



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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

# National Commissions for UNESCO

## *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2017

Cover photo: © UNESCO Amman office / Christien van den Brink

- Place: Amman, Jordan;
- Event: A young boy content in his classroom;
- People: A student.

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

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2017

The Symbolic Globe situated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, surrounded by the flags of Member States  
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# FOREWORD

National Commissions play a crucial role in shaping public perception of UNESCO, raising the Organization's profile in Member States, and mobilizing educational, scientific and artistic communities.

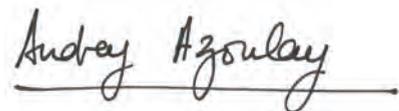
The Annual Report of National Commissions for UNESCO is an important tool for sharing information and best practices among National Commissions, highlighting their successes, achievements and challenges.

This fifth edition of the annual report differs from the previous editions in two key ways. Firstly, it received a record number of 150 contributions from National Commissions, indicating a growing interest in networking, sharing and promoting their work globally. Secondly, this report also outlines a framework for future priorities and possibilities for enhanced cooperation among National Commissions as well as with other partners, both within UNESCO and outside the Organization.

As the main link between the national priorities of their countries and the multilateral agenda of the Organization, National Commissions also play a key role in the ongoing organizational transformation. Despite severe financial difficulties, the Organization continued to play a pivotal role throughout 2017 in all its fields of competence, while further adjusting its programmatic focus and priorities to respond to Member States' needs in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

More strategic approaches and intersectoral synergies, as well as stronger alliances, will aid in assessing impact at the country level: the true testing ground for 2030 Agenda implementation.

National Commissions present a great asset for UNESCO, and I wish to thank them for their important work in generating fresh and innovative ideas to effectively address the challenges of today's world.



Audrey Azoulay,  
Director-General of UNESCO  
Directrice générale de l'UNESCO

# AVANT-PROPOS

Les Commissions nationales jouent un rôle crucial en contribuant à façonner la perception de l'UNESCO auprès du public, à accroître la visibilité de l'Organisation au sein des États membres et à mobiliser les communautés éducatives, scientifiques et artistiques.

Le Rapport annuel des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, est un outil important pour le partage d'informations et de bonnes pratiques entre les Commissions nationales. Il est conçu, entre autres, pour rendre visibles et accessibles leurs réussites, réalisations et défis à un éventail plus large de personnes et d'organisations.



Portrait officiel de Madame Audrey Azoulay  
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La cinquième édition de ce rapport annuel se distingue des éditions précédentes par deux évolutions. D'abord, le nombre des contributions des Commissions nationales atteint un record de cent cinquante, ce qui témoigne de la volonté des Commissions de disposer d'un réseau efficace, et de partager et de promouvoir leur travail à l'échelle mondiale. Ensuite, le rapport propose un cadre définissant les priorités pour l'avenir et les possibilités d'un renforcement de la coopération et de la coordination entre les Commissions nationales d'une part et entre celles-ci et d'autres partenaires d'autre part, à la fois au sein de l'UNESCO et en dehors de l'Organisation.

Courroies de transmission entre les priorités nationales et la mission multilatérale de l'UNESCO, elles jouent également un rôle de

premier plan dans la transformation organisationnelle en cours.

L'année 2017 a été un tournant important dans la vie de l'UNESCO. Malgré de graves difficultés financières, l'Organisation a continué de jouer un rôle essentiel dans tous ses domaines de compétence pour soutenir le développement durable, tout en adaptant davantage l'orientation et les priorités programmatiques pour répondre aux besoins des États Membres dans la mise en œuvre de l'agenda 2030.

Dans le cadre de la transformation initiée, des approches plus stratégiques et des synergies intersectorielles plus fortes seront développées afin d'évaluer l'impact des programmes : véritable terrain d'expérimentation pour l'Agenda 2030.

Les Commissions nationales représentent un atout important pour l'UNESCO et je souhaite les remercier pour leur travail remarquable et toutes les idées novatrices qu'elles développent afin de relever les défis de notre monde.

# INTRODUCTION

Like the previous one, the fifth 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 four 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 2017, including one success story and a photographic illustration, as well as future priorities and possibilities for joint work, which constitute a new element in this edition. Based on the contributions received from 150 out of 201 National Commissions around the world, during the period between December 2017 and March 2018, the Secretariat has been able to compile the relevant information and produce this fifth 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

Comme la précédente, la cinquième édition du Rapport annuel des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO est disponible 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 quatre 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 2017, dont un exemple d'activité réussie et une illustration photographique, ainsi que les priorités futures et les possibilités de travail conjoint, qui constituent un nouvel élément dans cette édition. À partir des contributions envoyées entre décembre 2017 et mars 2018 par 150 commissions nationales sur 201 à travers le monde, le Secrétariat a pu compiler les informations pertinentes et produire cette cinquième 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.

Veuillez 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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Travaux de réhabilitation de la mosquée  
Sankor © UNESCO Modibo Bagayoko

# Africa

# BOTSWANA

## Botswana National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr. Puso Gaborone

**Secretary-General:** Ms. Dineo B. Modimakwane

### Update of activities in 2017

Botswana National Commission for UNESCO successfully implemented a number of initiatives under the five UNESCO fields of competence due to increased and improved collaborations between Botswana National Commission and various stakeholders with UNESCO related mandate. Such collaborations also led to an increase in programme funding and technical support. Korea National Commission for UNESCO which continues to provide funding for implementation of country based initiatives through the Bridge Africa Project, contributed immensely through education related initiatives geared towards eradication of extreme poverty, fostering sustainable development and promotion of economic, social and cultural development.

Leveraging on the technical and financial support of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and that of UNESCO Headquarters, Botswana National Commission together with local partners, hosted a Regional Ethics/Bioethics Conference in October 2017 under the theme “SDGs and the role of ethics in Southern Africa: promoting bioethics, ethics education and research”. The Conference recommended mainstreaming of bioethics and research ethics into the curriculum for institutions of higher learning; establishment of Regional Networks for Bioethics cooperation and exchange as well as strengthening regional collaborations in scientific research and publications.

In the field of Culture, Botswana Natcom facilitated a major initiative which resulted in the listing of Dikopelo tsa Sekgatla (traditional folk music) in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding during the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in December 2017.

Investments in information technologies continue to be a priority in the transformation of education. Partnerships have been forged for provision of smart devices and school connectivity. Teacher capacity building programmes have also been conducted in 2017 to build the capacities of teachers in the use of ICT resources in teaching and learning.

### A success story

Through financial support of the UNESCO Participation Programme, Botswana successfully completed Ratification of the following conventions in 2017, becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> country in SADC to ratify:

- 1970 Convention on the means of Prohibiting the Illegal Import and Export and Transfer of Cultural Property.
- 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflicts.
- 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on the Export and Import (restitution of cultural property back to their countries of origin).

The process started with an awareness raising campaign and community consultations at village, district and national levels.

Critical in the process was a consultancy led by Professor Folarin

Shyllon, who was engaged to assess the readiness of Botswana to domesticate the Conventions. The process reviewed policies and legal statutes to assess their alignment to the requirements of the conventions, identify gaps that may impede effective implementation of the conventions as well as to propose amendments that can enable effective domestication and implementation of the Conventions. The Community Consultations and Consultancy reports formed the basis of a policy document recommending amendments of policies and laws to Cabinet, which later approved the document and resulted in the enactment of relevant laws.



Lead consultant Professor Folarin Shyllon (middle) © Botswana National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In collaboration with other National Commissions under the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Botswana Natcom will in the 2018-2019 biennium implement some initiatives that have been agreed upon during the Sub-Regional Network of National Commissions that was held in June 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia. Such initiatives include:

- Capacity building for Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Coordinators for purposes of sharing of best practices, under the lead facilitation of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO.
- Facilitate ratification of the Addis Convention on the Recognition of Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in Africa, under the lead facilitation of South African National Commission for UNESCO.
- Development of a five Year Regional Implementation Plan for SDG 4 – Education 2030 as well as monitoring and evaluation tools based on the SDG 4 – Education 2030 indicators, under the lead facilitation of Botswana National Commission for UNESCO.

As a liaison and advisory body for UNESCO programme implementation, Botswana Natcom will embark on robust initiatives geared towards building its capacity to deliver in the areas of digital transformation, innovation and research to catalyse Botswana's transformation agenda.

# BURKINA FASO

## Commission nationale burkinabé pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Alkassoum Maïga, Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche scientifique et de l'Innovation

**Secrétaire général** : M. Sanmalmè Aristide Dabire

**Site web**: [www.conasco.bf](http://www.conasco.bf) (en cours de perfectionnement)

## Compte rendu des activités en 2017

Au cours de l'année 2017, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du Burkina Faso a mené plusieurs activités parmi lesquelles on peut citer :

- L'organisation des assemblées générales constitutives des comités nationaux sur le programme de l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB) et du programme hydrologique international (PHI) respectivement le mercredi 18 octobre 2017 et le vendredi 13 octobre 2017 à Loubila (Province de l'Ouhritenga). Les objectifs de ces rencontres étaient de présenter les Programmes MAB et PHI, de présenter l'état des lieux desdits programmes au Burkina Faso ainsi que les perspectives et de mettre en place les bureaux exécutifs des Comités nationaux.

- La tenue d'un atelier de partage et d'amendement du projet de décret de la création du comité national MOST le vendredi 6 octobre 2017 à Loubila (Province de l'Ouhritenga). Les objectifs de l'atelier étaient d'informer les participants (chercheurs et autres acteurs) sur le programme intergouvernemental pour la gestion des transformations sociales (MOST) afin de le faire mieux connaître et d'amender et enrichir par des contributions pertinentes au cours des travaux, le projet de décret de création d'un comité national du Programme intergouvernemental pour la gestion des transformations sociales (MOST) ;
- Dans le cadre du Programme de participation du biennium 2016-2017, le Burkina Faso a vu six de ses requêtes financées dont deux de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO. Ces deux requêtes sont :
  - Atelier national sur le dialogue interreligieux ;
  - Atelier de formation des cadres des ministères et institutions dans les domaines de l'UNESCO en planification – budgétisation – suivi évaluation des programmes et projets sectoriels selon le genre.
- En vue de la préparation de la 39<sup>ème</sup> Conférence générale de l'UNESCO tenue à Paris en novembre 2017, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du Burkina Faso a organisé une assemblée générale des Comités spécialisés à cet effet, le 14 septembre 2017. Les conclusions des travaux de la rencontre ont facilité la participation de la délégation burkinabé aux différentes sessions.



Une vue partielle des participants à l'atelier © Guy Hermann BAZEMO

## Une activité réussie

L'activité la plus réussie est la tenue de deux ateliers de réflexion sur « les réseaux sociaux : l'éthique de l'information et la liberté d'opinion » à Koudougou, chef-lieu de la province du Boulkiemdé, les 19 et 20 décembre 2017 et à Kombissiri, chef-lieu de la province du Bazèga, les 22 et 23 décembre 2017. Cela a été possible grâce à un appui financier du secteur de la Communication et de l'Information de l'UNESCO à Paris. Les deux sessions de réflexion ont regroupé plus de soixante participants représentant des médias, des organisations de jeunes, des web activistes, des animateurs des réseaux sociaux et des représentants de l'administration publique.

Les objectifs de cette réflexion étaient d'une part de faire l'état des lieux des réseaux sociaux et droits humains au Burkina Faso et d'autre part de sensibiliser les acteurs sur la nécessité de l'exigence de l'éthique dans les réseaux sociaux.

Au sortir de ces journées de réflexion, l'on a pu retenir comme entre autres recommandations : l'organisation des campagnes de sensibilisation sur la responsabilité pénale et civile qui pèse sur les citoyens du cyber espace et l'élaboration d'une charte d'éthique et de déontologie pour les utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux. Concernant les adolescents, les communicateurs estiment qu'il serait approprié de développer un programme d'éducation à l'utilisation des réseaux sociaux.

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Après la Conférence générale des coordonnateurs du réseau des écoles associées à Bamako, au Mali au mois de mars 2017, le Burkina Faso a eu la chance d'être élu pour assurer la présidence de cette rencontre pour l'année 2018. A cet effet, il a élaboré un projet sous régional sur le renforcement des capacités des différents acteurs du réseau des écoles associées. Il aura pour objet non seulement de renforcer les capacités desdits acteurs mais aussi il permettra d'identifier ces écoles pour l'élaboration d'un répertoire exhaustif afin de faciliter leur suivi. Il regroupera au Burkina Faso plus de cinquante participants des pays de la sous-région et concernera les coordonnateurs du réseau des écoles associées, les secrétaires généraux des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, les encadreurs pédagogiques, les enseignants, les ONG de l'éducation et les médias. En plus des experts de la sous-région, l'UNESCO sera sollicitée pour fournir des experts en la matière afin d'assurer la formation en question.

# CAMEROUN

## Commission nationale de la République du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente** : Mme Youssouf Hadidja Alim

**Secrétaire général** : M. Sally Mairiga

**Site internet** : [www.cnuccamerounayahoo.fr](http://www.cnuccamerounayahoo.fr)

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

Au cours de l'année 2017, la Commission nationale de la République du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO a mené plusieurs activités dont les plus marquantes sont :

- La Célébration de la Journée de l'Excellence scolaire qui a consisté en une remise officielle des prix aux meilleurs élèves de la ville de Mfou par M. le Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale ;

- Le Festival des Musiques et Danses patrimoniales dont l'objectif était de les valoriser en tant que vecteurs du multiculturalisme et de l'intégration nationale à travers des spectacles, expositions, ateliers et conférences-débats ;
- L'organisation de l'Atelier de renforcement des capacités et de sensibilisation sur les Conventions UNESCO de 1954 et 1970, qui visait à sensibiliser les différents acteurs culturels sur la nécessité de protéger le patrimoine culturel en tout temps, et
- La célébration de la Journée Internationale de la Paix 2017 et la célébration de la 5<sup>ème</sup> édition de la Journée mondiale de la Langue Arabe.

Ces activités ont été à la base de manifestations placées sous le patronage de la Commission nationale.

La participation de la Commission nationale aux travaux de la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO constitue également l'un des faits marquants des activités de la Commission en 2017. En marge des travaux de cette 39<sup>ème</sup> session, l'accord de création du Centre d'Excellence de Micro-science, centre de catégorie II de l'UNESCO, a été signé entre le Cameroun et l'UNESCO.

### Une activité réussie

La célébration de l'édition 2017 de la Journée Internationale de la Paix, organisée en partenariat avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé, le HCR, le Ministère de l'Éducation de Base et la Fédération des Associations, Centres et Clubs pour l'UNESCO (FECACLUBS), du 20 au 23 septembre, s'est déroulée en trois phases :

- Une Campagne de sensibilisation à travers les médias publics et privés qui visait à informer les populations sur la nécessité de préserver la paix en mettant fin aux foyers de conflits et en éradiquant toutes formes de violence.
- L'atelier de peinture et de poésie, sur le thème : « *diversité culturelle et culture de la paix* », a rassemblé une cinquantaine de jeunes qui ont présenté la diversité culturelle du Cameroun comme socle de l'unité nationale et d'une paix durable.
- La Marche pour la paix dans les rues de Yaoundé qui aura permis d'illustrer la convergence vers l'idéal commun de paix.

L'engouement visible des jeunes, la contribution appréciable des médias et la pertinence des communications faites par les responsables de toutes les parties prenantes, ont renforcé la visibilité de l'UNESCO et enraciné la culture de la paix dans la mémoire collective des Camerounais.



