



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

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

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions
for UNESCO

13 November 2017

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Sir/Madam,

Let me first extend my sincere gratitude to those of you who participated in the 4th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions held on 27 October at UNESCO HQ on the eve of the 39th session of the General Conference. I noted with pleasure that over 200 participants, representing 137 Member States/Associate Members and 21 Field Offices, were in attendance. While the report of the meeting and the final list of participants will be sent to you shortly, you may wish to consult in the meantime the [webpage](#) devoted to this meeting, to find some power-point presentations.

I also noted that a number of delegates stressed the importance of the work that needs to be carried out by the Secretariat and National Commissions between the Interregional Meetings so that the discussions could result in more tangible outcomes. Hence, a proposal was made to establish a Working Group for the preparation of the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions, which, as announced, will be hosted by Kenya in Diani on 26-28 June 2018. Further information regarding this event as well as the Working Group will be communicated to you in due course.

As announced as well during the meeting, we will soon launch a request for contribution for the 2017 Annual Report of National Commissions.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the Draft *Regulatory Framework Regarding Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO*, which, as you know, the APX Commission examined during the week of 6 November. Some technical legal amendments were made by the Legal Committee and [the final text](#) has just been adopted.

UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – November 2017

As usual, I am pleased to share with you this month's Education Monthly Digest where you can find interesting information, such as the new UNESCO animation explaining the ten targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the animation on GEM 2017/8, under [this link](#). The Digest is also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org

4 December 2017 – Seminar for the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, Colombo, Sri Lanka

UNESCO, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Finance and Mass Media, will organize the main event of the 2017 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI), entitled "Reinforcing regional cooperation to promote freedom of expression and the rule of law in Asia through ending impunity for crimes against Journalists", in Colombo, with the participation of various regional stakeholders including ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR) and Human Rights Commissions' representatives.

The one-day seminar will seek to advance dialogues and strategies to strengthen the regional cooperation on safety of journalists and ending impunity in Asia. The event will focus on the role of the judiciary, National Human Rights Commissions as well as on the role of civil society and media in the persisting challenge of combatting impunity for crimes against journalists in the region.

Online registration and the [concept note](#) is available via this [link](#).

I should be grateful if you could disseminate this information to those who may be interested in participating to this particular event.

Contact: Mr Mehdi Benchelah (m.benchelah@unesco.org)

4 December 2017 – Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), Paris, France

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. The objective of this day is to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. The Day works to promote action to raise awareness about disability issues and draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all.

In accordance with the Organization's strategic objective to build a sustainable and resilient society for all citizens, UNESCO promotes this International Day of Persons with Disabilities and celebrates the extraordinary potential of persons with disabilities. The celebration programme this year will include keynote speeches and a round table discussion, followed by a theatrical performance and cultural event of a UNESCO Artist for Peace, Zarifa Mgoyan.

I invite you to share with us any initiatives in your respective country concerning the celebration of this day.

Contact: Marie-Christine Botte (mc.botte@unesco.org)

4 - 8 December 2017 – 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Jeju, Republic of Korea

Composed of 24 States elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Committee meets once every year.

During this session, which will be chaired by Ambassador Lee Byong-hyun (Republic of Korea), the Committee will examine the periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention and the reports of States Parties on the current

status of elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. The Committee will also examine the nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

I know that many of you are actively involved in the implementation of the 2003 Convention, so please consult the dedicated webpage for this session for more information: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/12com>.

7 - 8 December – 8th International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on climate change, Paris, France

Organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in close cooperation with UNESCO, the Forum's theme falls within the framework of the [updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change](#), approved by the UNESCO's Executive Board in April 2017, and the strong engagement of many NGOs in this area.

This Forum is intended primarily for NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, but is open also to other NGOs and institutions (notably the Ocean and Climate Platform), as well as to representatives of Member States.

During two days of debates, the Forum will seek to reflect on the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change and to identify avenues of action for NGOs to support UNESCO's work and make recommendations to the Organization. A Poster Exhibition (infographic, photos, etc.) will also be organized showing the work of NGOs on climate change as well as the results of the online consultation.

Participants are invited to register online at www.ong-unesco.org by **1 December 2017 at the latest**.

I invite National Commissions to disseminate this information to any other organizations and partners potentially interested to join this event.

Contact: ngo@unesco.org

11 - 12 December 2017 – Consultative Meeting for the organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution (Ref.: A/RES/71/178) on the "Rights of Indigenous Peoples" proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. International Years proclaimed by the United Nations (UN) are an important cooperation mechanism for the promotion of a particular topic or issue, and the mobilization of partners and resources for joint action around the world. The above-mentioned Resolution underscored the urgent need to preserve, promote and revitalize indigenous languages around the world, and invited UNESCO to serve as the lead UN agency to facilitate the organization of the Year.

The National Commissions for UNESCO are invited to share information about the 2019 Year through their networks at a national level, in particular drawing the attention of representatives of indigenous communities, governmental organizations, research and education institutions, memory, information and media organizations, and other public and private actors, who may contribute toward the organization of the 2019 Year. Furthermore, the National Commissions are welcomed to mobilize partnerships and identify other potential synergies.

In this regard, UNESCO will organize a consultative meeting from 11 to 12 December 2017 at its Headquarters in Paris, in order to elaborate an Action Plan for the organization of the 2019 Year. The Action Plan will be submitted to the members of the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues at its upcoming 17th session in April 2018.

More information will be shared with you in due course.

Contact: Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite (I.Kasinskaite@unesco.org)

12 - 15 December 2017 – 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Paris, France

The Intergovernmental Committee meets once a year to monitor the implementation of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

This session will be marked by the launch of the second edition of the Global Report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention.

I know that many of you are actively involved in the implementation of the 2005 Convention. More information on the Committee meeting can be found under [this link](#).

National Commissions' Community Board – sharing initiatives

As announced in our newsletter of March 2017, the Government of Pakistan has approved, in support of UNESCO's commitment and problem-solving actions for SIDS countries, 10 scholarships per year for Masters and PhD studies (7 for MS and 3 for PHD in the fields of Climate Change and Water) for a period of three years for the citizens of SIDS. These 30 scholarships would be provided through the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in public sector universities of Pakistan. You may find enclosed the detailed modalities for the scholarships.

For more information, please contact: Syed Kashif Jehan, Project Coordinator "Academic & Research Linkages with Different Countries under Bilateral Agreement", Human Resource Development (HRD) Division, Higher Education Commission (HEC) (skjehan@hec.gov.pk).

UNESCO Publications

- *The 2017/8 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report – Accountability in education: Meeting our commitments* was officially launched recently. This second report in the GEM Report series continues its assessment of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG4) and its 10 targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda. It also investigates accountability in education, analyzing how all relevant stakeholders can provide education more effectively, efficiently and equitably. The report examines different accountability mechanisms that are used to hold governments, schools, teachers, parents, the international community, and the private sector accountable for inclusive, equitable and quality education. View the full report in English under [this link](#). You may find more information via [this link](#).
- Addressing different issues related to Internet governance and multistakeholder participation practices, UNESCO's new publication

What if we all governed the Internet? unpacks assumptions on how the Internet is shaped and stresses the ongoing relevance of involving multiple actors in the development of a collaborative and sustainable Internet. The study was elaborated in an effort to implement UNESCO's Internet Universality framework (R.O.A.M.), which advocates for a Human-rights-based, Open and Accessible Internet, governed by Multi-stakeholder participation. Specifically, it responds to the action recommended by the CONNECTing the Dots Outcome Document that UNESCO "support Member States in ensuring that Internet policy and regulation involves the participation of all stakeholders, and integrates international human rights and gender equality".

- *World Heritage and Modern Heritage-serial No 85* : Modern heritage – the architecture, town planning and landscape design of the modern era, or the last two hundred years or so – is still underrepresented on the World Heritage List. And yet it is an integral part of many urban ensembles, which represent a majority of sites on the List. In this issue, we will look closely at the Sydney Opera House (Australia); Grimeton Radio Station (Sweden); and the city of Brasilia (Brazil). We will also learn about the evolution of the identification of modern heritage in the Arab region, and will explore the recognition of modern heritage, international collaboration and other aspects of conservation. In addition, the issue presents the 21 new sites inscribed on the World Heritage List during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, from 2 to 12 July 2017.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (September- November 2017)

I am pleased to welcome to the National Commissions network the following new members:

In Australia, Ms Kylie Walker has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Ms Annmaree O'Keefe.

In Belize, Mr Roosevelt Blades has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Rudolph Anthony Jr.

In India, Mr K.K. Sharma has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi (since March 2016).

In Kazakhstan, Mrs Dinara Izanova has been appointed Secretary-General a.i., succeeding Mrs Assel Utegenova.

In Mongolia, Mr Tsogtbaatar Damdin has been appointed Chairman, succeeding Mr Munh-Orgil Tsend.

In Panama, Mr Flavio G. Méndez has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Licenciada Liza R. Pinzón M.

In Slovakia, Ms Maria Krasnohorska has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Edita Filadelfiová.

In Tuvalu, Mr Neaki Letia has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Katalina Taloka.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt