



General Conference

39th session, Paris, 2017

39 C

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Item 1.6 of the provisional agenda

39 C/2 Prov.
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ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

OUTLINE

Source: Constitution of UNESCO, Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, 29 C/Resolution 87,33 C/Resolution 92, and 36 C/Resolution 104, 160 EX/Decisions 6.1.1/6.1.2, 180 EX/Decision 32 and 201 EX/Decision 20.

Background: At its 201st session, the Executive Board considered the proposals submitted by the Director-General concerning the organization of the work of the 39th session of the General Conference (documents 201 EX/20 Part I, Part II and Part III and document 201 EX/20.INF.). This document was drawn up on the basis of its conclusions. A revised version will be published after the 202nd session of the Executive Board (39 C/2 Prov. Rev.).

Purpose: The plan for the organization of the work recommended to the General Conference closely resembles the plan adopted at the 38th session (2015).

Decision required: After examining this document, the Bureau of the General Conference will submit to the plenary, for approval, its recommendations concerning the organization of the work of the session.



I. GENERAL REMARKS

1. The proposals for the organization of the work of the 39th session of the General Conference are basically similar to those of the two previous sessions, based on 29 C/Resolution 87, 160 EX/Decision 6.1.1/6.1.2, 33 C/Resolution 92, and 35 C/Resolution 99. They also take into account 185 EX/Decision 20 regarding the reduction of the running costs of the General Conference and 201 EX/Decision 20 (II) related to the organization of the work of the 39th session.

Timetable and times of meetings

2. The 39th session of the General Conference will open on **Monday 30 October 2017** at 10 a.m. and will conclude its work on **Tuesday 14 November 2017. Wednesday 1 November and Saturday 11 November 2017**, which are bank holidays in the host State, will be working days.”¹

3. Meetings will be held from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and from **3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** However, the Bureau of the General Conference and the bureaux of the commissions may be required to meet outside these hours.

Time limits for statements

4. In the **General Policy Debate**, it is recommended that speakers restrict their national policy statements to **six minutes**, in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraph 17 below. In the commissions and committees, the chairpersons will take whatever measures they deem appropriate regarding any time limits on statements.

Seating arrangements

5. In all rooms, the Member States will be seated in the alphabetical order of their names in French, beginning with Burundi, whose name was drawn by lot at the 201st session of the Executive Board.

Documentation

6. Practice concerning documentation for the General Conference will be in line with previous sessions, but with redoubled efforts to reduce volume. From the moment of publication, General Conference documents can be found on the UNESCO website.

II. VOTING RIGHTS

7. In order to exercise its right to vote, each State must have submitted **valid credentials**, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure.

8. It must also be up to date with its assessed contributions. According to Article IV.C, paragraph 8(b), of the Constitution, “A Member State shall have no vote in the General Conference if the total amount of contributions due from it exceeds the total amount of contributions payable by it for the current year and the immediately preceding calendar year”. But paragraph 8(c) provides that the General Conference may decide to make an exception to this rule “if it is satisfied that failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member State”. The procedure applicable to communications from Member States invoking this provision is determined by Rule 82 of the Rules of Procedure.

9. Under that rule, communications from Member States have to be submitted in the first three days of the session at the latest: beyond that deadline, the States concerned may no longer be authorized to take part in voting during the session. The examination of those communications, to be entrusted to the APX Commission, will be subject to the criteria set forth in paragraph 7 of Rule 82.

¹ In all, the Conference will last 13 working days.

III. PLENARY MEETINGS

Opening of the 39th session and ensuing plenary meetings

10. The General Conference will open on Monday, 30 October, at 10 a.m. Following the addresses by its Temporary President (President of the 38th session), the Chair of the Executive Board and the Director-General, the Conference will establish the Credentials and Nominations Committees (which will immediately hold their first meeting), examine and adopt its agenda, and examine the recommendations by the Executive Board on the admission of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO.

11. The afternoon meeting will start with the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and the establishment of commissions and committees, followed by addresses by the Chair of the Executive Board and the Director-General to introduce the General Policy Debate.

General Policy Debate: Leaders' Forum and national statements

12. The Director-General and the Executive Board propose preserving a two-fold structure: Leaders' Forum and National Statements. The morning of Tuesday, 31 October will begin with the opening of the General Policy Debate in the form of the **Leaders' Forum**, with the participation of invited Heads of State and/or Government. The Forum will continue on the afternoon of 31 October and the morning of Wednesday 1 November. There will then ensue, from Wednesday 1 November, afternoon, until Monday, 6 November morning, the **National Statements** of the General Policy Debate, followed by the Director-General's reply to the debate in the morning of Monday, 6 November. The proposed themes for the Forum and suggestions for its organization, taking into account the experience of the previous editions, are contained in Annex III hereto.

13. For the consecutive national statements strand of the General Policy Debate, the procedure followed since 2003 (165 EX/Decision 7.1) for drawing up the list of speakers will also be followed at the 39th session. Immediately after the 201st session of the Board, Member States are invited to submit to the Secretariat, within a time limit of one month, several dates for the statement by their head of delegation in the general policy debate, indicating their preferences and specifying name and title of same. On that basis, a provisional list of speakers will be drawn up, taking the wishes expressed and the speakers' protocol rank into account. Speaking time will be six minutes, and a visual and sound system will gauge speaking time; the President of the General Conference will be empowered to interrupt any speaker exceeding the time limit.

14. Delegations shall be asked to provide the official statements (short or extended versions, according to their wish) in advance to the Secretariat of the General Conference. Each Member State is requested to submit an electronic copy of the head of delegation's statement, if possible in English and French (working languages of the Secretariat) as well as in the original language if this was one of the four other working languages of the General Conference. These texts will be posted every day online on the General Conference's website. Costs related to any necessary translation of this text would be borne by the concerned Member State, as is the case in the United Nations General Assembly.

15. The discussions of the Leaders' Forum and the National Statements will be part of the official Proceedings of the Conference. The Director-General will therefore take the debates into account – together with the national statements – in her reply to the General Policy Debate.

Elections

16. The election of Members of the Executive Board will take place on Wednesday, 8 November 2017, according to the "Procedure for the election of Members of the Executive Board" (Appendix 2

of the Rules of Procedure). If necessary, a second ballot will be held on Friday, 10 November.² Pursuant to Rule 1 of these provisions, candidatures should reach the Director-General at least six weeks before the opening of the session. In accordance with Rule 4, “subsequent candidatures shall be admissible only if they reach the Secretariat of the General Conference at least 48 hours before the beginning of the ballot” (that is, by 9 a.m. on 6 November).

17. The election related to the appointment of the Director-General is scheduled for Friday, 10 November (morning). An investiture ceremony will be held in a special plenary meeting before the closure of the session (date to be confirmed).

18. Voting in all the other elections will be organized by the Nominations Committee, which will submit the results to the plenary for approval. In accordance with 33 C/Resolution 92, these will be held as early as possible, probably Thursday, 9 November.

IV. BUREAU OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

19. The Bureau of the General Conference (Rules 41 and 42 of the Rules of Procedure) is composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents (not to exceed 36) and the chairpersons of the committees and commissions of the General Conference. Its role is to assist the President in directing the general work of the session. The Chair of the Executive Board attends its meetings, without the right to vote. The Bureau will normally meet twice a week from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Its first meeting will take place at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 31 October.

V. COMMISSIONS

20. Under Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure, the General Conference shall establish at each session “such commissions and other subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the transaction of the business of that session”. In practice, the structure of the commissions of the General Conference reflects, at each of its sessions, that of the Draft Programme and Budget under consideration, as well as the need to examine financial, administrative, programme support and general matters. In this connection, following the proposed structure of document 39 C/5, as well as the provisions of 36 C/Resolution 104,³ these Commissions will be:

- ED Commission – Major Programme I
- SC Commission – Major Programme II and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- SHS Commission – Major Programme III
- CLT Commission – Major programme IV
- CI Commission – Major Programme V
- APX Commission – Financial, administrative and general questions, programme support and external relations

21. Annex I shows the envisaged allocation of agenda items to the various organs of the Conference. The Commissions will meet jointly on 14 November to adopt the Draft Appropriation Resolution (item 3.3). They will also hold a short joint meeting at the beginning of the session to adopt the Provisional Budget Ceiling (item 3.4).

² “If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes and, as a result, there are still more candidates than seats to be filled, there will be a second secret ballot restricted to those candidates who obtained the same number of votes” (Rule 94).

³ Through this resolution, the General Conference invited the Director-General to implement the recommendations contained in Part I of 186 EX/Decision 17, which “Recommends that the General Conference merge its ADM Commission (Finance and Administration) and its PRX Commission (General Questions, Programme Support and External Relations) on an experimental basis”.

VI. COMMITTEES

22. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the following committees shall be established at each session.

23. The **Credentials Committee** (Rules 32 and 33 of the Rules of Procedure) consists of nine members elected at the first plenary meeting of the General Conference on the proposal of the Temporary President. It will meet immediately, at 12 noon, to examine the credentials of delegations, representatives and observers. It will present its first report to the plenary at the end of its second meeting and will hold as many further meetings as may be necessary. Until the Credentials Committee has made its report and the General Conference given a ruling, all delegations will be attending provisionally, with the right to vote.

24. The **Nominations Committee** (Rules 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure) consists of the heads of all delegations entitled to vote. It will hold its first meeting at 12 noon on Monday, 30 October in order to establish, after examining the recommendations of the Executive Board, the list of nominations for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference, and to consider nominations to the chairs of the commissions. The Committee will meet in due course in order to draw up the lists of nominations for all the other offices to be filled by election by the General Conference.

25. The Legal Committee (Rules 36 and 37 of the Rules of Procedure) submits its reports either directly to the General Conference or to the organ from which the matter has been referred or which has been designated by the General Conference. At the 39th session it will be composed of the following 18 members, elected at the 38th session:⁴

Afghanistan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Peru
Argentina	Kenya	Sweden
Bangladesh	Kuwait	United Kingdom
Canada	Lesotho	United States of America
El Salvador	Myanmar	Uzbekistan
France	Nicaragua	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

26. The **Headquarters Committee** (Rules 39 and 40 of the Rules of Procedure) meets between the sessions of the General Conference to advise the Director-General on all questions relating to the Organization's Headquarters. Until the closure of the 39th session, it will be composed of the following 23 Member States, elected by halves at the 37th and 38th sessions respectively:

Bangladesh	Indonesia	Spain
Czech Republic	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Myanmar	Sudan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Peru	United Kingdom
El Salvador	Portugal	Uzbekistan
France	Qatar	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Kenya	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Yemen
	Senegal	Zimbabwe

⁴ Group II presented only one candidate for the three vacant seats, Group V (a) presented two candidates for the three vacant seats and Group V (b) presented one candidate for the four vacant seats. Consequently, at its 38th session, the General Conference elected only 18 members to the Legal Committee for the 39th session of the General Conference.

VII. EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2018-2021 (39 C/5 and Add.): DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS

27. Draft resolutions proposing the adoption of amendments to the Draft Programme and Budget are processed on the basis of the procedure set out in Rules 79 and 80 of the Rules of Procedure⁵.

28. According to the above-mentioned provisions, this category of draft resolutions must be addressed to an operative paragraph of the Draft Programme and Budget. These paragraphs (the draft resolutions contained in the C/5 document) appear within a box (draft resolutions) in Volume 1 of draft document 39 C/5 containing all draft resolutions proposed by the Director-General and thus facilitating the identification of those paragraphs that are subject to amendment through draft resolutions.

29. Member States submitting a draft resolution are invited to indicate clearly the amount of their budgetary implications and, in all cases, the source of funding envisaged, should they be adopted by the General Conference, namely, the **Main Line of Action (MLA) shown in document 39 C/5 and Add. that would be curtailed or abolished for the purpose of releasing appropriate funds, or an attempt to find extrabudgetary resources.** For this purpose they are requested to use the form annexed to the Director-General's Circular Letter on draft resolutions proposing amendments to the draft Programme and Budget. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Director-General to release appropriate resources to take action, during the execution of the Programme, on any resolutions that were to be adopted without the General Conference stipulating how their implementation should be financed. Furthermore, Rule 79, Paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, specifies that draft resolutions with financial implications for the Organization's regular budget should clearly identify the Part and, where appropriate, the main line of action (MLA) of the Draft Programme and Budget from which the resources should come.

30. All resolutions submitted for adoption *in extenso* by the General Conference, as well as other decisions approved on the basis of the commission reports, should therefore mention clearly the amount of resources needed and the method of funding envisaged for their implementation, either a drive to find extrabudgetary resources or the identification of equivalent savings within the regular programme.

31. Draft resolutions will be attributed for examination to the commission concerned, according to the part of document 39 C/5 to which they are addressed. However, should a draft resolution propose shifts in programmatic or budgetary aspects affecting different Major Programmes or parts of document 39 C/5, its examination would jointly be done by all commissions during a joint meeting, in order to formulate coherent recommendations for adoption by the plenary.

VIII. SPECIAL MEETINGS DURING THE 39th SESSION

32. As during previous sessions, a **Youth Forum** will be held before the opening of the session, from Wednesday 25 October to Thursday 26 October 2017. The report of the Forum will be an item on the agenda of the session. Details on the Forum are contained in Annex II to the present document.

33. A high-level Ministerial meeting on SDG 4 will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday 1 November 2017, preceding the work of the ED Commission. The event will consist of two interactive panel discussions during which selected Ministers of Education will take stock of work undertaken and progress made in the past two years and draw lessons for the future. This high-

⁵ It should be noted that these provisions apply only to draft resolutions concerning the Draft Programme and Budget. Draft resolutions submitted under other items of the agenda are subject to other rules, which are set out in Rule 78.

level policy dialogue forum is part of UNESCO's global mandated role to lead SDG 4 – Education 2030, including through sessions organized alongside the General Conference of UNESCO.

34. The **General Assembly of States Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention** will take place on 14 and 15 November 2017.

35. A tribute to the Director-General will be held in a special plenary meeting before the end of the session (date to be confirmed).

ANNEX I

ASSIGNMENT OF ITEMS OF THE AGENDA TO THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF THE CONFERENCE

Plenary

- 1.1 Opening of the session by the President of the 38th session of the General Conference
- 1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee and report by the Committee to the General Conference
- 1.4 Adoption of the agenda
- 1.5 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees
- 1.6 Organization of the work of the session
- 1.7 Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon
- 2.1 Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2014-2015, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board
- 2.2 Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation
- 3.3 Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2018-2019
- 12.1 Appointment of the Director-General
- 13.1 Election of Members of the Executive Board
- 14.1 Venue of the 40th session of the General Conference

Joint meeting of commissions

- 3.3 Adoption of the Appropriation Resolution for 2018-2019 (preparation)
- 3.4 Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling

Draft resolutions proposing amendments (with budgetary implications) addressed to two or more resolutions contained in Volume 1 of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5 and Add).

ED Commission

- 3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021
 - Part II.A: Major Programme I – Education
- 4.3 Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories
- 4.4 Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO

4.5 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

4.8 UNESCO's role in the implementation of the SDG4-Education 2030 Agenda

6.1 Progress report on the preparation of a global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications

6.3 Desirability of a standard-setting instrument on international collaboration in the field of Open Educational Resources (OER)

7.1 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education

7.2 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

7.5 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1978 Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics

7.6 Preliminary revision of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (1974)

SC Commission

3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021

Part II.A: Major Programme II – Natural Sciences
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

4.4 Establishment of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO

4.5 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

4.6 Proclamation of an International Day of Light

4.9 UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change

SHS Commission

3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021

Part II.A: Major Programme III – Social and Human Sciences

4.4 Establishment of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO

4.5 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

4.11 Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition: World Humanities Conference

6.2 Desirability of preparing a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change

7.3 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers

7.4 Proposal for the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers

CLT Commission

3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021

Part II.A: Major Programme IV – Culture

4.2 Jerusalem and the implementation of 38 C/Resolution 52

4.3 Implementation of 38 C/Resolution 72 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories

4.5 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

CI Commission

3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021

Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information

4.5 Conclusions of the Youth Forum

4.7 Report on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) beyond 2015

APX Commission

1.3 Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), of the Constitution

3.1 Methods of preparing the budget, budget estimates for 2018-2021, and budgeting techniques

3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021

Part I General Policy and Direction

Part II.A UNESCO Institute for Statistics
Management of field offices

Supplementary funding for the Field Network Reform

Part II.B Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit Africa
Coordination and monitoring of action to benefit gender equality
Strategic planning, programme monitoring and budget preparation
Organization-wide knowledge management
External relations and public information
Field support and coordination

Part II.C Participation Programme and Fellowships

Part III.A Human resources management

Part III.B Financial management

Part III.C Management of Support Services

Part III.D Management of information systems and communications

Part III.E Management of security and safety

Reserves for staffing adjustments and for the After Service Health Insurance long-term liability (ASHI)

Part IV Loan Repayments for Renovation of Headquarters Premises and the IBE Building

Part V Anticipated Cost Increases

3.4 Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling

4.1 Proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated

4.10 The importance of sound in today's world: promoting best practices

5.1 Governance procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO

8.1 Proposals for qualitative dialogue between Member States and NGOs, including within the governing bodies

9.1 Financial report and audited consolidated financial statements relating to the accounts of UNESCO for the year ended 31 December 2015, and report by the External Auditor

9.2 Scale of assessments and currency of Member States' contributions

9.3 Collection of Member States' contributions

9.4 Working Capital Fund: Level and administration

10.1 Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

10.2 Staff salaries, allowances and benefits

10.3 United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and appointment of Member States' representatives to the UNESCO Staff Pension Committee for 2018-2019

10.4 Report by the Director-General on the state of the Medical Benefits Fund (BFM)

10.5 Audit of the Medical Benefits Fund (MBF)

10.6 Human Resources Management Strategy for 2017-2022

11.1 Report by the Director-General, in cooperation with the Headquarters Committee, on managing the UNESCO complex

Nominations Committee

1.5 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees

13.1 Election of members of the Executive Board

13.2 Election of the members of the Legal Committee for the 40th session of the General Conference

13.3 Election of members of the Headquarters Committee

- 13.4 Election of members of the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes that may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education
- 13.5 Election of members of the Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)
- 13.6 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP)
- 13.7 Election of members of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
- 13.8 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- 13.9 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP)
- 13.10 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)
- 13.11 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme
- 13.12 Election of members of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGCB)
- 13.13 Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)
- 13.14 Election of members of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
- 13.15 Election of the members of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo
- 13.16 Appointment of an External Auditor

Legal Committee¹

- 3.2 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (draft resolutions)
- 5.1 Governance procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO
- 7.1 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1960 Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- 7.2 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- 7.3 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers

¹ The legal aspects of certain issues discussed under other agenda items may also be considered by the Legal Committee.

- 7.4 Proposal for the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers
- 7.5 Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1978 Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics

ANNEX II

TENTH UNESCO YOUTH FORUM

Wednesday, 25 October to Thursday, 26 October 2017

A pilot **Youth Forum** entitled “Rethinking youth engagement with UNESCO” will be held on 25 and 26 October 2017.

Background – The UNESCO Youth Forum is an integral part of the General Conference (32 C/Resolution 82) since 1999. An analysis of its results so far showed that (i) Forum recommendations were rarely taken onboard; and (ii) follow-up commitment by youth attendees was very weak. Furthermore, the report of the 2014-2015 implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (cf. document 201 EX/4.INF.2) shows that youth continue to be mere beneficiaries of UNESCO’s action and are rarely engaged as actors and partners. It shows that UNESCO needs to engage differently with youth for better impact. It is thus proposed that the 10th Youth Forum takes the form of a consultation with young change-makers and youth working on the frontlines of the issues addressed by UNESCO’s mandate. It is designed as the springboard for long-term and meaningful engagement with youth as per the Operational Strategy on Youth.

Objectives of the 10th UNESCO Youth Forum

- Discuss how UNESCO can better engage with youth to scale up outstanding youth actions that create positive change in UNESCO’s areas of expertise.
- Develop lasting relationships between UNESCO’s Programme Sectors and young change-makers leading to tangible action related to UNESCO’s mandate.
- Co-design (sub)regional Youth “spaces” that enable youth to interact, voice their ideas on UNESCO’s fields of competence and address the issues most affecting them.

Participants – About 100 young women and men from all regions will attend. Following proposals received from an online call, the Secretariat will select them through a transparent process based on strict criteria: participants must have led or co-shaped a social initiative addressing a specific development challenge within a UNESCO area of competence that has received significant public recognition. An emphasis will be made on stories of resilience. Geographical and gender balance will be ensured. Member States, through their National Commissions, as well as youth organizations and partner networks, will be informed of the selected participants.

Format – Young women and men, as well as youth representatives from all over the world and from different constituencies, will be invited to participate in an online consultation to determine the precise format of the Forum. The format of the Forum will focus on enabling participants to work and interact with UNESCO colleagues from all programme sectors and field offices to define avenues of cooperation that could better respond to their needs.

Digital component – A communication strategy will be developed to enable youth to engage with the Forum digitally. Social networking and media partnerships will help increase visibility and ensure the engagement of youth in UNESCO’s online Youth Community. Long-term digital engagement will also ensure that a community of change-makers is developed via the story-telling initiative YouthOfUNESCO.

Resource mobilization – Extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions are being pursued. UNESCO Member States are encouraged to sponsor participants, be they from their own country or elsewhere.

Outcome – The primary outcome will be the development of long-term relationships with youth who are leading change in their domain (related to UNESCO’s fields of competence). The Forum output – to be presented to the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference – will consist of ideas and modalities for cooperation between youth and UNESCO in implementing the 39 C/5, as well as proposed methodologies for the rollout of (sub-) regional Youth “spaces”.

ANNEX III

LEADERS' FORUM

Tuesday, 31 October and Wednesday, 1 November (morning) 2017

1. Purpose

The Leaders' Forum is a forward-looking policy dialogue, reserved primarily for keynote addresses by Heads of State and Government of Member States and Associate Members. The Leaders' Forum seeks to heighten for representatives of the Member States at the highest level the relevance and attractiveness of attending the General Conference, both for their benefit and for the visibility of the Organization.

2. Theme and rationale

(a) Theme

Given the centrality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all UNESCO's fields of competence, it is proposed to convene the Leaders' Forum of the 39th session of the General Conference on the theme "SDGs and UNESCO's Role in the Multilateral System".

(b) Background

In 2015, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Heads of State, Government leaders, United Nations High Level Representatives and civil society at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly marked a turning point in the history of international cooperation. This was followed by the Paris Climate Agreement. Taken together, these embody a new global agenda for poverty reduction, human rights and dignity, social inclusion and dialogue and more sustainable paths to development. The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) express the most ambitious, universal and transformative agenda ever set to leave no one behind.

(c) UNESCO's role

The fields of competence of UNESCO stand at the heart of this new agenda "of the people, by the people and for the people". Cooperation in ensuring quality education and lifelong learning for all is essential to the success of all goals, along with advancing gender equality and harnessing the benefits of the sciences for all societies in transformation, including on the sustainable management of water resources and the ocean. The power of cultural heritage and diversity is recognised as a driver and enabler for more inclusive and sustainable development, specifically for the rising importance of cities. Freedom of expression and media development are underlined as pillars for stronger institutions, the rule of law and good governance. All of these constitute the foundations for preventing conflict and sustaining more lasting peace, which is the core of UNESCO's mandate.

(d) Strengthening the implementation of the SDGs

Since 2015, UNESCO is acting across the board to support its Member States in implementing the new global development agenda through new approaches and innovative partnerships. The new agenda is a paradigm shift; taking it forward requires equally ground-breaking thinking and action from all stakeholders.

To reflect on UNESCO's role in the implementation of the SDGs through its work in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information, leaders from all parts of the world are invited to share their views on the ways in which UNESCO can best serve its Member States in leading forward the SDGs. The Forum will also serve as a platform for sharing Member States' policy approaches and best practices in the implementation of the UNESCO-related SDGs.

3. Structure

A number of Heads of State and Government will be invited to deliver 15-20-minute keynote addresses on the proposed theme, with a view to fostering dialogue and fruitful exchanges.

Programmed as a one-and-a-half-day event, the Leaders' Forum will be divided into three half-day sessions.

The Forum will be opened and closed by brief statements by the President of the General Conference and by the Director-General.

4. Publicity/Visibility

Efforts will be made to maximize the outreach, visibility and impact of the Leaders' Forum by providing live transmission of the debates on UNESCO's web site, by publishing timely dedicated web news, as well as by arranging special live or taped television programmes with French and international radio, television and online stations and services.

5. Conclusions

The discussions of the Leaders' Forum will be part of the official Proceedings of the General Conference.

ANNEX IV

39th Session of the General Conference (Provisional Timetable of Work)

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2017	Youth Forum (25 - 26 October)											
	Date	PLENARY MEETINGS	COMMISSIONS						COMMITTEES			
			ED	SC	SHS	CLT	CI	APX	LEG	CRE	NOM	BUR
MON 30	am	Opening								1	1	
	pm	Intro. General Policy Debate								2		
TUE 31	am	Leaders Forum						1	1	3		1
	pm	Leaders Forum						2	2	4		
WED 1	am	Leaders Forum						3	3			
	pm	GPD	High-Level Meeting					4	4			
THU 2	am	GPD	1					5			2	
	pm	GPD	2					6				
FRI 3	am	GPD	3					7			3	2
	pm	GPD	4					8				
SAT 4	am	GPD	5					9			4	
	pm											
MON 6	am	GPD DG's Reply to GPD		1				1			5	
	pm			2				2				
TUE 7	am			3				3				3
	pm			4	1			4				
WED 8	am				2	1						EXB elections
	pm	PLEN (EXB elections Results)			3	2						
THU 9	am				4	3						Other elections
	pm					4						
FRI 10	am	DG Appointment				5						4
	pm											
SAT 11	am	PLEN (reports)										
	pm											
MON 13	am	PLEN (reports)										
	pm	PLEN (reports)										
TUE 14	am		JOINT MEETING OF COMMISSIONS									
	pm	PLEN Closure										