Photo de la marche dans les artères de la ville de Yaoundé, boulevard de 20 Mai © Commission nationale de la République du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Conformément aux recommandations de la réunion organisée le 2 novembre 2017 à Paris entre le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé et les Commissions nationales de la Sous-région CEMAC, le Cameroun soumettra au Programme de participation 2018-2019 un projet de portée régionale concernant le renforcement des capacités des Commissions Nationales en matière de conception, gestion, suivi et évaluation des projets à la lumière des ODD et de l'Agenda 2030.

Notre Commission prendra également, une part active à l'organisation de toutes les activités de portée régionale dévolues aux autres Commissions nationales de la Sous-région et au Bureau régional comme :

- La célébration de la Journée Mondiale des Fédérations et Clubs pour l'UNESCO et de la Journée Internationale Nelson Mandela confiée au Congo,
- La célébration conjointe de la Journée du Patrimoine africain confiée à l'Angola,
- Le Forum « Jeunes et Culture et la Paix en Afrique centrale » dont la préparation confiée au Gabon.

Dans le cadre du mandat de l'UNESCO, nous estimons que le renforcement des capacités et la mobilisation des ressources sont nécessaires dans les domaines suivants :

- La protection et la promotion du patrimoine culturel ;
- La culture de la Paix notamment en milieu jeune ;
- La protection de l'Environnement et la lutte contre les effets des changements climatiques.

Il faut noter que le succès et la pérennisation de ces programmes dans les pays en développement comme le Cameroun, sont tributaires de leur appropriation par les deux groupes importants, par leur nombre et leur dynamisme, que sont les jeunes et les femmes.

La Commission nationale les a choisis comme cibles prioritaires de ses activités futures car les jeunes et les femmes sont les plus touchés par le chômage et la pauvreté, ce qui les prédispose à des activités mettant en péril la paix et l'environnement.

# REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

## Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Aboubakar Moukadas-Noure

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

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

## Compte rendu des activités 2017

La République centrafricaine a retrouvé sa place dans le concert des nations démocratiques depuis les élections de 2016. Toutefois, un immense défi sécuritaire post-conflit persiste. C'est dans ce contexte que des projets financés

par l'UNESCO en 2016-2017 ont été exécutés : (i) Les textes administratifs de l'Université de Bangui ont été révisés dans le cadre du Programme de participation (Loi, Charte des examens, Statuts de l'Université de Bangui et 3 Arrêtés structurant des comités d'encadrement du LMD) ; (ii) l'ampleur et la typologie des violences faites aux femmes lors des différentes crises centrafricaines ont été investiguées dans les villes où régnaient les tensions. Les résultats ont été présentés et débattus lors d'une série d'ateliers communautaires. Ces violences en général, le viol en particulier, demeurent diversement perçues par une société centrafricaine encline à la mise à contribution des enfants, à l'excision et à la polygamie ; (iii) une formation en biostatistique couplée à la promotion du logiciel R a mobilisé, avec succès, une cinquantaine de scientifiques nationaux ; (iv) une équipe pluridisciplinaire d'exploration des sites du patrimoine culturel et naturel a parcouru le centre et l'ouest du pays. Le rapport de l'étude a été validé en atelier le 19 mai 2017. La liste indicative de 2006 a ainsi été complétée.



Photo de famille : Formation au Logiciel R © NGUERGAZA Mercier

l'UNESCO sur la Science, à la Stratégie MAB (2015-2025) assortie du plan d'action de Lima (2016-2025) et au Guide de gestion des Réserves de Biosphère de l'UNESCO en Afrique.

