



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

29 January 2016

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2016/2

Sir/Madam,

At the start of the New Year, I am sending my best wishes of health, happiness and success to you and your family.

I just had the pleasure of attending, at the invitation of the Italian National Commission, the First National Assembly of the Youth Committee of the Italian National Commission, which took place in Rome on 15 and 16 January 2016. Over two hundred young participants between 20 and 35 years old, including students, researchers, artists, professionals, managers and entrepreneurs coming from all Italian regions, attended the Assembly to draw an ambitious multi-year working plan for youth-led projects.

I hope that similar initiatives will be taken by a number of National Commissions in the course of 2016, bringing youth voices to the fore and encouraging young people to come together to take action.

Executive Board

In accordance with 197 EX/Decision 44, the first intersession meeting of the Executive Board will take place on 19 February at UNESCO HQ.

The 199th session of the Executive Board will meet from 4 to 15 April at UNESCO HQ. Please note that, in the margins of this session, a morning meeting of National Commissions will take place on 11 and 12 April. We will provide you with more details on the meeting in due course.

Celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO will be associated in 2016-2017: follow-up

The 38th session of the General Conference approved [the List of anniversaries to be celebrated in 2016-2017 in association with UNESCO](#). Member States who have anniversaries approved are kindly reminded that they are responsible for the implementation of the activities relating to the celebration of anniversaries and must submit to the Director-General, on completion of the project, a detailed activity report on the results achieved and their usefulness to the Member State(s) and UNESCO.

The online form for the submission of reports is available under the link: <https://teams.unesco.org/ORG/eri/anniversaries>.

You can find more details on [UNESCO.int](https://www.unesco.org) under [this link](#).

Should your country intend to organize a related event (exhibition, concert or conference) at UNESCO Headquarters during this biennium, please make the necessary reservation of space or rooms directly with the Conference and Cultural Events Management Section (MSS/C, CLD/C e-mail: k.koch@unesco.org) well in advance and preferably one year before the date of the envisaged event, in order to ensure proper planning. You may also wish to contact the Public Relations and Partnerships Unit of my sector (ERI/DPI/PRP, e-mail: f.kouadio@unesco.org), for public information purposes. For information/requests concerning the utilization of the name, acronym or logo of UNESCO, please contact the Publications Unit of my sector (ERI/DPI/PBM, e-mail: j.clarke@unesco.org).

For general information concerning anniversaries, please contact: Ms Monica Crutescu (mo.crutescu@unesco.org).

End of use of the 70th anniversary logo

Since the celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary has come to its completion, Member States of UNESCO are advised to use the standard UNESCO logo instead of the 70th anniversary logo from this time onwards.

For further information on the use and authorization of the UNESCO logo, please consult the "[Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO](#)" (ref.: Resolution 34 C/86) or contact ERI/DPI at the email address of logo@unesco.org.

21 February 2016 - International Mother Language Day

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, the theme of International Mother Language Day 2016 is "Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes".

On the occasion of the Day, UNESCO reiterates its position on the importance of appropriate languages of instruction, usually mother tongues, in early years of schooling: formal and non-formal education must deliver quality education for all learners by taking a multilingual approach.

Several activities will be organized on this day at UNESCO Headquarters and around the world. More information on the celebration of this Day will be available soon under [this link](#).

I would like to encourage National Commissions to celebrate this year's International Mother Language Day on 21 February.

Contact: Ms Noro Andriamiseza (n.andriamiseza@unesco.org)

7 - 11 March 2016 – Mobile Learning Week (MLW) 2016, UNESCO HQ, Paris

Mobile Learning Week 2016 will shed light on the ways technology can be leveraged — in different contexts and for different groups — to improve the quality of education now and in the future. It will explore how mobile technology can help fill the education gap. The event will advance international understandings about the ways in which newly affordable information and communication technologies can prompt innovation within the education sector to better ensure high-quality learning opportunities for all, in line with the new Sustainable Development Agenda and 2030 targets for education.

The theme of Mobile Learning Week is “Innovating for Quality”. The event has four core tracks: the WEBINAR, which will allow online participation to debate; a series of knowledge-building workshops; a symposium and a policy forum, when participants will join high-level government representatives to understand how policies and cross-sectoral collaboration between ministries of education and ministries of technology can foster innovation to improve the quality, equity and accessibility of education.

I invite you to visit the dedicated website of the Week under [this link](#), and would be grateful if your Commission could further promote this important event.

Contact: Mr Marc West (mlw@unesco.org)

8 March 2016 - International Women’s Day

The official UN system’s theme for this Day in 2016 is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality”.

Events organized at UNESCO Headquarters on this occasion will include a Round Table on “Violent Extremism and Radicalization: Women as Perpetrators, Victims and Agents of Change” on 8 March, and a panel discussion on “Critical Global Conversation on Gender Equality and the Law”, organized on 10 March in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania Law School (PennLaw). An exhibition on “Women’s Role in Sustainable Development” will be on display from 7 to 18 March 2016, with the opening ceremony to be held on Monday 7 March or Tuesday 8 March 2016.

Celebrated for over 100 years and proclaimed by the United Nations in 1977, International Women’s Day is an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change and celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

I encourage the National Commissions to organize and join in the events planned within the framework of this Day, and then to report to us on their respective experiences. Your events will be posted in the section dedicated to National Commissions in the web site of Member States: www.unesco.int.

Relevant information on the celebration of the Day will be available soon on UNESCO website.

Contact: Ms S. Gülser Corat (director.ge@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The new study by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) titled "*Every Child Should Have a Textbook*" proposes an economic model that would help reduce the cost of textbooks and increase their availability to students in schools around the world. This policy paper is available online in English only under [this link](#).
- The book "*Futurs africains: vers une émergence durable?*" offers to all stakeholders active in the African continent, tools for a prospective analysis as well as a common language for broad and open thinking and action. This publication, which aims to present a prospective vision of Africa and promote the debate on the future of Africa, is available in French only at the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002430/243004f.pdf>.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (January 2016)

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

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Adil Osmanovic has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Sredoje Novic, and Ms Biljana Camur Veselinovic has been appointed Secretary-General.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Ri Yong Ho has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Pak Myong Guk.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr St. Clair Prince has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Ms Girlyn Miguel.

In Uzbekistan, Mr Bakhodir Khodiev has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Adkham Ikramov (since July 2015).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt