gathered institutional representatives, civil society, NGOs, experts in the field, were designed to identify opportunities for improving the way in which gender equality is perceived and raised in Romania.

In partnership with the Alumnus Club for UNESCO and the Department for Interethnic Relations - Romanian Government was held in Iasi, in October, the eighth edition of the "Metamorphosis" project, on "Minorities, culture, goodies". The event aimed to encourage ways of cultural integration by direct interaction between representatives of minorities in Romania, through traditional gastronomy knowledge, autumn traditions and joint creative activities.

In March, the Commission organized together with the Civil Affairs team of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 8th Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force Europe a pilot project of cultural education and cultural exchange. The main objective was the theoretical and practical training of 20 marines on issues related to Romanian culture - empowering them to serve as knowledgeable ambassadors of the U.S. mission in Romania and familiarizing them with the current operating environment.



Also, the book "Romania - UNESCO: 60 years" was released, which contains a presentation of the Commission and the key moments of its activity in the 60 years of Romania's UNESCO membership. Mr. Ani Matei, Secretary General, is presenting an award during the Anniversary Gala "Romania - UNESCO: 60 years"

© Romanian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

On the evening of 15 December the Gala "Romania - UNESCO: 60 years" was held at the Commission's headquarters, which marked the fulfillment, in 2016, of 60 years since the country's accession to the Organization. The anniversary event was attended by personalities from the cultural, scientific, educational public life and collaborators who contributed to fulfilling and affirming UNESCO's mission in Romania.

Mr Ani Matei, Secretary General of RNC UNESCO and Mr Adrian Cioroianu - Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO highlighted the role of interface of the Commission between UNESCO and the Romanian authorities, constituting itself as one of the key actors in promoting the ideals and objectives of UNESCO in Romania. President of Romania, Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis, also sent a message: "It became clear that ensuring peace and security in the world depends also on the commitment to share the values and principles that define the free world: respect for the individual and for human rights, dialogue between cultures and civilizations, valuing diversity as a potential for growth and development."

# RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Mr Grigory Ordzhonikidze

**Website:** [www.unesco.ru](http://www.unesco.ru)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016 the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO carried out or granted its support to a number of meaningful projects in the field of education, culture, natural and social sciences, information and communication, namely: International Congress on Inclusive Education (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, February), IXth International Conference of the UNESCO Associated Schools "Ob-Irtysh Basin: the Youth Study and Preserve Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Regions of World Great Rivers" (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia,

May), Fifth Annual International Research-to-Practice Conference "Early Childhood Care and Education" (Moscow, Russia, May, under the aegis of the National Commission), UNESCO ASPnet Teacher – training course in Russia (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, June), Lena Education Forum "Open School" under the aegis of UNESCO (Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, Russia, August), Youth Creativity Festival "Wind of Change", organized by the UNESCO Chair of the Saint-Petersburg University of the Aerospace Instrumentation under the aegis of the National Commission (Saint-Petersburg, Russia, November), International Conference "Crossroads of Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation in Eurasia" (Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia, May), International Forum "Preserving Humanity as Imperative of Sustainable Development" (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, September), Social Forum of Russia (Moscow, Russia, November), World Forum of Universities of Resources on Sustainability (St. Petersburg, Russia, September-October), Children's Festival of the Variety Art "Constellation-Yoldyzlyk" (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, April), International Festival-Biennale of Folklore and Traditional Culture "Highlanders" (Republic of Dagestan, May-June), Fifth Krasnoyarsk International Music Festival of the Asia-Pacific Region (Krasnoyarsk, Russia, June), International Conference Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, June), and many other.



### A success story

The Russian Federation initiated and presented a decision "On the role of UNESCO in restoring and preserving Palmyra and other Syrian cultural heritage sites", that was co-authored by more than 40 UNESCO member-states, including the UN Security Council permanent members, the BRICS countries, Syria and other Arab countries. At its 199<sup>th</sup> session the UNESCO Executive Board reviewed the resolution and unanimously adopted a decision.

Following decision of the Executive Board, a UNESCO delegation visited Palmyra on May 5. The Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO played a leading role in organization of the visit of the Russian authorities chaired by the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky and Russian prominent cultural figures and top experts, including Mikhail Piotrovsky, director of the State Hermitage Museum, Nikolai Makarov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Archaeology Institute and others to UNESCO heritage site. A symphony orchestra conducted by maestro Valery Gergiev performed a concert in Palmyra, dedicated to the city liberation and remembrance of the victims of and fighters against terrorism.

With the assistance of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO a group of Russian experts visited Palmyra in July 2016 where it conducted a preliminary study of devastation incurred to the site.

A symphony orchestra conducted by maestro Valery Gergiev performed a concert in Palmyra © Alexander Alexandrov



# SERBIA

## Commission of the Republic of Serbia for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Goran Milašinović

**Secretary-General:** Ms Jasmina Stanković Tatarac

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Commission of the Republic of Serbia for UNESCO continued its diverse activities in promoting goals and principles of UNESCO in Serbia.

UNESCO has granted the Organization's patronage to the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, which was held in Belgrade from 22 to 27 August 2016. The Congress was organized in full cooperation with the Bureau of the International Association of Byzantine Studies (AIEB). The program consisted of six plenary and six special sessions, 58 round tables, which formed the backbone of the Congress, 117 thematic sessions and 20 poster presentations. It has covered a wide range of topics, developed over the past five years since the last Congress was held. A significant part of the program was dedicated to a major exhibition on old Serbian manuscript books, but there was also a book fair, a concert of spiritual music etc. Eight excursions were organized, including the one that took participants to Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Metohija. One

of the principal sessions of the Congress was dedicated to the issues of preservation, destruction prevention and restoration of Byzantine Monuments, which is in line with UNESCO's efforts in the field of protection of the world's endangered cultural heritage. On behalf of UNESCO, the Congress was addressed by Mr Bojan Bugarcic, ambassador and member of the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO. With a total of 1648 participants, the Congress was, by far, the largest international congress of Byzantine studies ever held.

During the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee, which was held in Istanbul in July this year, *Stećci – Medieval Tombstones Graveyards*, jointly submitted by Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The property combines 30 sites, located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, western Serbia, western Montenegro and central and southern Croatia, representing these cemeteries and regionally distinctive medieval tombstones, or *stećci*. The cemeteries, which date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, are laid out in rows, as was the common custom in Europe from the middle ages. The *stećci* are mostly carved from limestone. They feature a wide range of decorative motifs and inscriptions that represent iconographic continuities within medieval Europe as well as locally distinctive traditions. The success of inscription of the property to the World Heritage List came as a result of dedicated coordinated activities jointly undertaken by the National Commissions for UNESCO of the previously mentioned four countries belonging to Balkan region.

<sup>1</sup> Reference to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 adopted in 1999.



The Opening Ceremony of the International Festival of Ethnological Films

© Ivana Masniković-Antić

### A success story

#### JUBILEE: XXV INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ETHNOLOGICAL FILMS

The XXV International Festival of Ethnological Films was organized from 12 to 16 October 2016 in Belgrade under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Serbia and the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO. It is the most prominent festival of its kind in the region of Southeastern Europe. The Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade organizes this event each year in close cooperation with the Yugoslav Film Archive and the Radio Television Serbia.

The mission of the Festival is to encourage research and creative approaches in ethnographic documentaries, to educate the public about the richness and diversity of local cultural traditions, and to raise voice against problems of modern societies caused by disrespect of cultural heritage.

On this occasion, 29 countries submitted a total of 129 films for the competition programs of the Festival. Among the films shown and guests of the festival, there were the representatives of Germany, Armenia, Nepal, Italy, Romania, Czech Republic, Spain as well as representatives of local and regional film productions. The Grand Prix of the Festival was awarded to the Spanish film "District Zero" which portrays everyday life in a refugee camp. The number of ethnographic films is increasing, showing a strong social activism.

# SLOVAKIA

## The Slovak Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Edita Filadelfiová

**Website:** [www.unesco.sk](http://www.unesco.sk)

## Update of activities in 2016

The year 2016 was for the Slovak Commission as well as for the Slovak UNESCO community marked by a very important visit. Slovakia was honoured to host the Director- General of UNESCO, Her Excellency Irina Bokova, in May 2016.

A conference entitled “Teaming up UNESCO and EU water issues” was organized by the National Commission in June. The conference was reflecting SDG6, which calls all of us to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation”.

Another conference “Cities and Water” took place in Bratislava within the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union and under the auspices of UNESCO and the European Commission and was held on 25 October.

2016 was a breakthrough year for the Slovak Commission as the Statute of the Commission was completely redesigned (approved by the Government in July) and the new Commission, which is now composed of 20 members, was built on new foundations (from the 1 October 2016). According to the new Statute of the Commission, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO expanded its network of new partners who have become members of the advisory board of experts.

The theme of water was the dominant theme for Slovakia in UNESCO in 2016. The Slovak Commission for UNESCO, in

cooperation with the Information and Documentation Centre of UNESCO at the University Library in Bratislava, the Platform of non-governmental development organizations (PNGOs), the eRko NGO, and the pupil magazine LADDER approached children and young people of primary and secondary schools in Slovakia in April 2016 by launching the project “WATER – natural heritage of Slovakia”. The exhibition of the Slovak children art works at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 16 December was a fabulous and dignified presentation of the natural beauty of Slovakia as well as Slovak kids’ vision of nature diversity.

The conference called “Slovakia and Cultural Diversity” concerning current issues related to implementation of UNESCO Cultural Conventions was held on 23 November 2016 in Bratislava at the UMEĽKA Gallery on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We are proud to announce that the joint nomination for the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity - the Puppetry in Slovak and Czech Republic was successful. During the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, on 2 December 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Puppetry in Slovakia and Czechia was inscribed into the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

There was a new educational program “Prevention of homophobia and transphobia” accredited by the Accreditation Commission of continuing education for the targeted group of people with an interest in working in the field of education on human rights, anti-discrimination and prevention of hate speech.

In April 2016, the representatives of Slovakia participated in the seminar “Europe - UNESCO representations partnership for addressing xenophobia through education”. Exchange of knowledge, experience, know-how and best practice between bodies in the Slovak Republic and international organizations which are actively involved in promoting campaigns without hatred on the Internet were the main issues discussed by the international community, which met at the seminar.



## A success story

Since 1996, the Slovak Republic has systematically monitored every cultural World Heritage site in 2-year cycles: year 1 – evaluation of the state of conservation of all monuments on the site; year 2 – preservation of attributes conveying its outstanding universal value. There is a comprehensive program of monitoring which is closely linked to the needs of management and improvement of the site’s state of conservation.

In 2016 (22 to 23 November in Ružomberok), the 20th annual workshop Monitoring of WHS in Slovakia took place, which paid special attention to Vlkolínec, WHS. Its participants focused on current problems and threats of this unique folk wooden architecture reserve, in direct cooperation and consultations with the site’s management – Town of Ružomberok, Council of Vlkolínec and Civic Association Vlkolínec.

Vlkolínec, World Heritage Site

© Google

# SLOVENIA

## Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Radovan Stanislav Pejovnik

**Secretary General:** Ms Marjutka Hafner

**Website:** [www.unesco.si](http://www.unesco.si)

### Update of activities in 2016

In the beginning of 2016, Slovenia's membership on the UNESCO Executive Board started for the period of 2016-2019. It is the second time that Slovenia has been elected to this governing body of the organization.

One of our flagship achievements was the inauguration of the first "Triglav National Park Euro-Arab Expedition" that took place in the month of October, in the framework of the "Connecting Cultures Slovenia" initiative. The initiative is based and strongly influenced by the original Connecting Cultures "Powerful, innovative journeys of intercultural dialogue in the deserts of Oman".

In close cooperation with our partner organization, the United Nations Association of Slovenia, the Slovenian National

Commission for UNESCO brought together 5 young students from Arab countries (Bahrein, 2 from Egypt, Morocco and Qatar) and 4 students from European countries (2 from Slovenia, Germany, Hungary). During the expedition, the young participants followed thematic workshops and discussions that included key questions on intercultural dialogue and understanding.

The expedition was an overwhelming success and we are convinced that Connecting Cultures Slovenia will become a regular pillar of our yearly program.

Besides all regular activities of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, we would like to highlight the following achievements in 2016: On 1 December, the UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction was inaugurated at the University of Ljubljana, becoming the third UNESCO Chair in Slovenia.

In November / December 2016, the Škofja Loka Passion Play, a folk play performed as a procession that takes place in the streets of the Škofja Loka medieval center during Lent and Easter involving more than 900 local performers, was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In January 2016, the municipality of Ljubljana joined UNESCO's Creative Cities Network as City of Literature.



Open Educational Resources  
© UNESCO

### A success story

Although taking place only in 2017, we believe that it is worth to mention that the Government of Slovenia agreed with UNESCO that Ljubljana will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress on Open Educational Resources (OER) from 18 to 20 September 2017.

The Congress is co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Slovenia together with other international partners as the Commonwealth of Learning, Creative Commons and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. It will bring together leading researchers, practitioners and policy-makers, representatives of human resources development and education sectors, to share experiences on policies, education projects and best practices in this area.

OER have a central role to play in Sustainable Development Goal 4: Education which calls for the international community to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" with its key pillars of access, equity and inclusion.



# SPAIN

## Spanish National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Luis Ramallo Massanet

**Secretary-General:** Mr Juan Maria Alzina de Aguilar

**Website:** [www.unesco.es](http://www.unesco.es)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, Spain hosted the second meeting of the International Network for the Silk Road Online Platform in Valencia from 8 to 12 June. The meeting gathered the focal points of the Network, local and national authorities and UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences. During this gathering the ethical principles, strategic orientations and Action Plan of the Network were defined and its new Bureau was elected. In this framework, the "Martial Arts along the Silk Road" initiative was launched by the Judo Federation of Valencia with the support of ICM, (International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement), a UNESCO Category 2 Center in the Republic of Korea. "Martial Arts along the Silk Road" intends to promote and recover ancient and traditional martial along this route in danger of disappearing and to promote social development and engagement through martial arts, especially for women and youth.

Regarding the environment, UNESCO gave its patronage to the International Conference "Micro 2016, Fate and Impact of Micro-plastics in Marine Ecosystems" which took place from

24 to 28 May, hosted by the Insular Regional Government of Lanzarote, Canary Islands, with the collaboration of the Lanzarote Biosphere Reserve Office.

The National Commission attended the Inauguration of the Regional Documentation Centre in Bioethics of La Rioja, with the assistance of local government officials and UNESCO's Director of the Ethics, Youth and Sport Division, Ms Angela Melo.

In Human Sciences, UNESCO gave its patronage to the XII International Ontology Congress "Physys Kai Polis", held from 1 to 9 October in Barcelona and San Sebastian. This Congress aims to breathe new life into the topics of Greek philosophy from a contemporary perspective, using the tools provided by contemporary science.

The National Commission attended the second meeting of the European National Commissions Network in Krakow from 24 to 26 February, and made a presentation on UNESCO's Geoparks Program. The Spanish Costa Vasca Geopark hosted in March the 37th coordination committee of the European Geopark Network, which was the first time European Geoparks gathered to celebrate their official designation as UNESCO global Geoparks.

Spain participated with a young expert in communication at UNESCO's Conference on Euro-Arab Dialogue, which took place on 9 and 10 December in Paris. The young expert will contribute to the design of the Euro-Arab Young Leaders Program.

In San Sebastian, European Cultural Capital 2016, the Centre for UNESCO of the Basque Country organized the European Language Diversity Forum where the New UNESCO World Atlas of Languages was presented.



Ms Hidalgo in one of the schools in Paraguay

© Carmen Hidalgo

### A success story

The UNESCO Centre of Murcia organized a workshop from 29 November to 4 December on culture and education of the Indigenous people of Paraguay with the participation of the Director of Indigenous Education at the Paraguayan Ministry of Education, the Embassy of Paraguay and the Secretaries General of the National Commissions of Spain and Paraguay. Ms Hidalgo, a mathematics teacher and Vice President of the Centre, briefed on the latest achievements of the project, with the publication of more than 1.500 text books in 20 different ethnic languages and the prospect of elaborating a cooperation agreement between the local government of Murcia and the Paraguayan Ministry of Education for professional training in agriculture and stock farming.

For the past ten years and with the support of the regional government, The UNESCO Centre of Murcia has been committed to the education and literacy of the Paraguayan Indigenous people.

# SWEDEN

## Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Inger Davidson

**Secretary-General:** Mr Mats Djurberg

**Website:** [www.unesco.se](http://www.unesco.se)

### Update of activities in 2016

2016 was the third year of implementation of the Swedish Government's over-all strategy for cooperation with UNESCO, which is valid for Swedish actors in cooperation with UNESCO - inside or outside of the National Commission. The Strategy lays down priorities for Swedish cooperation with UNESCO e.g. freedom of expression, education for sustainable development, access to clean water, gender equality and reforms in UNESCO.

This year, the Commission has organized/co-organized public events and expert seminars to celebrate UNESCO Days, launch the publications Global Education Monitoring Report and Rethinking Education, seminars about the Memory of the World Programme and an International conference on the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, and participated in a national annual NGO conference for musicians and folk dancers on non-tangible cultural heritage.

The destruction of cultural heritage has been in focus during the year, with continued work in the expert and state agency working group on strengthening work against illicit trafficking in support of the UN Security Council resolution 2199.

The Director-General Ms Bokova visited Sweden during the Almedalen Week, which is a large annual gathering of politicians, NGOs and media with more than 600 seminars etc. The Week takes place on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea in the World Heritage city of Visby. The Deputy Director-General Mr Engida inaugurated the annual large International Book and Library fair in Gothenburg in September, the theme for this year being freedom of expression.

A series of Open editorials, underlining the international perspective and core value of the World Heritage Convention were published in cooperation with ten Swedish World Heritage sites and the Swedish National Heritage Board.

The Swedish legislation on freedom of expression celebrated its 250-year anniversary in 2016 with the Commission as an active partner.

A proposal for four Swedish UNESCO Chairs was elaborated and sent to UNESCO during 2016.

During the year, the Commission formulated plans on how it can be a partner in Swedish implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission elaborated a set of regulations for cooperation with private entities as a tool to enlarge the circle of its national partners and elaborated a reply to the proposal for renewal of the Memory of the World Program.