## Une activité réussie

Une évaluation du Programme l'Homme et la Biosphère, avec emphase sur l'état des lieux des deux réserves de Biosphère du pays, a été réalisée. Il en ressort ce qui suit : (i) La Réserve de la Basse Lobaye connaît une dégradation active à ses deux extrémités nord et sud, en même temps qu'une exploitation minière semi-industrielle est en cours sur le flanc est ; (ii) Le Parc National Bamingui-Bangoran subit une érosion drastique de sa faune emblématique du fait du braconnage pour l'ivoire et pour le commerce de la viande de brousse, toutefois, le projet ECOFAUNE+ financé par l'UE, y mène des activités de conservation de la biodiversité ; (iii) Les Services techniques assimilent les Réserves de Biosphère aux Aires Protégées, si bien que, les communautés riveraines en tirent profit par défiance, donc illégalement plutôt qu'à travers une co-gestion. Donc la perception locale et l'exercice du concept « l'Homme et la Biosphère » nécessitent une amélioration ; (iv) Les participants y recevront une initiation au Rapport de

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

En situation post-conflit, rééquiper les établissements scolaires, réquisitionnés et saccagés par les groupes armés, afin d'en optimiser le fonctionnement est une urgence évidente. Par ailleurs, suite aux évaluations du programme l'Homme et la Biosphère d'une part, de la liste indicative des sites du patrimoine culturel et naturel d'autre part, il serait intéressant de poursuivre les efforts à travers les objectifs suivants :

1. Relancer et renforcer l'opérationnalisation du concept « l'Homme et la Biosphère » en s'appuyant sur l'émergent projet BIOPALT de l'UNESCO et de la CBLT pour la mise en œuvre effective de la Stratégie MAB (2015-2025) et du plan d'action de Lima (2016-2025) aussi bien dans les deux Réserves de Biosphères que les sites du patrimoine naturel. Il peut s'agir spécifiquement de :
  - Consolider et rendre opérationnel le Comité PHI-RCA pour contribuer à l'identification de mesures d'adaptation spécifiques pour la ville de Bangui qui, bâtie sur un socle précambrien fortement métamorphisé et dominé par le calcaire, a déjà enregistré un cas de KARST et risque de voir ce phénomène s'intensifier au gré de l'augmentation de la pluviosité inhérente aux changements climatiques ;
  - Appuyer la désignation, le renforcement des capacités et le fonctionnement d'un gestionnaire par Réserve de Biosphère et patrimoine naturel ;
  - Sensibiliser, impliquer effectivement des communautés riveraines et élaborer un plan participatif de gestion par Réserve de Biosphère et patrimoine naturel ;
  - Identifier des thématiques de recherche et établir un partenariat y relatif avec des institutions de recherche et/ou de formation.
2. Capitaliser et valoriser certains sites de la liste indicative mise à jour ;
3. Définir et caractériser, en sus des patrimoines naturel et culturel, une classe de biens du patrimoine immatériel, qui pourrait intégrer les types culinaires, les rites anthropologiques, les techniques corporelles (par exemple le portage sur la tête), etc.

# TCHAD

## Commission nationale tchadienne pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Ahmat Khazali Acyl, Ministre de l'éducation nationale et de la promotion civique

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

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

Les relations statutaires de la Commission nationale tchadienne pour l'UNESCO avec les institutions de l'État et les organisations de la société civile actives dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO se renforcent d'année en année. C'est ainsi qu'au Ministère de l'éducation nationale, la Commission nationale jouant pleinement son rôle statutaire a pris une part active dans les différentes phases d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre du Programme CAP/EFA (ou CAP/ED) dont le Tchad a bénéficié en 2010 et dont l'exécution a abouti à l'élaboration de sa Stratégie d'Éducation 2013-2015 financée par le Partenariat Mondial de l'Éducation. Ainsi que pour son Plan Intérimaire d'Éducation 2018-2020 également validé par le Partenariat Mondial de l'Éducation.

Dans sa coopération avec le Ministère de la culture, la Commission nationale, en tant que membre du Comité technique de mise en œuvre de la Convention pour la protection du patrimoine culturel et naturel, participe à la préparation des dossiers de candidatures des sites à classer sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial. Ce fut le cas pour le site mixte du Massif de l'Ennedi inscrit en 2016 et actuellement, le Parc national de Zakouma dont le dossier sera présenté courant 2018.