### A success story

In February the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO together with Mrs. Ulla Carlsson, UNESCO Chair in Freedom of Expression, Media Development and Global Policy and the Swedish Library Association, organized a national meeting on Media and Information Literacy (MIL). The meeting gathered central actors in the field, experts and high representatives from national authorities such as The Swedish Media Council, the Swedish National Agency for Education and the Swedish Educational Broadcasting Company. The Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy Ms Alice Bah Kuhnke and Ms Helene Öberg, State Secretary to the Minister for Education, participated. They announced that a working group between the Ministry of Culture and Democracy and the Ministry of Education and Research had been established to support future cooperation in this field.

This arrangement was a follow-up to a seminar in 2013 where agencies and experts expressed the need for increased coordination between all actors in this field, and where an informal network was established. The meeting in 2016 showed strong support for more and better cooperation on MIL and all agreed that MIL is an important and global prerequisite for democracy, and that a lot more needs to be done also nationally.

Mrs Nomgard winner of the Swedish UNESCO prize 2016

© Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

# SUISSE

## Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Jean-Bernard Münch

**Secrétaire général** : M. Nicolas Mathieu

**Site internet** : [www.unesco.ch](http://www.unesco.ch)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2016

La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO a entamé en 2016 une nouvelle législature de quatre ans. Recomposée, la Commission a élaboré des orientations stratégiques pour les programmes et les réseaux. Elle a alimenté sa réflexion autour de la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 en Suisse, et sur les défis les plus actuels, dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. Il s'agit d'assurer un rôle fédérateur, de mobilisation des différents acteurs, de passerelle entre la société civile et les autorités, d'interface entre les niveaux national et international, d'être porteuse d'idées et de propositions concrètes. La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO s'est donné un nombre limité de priorités touchant aux cinq secteurs de l'Organisation. En éducation, la Commission compte faire connaître et mettre en évidence l'ODD 4 à l'appui du Cadre d'Action Education 2030 (cf. encadré).

Elle a poursuivi son engagement pour une politique nationale d'éducation de la petite enfance, une priorité de longue date, et a préparé des activités pour mobiliser une réflexion autour du concept d'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, y inclus la prévention de l'extrémisme violent. Pour les sciences, l'accent est mis sur la contribution de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur pour les 17 ODD. La Commission participe aux travaux de mise en œuvre des conventions culturelles et est impliquée dans la coordination suisse pour la protection des biens culturels. S'agissant de la communication, les bases d'une action plus poussée pour la protection et promotion du patrimoine documentaire (Mémoire du Monde) ont été posées. Les réseaux et partenariats feront l'objet d'une revue.

La Commission a aussi choisi de mettre un accent sur le développement de sa propre communication. Une collaboration avec la Chaire UNESCO de l'Université de la Suisse italienne a été lancée.

La coopération internationale avec les autres Commissions nationales reste un axe de travail important. La Commission suisse a invité une dizaine de Commissions à un atelier sur l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale à Lugano et a poursuivi avec la Commission du Royaume-Uni la mise en œuvre du projet d'évaluation des valeurs de l'UNESCO au niveau national. Elle a également participé aux principaux événements des Commissions organisés au niveau global et européen.



Table ronde égalité des chances et inclusion

© Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO

## Une activité réussie

Avec l'objectif de faire connaître le Cadre d'Action Education 2030 en Suisse, la Commission a organisé un lancement national le 19 février 2016 lors d'une journée qui a réuni une centaine de participants. Organisée autour d'interventions, notamment de l'UNESCO, d'une table ronde et d'ateliers, cette journée a voulu interpeller la plus grande diversité d'acteurs, gouvernementaux et de la société civile, concernés par l'éducation à différents niveaux (politique, administratif, académique, professionnel). En effet, si la responsabilité principale pour la mise en œuvre du Cadre d'Action relève des gouvernements, et dans un état fédéral comme la Suisse des 26 autorités cantonales, des résultats ne pourront être atteints sans que tous les acteurs concernés travaillent ensemble et assument aussi leur part d'engagement. La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO est convaincue de la plus-value d'une plateforme d'échange pour le dialogue autour de la réalisation de l'ODD 4 de manière holistique. Au-delà de l'échange d'informations et d'expériences, il s'agit de présenter régulièrement l'état de la mise en œuvre de l'ODD 4 et de stimuler le débat autour des défis qui y sont liés, en Suisse comme ailleurs. La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO entend établir un rendez-vous national régulier autour du Cadre d'Action Education 2030.



# THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

## National Commission for UNESCO of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**President:** Ms Elizabeta Kancheska Milevska,  
Minister of Culture

**Secretary-General:** Ms Lidija Topuzovska

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the National Commission continued with the realization of activities focusing on world heritage, cultural diversity and synergy in the implementation of the UNESCO Conventions in order to include culture into sustainable development strategies and policies.

The Archaeo-astronomical site Kokino was on the Tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage. Because of its uniqueness and aesthetic, the National Commission realized several projects concerning the affirmation of Kokino (installing the guideposts, fencing vulnerable spots, creating a web-site, making an

application – guidance for Kokino, organizing the International Scientific Symposium dedicated to astronomical and archaeological aspects of Kokino, organizing an exhibition and promotional happenings, aimed at taking care of the youngsters on national level, and raising awareness of the value of Kokino as cultural heritage).

In the field of intangible cultural heritage, the Commission realized frequent cooperation with appropriate Commissions to create Multinational applications for ICH Representative List ("Spring Celebration: Hidrellez" jointly with Turkey and "Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March" in collaboration with Romania, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova).

The National Commission in cooperation with the national Committee of ICH and UNESCO Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sofia organized a National workshop for the implementation of the ICH UNESCO Convention from 13 to 15 April. Moderators were experts from Bulgaria and Croatia.

During the whole year, several scientific and cultural activities were organized, devoted to the 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Clement of Ohrid (830–916), which was included within the UNESCO celebrations for 2016-2017.

As in previous years, the Commission in cooperation with national institutions, UNESCO Clubs and ASP schools, celebrated several world days: World Book and Copyright Day, World Day for Cultural Diversity, World Day of Philosophy and World Press Freedom Day, etc.



The Fourth World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations  
"Migration and the challenge of Integration through dialogue between religions and cultures"

© National Commission for UNESCO of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### A success story

The National Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Commission for Relations with Religious Communities and Groups organized the Fourth World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations "Migration and the challenge of Integration through dialogue between religions and cultures" held from 3 to 5 November 2016 in Bitola, Creative City of UNESCO. The Fourth Conference was implemented within the UN Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. With its programme, the Conference stressed the following topics: "The family - a fundamental source and place for human dignity and growth in the faith" and "Use and misuse of modern means of electronic communication and social networks".

A Forum of the UNESCO Chairs in SEE Europe was organized on "The views of the UNESCO Chairs from SEE to migration, refugee crises and terrorism as challenges for intercultural and interreligious dialogue". The Chair of the Forum was the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Studies and Research, within the Faculty of Philosophy.

The conference was attended by 60 foreign participants from 40 countries and 100 national participants, religious leaders, intellectuals and politicians who deal with the inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.

# TURKEY

## Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Öcal Oğuz

**Secretary-General:** Ms Sema Dinçer

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.tr](http://www.unesco.org.tr)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Turkish National Commission hosted the Sixth Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of TURKSOY Member States. Approximately 100 representatives discussed future collaborations. The meeting also hosted the Third Seminar on Education, the Fourth Seminar on Memory of the World, the Ninth Seminar on ICH, and Fourth Seminar on Natural and Cultural Heritage.

In the education sector, the annual meeting of UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs was attended by the Minister of National Education. This year, three new Chairs joined the network.

The Commission cooperated with the Eskişehir Municipality for its inclusion in the Global Network of Learning Cities.

World Science Day for Peace and Development “Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums” was celebrated at the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration, which hosts the Natural History Museum.

In social sciences, the work focused on science - policy interface. The consultative meeting on Biobanks and Bioethics co-organized with the Ministry of Health, resulted in the adoption

by the Ministry, of a Guideline on this subject. A compilation of selected national and international standard-setting instruments and reports on Bioethics was prepared and published online for academic reference and public awareness.

The Commission took active part in the Working Group for the Revision of the MOST Statutes and Rules of Procedures and published a Report on demographic transformations. Through its experts, the Commission prepared its reply to the questionnaire for the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers.

In the culture sector, the Commission participated in the Task Force for the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee, and together with Istanbul Site Management Directorate, organized the Youth Forum 2016 “At the Crossroads of Multi-Layered Heritage”. This year, it supported the drafting of two nominations for the Representative List and one for the World Heritage List, which were inscribed. The experts of the Commission organized conferences for the 8000 newly appointed teachers from different fields and backgrounds, on UNESCO’s mission and contributions in the fields of cultural heritage and education.

A Panel with the theme “Radio in Emergencies and Disasters” was co-organized with universities, NGOs, and governmental institutions for the World Radio Day.

Among others, the following were translated into Turkish and published online for wider access: 38 C Commission Reports/Decisions, the World Social Sciences Report (Summary), the Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, Cultural Heritage Protection Handbooks (co-publication).

The Commission authorized the use of the Organization’s logo for 47 events.



The 2016 Meeting of the Committees, Executive Board and General Assembly, discussed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

© Turkey National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The efforts put on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were among the highlights of this year’s work. In addition to the translations and awareness raising activities, the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Agenda, and the contribution of the Turkish National Commission from the point of view of UNESCO’s mission and vision, have been discussed with experts in meetings throughout the year.

The 2016, Meeting of the Committees, Executive Board and General Assembly, discussed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its final report mapped current efforts and future aspects.

This initiative was furthered with the establishment of the Sustainable Development Committee. The main partners will include, among others, the decision makers from the Ministry in charge of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and UNSDSN Turkey Coordinator. The Turkish National Commission contributes to UNSDSN Turkey and the established collaborations sustains the work and continues to be the focus within the coming period.

# UKRAINE

## National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Sergiy Kyslytsya

**Executive Secretary:** Ms Oksana Kyzyma

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/](http://www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/)

## Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the National Commission of Ukraine continued its work to promote UNESCO's ideas and objectives in Ukraine.

The notable event in the field of education was the ASPnet conference "Ukrainian and European initiatives in the field of education: the paradigm of values", supported by the Commission. The conference aimed at highlighting the generally recognized values shared both in Ukraine and in the European Union, and brought together more than two hundred children of the schools-members of the ASPnet.

October saw the establishment of a new UNESCO Chair in Ukraine called "Lifelong Professional Education in the XXI Century" at the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine. The new UNESCO Chair in Ukraine is going to promote an integrated system of research, training, information

and documentation on pedagogy and adult lifelong learning and training.

The Ukrainian city Melitopol joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), which is going to contribute to further understanding of the concept of learning cities among policy makers and local governments in Ukraine and will benefit the enhancement of international dialogue. The first Ukrainian city member of the GNLC will pave the way for the development of other learning cities in the country and in the region.

Ukrainian Herman Makarenko joined the UNESCO Artists for Peace family. The official ceremony of designation took place at UNESCO Headquarters on 29 November 2016. This title was bestowed upon Mr Makarenko in recognition of his commitment to promote music as a vehicle for dialogue and mutual understanding among people, his contribution to peace and tolerance and his profound commitment to the ideals and aims of the Organization. The designation ceremony was followed by a live performance with the "Kyiv Classic" Orchestra entitled "Concert of Peace", which was conducted by Maestro Herman Makarenko.

Since February Ukraine has been representing regional group II (Eastern Europe, the Baltics, Central Europe and the Balkans) at UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). Deputy Head of the National Commission Mykola Movchan was elected as Vice Chairperson of CIGEPS at its session in Monaco.



## A success story

In November, the Cossack's songs of Dnipropetrovsk Region were inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. These songs tell stories about the tragedy of war and relations between soldiers. The unique performing tradition uses different kind of voices: the two main performers start the singing, then the second group joins them singing in an upper voice, followed by the rest of the group with middle and lower voices. Such performing tradition needs protection as many of the singers, both men and women, are in their 70s and 80s. The inscription of the Cossack's songs into the UNESCO list caused a huge surge of interest, which contributes greatly to preserving the unique performing tradition for the future generations.

Cossack's songs of Dnipropetrovsk Region inscribed in 2016 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

© Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council



# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

## UK National Commission for UNESCO

**Chair:** Ms Beth Taylor

**Secretary-General:** Mr James Bridge

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.uk](http://www.unesco.org.uk)

## Update of activities in 2016

In February 2016, the UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) published the results of the *Wider Value of UNESCO to the UK 2014-15*, a country-wide study of UNESCO-affiliated organizations to assess the value that UNESCO brings to their work. In addition to highlighting the existing financial and cultural benefits for organizations and communities that have earned UNESCO designation status, the research revealed that there is a significant untapped potential for UNESCO in the United Kingdom. In light of this finding, the UKNC hosted a series of workshops with the UK's UNESCO designations throughout 2016 to explore how this potential could be developed.

The workshops came in a variety of formats to suit the needs of the UK's different UNESCO designations. In April the UK's Creative Cities convened at the UKNC office in London to discuss opportunities for collaboration, sharing best practice in communications and marketing. The UKNC hosted the 4th UK UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Network Colloquium at Coventry University, bringing together the UNESCO-designated faculty from around the UK. UKNC staff also presented the Wider Value findings at the UK UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee Meeting at Marble Arch Caves; the World Heritage UK Conference; an International Hydrology Programme meeting at the UK's Natural Environment Research Council Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; the UK Man and the Biosphere Committee Meeting on the Isle of Man; and at a UK Biospheres' workshop in Dumfries, Scotland, organised by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. Finally, the UKNC organized its first workshop for all of Scotland's UNESCO designations, held at the Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives. We look forward to hosting more workshops in other parts of the UK in 2017.

The workshops are an opportunity for the UK's UNESCO designations to come together, to share their challenges and successes with peers, and to outline what support they expect to receive from UKNC as the hub for UNESCO-related matters in the UK. From this, the UKNC has developed an action plan for delivering support to current and prospective UNESCO designations to help them develop their role as active members of the UK UNESCO community, and to derive more value from their UNESCO involvement. We will begin rolling out this plan in early 2017.

The objective of these workshops is also to build on the UK UNESCO designations' use of the Wider Value of UNESCO to the UK Project as a consistent approach to results reporting and information sharing within the UK's UNESCO community.



## A success story

The UKNC is publishing a series of brochures on the presence and value of UNESCO throughout the UK. Our brochures are produced in one of two formats: (1) designation specific and (2) UK country / region. In collaboration with UK designation coordinators, we produced *Global Geoparks in the UK* in mid-2016 and are in the final stages of designing *Biosphere Reserves in the UK*, due to be printed in early 2017. Our brochure *UNESCO in Scotland* was written and published in conjunction with our inaugural Wider Value Workshop in Aberdeen, Scotland, in November 2016.

The publications are available for download in the new Publications section of our website ([www.unesco.org.uk/publications](http://www.unesco.org.uk/publications)) to provide consistent UK-wide messaging on what makes the UK's UNESCO sites special. The brochures showcase best practice examples of how each designation furthers the value of UNESCO at home and abroad.

Cover of the newest UKNC brochure: *UNESCO in Scotland*.  
© United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## U.S. National Commission for UNESCO

**Executive Director:** Mr Paul T. Mungai

**Website:** [www.state.gov/p/io/unesco/](http://www.state.gov/p/io/unesco/)

### Update of activities in 2016

Having a diverse membership of 100 individuals from across the United States with 75 representing civil society, the U.S. National Commission provides a strong network to educate on the important programs of UNESCO. The Commission is partially comprised of individuals representing 60 NGO's which align with the sectors of UNESCO. Their vast expertise serves as a valuable resource. The Commission also serves in an advisory role to the Secretary of State as it relates to UNESCO. Because the Commission operates as a U.S. government board, the membership as an entity is limited in some activities. The U.S. National Commission values U.S. membership in UNESCO and supports participation by individuals across the country.

The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO is committed to engaging and strengthening the community of Americans engaged in UNESCO programs. Commission staff uses effective communication tools such as a newsletter and social media to update Americans on the work and programs of UNESCO.

The Commission conducts in person meetings and conference calls, along with working groups and subcommittees. This year our World Heritage Working Group provided an expert study and recommendation as a part of the revision of the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List.

We were pleased to have the New York UNESCO office present at the Annual Meeting of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting also included presentations by Detroit Creative City of Design, AAAS who serve as the U.S. partner for the L'Oreal Women in Science Fellowship and The George Washington University. As a UNESCO Chair, George Washington University is supporting the UNESCO Fellowship – providing their students the opportunity to work with UNESCO Field Offices, former participants and Co-Chair Laura Engel detailed their work alongside and in support of UNESCO.

Commission staff will continue to strengthen lines of communication with the current networks such as the MAB Reserves, Category II Centers, University Chairs, ASPnet, International Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Creative Cities.



### A success story

The United States was proud to be the host of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Day, highlighted with a concert featuring 40 world-renowned musicians at the White House hosted by President and First Lady Michelle Obama. With over 50 free jazz performances, along with educational and community service programs, it was not only a global event but also a community one. Co-Chaired by Director-General Bokova and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock, it was coordinated by Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, a member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. Other partners hosted discussions and symposiums, such as the Smithsonian panel discussion of Jazz, Civil Rights and Cultural Diplomacy. Jazz Day 2016 offered a glimpse into the rich history and current musical talent of Washington D.C.

TMJ/UNESCO International Jazz Day 2016, White House Concert, April 29.

© Steve Munding



Oruro, Bolivia - February 25, 2017:  
Tinkus dancer in colourful costume  
performing at the annual Oruro  
Carnival. The event is designated by  
UNESCO as being Intangible Cultural  
Heritage of Humanity.

© Shutterstock/JeremyRichards



# Latin America and the Caribbean



# ARUBA

## Aruba National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Luc Alofs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Zetsia Ponson

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2015, the National Commission moved to a new, but historical building in the centre of Aruba's capital Oranjestad. In 2016, the National Commission has welcomed Ms Zetsia Ponson, first as interim and later on as the permanent Secretary-General. The National Commission, after a period of relative inactivity, has resumed its responsibilities as focal point of UNESCO activities in Aruba. The National Commission has strengthened its ties with local and Dutch Caribbean partners and also the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Culture in Havana, Cuba, and the UNESCO's Office in Kingston, Jamaica. The National Commission is proud of its cooperation with the two acting ministers of Culture during the year 2016 and hopes to contribute to realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Aruba, especially in the fields of education (SDG #4), communication and culture.

The National Commission submitted a number of projects to the UNESCO Participation Programme of which four were awarded: *Sexual Education Training for Teachers*; *Teen Dating Violence Program in Aruba*; *Assessing Media Development in Aruba: Pressure Cooker Marathon*; and *Capacity Building for 21st Century and Digital Literacy Skills*.

In culture, a two day field training and exercise on inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) took place with the participation of local stakeholders in the field of ICH (March). In May, the National Commission participated in another capacity building workshop on ICH nominations in Curaçao. Both activities were part of the Project *Strengthening the Capacities of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius, St. Maarten and Surinam to Implement the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*. This program was facilitated by the UNESCO Office in Kingston.

The Secretary-General, Ms Zetsia Ponson, attended two workshops, both organised by the UNESCO Office in Havana: the National Workshop on World Heritage (September) and, the Regional workshop on Capacity Building for the formulation of nominations for the registration of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme (November).

In the field of education, the National Commission member for education established links and exchanged experiences with the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO in connection to the establishment of UNESCO schools in Aruba.



### A success story

In September and December, representatives to UNESCO of the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten (all three UNESCO associate members); representatives of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius (special municipalities of the Netherlands); and as an observer Surinam, visited Aruba. During the two meetings, future cooperation in the implementation of UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Heritage was discussed. The project coordinator Culture of the UNESCO Office in Kingston participated as an advisor. During these meetings the following topics were discussed: the recommendation of a Dutch Caribbean member of the Advisory Committee for international ICH nominations to the minister of Culture of the Netherlands; the creation of a Dutch Caribbean Intangible Heritage Committee for exchange of expertise concerning the ICH Convention, and; modes of mutual cooperation in the fields of inventorying/nomination, education and research related to the ICH convention.

The outcome of these deliberations is a model for structural cooperation within the Dutch Caribbean on Intangible Cultural Heritage. The ministers and deputies of culture of the islands will be informed of these propositions and the recommendations. The meetings were funded by the ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, in cooperation with the *Fondo Desaroyo Aruba*.

Dutch Caribbean Intangible Heritage Committee  
© Aruba National Commission for UNESCO

# BELIZE

## Belize National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Patrick Faber, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology

**Secretary General:** Mr Rudolph Anthony Jr.

### Update of activities in 2016

The year 2016 was another productive and successful year for the Belize National Commission for UNESCO. Belize achieved many goals and objectives, with support of many social partners, NGOs and UNESCO's personnel.

Four of the seven projects submitted to the UNESCO Participation Programme were approved. This award totalled a sum of US\$ 74,000. Throughout the year, Belizean experts participated in many workshops and conferences around the world, with the support of UNESCO. These meetings took place in Lima, Peru; Galapagos Island, Ecuador; La Antigua, Guatemala; Hamburg, Germany; Montego Bay, Jamaica; Oman; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Beijing, China.

These conferences covered the fields of Education, Culture, Information and Communication and the Sciences.

Belize also participated in a one-week workshop in Costa Rica held at the University of Peace (November). This programme, called the TEACHHER / STEAM programme, whose purpose is to get female students between the ages of 13-16 years more interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design and Mathematics. With the support of the US Embassy in Belize and in Belize, eight High School Teachers from across the country attended this high-level workshop. Moreover, Belize sent two experts to Israel for the MASHAV-UNESCO co-sponsored Fellowships (March to April) and one student was accepted by the Central China Normal University to study Social Work.

Belize also celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Heritage Site- Our Barrier Reef Systems (December). In this regard, Belize invited two world heritage experts from Jamaica to attend the celebrations. The Secretary-General of the National Commission of Jamaica attended the meeting as well as the Culture expert of the UNESCO Office in Kingston.

The Secretary-General also attended the 4th World Congress on Biosphere Reserve held in Lima, Peru (March) and the 3rd Inter-regional meeting of National Commissions held in Shanghai, China (June), in which Belize also was elected to be one of the Vice-Chairs of the meeting.



### A success story

In October, the National Commission conducted a workshop for High School Science Teachers from across the entire country of Belize. It was a two day workshop, demonstrating how to use Micro-Science Kits to effectively teach students Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The emphasis was to identify that it is possible to obtain the same laboratory results with these kits as oppose to traditional labs, and at the same time using less chemicals. It was also emphasized that using these kits effectively will make more students develop an interest in the Sciences and improving the number of female students to study the Sciences. Our funding for this came from one of our Participation Programme Projects which we used to also purchase many more additional micro- Science kits. As result, Belize has increased from 7 to 25 the number of High Schools with Micro- Science Kits. A Science Expert from Guyana was also invited to assist in the presentations, as well as the Secretary General from St. Maarten to observe Belize actions moving forward since this country has an interest in implementing the micro- science kits in their High Schools.

The Chief Education Officer, Deputy Chief Education Officer, a representative from UNDP, a representative from SAGICOR Insurance and many other distinguished guests were at the opening ceremony.

Micro-Science Workshop- Ministry of Education Personnel, Guyana Representative, Sec. Gen. from St. Maarten, Steering Committee members, Belize Sec. Gen. & High School Teachers © Dr Rudolph Anthony, Secretary General of Belize National Commission.

# BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

## British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Myron V. Walywn, Minister of Education and Culture and Territorial at Large Representative

**Secretary-General:** Ms Allison Flax-Archer

### Update of activities in 2016

The British Virgin Islands' National Commission for UNESCO supports the mission statement as laid out by the Ministry of Education and Culture but also that of UNESCO Headquarters which is to serve the Virgin Islands community by promoting international co-operation among the organization locally and throughout the World and; by fostering partnerships through the UNESCO platform of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. During 2016 the National Commission has continued to carry the mantle by:

- a. educating the public and schools on the importance of Education for All in the UNESCO competencies through the celebration of UNESCO Days in different formats which were supported through the Ministry of Education and partnerships within other Government Agencies and the Public,
- b. the further development of professionals within the Virgin Islands Public Service through workshops and meetings locally and abroad funded by UNESCO and;
- c. encouraging cultural promotion and preservation with the hope of paving the way for a Cultural Heritage site(s) in the Virgin Islands.

Some of the projects that the National Commission has continued to work on are:

- a. HIV/AIDS Education in the British Virgin Island-Promoting Health through Education. This project focused on developing the philosophy and concept of promoting health through education. The programme also promoted good quality education in the area of HIV and AIDS which lead to healthy lifestyles and gender equality, sharing the knowledge and understanding of issues affecting young persons, in particular the impact of HIV and AIDS and; ensuring that there was a cadre of young people trained to share information and experiences with other young people.
- b. The Hanging of Arthur Hodge-A Historical Site. This project focused on the crimes, trial and execution of Arthur Hodge, a prominent Virgin Islands planter and politician whose unprecedented hanging for the murder of Prosper, one of his own slaves. This hanging was to rouse the British anti-slavery movement from the contentment it was enjoying following the abolition of the slave trade and help direct its efforts toward the ultimate emancipation of the slaves throughout the British Empire.
- c. A proposal for the Memory of the World recognition. The St. Philip's Church of Kingstown is being nominated by the National Commission on behalf of the St. Georges Episcopal Church and the St. Philip's Anglican Church and its adjoining cemetery is the only visible testament to the arrival of the last group of Africans transported to the Virgin Islands via the Transatlantic slave trade. Completed in circa 1840, the church is perhaps the last erected of the original Coleridge Chapels constructed in the West Indies during the episcopacy (1824-1842) of William Hart Coleridge, the first Bishop of the diocese of Barbados and the Leeward Islands. Though it has existed for nearly two centuries as a roofless ruin, the basic design of St. Philip's Church remains unchanged compared to other surviving Coleridge Chapels that have been rebuilt, restored, and extended with replaced or added features.



2016 World Science Day for Peace and Development celebration

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### A success story

The National Commission also officially highlights international days recognized by UNESCO and, in this regard, several organizations were invited to celebrate World Science Day for Peace and Development. A Competition and Festival among Pre-School to the Secondary levels of Education in the British Virgin Islands was successfully organized. The annual observance brought awareness to the advancement of technology and science where over 75 scientific models were presented. Ahead of the ceremony, over 100 students from primary and secondary schools marched through Road Town chanting phrases about the importance of science. They also carried signs with messages including, "Imagine with Science," and "Explore 'what if' with Science," and others. The Minister for Education and Culture and Chairman of the National Commission, the Hon. Myron Walwyn, also addressed the students and community of the importance of science, and what the Ministry of Education is doing to support science in the community. The community was involved, and the event was extremely successful. The event was covered by the media, and has been televised several times since the event.



# COLOMBIA

## Colombian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Website:** [www.cancilleria.gov.co/unesco](http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/unesco)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Colombian National Commission, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, achieved important results through the election of the country to several committees and subsidiary organs of UNESCO's technical programmes; International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB); Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS); Bureau of the Assembly of the Convention against Doping in Sport; Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC); Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); and the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

It is worthy to remark that Medellín was selected as one of the four cities where the GEM Report 2016 was launched. This was an excellent opportunity to show how Medellín was transformed from one of the most dangerous places around the world twenty years ago to be recognized as one of the most innovative and well educated cities due to the emphasis given to education.

Also, Colombia is part of a capacity-building project aimed at the successful submission of the first periodic country report within the framework of the 2005 Convention. The project "*Promoting democracy and freedom of expression*" is supported by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and strengthens human and institutional capacities of governmental and civil society actors in Colombia, and provides technical assistance. Colombia will submit its Quadrennial Periodic Report in April 2017.

Furthermore, the National Commission was awarded funds for the development of four projects of social investment, financed by the 2016-2017 call for UNESCO's Participation Programme: "*Community Capacity-development Through Sports Leaders*", "*Second Training cycle of the School of Communication of the Wayuu People*", "*Jóvenes Paz-Cienciando: A Strategy for the Promotion of Science and Technology at the Service of Peace*" and "*Re-build Social Tissue Through Sports: A Pedagogic Tool*".

Additionally, the Bogota Chamber of Commerce was chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity with the project *Mapping and training the Cultural Industries in Bogota*. The national call included a very rigorous pre-selection process, performed by the Colombian National Commission.

Finally, the National Commission extensively promoted the calls for fellowships, prizes and funds sponsored by UNESCO. During 2016, all Colombian candidatures for UNESCO scholarships were awarded.



Afranio Restrepo, Deputy Director of Coldeportes, Luis Armando Soto Boutin, Secretary General of the Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with Unesco, Philipp Müller-Wirth, Executive Officer, Sport and Youth Section, UNESCO, Clemencia Anaya Maya, Assessor for cooperation with international organizations, Coldeportes and María Fernanda Forero Ramírez, Coordinator of the Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

© Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

### A success story

With the support of UNESCO's Sport and Youth Section, Colombia started the creation of a Sports Inter-institutional Bureau, an initiative led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Coldeportes (National Department for Sports and Physical Education). Members of the Bureau include other ministries and institutions that are convinced of the importance of physical activity, physical education and sport in different areas of human development and are committed to contribute from their areas of expertise to create public policies and programs to use sport as a tool to rebuild the social tissue and promote healthy life styles.

This Bureau is planned to start its functions on 2017 with the permanent monitoring of UNESCO, in order to optimize its efforts and make its achievements more visible and effective.

# COSTA RICA

## Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Rocio Solís Gamboa

**Secretary-General a.i.:** Mr José Rafael Alvarado Cortés

**Website:** [www.comisionunesco.cr](http://www.comisionunesco.cr)

### Update of activities in 2016

On 2 December 2016, the Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO and its Committee of Memory of the World, delivered certificates of the National Memory of the World Register to:

- i. The Nacional archive for the *Abolición del Ejército en Costa Rica*; and *Fondo Documental de la Corte Centroamericana de Justicia*.
- ii. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the *Colección de documentos de la Jurisprudencia de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*.
- iii. Curia Metropolitana for the *Libro de defunciones de la Campaña Nacional 1856-1857*

The Director of UNESCO's Office in San José, Ms Pilar Alvarez-Laso, handed over to the Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica the certificate of registration in the Regional Program (MOW-LAC) of the postulate of the documents on La Abolición del Ejército en Costa Rica (1949), during the 17th annual meeting of the

Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO (MOW-LAC).

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Costa Rica was established in 1981 thanks to the joint efforts of Ms María Eugenia Dengo Obregón, former Minister of Education, and Ms Viviene Rivera de Solís (mother of the President of the Republic), former Permanent of the National Commission, to improve the education system in Costa Rica.

In this sense, in June, the Costa Rica ASPnet celebrated its 35th anniversary and counted with the presence of Ms Sabine Detzel, International Coordinator of UNESCO ASPnet, in the opening act of this celebration. Ms Sonia Marta Mora, Minister of Public Education; Ms Pilar Álvarez, Director of the UNESCO Office in San José; Ms Ana Teresa León, Executive President of the *Patronato Nacional de la Infancia* (PANI); and Mr Rigoberto Alfaro, UNICEF Representative; were also present. The International Coordinator of UNESCO ASPnet also met with the members of the Technical Committee and visited several educational centers attached to the network, where projects of Virtues and the TiNi are carried out.

The National Commission welcomed the designation of the city of San José as a learning city by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. San José is the first city of Costa Rica and of Central America, and fourth at level of Latin America, in forming part of the UNESCO Learning Cities Network. The National Commission hopes that more cities of Costa Rica are incorporated in a short time in this global network.



### A success story

During her visit to Costa Rica, Ms Sabine Detzel, International Coordinator of UNESCO ASPnet, also made a short visit to 50 young people, from the south area of the country, involved in the project "*Yo soy cambio UNESCO*" ("I am change UNESCO"), which is performed through a public-private partnership between the Costa Rica National Commission and the Monge Foundation. These young boys and girls were in a camp, dedicated to their personal growth in Life Skills, Cohesion Group and Sense of Belonging. They are students from surrounding schools of the zone UNESCO World Heritage Site: Pre-Columbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís.

Visit of the International Coordinator of UNESCO ASPnet to Costa Rica (June)

© Monge Foundation

# CUBA

## Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Óscar León González

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO focused its efforts on the follow-up of political and governance processes of the Organization. During the year, relations with the UNESCO sectors and divisions were reinforced by many actions implemented with the cooperation of different national entities.

In Education, one of the most important processes of the year was the presentation of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. The Cuban National Commission considers GEM as a positive instrument that can provide governments and policy makers with a valuable perspective for monitoring progress towards SDG 4.

Other remarkable moments were: the participation of Cuba in the negotiating process of the "Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications"; the "International Symposium on Education Policies: School Leadership, Monitoring and Evaluation and Governance, in the implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for Action"; as well as the re-entry of Cuba into the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE), at its Fourth Study.

In the area of Sciences, there were important events in which Cuba took part, among them: the negotiating process of the Declaration on Ethical Principles and Climate Change; the 22nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International

Hydrological Programme (IHP); the meeting of Regional Experts of the International Hydrological Programme; and the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves. Likewise, Havana welcomed two events: for the first time in Cuba the School on the Program of Management of Social Transformations (MOST) in July; and a Workshop about Erosion and Sedimentation, in November.

In terms of Culture, it was remarkable the participation of the delegation of Cuba both as a full member in the meeting of the World Heritage Committee and at the 6th Session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), in which Cuba also was elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention. More recently in November, the Cuban Rumba was selected to be included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Moreover, the document "Tarifa General de Precios de Medicina" was successfully inscribed on in the UNESCO's Memory of the World National Register. Another relevant moment was the coordination and participation in a Regional Workshop for strengthening capacities for the Formulation of Applications for the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, which took place in November.

The National Commission was honored with the visit of Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the 38th UNESCO General Conference, as well as of several members of the UNESCO Secretariat: Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences; Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education; and Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information.

The National Commission also took part and had an active role in the Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, in Shanghai, China.



### A success story

The International/UNESCO José Martí Prize was awarded to Mexican professor Alfonso Herrera Franyutti, in the framework of the II International Conference "Con todos y para el bien de todos" (January), who received the award from the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO. The purpose of this Prize is to promote and reward an activity of outstanding merit in accordance with the ideals and spirit of José Martí.

Dr. Franyutti is one of the most important specialists of José Martí's life and work, in Latin America and the Caribbean. He has developed a wide international activity, aimed at disseminating and promoting outside of Cuba the study of the life, work and thought of José Martí.

Alfonso Herrera Franyutti © UNESCO



# CURAÇAO

## Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Maurina Esprit-Maduro

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marva C. Browne

**Website:** [www.natcomcuracao.org](http://www.natcomcuracao.org)

### Update of activities in 2016

Year 2016 marked a very special moment for the island of Curaçao, as the fifth anniversary of associate Membership to UNESCO was celebrated throughout the year and a booklet of all activities from 2011 to 2016 was published. Good things kept happening throughout the year, as Curaçao published the results of an investigation on the media landscape.

Furthermore, this was also a very challenging year for the National Commission, a year in which the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was co-ratified. The project 'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean Islands for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)' continued to being implemented in the Dutch Caribbean islands. Within the framework of this project, national consultations, joint trainings on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention and Community-based inventorying of ICH, as well

as field inventorying exercises have been implemented. World Press Freedom Day was widely celebrated with members of the media as was International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Light up Orange), Remembrance and Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Cooperation and collaborations between the Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Welfare, National Library of Curaçao, UNDP, CAFRA - Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, Foundation for Victim Assistance Curaçao were further strengthened. The National Commission organized information sessions going into neighbourhoods to create awareness on violence against women, the elderly and children by making them aware of their rights and how to identify certain types of abuse whether it be physical or verbal abuse. Focus was also put on the persons and entities that work with the perpetrators so as to give them the necessary tools to identify abuse and how to deal with this as best as possible.

The Participation Programme approved projects aimed at working on the self-esteem of young girls motivating them to be the best they can be by impacting the life of others for sustainable growth. A project on producing educational materials for primary and secondary schools on the island in order to safeguard Curaçao's intangible and tangible cultural heritage and also to supporting Curaçao's Science, technology and innovation (STI) policy and a sports conference for professionals to gain more knowledge on among other the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport.



Launch publication: Assessment of Media Development in Curaçao.

© Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO, Picture taken by Crystal Boomgaard.

### A success story

Curaçao was chosen as the first country in the Caribbean to utilize UNESCO's Media Development Indicators (MDIs) to assess its media landscape.

This investigation was made possible through the funding of UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and with the support of the UNESCO Office in Kingston for giving Curaçao the opportunity to serve as pilot and to show that no matter how small Curaçao is, the capacity is there to do an investigation of this size. The final English editing report was funded by Bureau Telecommunication and Post. This publication of the Assessment of Media Development in Curaçao will serve as a good example for the rest of the Caribbean.

It was not an easy task to fulfil, but succeeded in having a final product on the view of Society and other Stakeholders on our media landscape, that is very much needed. The consultations included in-depth interviews throughout Curaçao, focus groups with media workers and members of the public, and three opinion polls targeting media workers, managers and a representative sample of 708 inhabitants of Curaçao. The official launch of the publication was done in the presence of the Director of the UNESCO Office in Kingston.

# ECUADOR

## Ecuadorian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Andrés Arauz, Minister of Knowledge and Human Talent

**Secretary-General:** Ms María Isabel Flores Ruiz

### Update of activities in 2016

The Ecuadorian National Commission for UNESCO has carried out several activities in the framework of education, science and culture during 2016.

After the earthquake that affected the coast of Ecuador on 16 April 2016, the National Commission supported the education system with the development and printing of a guide for teachers called "Curriculum Intervention of initial, basic and high school level education in emergency situations and disasters".

The National Commission has signed two cooperation agreements with universities and institutions of higher education in order to democratize knowledge and promote the diffusion of science and culture.

The objective of one of these instruments is to develop a study of the explanatory factors that deepen the knowledge gaps at national and regional level. This study, part of the project "Social use of knowledge and patents: reducing knowledge gaps and conservation of biodiversity", will begin with a statistical analysis of different databases to determine the origins of knowledge gaps in the areas: digital, cognitive, educational, cultural, scientific and legal.

Additionally, the National Commission has organized two international events, such as: "International Seminar Internet, Social Networks, and Community Radios" and other one about "Education and Professional Technical Training as a tool to achieve sustainable development.

The National Commission presented the project about "Forest of Peace Transboundary Biosphere Reserve" between Ecuador and Peru through the Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the Man and the Biosphere Program of UNESCO (November).

Finally, the National Commission carried out an internal reorganization that seeks to maintain an active role with all members of the National Commission through workshops, diffusion of information, news and relevant information.

On 16 December 2016, the National Commission approved the Annual Work Plan for 2017, as well as a resolution stating that the National Commission will support the Ecuadorian initiatives that seek to be considered "Geo-parks" of UNESCO.



General Assembly, ordinary session of Ecuadorian National Commission of UNESCO. December 2016  
© social communication department- Ministry of Knowledge and Human Talent

### A success story

Due to the earthquake that affected the coastal region of Ecuador, that left more than 600 people dead and incalculable damage on 16<sup>th</sup> April, the National Commission and the Ministry of Education worked together to print a guide for teachers called "Curriculum Intervention of Initial, Basic and High School Level Education in Emergency Situations and Disasters." In June, the National Commission and the Ministry of Education signed a cooperation agreement to provide care to the population affected by the disaster and to cooperate with the printing of the teacher's guide.

The guide was made possible through the funding of international donors and the UNESCO Office in Quito. This material was distributed to around 65,000 teachers working in the affected provinces.

# EL SALVADOR

## Commission nationale salvadorienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO

**Président :** M. Carlos Mauricio Canjura Linares, Ministre de l'Éducation

**Secrétaire général :** M. Francisco Humberto Castaneda

### Compte rendu des activités en 2016

En 2016, la Commission nationale salvadorienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO a renforcé sa relation avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à San José, par une participation accrue aux activités importantes axées sur la promotion des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD).

Dans le cadre du Programme de participation (2014-2015), plusieurs projets ont été exécutés avec succès grâce au soutien de l'UNESCO, parmi lesquels on pourrait citer : (i) les projets liés à l'importance de la conservation du patrimoine culturel et naturel, au profit de la population de la commune de *Nueva Esperanza*, située dans le Département d'*Usulután*, qui a été formée et sensibilisée à la gestion correcte des ressources naturelles, à la conservation des matériaux archéologiques et au montage d'installations de musée; (ii) l'Université

d'El Salvador a achevé la création d'un réseau d'universités pour l'éducation à l'environnement, au développement durable et au changement climatique, au profit de la communauté universitaire; (iii) le Ministère de l'éducation a lancé la conception d'un diplôme en ligne d'initiation à la formation technique et professionnelle destiné aux enseignants des établissements primaires et de dernière année du lycée.

Une autre activité de la Commission nationale à souligner a été la participation, en tant que panéliste, de Mme Erlinda Hándal Vega, Vice-ministre de la Science et de la Technologie, au Premier Forum Ouvert des Sciences de l'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes (CILAC), organisé par le Bureau régional pour la science en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes à Montevideo, Uruguay (6 – 9 septembre). Ce forum, intitulé "Transformer notre région: Sciences, technologie et innovation au service du développement durable en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes", a été organisé dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2030 du développement durable. Par ailleurs, Mme Hándal a participé aux tables rondes ministérielles afin de partager avec ses homologues les expériences acquises dans ces domaines.

Cette rencontre a été l'occasion pour des spécialistes de la région et du monde d'aborder des sujets comme les Sciences et l'Agenda 2030 ; les Universités pour le développement ; et la Recherche de pointe en Amérique latine grâce à la coopération internationale et aux politiques de développement des sciences et de la citoyenneté.



En mars 2016 a été créée la première École MOST à El Salvador, intitulée « *La recherche et les politiques publiques pour l'égalité des genres* », avec la participation d'éminentes personnalités dans ce domaine et la présence de Mme Erlinda Hándal Vega, Vice-ministre de la Science et de la Technologie, et de M. Nicolas Arata, Coordinateur des réseaux d'études de troisième cycle du Conseil latino-américain de sciences sociales (CLACSO), ainsi que de représentants de l'UNESCO.

### Une activité réussie

En 2016 une École MOST (Programme Gestion des transformations sociales) a été ouverte à El Salvador intitulée « *La recherche et les politiques publiques pour l'égalité des genres* » avec le soutien du Bureau de l'UNESCO à San José et du Conseil latino-américain de sciences sociales (CLACSO), en coordination avec le Ministère de l'éducation (MINED) et l'Université Centraméricaine José Simeón Cañas (UCA) (1 - 4 mars).

La création de l'École MOST à El Salvador vise à permettre la création d'espaces de dialogue et de coordination entre les fonctionnaires responsables des politiques sociales, la communauté des chercheurs en sciences sociales et humaines et les institutions travaillant à El Salvador afin de favoriser l'impact de la recherche sur la conception des politiques publiques. Cette coordination doit permettre de renforcer la compétence nationale en matière d'analyse de l'égalité des genres, avec la gestion de projets, la recherche en sciences politiques et les politiques publiques pour le développement.



# JAMAICA

## Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

**Secretary-General:** Mr Everton Hannam

**Website:** <http://jncunesco.gov.jm>

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the National Commission welcomed Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO, as well as the new Minister, Ms Olivia Grange, with a new Board and Advisory Committees. Moreover, the National Commission moved to new premises in December.

Kingston, designated as a Creative City of music, hosted a first anniversary celebration with a musical concert journeying through six genres of Jamaican music born in Kingston. A Jamaican group, *No-Maddz*, was Jamaica's representative at the recent World Music Festival in Japan while *Freddie McGregor and his 'Big Ship' Band* represented Jamaica in Bogota, as a part of the International Black Expression Encounter 2016 for Peace without Racism.

Jamaica launched the "50 years of leadership and action" exhibition on 27 January 2016 at the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Library. For World Radio Day, the Maroons of Accompong, St Elizabeth, launched Abeng 88.7. The then Minister, Hon. Lisa Hanna, urged the Maroons to use the station to tell their stories and strengthen the viability of their assets.

UNESCO supported two Jamaican projects: an International Fund for Cultural Diversity project (USD 60,000) to support Jamaica's revision of its National Culture Policy; and an International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) project: "Building Investigative Reporting Capacity. Moreover, funding was received for 5 Participation Programme projects (USD 114,000):

1. Engaging Youth in UNESCO-related Activities (UNESCO Clubs)

2. Revitalisation of Mento
3. Contemporary Masculinities
4. Caribbean SIDS (Small Island Developing States) – Roadmap to Biosphere Nomination (Regional)
5. Rallying for the protection of Culture & Heritage in SIDS under a sustainable 21st century climate change program (Regional project)

The above-mentioned UNESCO Clubs Participation Programme project held its first activity 'Coordinators Training Workshop' which involved schools and facilities from the parishes of Jamaica.

The underwater city of Port Royal hosted an international team of underwater archaeologists (July) to determine its current state of conservation as it could fall into the category of "catastrophic sites". Jamaica also hosted the sub-regional meeting to follow up the implementation of the action areas agreed upon in 2009 at the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VI) under the theme 'Enhancing Lifelong Learning Opportunities for Youth and Adults'. This involved Caribbean Education Ministers and senior education experts.

Under the Memory of the World programme (MOW), the National Library of Jamaica's '*Estate Maps of Jamaica, 1655 – 1890*' was inscribed in the Regional Memory of the World Register. Also, Jamaica's Roger Mais Collection at the University of the West Indies (UWI) formally received its MOW certificate of inscription.

Mr Oshane Robinson, a former World Heritage Youth Forum representative, made a presentation on "Heritage and Economics: Safeguarding the Heritage of Jamaica through Heritage Tourism for Sustainable Development" at the Second Caribbean Conference of National Trusts and Preservation Societies, held in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms Tina Renier, youth advocate, was selected and attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Leadership Workshop on Global Citizenship Education (GCED), held in Republic of Korea.

Jamaica participated in the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee's and also at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Workshop: 'Fostering New Policies for Creativity in the Caribbean'. The Secretary-General participated at the Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO and, as an observer, at the 199<sup>th</sup> & 200<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board.



### A success story

A Jamaican, Angela Brown Burke, was invited to serve as a full member on the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) until 31 December 2019. Also, another Jamaican, art director Marc James, was WPF2016 design winner. The winning design was used for the visibility campaign of the World Press Freedom Day 2016. Kudos to both of them for again putting Jamaica on the world stage.

The design of Marc James, a Jamaican art director, was used for the visibility campaign of the World Press Freedom Day 2016 © UNESCO

# MEXICO

## Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (CONALMEX)

**Chairperson:** Mr Aurelio Nuño Mayer,  
Minister of Public Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Benito Mirón López

**Web site:** <http://www.dgri.sep.gob.mx/>

## Update of activities in 2016

The Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO supported the registration process of the “Archipiélago de Revillagigedo” as Natural Area to the World Heritage List. The certificate was presented by the Director-General of UNESCO to the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto. This inscription reaffirms Mexico’s position as the first country in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the seventh largest in the world with a mayor number of areas in the World Heritage List, with 34 sites, of which 27 cultural heritage, 6 natural heritage and a mixed heritage.

“La Charrería” is considered a feeling of identity that promote respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

For that reason the National Commission also supported the registration of “La Charrería, equestrian art and traditional cowboy from Mexico”, on the Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, approved during the 11th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (28 November-2 December), celebrated in Addis Abeba (Ethiopia).

The Secretary-General of the National Commission participated in the 9th International Dialogue Forum of Teachers Task Force, held in Cambodia (3-7 December). In this ninth edition Mexico was re-elected as a member of the Management Committee of the Teachers Task Force for a second period of two years (2017-2018) in representation of the Latin America region.

The CONALMEX together with L’ORÉAL Mexico, the Mexican Science Academy (AMC) and the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) celebrated the tenth edition of UNESCO-L’ORÉAL-CONACYT-AMC “For Women in Science” Scholarship Programme, awarded to five young woman scientist, bringing the total number of award winners to forty-nine.

Finally, the National Commission together with the German Commission for UNESCO implemented in México, and for the first time in Latin America, the Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP), where 200 students from two prestigious Mexican universities were trained in entrepreneurial issues, business administration, accountability and leadership.



Opening Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Dialogue Forum of Teachers Task Force held in Mexico City  
© Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

## A success story

In March 2016, the 8<sup>th</sup> International Dialogue Forum of Teachers Task Force was held in Mexico City, becoming the first country in the Latin America region to host it. The objective was to analyze the importance of the teachers in the implementation to Global Education 2030 Agenda and the Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the framework of this Forum, it was adopted the “Mexico Declaration: Teachers for Education 2030”, which recognizes the contribution of teachers in ensuring quality education and lifelong learning as a qualified and motivated faculty in the strengthening of national education systems.

On this occasion, the Forum was presided by the Minister of Education of Mexico and more than 175 representatives of international organizations, development agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, private companies and international experts on teacher’s policies of 58 countries.

# PARAGUAY

## Paraguay National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Enrique Riera Escudero,  
Minister of Education and Culture

**Secretary-General:** Mr Tomás Aníbal Zapattini

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/CNCUNESCOpy/](http://www.facebook.com/CNCUNESCOpy/)

### Update of activities in 2016

The Paraguay National Commission for UNESCO, in coordinated action with the Permanent Delegation of Paraguay, the UNESCO Office in Montevideo and the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC), as well as the member institutions of this National Commission, have developed a large number of actions framed in the Great Programs in 2016.

Some of the most outstanding to mention are: coordination and participation in 21 Programs of the different sectors of UNESCO, inter alia: Quality Assessment of Education LLECE, Teachers for Education for All, Technical Education UNEVOC, Indigenous Education, Network of Associated Schools of UNESCO, Education for Risk Management, Cities of Learning Projects, FLACSO Paraguay, Cultural Diversity, Natural and Cultural Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Man and Biosphere, CERLALC, Memory of the World; Management of projects framed on different lines of cooperation with UNESCO: After 6 years, 4 projects submitted to the UNESCO Participation Programme were approved, for a total amount of USD 78,000:

for the Higher Education; Technical and Vocational Education; Indigenous Education; and Education for Gender Equity.

In culture, three projects were approved for a total amount of USD 215,000 for the nomination of places to be declared World Heritage, Cultural Diversity through the Capital District and regulation of the Jesuit Missions.

The National Commission coordinated Paraguay participation in the Intergovernmental Committees and Councils of UNESCO, as well as in meetings and seminars organized by UNESCO.

The National Commission coordinated 10 technical missions, 11 postgraduate fellowships, 30 training courses, 20 vacant positions and 18 UNESCO awards.

The National Commission organized the official visit to Paraguay of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, which resulted in the strengthening of UNESCO's cooperation with Paraguay.

Paraguay hosted the II National Forum and the first International Youth Heritage Forum organized by the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and SENATUR.

Paraguay signed two important agreements with UNESCO: (i) UNESCO and Itaipu Binacional for the installation of the Hydroinformatics Center of International Category 2 for the Integrated Management of Water Resources, inaugurated during the official visit of the Director-General; and (ii) a letter of intent between Paraguay through the 3 powers of the State and UNESCO, to establish a mechanism for the Security of Journalists.

Within the framework of Indigenous Education, bilateral cooperation was agreed between the National Commission and the UNESCO center of the autonomous community of Murcia.



Meeting with the President and Ministers of the Supreme Court of Justice on the subject of Freedom of Expression, journalists security and the issue of impunity

© Delia Ramírez, CI Sector of the CNC UNESCO Paraguay

### A success story

The successful official visit of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova to Paraguay (22 – 25 June)

Paraguay, as a Member State of UNESCO since 1955, celebrated this visit because it was an encouraging moment to confirm that UNESCO's principles continue to be more effective than ever in the country, with strengthening as an international, multi-sectorial and multicultural actor in policies, programmes and projects related to its fields of competence, with countless advances in the framework of an MDG evaluation that challenges us and the great challenge facing the SDG.

The official visit had an intense programme that reaffirmed the cooperation between Paraguay and UNESCO: meetings with the Presidents of the 3 Powers of the State: executive, legislative and judicial, interviews with several ministers of the Executive Branch, Honor Session with the President and Members of the National Commission, meeting with teachers and students of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network Chapter Paraguay, the signing of the Agreement between UNESCO and Itaipu Binacional in the framework of the inauguration of the Hydroinformatics Center of International Category 2, and different activities framed in Education, Science, Culture, Heritage and Security of Journalists.

On that occasion, the General Director remarked the cultural and historical diversity of a young country with a spectacular growth that is undergoing profound changes, the process of which will accompany UNESCO.



# SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

## Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Shawn Richards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

**Secretary-General:** Mr Antonio Maynard

**Website Address:** [www.skunesco.com](http://www.skunesco.com)

### Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO continued to focus on its contribution to the realization of UNESCO's objectives by identifying challenges in relation to educational, social, environmental and cultural issues in the country with a view to providing the necessary support to organizations, stakeholders and the Government. The National Commission has been collaborating with UNESCO's Office in Kingston and with a number of local stakeholder organizations, Government Departments and interest groups for the implementation of UNESCO approved projects for 2016. These include the Education Planning and Curriculum Development Units within the Ministry of Education, the Youth Department, the Nevis Historical & Conservation Society, the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, the St. Christopher National Trust, the TVET Secretariat and the SKN Advocacy Consultancy and Training Service.

The Micro-science Experiments Project advanced by UNESCO is geared towards promoting innovative science education and related policies and to reinforce capacities to improve

the quality of teaching in science and technology. The Ministry of Education collaborated with the UNESCO Secretariat in Headquarters, the UNESCO Office in Kingston, the Fitzroy Bryant College, the Somerset Company of South Africa and the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD) to implement the pilot phase of this micro-science project. The aim of the project is to promote Science as an instrument to sustainable development and peace. A national workshop on the Micro- Science concept was conducted in early 2016.

This was followed by a symbolic handing over and Opening Ceremony held in September for the start of the Micro-Science Pilot Programme in the primary and secondary schools in Saint Kitts and Nevis. There were approximately seventy participants including Education Officers and teachers.

The National Commission, in collaboration with the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society and the UNESCO Office in Kingston, hosted a capacity building workshop for the conservation of the Brimstone Hill Fortress. The Brimstone Hill Project was designed to support the major conservation and stabilisation initiative specific to the Orillon Bastion and the NCO's cemetery adjacent to it, which has been damaged by the earthquake, in an effort to ensure effective protection and conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, in particular its integrity and authenticity.

In September 2016, the National Commission met with the Director of UNESCO's Office in Kingston, Ms Katherine Grigsby. Ms Grigsby expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to participate at this meeting with such distinguish officials and gave credence to the mix of experts on the National Commission's Advisory Committee who help to push forward UNESCO's mandate. The meeting facilitated discussions on UNESCO's projects and programmes earmarked for the Caribbean region, including St. Kitts and Nevis.



Launch of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Federal Youth Policy © Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Federal Youth Policy is under review and will continue into 2017. UNESCO collaborates with the Department of youth of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in an effort to assist in the development of a structured and robust operational youth policy, encompassing a Strategic Action Plan, programmes activities and related mechanisms designed to cater to the holistic development of the nation's youth with a view to capacity building in young people for the next five years. UNESCO monitors local consultations for review. Consultations are geared specifically to review the current status of government policy in the Youth Sector, identify substantive gaps and ultimately provide expert advice and support for the design and implementation of a more relevant and appropriate strategy and Youth Policy, for the Federal Government and stakeholders in civil society to pursue. Seminars conferences, meetings and training courses are being conducted by international specialists and consultants. Conferences, Seminars and Meetings have been scheduled. The proposed topics for discussion are: the importance of a Youth Policy in Government, Non-governmental Organization Approach to Youth Development, the Young Entrepreneur and the Responsible Youth.

# SINT MAARTEN

## Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Silveria Jacobs, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marcellia Henry

**Website:** [www.unesco.sx](http://www.unesco.sx)

### Update of activities in 2016

During 2016, a number of partnerships were formed with government departments and foundations.

One of the collaborations was with the Aline Hanson School and the M.A.C. School (B.M. Campus). A friendly running race to re-enact aspects of the legend or myth of how the island of St. Maarten was divided was organized. The activity saw the participation of more than 160 students from both sides of the island.

Some of the goals of the race were to promote cooperation between education institutions on both sides of the island; to create student ambassadors of peace and friendship; to strengthen students' sense of belonging to a 'Friendly Island', and to promote a healthy living style through engaging in sport activities.

Another collaboration was with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the SuriMaarteners.

A head tying cultural exchange workshop between the countries of St. Maarten, Curacao and Suriname was organized



Family Reading Night with the parents, teachers and children of the Ruby Labega Primary School and members of the SXM READS Committee.

© Mrs Marcellia Henry, Secretary General of Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO

highlighting the similarities of this form of craftsmanship in these countries.

With the Education on the Move Committee and the SXM READS Committee, an International Literacy Day event was held. Over 30 volunteers were invited to read one of their favourite stories at 14 after school and community school programs to children.

With the Department of Culture, the National Commission continued to document and gather information about St. Maarten's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). To get the community to give their opinion on St. Maarten's ICH, a national survey was launched.

This year the National Commission submitted St. Maarten's first nomination for the Memory of the World Programme international registry. St. Maarten via the Department of Education, also submitted an application for membership to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

As it relates to international & regional representation and participation, Mr Alfonso Blijden, St. Maarten's representative in the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO, was elected as one of the Vice Chairs. Mr Paul Martens, St. Maarten's representative in the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, was elected as one of the Vice Chairs. The Secretary-General Marcellia Henry, became a member of the newly established Dutch Caribbean Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee that was installed to facilitate joint measures and actions, and other collaborative endeavours regarding the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Dutch Caribbean.

### A success story

The SXM Reads Campaign is a successful project that was launched to create awareness about and support for persons with low literacy skills in our society. Partners in this campaign are the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise, C.O.M.E. Center, Department of Labor Affairs and Social Services, and the St. Maarten Development Fund.

One of the projects executed was the launching of 'The Literacy Help Desk'. The Literacy Help Desk is a service that is being provided to the public who need assistance with reading, and filling out forms, applications etc.

Tutorial sessions were also offered, and seminars for volunteers to equip them with skills to tutor persons with low literacy skills were held.

Literacy Screening Days were organized to allow the public to detect whether they have any reading and/or writing deficiency, and to determine if their reading level is sufficient for activities like writing a letter of application or submitting forms.

Family Reading Nights were also organized every month at the local library to promote the importance of parents reading to their children. Members of the SXM Reads committee demonstrated to parents how to make reading fun for their children.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Susan Shurland

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.tt](http://www.unesco.org.tt)

### Update of activities in 2016

Phase III of the flagship project “Leading for Literacy Now!” was successfully launched early in 2016 and training held for another 40 primary school principals and 80 Infant-level teachers during the summer period. This initiative, which began in 2013 as a Participation Programme project, now has corporate support for a 5-year period. The aim is to enhance leadership skills of principals which will result in improved reading competencies of 5 to 7-year-old children in the least resourced schools throughout the country. The school population is the National Commission’s major stakeholder as its mandate focuses on youth empowerment and the prevention and reduction of violence in schools. The Trinidad and Tobago’s UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), along with the UNESCO Clubs in schools and communities, actively involved young persons and leaders in a number of activities to commemorate relevant international days, including

International Jazz Day, International Literacy Day, World Teachers Day, International Day of Tolerance and Human Rights Day. One challenge is that the heavy demands of the national school curriculum do not permit full participation by teachers and students at all of the extra-curricular activities. However, the high energy by those who participate has encouraged other groups to conduct similar activities. The ASPnet has therefore experienced a marked increase in collaborations with NGOs and CBOs.

Four Participation Programme projects were approved and started implementation. These are: the UNESCO Global Microscience Experiments Project TT (among three Caribbean participating countries); the Forum on Social Inclusion, Diversity and Gender Equity in Trinidad and Tobago (for ASPnet students); Building a Digital Documentation Centre at the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO (the Documentation Centre began as a PP project in the 1990s); and the Second National Workshop on the World Heritage Convention, facilitated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, along with the UNESCO Kingston and Havana Offices. A committee of former National Commission members completed the editing of the publication titled “In Service of Peace and Progress: the story of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, 1962-2015”. This coffee table book will be launched early in 2017 and distributed to UNESCO offices. In June, the National Commission’s Memory of the World (MOW) Committee celebrated the inscription of the Father Gerry Pantin Collection, housed at the SERVOL Centre in Port of Spain. The MOW Committee also began a series of educational tours of other collections on the national, regional and international registers.



Storyteller at the MOW Eric Williams Collection at the UWI St. Augustine.

© Courtesy of the Memory of the World National Committee, Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO.

### A success story

In 2016, the Memory of the World (MOW) National Committee embarked on a series of Educational Tours for students on the various MOW collections housed around the country. Trinidad and Tobago has 12 collections inscribed – six on the national and regional registers, and six on the international register. A successful effort of the Committee was the coordination of Primary and Secondary Schools’ visits to three sites with MOW collections: Eric Williams’ Collection at UWI, Learie Constantine’s at the National Library (NALIS) and Records of Slaves and Indentured Indians at the National Archives. Prior to the visits, the Committee held a meeting with Curriculum Officers of the Ministry of Education whose input proved invaluable in realizing its objectives and selecting the schools. Newspaper articles and radio and television interviews covered these events.

The committee continues to sensitize the public about the twelve collections inscribed on the MOW registers, through distribution of revised MOW brochures, bookmarks and posters and adding a MOW page to the National Commission’s website. A ledger of the Trinidad and Tobago MOW collections, using special calligraphy, is in progress. The MOW committee and the National Archives also exhibited the Slave Registers at the Tobago Heritage Festival in July-August, 2016. This proved popular to all who attended.



# URUGUAY

## National Commission of Uruguay for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Edith Moraes, Vice-Minister of Education and Culture

**Secretary-General:** Mr Nicolás Pons

**Website:** [www.comisionunesco.mec.gub.uy](http://www.comisionunesco.mec.gub.uy)

## Update of activities in 2016

The National Commission of Uruguay is a multi-sectoral institution which implements a wide spectrum of activities in UNESCO's main areas of competence. The National Commission enjoys a fluid relationship with the Permanent Delegation of Uruguay to UNESCO and the UNESCO's Regional Bureau in Montevideo. It maintains contact with civil society mainly through the UNESCO Participation Programme and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

The National Commission provides advice to the local government in relation to sites currently listed on the World Heritage List and potential new sites.

It also collaborates with the National Heritage Commission in the preparation of inventories, safeguarding plans and management activities.

The National Commission co-organized the *first Latin American and the Caribbean Open Science Forum* ("Foro CILAC") that took place from 6th- 9th September. The event was mainly

organized by UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Montevideo with more than 20 countries participating.

Beyond the organization of the annual national meeting of the ASPnet Uruguay in the Legislative Palace in Montevideo with more than 150 students and 90 teachers from over 75 institutions represented, the National Commission called on the national photography competition *Photographic Experience - Identity and Heritage* with the topic of 2016 *I perceive heritage*. ASPnet students from all over the country sent pictures about their personal perception of heritage and identity. As a result, a catalogue with more than 500 pictures from 53 schools was published and distributed.

ASPnet teachers had the opportunity to distribute an insight into their work by presenting a good practice-project realized in class for the *Annual Good Practice Competition* that led to a participation of 29 schools sending 33 projects.

In December, the installation of the National Committee of Geoparks was celebrated in the UNESCO Global Geopark Grutas del Palacio. The committee's main tasks include the examination and conservation of the geological heritage in Uruguay and the creation of new geoparks. Moreover, it aims to sensitize the society about the importance of this place and to promote sustainable development.

A training workshop for secondary school teachers called *The Blue Planet*, an open-air education methodology for water studies, was realized together with the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, with the aim of building capacities around this resource and promoting education for active and responsible citizenship.



ASPnet students in the Chamber of Representatives of the Legislative Palace in Montevideo (18-19 November 2016) © Juan Pablo Borgia

## A success story

Every year, the UNESCO ASPnet Uruguay organizes a National Meeting. In 2016, for the second time after 2013, the objective of the meeting was to recreate the functioning of the General Conference of the UNESCO with ASPnet students in the context of the project *Education for peace at the parliament*.

Therefore, to each ASPnet school was assigned a Member State of the UNESCO with the task to investigate *Cohabitation and the rights of children and adolescents* in this country, given the celebration of the United Nations Universal Children's Day on 20 November.

Finally, in the Chamber of Representatives of the Legislative Palace in Uruguay, two students per school presented short reports previously elaborated during several months with other students in class.

The students attended workshops according to the countries' regions in order to present and discuss the schools' investigation results. Afterwards, representatives of each region worked out some recommendations for the final declaration to be voted on the following day.

The General Assembly, chaired by the Vice President of the Republic, Raúl Sendic, was held. The students spoke about their countries' situations, proposed improvements and finally agreed upon the declaration, thereby standing up for a culture of peace.



Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 13-15 June 2016 © UNESCO





联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# 第三届联合国教科文组织全国委员会地区间会议 The Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO

中国 上海 Shanghai China | 2016.6.13 - 15

主办单位：联合国教科文组织  
中国联合国教科文组织全国委员会  
上海市人民政府

Organized by: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
Chinese National Commission for UNESCO  
Shanghai Municipal People's Government



Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 13-15 June 2016 © UNESCO







Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 13-15 June 2016 © UNESCO







Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO attending the 200th session of the Executive Board, 11-12 October 2016 © UNESCO



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# ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

## PREAMBLE

Guided by the desire to further enhance the cooperation between Member States, their National Commissions and the Secretariat,

Recognizing that the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) sets the foundation and legal framework for the establishment of National Commissions,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO reaffirms that it is for each Member State to define the range of responsibilities and the nature of the function of its National Commission.

Considering the need to promote exchanges and networking among National Commissions in the context of their diversity in organization and status by sharing information and best practices in a transparent and cooperative manner,

Emphasizing the responsibility of the Secretariat, including all programme sectors and field offices, to work with Member States and their National Commissions

The open-ended tripartite working group composed of representatives of the Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and UNESCO Secretariat adopts the following findings and recommendations:

### I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURAL ISSUES

#### ➤ Finding and Recommendation 1

The UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO set the foundations and legal framework for the establishment and functioning of National Commissions. They specify basic roles and responsibilities of the UNESCO Secretariat, Member State Governments and National Commissions in this regard. Certain additional responsibilities have been given to National Commissions (for example, in the fields of decentralization, public information, partnerships with civil society, and use of UNESCO's name and logo) by subsequent resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Board (Ref. Resolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 and 36 C/104, 174 EX/ Decision 34).

**As regards the responsibilities of the National Commissions, the Working Group does not at this stage consider that it is a priority to revise or update either UNESCO's Constitution or the Charter of National Commissions. The guiding principles laid out in these documents – and relevant above-mentioned resolutions and decisions taken subsequently by the General Conference and the Executive Board – should however be drawn to the attention of all Member State governments and National Commissions.**

**It is recommended that, where they have not already done so, Member States adopt legal or administrative instruments specifying the role and the organization of their National Commission within the national context.**

**Other Member States could review as appropriate their existing provisions to ensure that full account is taken of the relevant legal documents and recent decisions of the Governing Bodies (Ref. Resolutions 27 C/ 13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86, 36 C/104 and 174 EX/ Decision 34) as well as international best practice.**

**All Member States are invited to provide information to the Secretariat on the legal status (with a copy of the legal text establishing its National Commission where possible) and organization of their National Commission (with a copy of its organizational chart where possible).**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 2**

Each Member State has developed its own way of operating its National Commission, as provided for in UNESCO's Constitution. It is important that each Member State's National Commission should reflect its particular political, legal and administrative context. The Working Group is agreed that, although there are certain features in common to all National Commissions and a measure of standardization can be helpful, no single model can or should be adopted for all National Commissions. Each National Commission's mandate, organizational structure, working modalities and programme priorities, even though guided by the UNESCO Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions, should be decided on its own.

The Working Group recommends that the principle of the diversity of National Commissions continue to be respected.

## **II. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING PERMANENT DELEGATIONS AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 3**

Member States have primary responsibility for providing their Commissions with appropriate status and authority as well as the human and financial resources needed to carry out the work of their National Commission in accordance with UNESCO's Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions.

**The Working Group recommends that all Member States review the status and structure of their National Commissions and their secretariats to ensure that they have the authority, the capacity and the expertise to work effectively in UNESCO's areas of competence, with their governments, government agencies, as well as intellectual communities, civil society partners, UNESCO Secretariat at Headquarters and field offices and other National Commissions, and fulfil their advisory function.**

**Member States are requested to ensure that the Secretariat has up-to-date information on the status, organization and resourcing levels of their National Commission.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 4**

The high turnover of appointees to the positions of President/Chair and Secretary-General in a large number of National Commissions creates instability and discontinuity in their National Commission's work. Moreover the mandates of these appointees are in some cases not well defined.

**The Working Group recommends that each Member State consider appointing the Secretary-General of its National Commission for a reasonable period of time and that each appointee be issued with a clear and well defined mandate. In view of common practices, the Working Group recommends Member States to consider appropriate measures to ensure continuity.**

**Member States are requested to ensure that the Secretariat has up-to-date information on their approach to the appointment of President/Chair and Secretary-General of their National Commission.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 5**

With the recent adoption of the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, UNESCO is increasing its engagement with the government donors, private sector and other funding partners. National Commissions are considered by the Working Group to have the potential to benefit from public and private partnerships. Value is seen in National Commissions engaging more closely and extensively with public and private partners in order to support their own programmes as well as to encourage support and contributions to UNESCO.

**The Working Group recommends that National Commissions be encouraged to establish and/or expand the network of partners in their countries and that they may seek sponsorship in accordance with clearly established principles and procedures which are consistent with national legislation and UNESCO's comprehensive partnership strategy.**

**Member States are invited to report to the Secretariat on actions taken pursuant to this recommendation, and on any lessons learned or experience gained that might be useful to other National Commissions.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 6**

A number of National Commissions have recently started to work more closely with the various UNESCO networks and civil society partners in their respective countries. These networks include UNESCO Chairs, National Committees of Intergovernmental Programmes, networks such as ASPnet, UNESCO Clubs and Associations, category 2 centres and non-governmental organizations. Given the large number and great diversity of these networks, coordination and governance are often needed to better monitor and facilitate their activities. National Commissions are well placed to play such a facilitating, coordinating and monitoring role.

**The Working Group recommends that National Commissions and Secretariat consider ways of engaging more closely with the larger UNESCO family, partners and networks, with a view to exchange advice, guidance and, as appropriate, coordination and support. National Commissions have a particular role to play (under the relevant Directives) on the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and internet domain names. Member States are invited to report to the Secretariat on steps taken to create synergies and work more closely with the UNESCO-related bodies in their country.**

**The Working Group also recommends that National Commissions actively work with civil society and NGOs based in their respective countries, including legally established national branches of those international NGOs which have established official relations with UNESCO in line with the new "Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations". They should contribute to the fostering of UNESCO's partnership with NGOs by identifying and helping new interested non-governmental partners to join the UNESCO-NGO network.**

**Finally the Working Group calls upon National Commissions to accredit, monitor and assess as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in their respective countries so as to ensure that activities implemented by Clubs and Centres for UNESCO will be in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO and the name and logo of UNESCO be properly used by them. The National Commissions may withdraw the accreditation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO which are not meeting the required standards, including the "Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym. Logo and internet domain names of UNESCO".**



➤ **Finding and Recommendation 7**

Most National Commissions report regularly to their government and partners. Some Commissions communicate also with their counterparts within – and even outside – the region to which they belong. Regular communication and reporting mechanisms such as newsletters contribute to the visibility and public awareness of the activities they undertake, to the profile of UNESCO and to the promotion of effective working partnerships and best practices.

**The Working Group recommends that each National Commission report on a regular basis to its government as well as to its members and partners. These activity reports should as a rule be done on an annual basis and on a commonly agreed template.**

**The Working Group also believes that regular newsletters should be encouraged. All such reports should be shared with other interested National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and the Secretariat, which collects and posts them on UNESCO’s website.**

### **III. STRENGTHENING INTERACTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS AMONG NATIONAL COMMISSIONS**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 8**

Regional and subregional consultations and meetings, as well as informal gatherings of National Commissions during the sessions of the Executive Board and the General Conference, are critical not just for enhancing communication with the Secretariat but for strengthening collaboration among National Commissions and deriving maximum benefit from this global network of like-minded agencies.

**The Working Group recommends to maintain biennial regional meetings of the National Commissions. In this regard, the Working Group calls on Member States and other funding partners to co-fund and/or host regional meetings of National Commissions every two years, one of which would include every four years consultations of Member States and their National Commissions on the upcoming programme cycle.**

**The Working Group recommends that the informal meetings held on the margins of the Governing Bodies meetings be prepared in a manner that will optimize the possibilities for exchanging information and sharing experiences. In particular, the working group recommends that the Secretariat implement structured participatory events with clearly defined outcomes, which will improve both effectiveness and the exchange of best practice. These meetings will be prepared with appropriate advance consultation regarding the needs and wishes of the participants.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 9**

It is clear that a number of National Commissions, particularly those from developing countries or more recently established, would benefit from the opportunity to work more closely with other National Commissions and to receive assistance from them in the form of training, knowledge and experience sharing and occasional secondments or funding grants. This can be done within the same regional grouping, on a North/South or South/South basis or wherever a need on the part of one National Commission can be matched with the ability and readiness of another National Commission to help out. A number of examples have been drawn to the Working Group’s attention of where such arrangements have been very successful.

**The Working Group recommends that each National Commission which is in a position to assist other less well-equipped National Commissions take steps to make its position known and actively explore avenues for lending a hand in this way. Twinning system, staff exchange programme and cooperative network among National Commissions are most welcome and encouraged.**

**It is further recommended that National Commissions be invited to report to the Secretariat on their experience with such arrangements from time to time, so that their experience can be used by others.**

#### **IV. IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT, BOTH AT HEADQUARTERS AND AT FIELD OFFICE LEVEL**

##### **➤ Finding and Recommendation 10**

Although established with different status and structures, assigned different responsibilities and tasks and operating in different ways with distinct audiences and partners, National Commissions and UNESCO field offices have a common mandate to advocate the mission and carry out the work of UNESCO.

They are called upon to work together and to complement each other's effort in promoting UNESCO's activities, partnerships and visibility at country and regional levels.

The respective roles of these two networks are not clearly defined, and in some cases there is considerable confusion and misunderstanding about their respective responsibilities and roles. Inadequate communication and consultation between the two entities is widespread.

**The Working Group recommends that the “Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO” endorsed by the Executive Board in April 2006 (174 EX/34, Annex) be reviewed and updated to take stock of current situation to enhance the collaboration between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions. It also recommends that Field Offices be reminded of the obligation to work in close cooperation with National Commissions as well as Member States in their region. Similarly, National Commissions should be reminded of the importance of keeping in touch with the field offices and keep them informed and consulted about any programmes of relevance at a regional level.**

##### **➤ Finding and Recommendation 11**

Information and knowledge sharing between the Secretariat Headquarters and National Commissions is an important way of enhancing the capacity of National Commissions to engage in various activities of UNESCO. Significant improvements in communication have taken place recently through monthly newsletters, online posting and e-Forum discussions.

Further efforts must be made to enhance two-way communication, using the new ICTs as well as the more traditional methods of communication. Biennial meetings of regional National Commissions remain an important element in this.

**The Working Group recommends that the UNESCO Secretariat facilitate the networking of National Commissions by gathering, highlighting and sharing information, knowledge and good practices with National Commissions on a more regular basis. This requires National Commissions to submit, in timely manner and preferably in electronic format, relevant information, newsletters, activity reports and proposals to facilitate the Secretariat's work.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 12**

Member States' Governments, Permanent Delegations and National Commissions are not always kept informed of activities being undertaken by the UNESCO Secretariat (Headquarters and field offices) in their respective countries.

They occasionally learn about them only through the media. Bypassing National Commissions while conducting a project or implementing an activity in their country is neither courteous nor in conformity with the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and Charter of National Commissions.

**The Working Group recommends that the UNESCO Secretariat ensure that Permanent Delegations and National Commissions be consulted about, informed in advance and involved where appropriate in every activity UNESCO is planning to implement in their countries, including staff missions and meetings with officials and partners; and subsequently be informed of the outcome of these missions and meetings.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 13**

All National Commissions need to constantly build and adapt their capacities and methods of work to effectively and efficiently play their role. Present training modalities and ways of seeking funding are in many cases no longer suited to current needs. There is an urgent need to explore and develop new ways of training by the Secretariat, drawing on the experience of both the Secretariat and National Commissions.

**The Working Group recommends that the Secretariat develop training programmes to satisfy the various needs of different National Commissions. While face-to-face training can continue to be organized where needed and when funding sources are available, alternative cost-effective and targeted training modules should be further explored and developed, such as**

- video conferences
- online training
- study visits or learning stays of members of Commissions at Headquarters or in field offices.

**Initiatives of networking, partnership and cooperation among National Commissions for capacity-building purposes should be supported by the Secretariat.**

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 14**

As principal beneficiaries of the Participation Programme, National Commissions rely on Participation Programme grants both to implement projects and to build their capacities and partnerships. The delay in approving requests for such items as equipment, celebration of anniversaries, training workshops and the publication of reports/news bulletins have triggered some concern.

Due to the incomplete presentation of a number of Participation Programme requests and the unsatisfactory quality of financial and evaluation reports on past grants, the whole evaluation and approval process has become problematic. It is understood that the Executive Board may be considering rules of eligibility and criteria for Participation Programme funding on the basis of the External Auditor's report.



**The Working Group recommends that National Commissions and the Secretariat, including the Field Offices, work closely together to further improve the Participation Programme process. Special efforts need to be made in preparing the financial and evaluation reports.**

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME-LINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

As mentioned above, Permanent Delegations, National Commissions (both are in liaison with their government) and UNESCO Secretariat have the direct responsibilities to implement the respective recommendations.

Any reports by Member States on the implementation of the recommendations of findings 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 are expected by 30 June 2014.

The Secretariat should submit a progress report on the implementation of all these recommendations to the Executive Board at its 196th Session (Spring 2015). The review of the “Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO” (recommendation 9) could also be done on this occasion.

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# PLAN D'ACTION VISANT À AMÉLIORER LA COOPÉRATION DU SECRÉTARIAT DE L'UNESCO AVEC LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO<sup>1</sup>

## PRÉAMBULE

Guidé par la volonté d'améliorer encore la coopération entre les États membres, leurs commissions nationales et le Secrétariat,

Reconnaissant que l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) définit les principes fondamentaux et le cadre juridique qui régissent l'établissement des commissions nationales,

Ayant à l'esprit que la Charte des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO réaffirme qu'il appartient à chaque État membre de définir l'éventail des responsabilités et la nature des fonctions de sa commission nationale,

Considérant la nécessité de promouvoir les échanges entre commissions nationales et leur mise en réseau compte tenu de leur diversité sur le plan de l'organisation et du statut par un partage transparent et coopératif de l'information et des meilleures pratiques,

Soulignant que le Secrétariat, y compris l'ensemble des secteurs du programme et des bureaux hors Siège, a la responsabilité de travailler avec les États membres et leurs commissions nationales,

Le Groupe de travail tripartite à participation non limitée, composé de représentants des délégations permanentes, des commissions nationales et du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, adopte les conclusions et recommandations suivantes :

### I. CADRE JURIDIQUE ET ASPECTS STRUCTURELS

#### ➤ Conclusion et recommandation 1

L'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) et la Charte des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO définissent les principes fondamentaux et le cadre juridique qui régissent l'établissement et le fonctionnement des commissions nationales. Ces textes précisent les rôles et responsabilités essentiels du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, des gouvernements des États membres et des commissions nationales à cet égard. La Conférence générale et le Conseil exécutif ont assigné certaines responsabilités additionnelles aux commissions nationales (pour ce qui est par exemple de la décentralisation, de l'information du public, des partenariats avec la société civile et de l'utilisation du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO) dans des résolutions et décisions ultérieures (voir résolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 et 36 C/104, et la décision 174 EX/34).

**En ce qui concerne les responsabilités des commissions nationales, le Groupe de travail est d'avis que la révision ou actualisation de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO ou de la Charte des commissions nationales n'est pas une priorité à ce stade. Les principes directeurs qui y sont formulés – et les résolutions et décisions pertinentes adoptées ultérieurement par la Conférence générale et le Conseil exécutif susmentionnées – devraient néanmoins être portés à l'attention des gouvernements et des commissions nationales de tous les États membres.**

**Il est recommandé aux États membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait d'adopter un instrument administratif ou juridique précisant le rôle et l'organisation de leur commission nationale dans le contexte national.**

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1 Ce Plan d'action a été adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 37<sup>e</sup> session (37C/Résolution97).

Les autres États membres pourraient réexaminer selon qu'il convient les dispositions qu'ils ont déjà adoptées pour s'assurer qu'il y est pleinement tenu compte des documents juridiques pertinents et des récentes décisions des organes directeurs en la matière (voir les résolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 et 36 C/104, et la décision 174 EX/34), ainsi que les meilleures pratiques internationales.

Tous les États membres sont invités à fournir au Secrétariat des informations sur le statut juridique de leur commission nationale (avec, si possible, copie du texte juridique portant établissement de la commission nationale) et sur son organisation (avec, si possible, copie de l'organigramme).

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 2**

Chaque État membre a déterminé sa manière propre de gérer sa commission nationale, comme le prévoit l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Il importe que la commission nationale de chaque État membre soit adaptée à sa situation politique, juridique et administrative particulière. Le Groupe de travail a été d'accord pour considérer que, même si toutes les commissions nationales possédaient certains traits en commun et si un certain degré d'uniformisation pouvait être utile, aucun modèle unique ne pouvait ni ne devait être adopté pour la totalité d'entre elles. Le mandat de chaque commission nationale, sa structure organisationnelle, ses modalités de travail et ses priorités de programme, bien que conçus à la lumière de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO et de la Charte des commissions nationales, devraient être décidés de manière indépendante.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que le principe de la diversité des commissions nationales continue d'être respecté.**

## **II. MESURES À PRENDRE PAR CHAQUE ÉTAT MEMBRE, Y COMPRIS LES DÉLÉGATIONS PERMANENTES ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 3**

Les États membres ont la responsabilité principale de doter leur commission d'un statut et de pouvoirs appropriés, ainsi que des ressources humaines et financières qui leur sont nécessaires pour s'acquitter de leur tâche conformément à l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO et à la Charte des commissions nationales.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que tous les États membres réexaminent le statut de leur commission nationale et de son secrétariat afin de s'assurer que ceux-ci ont les pouvoirs, les capacités et l'expertise nécessaires pour travailler de manière efficace, dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, avec le gouvernement et les organismes gouvernementaux, ainsi qu'avec les communautés intellectuelles, les partenaires de la société civile, le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO au Siège et hors Siège et les autres commissions nationales, et pour s'acquitter de leur fonction consultative.**

**Les États membres sont invités à s'assurer que le Secrétariat dispose d'informations actualisées sur le statut, l'organisation et les niveaux de ressources de leur commission nationale.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 4**

Le taux de rotation élevé des titulaires des postes de président et de secrétaire général dans bon nombre de commissions nationales est un facteur d'instabilité et de discontinuité des travaux de ces commissions. De plus, le mandat de ces titulaires n'est parfois pas clairement défini.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque État membre envisage de nommer le secrétaire général de sa commission nationale pour une période raisonnablement longue et que les personnes nommées à chacun de ces postes aient un mandat clair et bien défini. Compte tenu des pratiques courantes,**



**le Groupe de travail recommande aux États membres de réfléchir aux mesures appropriées pour garantir la continuité.**

**Les États membres sont invités à s'assurer que le Secrétariat dispose d'informations actualisées sur les modalités de la nomination du président et du secrétaire général de leur commission nationale.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 5**

Depuis l'adoption récente de la Stratégie globale pour les partenariats, l'UNESCO s'emploie à intensifier ses liens avec les donateurs gouvernementaux, le secteur privé et d'autres partenaires de financement. Le Groupe de travail considère que les commissions nationales pourraient tirer avantage de partenariats avec des acteurs publics et privés. Il apparaît utile que les commissions nationales nouent des relations plus étroites et plus larges avec des partenaires publics et privés afin de renforcer leurs propres programmes et d'encourager les soutiens et les contributions à l'UNESCO.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales soient encouragées à créer un réseau de leurs partenaires dans leur pays et/ou à développer le réseau existant et qu'elles recherchent éventuellement des parrainages conformément à des principes et procédures clairement établis et compatibles avec la législation nationale et la stratégie globale pour les partenariats de l'UNESCO.**

**Les États membres sont invités à présenter au Secrétariat un rapport sur les mesures prises pour donner suite à cette recommandation, et sur tous les enseignements ou l'expérience accumulés par eux qui pourraient être utiles aux autres commissions nationales.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 6**

Un certain nombre de commissions nationales ont récemment entrepris de travailler en liaison plus étroite avec les divers réseaux et les partenaires membres de la société civile de l'UNESCO dans leurs pays respectifs. Au nombre de ces réseaux figurent les Chaires UNESCO, les comités nationaux des programmes intergouvernementaux, des réseaux tels que le RÉSEAU des écoles associées, les clubs et associations UNESCO, les centres de catégorie 2 et les organisations non gouvernementales. Étant donné le nombre élevé et la grande diversité de ces réseaux, des mécanismes de coordination et de gouvernance sont souvent nécessaires pour mieux suivre et faciliter leurs activités. Les commissions nationales sont bien placées pour jouer un tel rôle de facilitation, de coordination et de suivi.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales et le Secrétariat envisagent des moyens de resserrer encore leurs liens avec la famille élargie, les partenaires et les réseaux de l'UNESCO, en vue d'échanger conseils et avis et, en tant que de besoin, de participer à leur coordination et de les soutenir. Les commissions nationales ont un rôle particulier à jouer (dans le cadre des directives pertinentes) dans l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO. Les États membres sont invités à présenter au Secrétariat un rapport sur les mesures qu'ils ont prises pour créer des synergies et travailler en liaison plus étroite avec les organismes liés à l'UNESCO qui sont présents dans leur pays.**

**Le Groupe de travail recommande également que les commissions nationales travaillent activement avec la société civile et les ONG basées dans leurs pays respectifs, y compris les branches nationales ayant une existence légale des ONG internationales qui ont établi des relations officielles avec l'UNESCO conformément aux nouvelles « Directives concernant le partenariat de l'UNESCO avec les organisations non gouvernementales ». Elles devraient contribuer à favoriser les partenariats de l'UNESCO avec les ONG en identifiant et aidant les nouveaux partenaires non gouvernementaux intéressés par la perspective de rejoindre le réseau UNESCO-ONG.**

Enfin, le Groupe de travail appelle les commissions nationales à accréditer les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO présents dans leurs pays respectifs et à en suivre et évaluer les activités selon que de besoin de façon à s'assurer que ces activités sont conformes à la mission et aux objectifs de l'Organisation et que ces entités font un usage approprié du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO. Les commissions nationales pourraient retirer leur accréditation aux associations, centres et clubs UNESCO qui ne satisfont pas aux normes établies, y compris les « Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO ».

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 7**

La plupart des commissions nationales font régulièrement rapport à leur gouvernement et à leurs partenaires. Certaines communiquent aussi avec leurs homologues à l'intérieur – voire à l'extérieur – de la région à laquelle elles appartiennent. Des mécanismes de communication et de compte rendu réguliers tels que lettres d'information ou bulletins contribuent à améliorer la visibilité et la connaissance par le public des activités entreprises par elles, à renforcer l'image de l'UNESCO et à promouvoir les partenariats de travail efficaces et les meilleures pratiques.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque commission nationale fasse rapport à intervalles réguliers à son gouvernement, ainsi qu'à ses membres et à ses partenaires. Ces rapports devraient en principe être rédigés une fois par an et selon un modèle convenu d'un commun accord.**

**Le Groupe de travail est également d'avis qu'il conviendrait d'encourager la publication régulière de lettres d'information. Tous ces rapports devraient être communiqués aux autres commissions nationales intéressées, aux délégations permanentes et au Secrétariat, qui les regrouperait et les publierait sur le site Web de l'UNESCO.**

### **III. RENFORCEMENT DES INTERACTIONS ET DES PARTENARIATS ENTRE LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 8**

Les consultations et réunions régionales et sous-régionales, ainsi que les rencontres informelles des commissions nationales pendant les sessions du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale sont essentielles, non pas seulement pour accroître la communication avec le Secrétariat, mais aussi pour renforcer la collaboration entre les commissions nationales et tirer un bénéfice maximal de ce réseau mondial d'agences partageant une même vision.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande de maintenir la pratique des réunions régionales biennales des commissions nationales. À cet égard, le Groupe de travail demande aux États membres et aux autres partenaires de financement de cofinancer et/ou d'accueillir ces réunions régionales biennales, dont l'une comprendrait tous les quatre ans la consultation des États membres et de leurs commissions nationales sur le cycle de programmation à venir.**

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que les réunions informelles tenues en marge des réunions des organes directeurs soient préparées de manière à optimiser les possibilités d'échanger des informations et de partager les données d'expérience. En particulier, il recommande que le Secrétariat organise des événements participatifs structurés, avec des résultats attendus clairement définis, afin d'améliorer à la fois leur efficacité et l'échange des meilleures pratiques. Ces réunions seront préparées en organisant une consultation préalable appropriée pour connaître les besoins et les souhaits des participants.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 9**

Il est clair qu'un certain nombre de commissions nationales, en particulier celles des pays en développement ou établies de plus fraîche date, tireraient avantage de la possibilité de travailler en liaison plus étroite avec d'autres commissions nationales et de recevoir leur assistance sous la forme d'un partage des activités de formation, des connaissances et des expériences et de détachements ou de dons financiers occasionnels. Cela peut être fait au sein d'un même groupement régional ou dans le cadre d'échanges Nord-Sud ou Sud-Sud, ou chaque fois qu'au besoin d'une commission nationale peut répondre la capacité ou la disposition d'une autre commission nationale à lui venir en aide. Un certain nombre d'exemples de tels arrangements ayant donné des résultats très positifs ont été portés à l'attention du Groupe de travail.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque commission nationale qui est à même de venir en aide à d'autres commissions nationales moins bien équipées prenne des dispositions pour le faire savoir et étudie activement les moyens de prêter ainsi son assistance. Les systèmes de jumelage, les programmes d'échange de personnel et les réseaux de coopération entre commissions nationales sont les bienvenus et sont fortement encouragés.**

**Il est en outre recommandé que les commissions nationales soient invitées à présenter de temps à autres au Secrétariat un rapport sur leur expérience de ce type d'arrangements, de manière que d'autres puissent mettre à profit cette expérience.**

#### **IV. AMÉLIORATION DE LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES ET LE SECRÉTARIAT, AU SIÈGE ET AU NIVEAU DES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 10**

Malgré les différences dans leurs statuts et leur structure, les responsabilités et les tâches qui leur sont assignées et leur manière d'opérer avec des publics et des partenaires distincts, les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO ont pour mandat commun de faire avancer la mission et l'action de l'UNESCO.

Ils sont appelés à travailler de concert et à se compléter dans leurs efforts pour promouvoir les activités, les partenariats et la visibilité de l'UNESCO aux niveaux national et régional.

Les rôles respectifs de ces deux réseaux ne sont pas clairement définis et, dans certains cas, on note une confusion et des malentendus considérables quant aux rôles et aux responsabilités de chacun. La communication et les consultations entre ces deux entités laissent souvent à désirer.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que les « Directives pour les relations et la coopération entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO » approuvées par le Conseil exécutif en avril 2006 (174 EX/34 Annexe) soient révisées et actualisées en vue de faire le point de la situation présente de façon à améliorer la collaboration entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales. Il recommande aussi de rappeler aux bureaux hors Siège leur obligation de travailler en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales ainsi qu'avec les États membres de la région desservie par eux. De même, il convient de rappeler aux commissions nationales qu'il importe de rester en contact avec les bureaux hors Siège les concernant et de tenir ceux-ci informés de tout programme pertinent au niveau régional et de les consulter à ce sujet.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 11**

Le partage de l'information et des connaissances entre le Secrétariat au Siège et les commissions nationales est un moyen important d'accroître la capacité des commissions nationales de s'engager dans



diverses activités de l'UNESCO. D'importants progrès ont été réalisés récemment dans le domaine de la communication sous la forme de lettres d'information mensuelles, de messages en ligne et de discussions sur des forums électroniques.

De plus amples efforts sont nécessaires pour intensifier la communication dans les deux sens, en mettant à profit les nouvelles TIC de même que les méthodes de communication plus traditionnelles. Les réunions biennales des commissions nationales d'une même région demeurent un élément important à cet égard.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO facilite la mise en réseau des commissions nationales en assurant de manière plus régulière la collecte et le signalement de l'information, des connaissances et des bonnes pratiques et leur partage avec les commissions nationales. Cela implique que les commissions nationales soumettent les informations, bulletins et rapports d'activité pertinents, ainsi que leurs propositions, en temps voulu et de préférence sous forme électronique de façon à faciliter la tâche du Secrétariat.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 12**

Les gouvernements, les délégations permanentes et les commissions nationales des États membres ne sont pas toujours tenus informés des activités entreprises par le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO (Siège et bureaux hors Siège) dans leurs pays respectifs.

Il arrive qu'ils n'en prennent connaissance qu'à travers les médias. Laisser les commissions nationales dans l'ignorance d'un projet ou d'une activité mis en œuvre dans leur pays n'est ni courtois ni conforme à l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) et à la Charte des commissions nationales.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO veille à ce que les délégations permanentes et les commissions nationales soient consultées et préalablement informées pour chaque activité que l'UNESCO prévoit de mettre en œuvre dans leur pays, y compris les missions de membres du personnel et les réunions avec les fonctionnaires et les partenaires, et associées le cas échéant à ces activités, et à ce qu'elles soient par la suite informées des résultats de ces missions et réunions.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 13**

Toutes les commissions nationales ont besoin de renforcer et d'adapter en permanence leurs capacités et leurs méthodes de travail afin de jouer leur rôle avec efficacité et efficience. Dans bien des cas, les modalités de formation et de recherche de financements qui ont cours aujourd'hui ne sont plus adaptées aux besoins actuels. Le Secrétariat doit d'urgence explorer et élaborer de nouvelles modalités de formation, à la lumière de sa propre expérience et de celle des commissions nationales.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat élabore des programmes de formation pour répondre aux besoins variés des différentes commissions nationales. Une formation face-à-face peut continuer à être organisée lorsque cela est nécessaire et que des sources de financement sont disponibles, mais il conviendrait d'explorer et d'élaborer plus avant d'autres modalités de formation ciblées et d'un bon rapport coût-efficacité, telles que**

- visioconférences
- formation en ligne

- **visites d'étude ou stages effectués par des membres des commissions au Siège ou dans les bureaux hors Siège.**

**Le Secrétariat devrait apporter son soutien aux initiatives de mise en réseau, de partenariat et de coopération entre les commissions nationales à des fins de renforcement des capacités.**

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 14**

En tant que principales bénéficiaires du Programme de participation, les commissions nationales s'appuient sur les aides fournies au titre de ce programme aussi bien pour mettre en œuvre des projets que pour renforcer leurs capacités et leurs partenariats. Les délais d'approbation des demandes dans des domaines tels que l'achat de matériel, la célébration d'anniversaires, les ateliers de formation et la publication de rapports ou de lettres d'information ont suscité certaines préoccupations.

Le caractère incomplet d'un certain nombre de demandes d'aide au titre du Programme de participation et la qualité insuffisante des rapports financiers et d'évaluation au sujet des aides antérieures ont rendu problématique l'ensemble du processus d'examen et d'approbation des demandes. Il est entendu que le Conseil exécutif pourrait réfléchir aux règles et critères régissant l'attribution de fonds au titre du Programme de participation à la lumière du rapport du Commissaire aux comptes.

**Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales et le Secrétariat, y compris les bureaux hors Siège, travaillent en étroite liaison pour améliorer encore le processus du Programme de participation. Des efforts particuliers devront être faits lors de l'établissement des rapports financiers et d'évaluation.**

## **V. RESPONSABILITÉS ET ÉCHÉANCES CONCERNANT LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DES RECOMMANDATIONS**

Comme indiqué plus haut, les délégations permanentes, les commissions nationales (les unes et les autres en liaison avec leur gouvernement) et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO ont des responsabilités directes dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations les intéressant.

Tout rapport présenté par les États membres sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations relatives aux conclusions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 et 9 devra être reçu au plus tard le 30 juin 2014.

Le Secrétariat devrait soumettre un rapport d'étape sur la mise en œuvre de toutes ces recommandations au Conseil exécutif à sa 196e session (printemps 2015). L'examen du « Guide de la coopération entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales » (recommandation 9) pourrait avoir lieu à cette occasion.

# GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

U N E S C O

## FOREWORD

**The [Member States and their] National Commissions for UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat pursue the same purpose** under the Constitution of UNESCO, namely “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.

**These constituent elements of the common purpose**, all unifying by nature, primarily require *intellectual and moral solidarity* on the part of all those who work to achieve it.

**UNESCO’s strategy for the reform of the field network** is aimed at optimizing UNESCO’s operations and improving the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, quality and visibility of the field network, thus providing more effective support for the efforts that Member States have undertaken by ratifying the Constitution of UNESCO “to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other’s lives”.

**The Organization’s unity of action must** remain a key concern of the National Commissions for UNESCO and the Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field. All work together to accomplish UNESCO’s mandate. Such unity is all the more important in the light of the concerted pursuit of post-2015 development agenda through ever closer cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system and, even more broadly, with the international community.

## GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

### Mission statement

National Commissions and field offices together promote UNESCO’s ideals and principles.

### Introduction

The following guidelines have been developed in response to a need expressed repeatedly by National Commissions for UNESCO and were discussed by an informal Working Group of Secretaries-General and Directors/Heads of UNESCO field offices from all regions who met at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 and 29 January 2004. They were reviewed and amended at the first interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 22 to 24 July 2014, in accordance with UNESCO’s recent field reform and in the light of the Action Plan for enhancing UNESCO’s cooperation with the worldwide National Commissions network, adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 97).

These Guidelines outline the main areas of interface and cooperation between the UNESCO field network and the National Commissions for UNESCO: definition of each entity, their respective responsibilities and roles, and the modalities for planning and implementing UNESCO’s programme within the framework of the field network reform. They are based on legal texts of the Organization and decisions of its governing bodies



in this respect. Furthermore, they were widely circulated for comments and suggestions and agreed upon by all concerned.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

National Commissions and field offices have differentiated but sometimes joint and/or common activities. National Commissions report first and foremost to their Governments. Field offices report first and foremost to the Director-General of UNESCO.

### National Commissions

#### • Advisory function

- Advise representatives of their government on the Executive Board and their alternates as well as their delegations to the General Conference and other meetings convened by UNESCO;
- Advise the respective governmental bodies/line Ministries to ensure that UNESCO mandates are represented/positioned in the development of new National Development Plans, and in the roll out of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), in particular ahead of the UNDAF consultations with Government;
- Advise national institutions and partners on UNESCO-related matters;
- At the request of the UNESCO Secretariat, provide advice on possible linkages with national partners;
- Advise UNESCO's Secretariat on other relevant issues, either on request or on their own initiative, including through international and interregional consultations among National Commissions.

#### • Contribution to UNESCO's planning/programming processes

- Conduct timely national consultations with relevant governmental bodies and other stakeholders in order to identify and develop national priorities and strategies for cooperation with UNESCO, taking into account UNESCO's mandates and priorities;
- Contribute where appropriate to the development of the UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD);
- Participate and contribute to consultations meetings as appropriate with field offices and other National Commissions at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

#### • Liaison and outreach function

- Foster the linkage with and involvement in UNESCO's activities of relevant governmental bodies, national institutions and other civil society stakeholders and individuals in order to obtain intellectual and professional inputs useful to the Organization, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation in the process;
- Forge with the support of the field offices new partnerships with national civil society organizations – grass-roots and volunteer groups, NGOs, the academic and professional communities, parliamentarians, local authorities, trade unions and the private sector – and promote UNESCO's various networks and programmes;

- Accredit, monitor and assess as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in their respective countries so as to ensure that activities implemented by Clubs and Centres for UNESCO are in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO, and the name and logo of UNESCO are properly used by them. The National Commissions may withdraw the accreditation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO which are not meeting the required standards, including the “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and internet domain names of UNESCO”;
- Play a proactive role in encouraging national entities to propose candidates for UNESCO prizes, participating in searching for candidates for vacant posts at UNESCO and placing UNESCO fellowship holders;
- Reach out to other National Commissions in the region and beyond and strengthen cooperation, in particular South-South and North-South-South cooperation.

• **Implementation function**

- In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Conference, submit to UNESCO every biennium, after consulting with the relevant constituents, including with the field offices, Participation Programme requests in alignment with UNESCO’s programme priorities ;
- Monitor, evaluate and report to the Organization on the implementation of the approved Participation Programme Requests;
- May contribute on a contractual basis to activities funded under UNESCO’s regular programme budget and through extrabudgetary resources, ensuring that requirements for efficiency, effectiveness and accountability are observed;
- Provide, upon request, relevant information for facilitating programme execution, including on the most appropriate national contractors, experts and partners;
- Coordinate national responses to UNESCO-conducted surveys and reports on national implementation of UNESCO’s standard-setting instruments;
- Seek support from potential donors at the national level for their own activities and where appropriate for supporting field office initiatives in this respect;
- Assume responsibility for the proper use of the Organization’s name and emblem in their respective country and consult the field office as appropriate.

• **Information and advocacy function**

- Promote UNESCO’s ideals and disseminate information on the Organization’s activities and achievements, in order to strengthen UNESCO’s impact at the national level;
- Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO;
- Work actively with the national media in order to bring the above to the attention of the public at large;
- Organize national and awareness-raising events which come within UNESCO’s fields of competence.

## Field offices

### • Planning function

- Analyse in close cooperation with National Commissions and relevant line Ministries trends in the Organization's fields of competence in the countries they cover in order to inform policy-making and action at national, subregional, regional and global level;
- Develop and coordinate in close cooperation with National Commissions national/cluster/regional strategic frameworks, UCPD and operational plans, for both regular programme and extrabudgetary activities, as a major input to UNESCO's overall planning process;
- Ensure that national priorities in UNESCO's fields of competence are duly reflected in the United Nations Country Team's Common Country Assessment (CCA), in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and in joint activities for the advancement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as in the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP);
- Draw up work plans for regular programme activities in close cooperation with National Commissions and ensure coherence and complementarities with Participation Programme requests.

### • Implementation function

- Provide, upon request, policy advice and technical support to Member States in the formulation and review of policies and strategies in UNESCO's areas of competence;
- Act as broker for good practice and expert services;
- Support cooperation among National Commissions in subregions and beyond;
- Develop, implement and monitor UNESCO's regular programme and extrabudgetary activities in the country/ies under their coverage, including by consulting the National Commissions concerned and keeping them informed of progress;
- Document successes, failures and lessons learned in the execution of activities.
- Within the framework of the approved programme and budget, respond to unforeseen challenges and opportunities arising in the field.

### • Fundraising function

- Cooperate with Member States in identifying and formulating development projects and mobilize funds for UNESCO activities;
- Ensure, with the help of National Commissions, that extrabudgetary activities and projects have received full endorsement by the respective Member State.
- Involve National Commissions in seeking opportunities for alignment and co-financing modalities via Government funded programmes.



- **Advocacy function**

- Promote and advocate UNESCO's ideals and objectives and disseminate them to governments, civil society, professional communities and the public at large with the support of National Commissions;
- Support governments, at their request, in the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments.

- **Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO**

- Promote international events which come within UNESCO's fields of competence including in cooperation with National Commissions;
- Maintain close relations with the media to ensure wide visibility, consulting National Commissions as appropriate to ensure complementarities;
- Develop communication strategies and reinforce on-line presence of the field offices with a view to enhance UNESCO's visibility within the national and international communities.

- **Clearing-house function**

- Gather, transfer, disseminate and share available information, knowledge and good practices on innovative solutions in UNESCO's fields of competence.

## EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- Directors/Heads of field offices regularly inform Secretaries-General of National Commissions of:
  - Visiting missions of UNESCO staff and consultants;
  - Activities and projects to be carried out at the national level or which involve national participation and the results thereof;
  - Significant developments at UNESCO.
- Secretaries-General of National Commissions regularly inform Heads/Directors of national/cluster offices of:
  - National issues, statements, events, developments, policies that may affect UNESCO's activities within its fields of competence;
  - Their interactions with other parts of UNESCO;
  - Their cooperation with regional IGOs and with NGOs active in UNESCO's domains.

### **Bilateral consultations**

#### **Directors/Heads of Multisectoral Regional Offices in Africa/Cluster/National Offices regularly consult the Secretaries-General of National Commissions on:**

- The conceptualization of activities to be carried out at national level, within the cluster/national strategic frameworks agreed on at the sub-regional/cluster consultation;
- The identification of national partners.

## **Secretaries-General of National Commissions:**

Consult as appropriate with Directors/Heads of field offices to ensure consistency with UNESCO's programmes.

### **PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS**

National Commissions and field offices reciprocate invitations to events they organize at the national level.

### **CONSULTATION MECHANISM**

#### **Consultation for the C/4 and C/5 documents**

The modality of consultation for the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents emphasizes building regional inputs to the process from a base in country-level consultations. Country-level consultations are within the purview of Member States, through their National Commissions. Management of the linkage between country, subregional/cluster and regional consultation falls under responsibility of the Secretariat.

The modalities of regional consultations are presently under review. Please refer to document 192 EX/5 Part IIIC and related decision 192 EX/decision 5 IIIC.

#### **Country-level consultations**

- *Who is in charge?*
  - The National Commission.
- *Who participates?*
  - All governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at country level and UNESCO field office covering the country in question.
- *When do they take place?*
  - Ideally, one meeting before the subregional/cluster and regional consultations.
- *What are the outcomes?*
  - The countries' input to the consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents.

#### **Subregional/Cluster-level consultations**

- *Who is in charge?*
  - UNESCO cluster and regional offices, and in Africa, the Multisectoral Regional Offices.
- *Who participates?*
  - National Commissions and within budget available, other stakeholders and experts as appropriate, representatives of Regional Bureaux and UNESCO Institutes. UNESCO programme sectors and central services as well as other United Nations agencies and other partners may be invited to participate in these meetings, as relevant.

- *When do they take place?*
  - Ideally, at regular intervals and depending on budget availability during the four-year cycle. The meetings on the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents should be held, ideally in the spring/summer of the third year of the quadrennium, as per 192 EX/Decision 5.III.C and subsequent follow-up. In between meetings, collective consultations may be conducted by email.
- *What are the possible outcomes? Depending on the purpose of the consultation these could include, at the appropriate times:*
  - Regional/subregional/cluster/national strategic frameworks and operational plans to guide the implementation of the decentralized regular programme by field offices, the identification of projects for submission to extrabudgetary funding sources and advocacy and communication strategies;
  - Assessment of results achieved and follow-up of the implementation of activities and projects;
  - Review of management and coordination issues arising between the field offices and National Commissions;
  - Agreement on joint activities and increased synergy among National Commissions.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Role of National Commissions in encouraging partnerships

- **With the private sector**

UNESCO's National Commissions have a particular role to play in the engagement with a private partner. In addition to the mapping and identification of new partners at national and regional levels, and/or in the screening phase, the National Commissions are major stakeholders and UNESCO's natural interlocutors at the country level. It is of critical importance that any action be consulted, coordinated and sustained within the national development agenda. Partnering with the private sector in a given country should not be seen as purely opportunistic but rather embedded in a more long-term development perspective for the benefit of the country and the region at large.

- **With non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

Relevant National Commissions for UNESCO are consulted during the admission process of NGOs into partnership with UNESCO, particularly when the request concerns a national or local NGO. Cooperation at country level is conducted in consultation and/or in partnership with the National Commission for UNESCO concerned.

National Commissions should identify NGOs that are relevant to the current work of UNESCO and support the admission of the Organization's non-governmental partners, both internationally and nationally, in order to increase the number of official NGO partners from all regions that actively cooperate with UNESCO.

### **National Commissions and the use and authorization of the UNESCO name and logo**

In addition to using the UNESCO name and logo themselves to promote UNESCO's visibility and outreach, National Commissions play an important role in the authorization of UNESCO's logo too.

National Commissions can authorize its own patronage, i.e. moral support, to civil society organizations' events at national level and grant the use of the UNESCO National Commission logo in this context. National Commissions can also authorize the use of their own logo when they organize joint events together with other national organizations in the framework of a partnership.

In addition, National Commissions are called to support the Secretariat by providing advice on logo use to members of UNESCO's vast networks, such as to managers of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, to UNESCO Associated Schools, as well as to the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO, and UNESCO Chairs etc.

National Commissions are also called to support the Secretariat by providing recommendations when the Director-General's patronage is requested by civil society organizations in the relevant Member States.



## DIRECTIVES POUR LES RELATIONS ET LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE DE L'UNESCO ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO

U N E S C O

### AVANT-PROPOS

Aux termes de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, les **[États membres et leurs] commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO poursuivent le même but**, à savoir « contribuer au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité en resserrant, par l'éducation, la science et la culture, la collaboration entre nations, afin d'assurer le respect universel de la justice, de la loi, des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous, sans distinction de race, de sexe, de langue ou de religion, que la Charte des Nations Unies reconnaît à tous les peuples ».

**Ces éléments constitutifs du but commun**, fédérateurs par nature, exigent au premier chef la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de tous ceux qui y concourent.

**La stratégie de l'UNESCO pour la réforme du dispositif hors Siège** vise à optimiser les opérations de l'UNESCO et à améliorer l'efficacité, l'efficience, la cohérence, la qualité et la visibilité du réseau hors Siège, de façon à mieux assister les États membres dans la réalisation des engagements qu'ils ont pris en ratifiant la Convention créant l'UNESCO « de développer et de multiplier les relations entre leurs peuples en vue de se mieux comprendre et d'acquérir une connaissance plus précise et plus vraie de leurs coutumes respectives ».

**L'unité de l'action de l'Organisation**, au Siège et hors Siège doit demeurer la préoccupation centrale des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et du Secrétariat, qui concourent à l'accomplissement du mandat de l'UNESCO. Cette unité est encore plus importante au regard de l'action concertée qu'exige la mise en œuvre du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, à travers une coopération toujours plus étroite entre les organisations du système des Nations Unies et, au-delà, avec la communauté internationale.

## DIRECTIVES POUR LES RELATIONS ET LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE DE L'UNESCO ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO

### Mission

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège travaillent ensemble à la promotion des principes et des idéaux de l'UNESCO.

### Introduction

Les présentes directives ont été établies pour répondre à un besoin maintes fois exprimé des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et discutées par un groupe de travail informel de secrétaires généraux et de directeurs et chefs de bureau de toutes les régions qui s'étaient réunis au Siège de l'Organisation les 28 et 29 janvier 2004. Elles ont été révisées et amendées lors de la première Réunion interrégionale des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO qui s'est tenue à Astana (Kazakhstan) du 22 au 24 juillet 2014, conformément à la récente réforme du dispositif hors Siège de l'UNESCO et à la lumière du Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération de l'UNESCO avec le réseau mondial des commissions nationales, adopté par la Conférence générale (résolution 37 C/97).

Elles décrivent succinctement les principaux domaines d'échange et de coopération entre le dispositif hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO : définition de chaque entité, de son rôle et de ses attributions, ainsi que des modalités de planification et de mise en œuvre du programme de l'UNESCO

dans le contexte de la réforme du dispositif hors Siège. Élaborées à partir des textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation et des décisions de ses organes directeurs en la matière, elles ont été largement diffusées pour observations et suggestions et approuvées par toutes les parties intéressées.

## RÔLES ET RESPONSABILITÉS

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège ont des activités différenciées mais parfois conjointes et/ou communes. Les commissions nationales rendent compte en premier ressort à leur gouvernement. Les bureaux hors Siège rendent compte en premier ressort au Directeur général de l'UNESCO.

### Commissions nationales

#### • Fonction de conseil

- Conseiller les représentants de leur gouvernement au Conseil exécutif (et leurs suppléants), ainsi que leurs délégations à la Conférence générale et aux autres réunions convoquées par l'UNESCO.
- Conseiller les organismes gouvernementaux/ministères d'exécution compétents de telle sorte que les mandats de l'UNESCO soient représentés/inscrits dans l'élaboration des nouveaux plans de développement nationaux, et dans la mise en place du Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement (PNUAD), en particulier en amont des consultations sur le Plan-cadre avec le gouvernement.
- Conseiller les institutions et partenaires nationaux sur les sujets intéressant l'UNESCO.
- À la demande du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, donner des avis sur les liens possibles avec des partenaires nationaux.
  - Conseiller le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO sur d'autres sujets pertinents, soit à sa demande, soit de leur propre initiative, y compris dans le cadre de consultations internationales ou interrégionales entre commissions nationales.

#### • Contribution aux processus de planification/programmation de l'UNESCO

- Conduire, en temps opportun, des consultations nationales avec les entités gouvernementales et les autres acteurs intéressés, en vue de déterminer et définir les priorités nationales et les stratégies de coopération avec l'UNESCO, en tenant compte des mandats et des priorités de l'Organisation.
- Contribuer le cas échéant à l'élaboration des Documents de l'UNESCO relatifs à la programmation par pays (UCPD).
- Participer et contribuer selon que de besoin aux réunions de consultation avec les bureaux hors Siège et les autres commissions nationales aux niveaux sous-régional, régional et interrégional.

#### • Fonction de liaison et de sensibilisation

- Faciliter la liaison avec les entités gouvernementales, les institutions nationales et les autres acteurs de la société civile et les particuliers, ainsi que leur association aux activités de l'UNESCO, en vue d'obtenir des contributions intellectuelles et professionnelles utiles à l'Organisation et de promouvoir ainsi le dialogue et la collaboration interdisciplinaires.

- Forger avec le concours des bureaux hors Siège de nouveaux partenariats avec les organisations de la société civile au niveau national – groupes populaires et bénévoles sur le terrain, ONG, milieux universitaires et professionnels, parlementaires, autorités locales, syndicats et secteur privé – et promouvoir les divers réseaux et programmes de l'UNESCO.
- Accréditer les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO présents dans leurs pays respectifs, et suivre et évaluer leurs activités selon que de besoin afin de s'assurer que celles-ci sont conformes à la mission et aux objectifs de l'UNESCO, et qu'ils font un usage correct du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO. Les commissions nationales peuvent retirer leur accréditation aux associations, centres et clubs UNESCO qui ne satisfont pas aux normes requises, y compris aux « Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO ».
- Jouer un rôle proactif en encourageant les entités nationales à proposer des candidats pour les prix UNESCO, en participant à la recherche de candidats pour les postes vacants à l'UNESCO et en aidant à placer les titulaires de bourses UNESCO.
- Prendre contact avec d'autres commissions nationales dans leur région et au-delà et renforcer la coopération, en particulier la coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud-Sud.

#### • **Fonction d'exécution**

- Conformément aux résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence générale, soumettre tous les deux ans à l'UNESCO, après consultation des parties concernées, y compris le bureau hors Siège, les demandes au titre du Programme de participation conformes aux priorités de programme de l'UNESCO.
- Suivre et évaluer la mise en œuvre des demandes approuvées et faire rapport à l'Organisation à ce sujet.
- Contribuer éventuellement, par voie de contrats, aux activités financées au titre du Programme ordinaire de l'UNESCO ou par des ressources extrabudgétaires, en veillant au respect des impératifs d'efficacité et d'efficience et de l'obligation redditionnelle.
- Fournir, sur demande, les renseignements voulus pour faciliter l'exécution du programme, y compris en ce qui concerne les contractants, experts et partenaires nationaux les plus indiqués.
- Coordonner les réponses nationales aux enquêtes menées par l'UNESCO et aux rapports sur la mise en œuvre de ses instruments normatifs au niveau national.
- Rechercher l'appui de donateurs potentiels au niveau national pour leurs propres activités et, s'il y a lieu, appuyer les initiatives des bureaux hors Siège à cet égard.
- Assumer la responsabilité de l'usage correct du nom et de l'emblème de l'Organisation dans leur pays et consulter le cas échéant le bureau hors Siège.

#### • **Fonction d'information et de promotion**

- Promouvoir les idéaux de l'UNESCO et diffuser l'information sur ses activités et ses réalisations en vue de renforcer son impact au niveau national.
- Contribuer à la visibilité de l'UNESCO.

- Collaborer activement avec les médias nationaux pour faire connaître ce qui précède à l'opinion publique.
- Organiser des événements nationaux et de sensibilisation entrant dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

## **Bureaux hors Siège**

### **• Fonction de planification**

- Analyser en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales et les ministères d'exécution les tendances relevant des domaines de compétence de l'Organisation observées dans les pays qu'ils desservent en vue d'éclairer la décision et l'action aux niveaux national, sous-régional, régional et mondial.
- Élaborer et coordonner en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales des cadres stratégiques des UCPD et des plans d'opérations nationaux, multipays et régionaux, tant pour les activités extrabudgétaires que pour celles du Programme ordinaire, apportant ainsi une contribution capitale à l'ensemble du processus de planification de l'UNESCO.
- Veiller à ce que les priorités nationales relatives aux domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO soient dûment reprises dans le Bilan commun de pays (BCP) de l'Équipe de pays des Nations Unies, le Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement (PNUAD) et les activités conjointes visant à faire avancer le programme de développement pour l'après-2015, ainsi que dans les documents de stratégie pour la réduction de la pauvreté (DSRP) de la Banque mondiale.
- Établir les plans de travail relatifs aux activités du Programme ordinaire en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales et veiller à leur cohérence et à leur complémentarité avec les demandes au titre du Programme de participation.

### **• Fonction d'exécution**

- Fournir, à leur demande, aux États membres des conseils et une assistance technique pour la formulation et l'examen de leurs politiques et stratégies dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.
- Servir de relais pour les bonnes pratiques et les services d'experts.
- Soutenir la coopération entre les commissions nationales à l'échelle de la sous-région et au-delà.
- Élaborer, mettre en œuvre et suivre les activités de l'UNESCO (Programme ordinaire et activités extrabudgétaires) dans le ou les pays qu'ils desservent, y compris en consultant les commissions nationales concernées et en les tenant informées des progrès accomplis.
- Recenser les succès, les échecs et les enseignements tirés de la mise en œuvre des activités.
- Dans le cadre du Programme et budget approuvés, réagir aux difficultés comme aux occasions imprévues qui se présentent sur le terrain.

### **• Fonction de mobilisation de ressources financières**

- Coopérer avec les États membres en vue de l'identification et de la formulation de projets de développement et mobiliser des fonds pour les activités de l'UNESCO.



- S'assurer, avec le concours des commissions nationales, que les activités et projets extrabudgétaires ont été pleinement approuvés par l'État membre concerné.
- Associer les commissions nationales à la recherche de possibilités d'alignement et de modalités de cofinancement sous la forme de programmes financés par le gouvernement.

- **Fonction de promotion**

- Promouvoir et défendre les idéaux et les objectifs de l'UNESCO et les diffuser auprès des gouvernements, de la société civile, des milieux professionnels et de l'opinion en général avec le concours des commissions nationales.
- Aider les gouvernements qui en font la demande dans la mise en œuvre des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO.

- **Contribuer à la visibilité de l'UNESCO**

- Promouvoir les événements internationaux qui entrent dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, y compris en coopération avec les commissions nationales.
- Entretenir des relations étroites avec les médias pour assurer très généralement la visibilité de l'UNESCO, en consultation avec les commissions nationales dans la mesure où la complémentarité l'exige.
- Élaborer des stratégies de communication et renforcer la présence en ligne des bureaux hors Siège en vue d'accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO au sein de la collectivité nationale comme de la communauté internationale.

- **Fonction de centre d'échange d'information**

- Rassembler, transférer, diffuser et mettre en commun les informations disponibles, les connaissances et les bonnes pratiques ou des solutions novatrices dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

## ÉCHANGE D'INFORMATION

- Les directeurs/chefs des bureaux hors Siège informent régulièrement les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales des faits suivants :
  - visites de membres du personnel et consultants de l'UNESCO en mission;
  - activités et projets devant être menés au niveau national ou qui comportent une participation nationale, et résultats de ces activités et projets;
  - faits nouveaux ou événements importants survenus à l'UNESCO.
- Les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales informent régulièrement les directeurs/chefs des bureaux nationaux et multipays des faits et points suivants :
  - questions nationales, déclarations, événements, faits nouveaux, politiques qui peuvent influencer sur les activités de l'UNESCO dans ses domaines de compétence;

- leurs interactions avec les autres branches de l'UNESCO;
- leur coopération avec les organisations intergouvernementales régionales et les ONG exerçant leurs activités dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

### **Consultations bilatérales**

**Les directeurs/chefs des bureaux régionaux multisectoriels en Afrique et des bureaux multipays et nationaux consultent régulièrement les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales sur les points suivants :**

- La conceptualisation des activités à mener au niveau national, en les inscrivant dans les cadres stratégiques multipays et nationaux arrêtés d'un commun accord au cours de la consultation sous-régionale/multipays.
- La désignation des partenaires nationaux.

### **Les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales :**

Consultent, selon que de besoin, les directeurs/chefs des bureaux hors Siège, pour assurer la complémentarité avec les programmes de l'UNESCO.

## **PARTICIPATION À DES ÉVÉNEMENTS**

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège échangent des invitations aux événements qu'ils organisent respectivement au niveau national.

## **MÉCANISME DE CONSULTATION**

### **Consultation pour les documents C/4 et C/5**

La modalité de la consultation pour la préparation des documents C/4 et C/5 privilégie les contributions régionales au processus, constituées à partir des consultations conduites au niveau national. Ces consultations nationales relèvent des États membres, agissant par l'intermédiaire de leurs commissions nationales. C'est le Secrétariat qui assure et gère la liaison entre les consultations nationales, sous-régionales/multipays et régionales.

Les modalités des consultations régionales sont en cours d'examen. Prière de se reporter au document 192 EX/5 Partie III section B et à la décision 192 EX/5 (III.B) s'y rapportant.

### **Consultations au niveau national**

- *Qui en est chargé ?*
  - La commission nationale.
- *Qui y participe ?*
  - Tous les partenaires, gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux, au niveau national, et le bureau hors Siège de l'UNESCO desservant le pays concerné.

- *Quand ont-elles lieu ?*
  - Idéalement, il se tient une réunion avant les consultations sous-régionale/multipays et régionales.
- *Quels en sont les résultats ?*
  - La contribution des pays aux consultations sur les documents C/4 et C/5.

### **Consultations au niveau sous-régional/multipays**

- *Qui en est chargé ?*
  - Les bureaux multipays et régionaux de l'UNESCO et, en Afrique, les bureaux régionaux multisectoriels.
- *Qui y participe ?*
  - Les commissions nationales et, dans les limites du budget disponible, les autres acteurs et experts requis, et les représentants des bureaux régionaux et des instituts de l'UNESCO. Les secteurs de programme et les services centraux de l'UNESCO ainsi que d'autres organismes des Nations Unies et d'autres partenaires peuvent être invités à participer à ces réunions, selon que de besoin.
- *Quand ont-elles lieu ?*
  - Idéalement, à intervalles réguliers et selon les crédits disponibles pendant le cycle quadriennal. Les réunions sur la préparation des documents C/4 et C/5 devraient, dans l'idéal, se tenir au cours de l'automne/été de la troisième année du quadriennium, comme prescrit dans la décision 192 EX/5 (III.B) et les dispositions ultérieures. Dans l'intervalle, des consultations collectives pourraient avoir lieu par courrier électronique.
- *Quels en sont les résultats possibles ? Selon l'objet de la consultation, ce pourraient être, au moment voulu :*
  - Les cadres stratégiques régionaux, sous-régionaux, multipays et nationaux et les plans d'opérations qui inspirent la mise en œuvre des activités du Programme ordinaire décentralisées par les bureaux hors Siège, l'identification des projets à soumettre aux sources de financement extrabudgétaires et des stratégies de sensibilisation et de communication.
  - L'évaluation des résultats obtenus et le suivi de la mise en œuvre des activités et des projets.
  - L'examen des questions de gestion et de coordination qui se posent entre les bureaux hors Siège et les commissions nationales.
  - Un accord sur des activités conjointes et une plus grande synergie entre commissions nationales.

## **PARTENARIATS**

### **Rôle des commissions nationales s'agissant d'encourager les partenariats**

- **Avec le secteur privé**

Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO ont un rôle particulier à jouer dans la coopération avec un partenaire privé. En dehors de leur fonction de recensement et d'identification de nouveaux partenaires aux niveaux national et régional et/ou de leur intervention lors de la sélection, les commissions nationales sont

des parties prenantes majeures et les interlocuteurs naturels de l'UNESCO au niveau du pays. Il est essentiel que toute action soit menée en consultation et en coordination constantes avec l'agenda de développement national. Le partenariat avec le secteur privé dans un pays donné ne doit pas être considéré comme une mesure opportuniste mais comme un ancrage dans une perspective de développement à plus long terme dans l'intérêt du pays et de la région tout entière.

- **Avec les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG)**

Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO concernées sont consultées pendant le processus d'admission d'ONG aux relations de partenariat avec l'UNESCO, en particulier lorsque la demande concerne une ONG nationale ou locale. La coopération au niveau national s'opère en consultation et/ou en partenariat avec la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée.

Les commissions nationales devraient déterminer quelles sont les ONG qui présentent un intérêt au regard des activités courantes de l'UNESCO et soutenir l'admission de ses partenaires non gouvernementaux, aux niveaux tant international que national, en vue d'accroître le nombre d'ONG de toutes les régions qui coopèrent activement avec l'UNESCO en qualité de partenaire officiel.

## UTILISATION DU NOM ET DE L'EMBLÈME DE L'UNESCO

Les commissions nationales, l'utilisation du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO et le droit d'en autoriser l'utilisation.

Outre l'utilisation qu'elles font elles-mêmes du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO pour promouvoir la visibilité et le rayonnement de l'UNESCO, les commissions nationales jouent aussi un rôle important en délivrant des autorisations d'utiliser l'emblème de l'Organisation.

Les commissions nationales peuvent autoriser à placer sous leur patronage, c'est-à-dire sous leur caution morale, les événements d'organisations de la société civile se tenant à l'échelon national, et accorder dans ce contexte le droit d'utiliser l'emblème de commission nationale de l'UNESCO. Elles peuvent aussi autoriser l'utilisation de leur propre emblème lorsqu'elles organisent des événements conjointement avec d'autres organisations nationales dans le cadre d'un partenariat.

En outre, les commissions nationales sont appelées à assister le Secrétariat en conseillant au sujet de l'utilisation de l'emblème les membres des vastes réseaux de l'UNESCO, comme les gestionnaires des sites du patrimoine mondial et des réserves de biosphère, les écoles associées de l'UNESCO, ainsi que les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO, les chaires UNESCO, etc.

Les commissions nationales sont également appelées à assister le Secrétariat en formulant des recommandations lorsque des organisations de la société civile des États membres concernés demandent à bénéficier du patronage du Directeur général.