Membre des Comités nationaux MAB et PHI, la Commission nationale a appuyé les Ministères de tutelle, en charge de l'environnement et celui en charge de l'eau dans la réorganisation des deux Comités et la nomination des points focaux. Ces deux comités joueront un rôle très important dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de Réhabilitation et de Renforcement de la Résilience des Systèmes Socio-Écologique du Bassin du Lac-Tchad financé par la BAD et dont l'UNESCO est partie prenante au titre de la convention signée en mai 2017 avec la Commission du Bassin du Lac-Tchad.

La Commission, grâce à ses consultants psychopédagogues, a également aidé une ONG active dans la défense des éléphants, dans la formation, en pédagogie de l'éducation environnementale, des enseignants exerçant dans les villages relevant de sa zone d'action.



Séance de renforcement des capacités des membres de la Coopérative aux nouvelles techniques de tissage artisanal sur de nouveaux métiers à tisser © Commission nationale tchadienne pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

L'activité la plus marquante du biennium 2016-2017 fut celle concernant « la formation des membres de la Coopérative des femmes brodeuses, teinturières et tisseuses du Tchad » aux nouvelles techniques de teinture et de tissage artisanal avec de nouveaux métiers à tisser.

Créée pour aider ses 48 membres à s'épanouir socialement et à être autonomes économiquement, la Coopérative a demandé et obtenu de l'UNESCO cet appui financier et celui technique d'un spécialiste burkinabé en vue de renforcer les capacités de ses membres aux techniques nouvelles de tissage, de broderie, de teinture et de production. En améliorant ainsi la qualité de leurs produits, les femmes souhaitent les vendre aux touristes amoureux du désert qui arrivent massivement au Tchad depuis le classement des Lac Ounianga et du Massif de l'Ennedi sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial.

Ce projet a suscité l'intérêt de trois Ministères : celui de l'éducation nationale avec ses milliers d'élèves déscolarisés en quête de formation professionnels, celui du tout nouveau Ministère de la formation professionnelle et de la promotion des métiers et du Ministère de la culture et de l'artisanat dont le Ministre, le cinéaste Mahamat Saleh Haroun, a personnellement assisté à la clôture de l'atelier.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

De nombreux Etats membres ont ratifié la Convention de 2003 relative à la sauvegarde du Patrimoine culturel immatériel. Le devoir de chaque État concerné est largement énoncé dans son préambule qui préconise la « nécessité de faire davantage prendre conscience, en particulier parmi les jeunes générations, de l'importance du patrimoine culturel immatériel et de sa sauvegarde ». Car, le patrimoine culturel immatériel joue un « rôle inestimable comme facteur de rapprochement, d'échange et de compréhension entre les êtres humains ».

Les jeunes, représentant la majorité de la population aussi bien en Afrique que partout dans le monde et compte tenu que c'est pour les générations à venir que le Patrimoine immatériel doit être sauvegardé, il s'avère nécessaire de renforcer les capacités des Commissions nationales afin qu'elles soient les chefs de file de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 2003 dans leurs pays respectifs.

# 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 2017

La Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO (CNCU) est une institution multisectorielle qui met en œuvre une grande variété d'activités dans les différents domaines de compétence de l'Organisation. Présidée par le Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur, elle travaille en relation horizontale avec tous les ministères des domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO et la Délégation permanente du Congo auprès de l'UNESCO. Elle coopère également avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville.

La CNCU a veillé à la mise en œuvre du Programmes de l'UNESCO, particulièrement à l'exécution des projets financés dans le cadre du Programme de participation (PP) 2016-2017. Elle a concentré la majeure partie de son activité au suivi du processus de préparation du 39 C/5 et à toute la préparation administrative et technique de la participation du Congo aux travaux de la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale.

Plusieurs activités ont été réalisées par la CNCU, nonobstant les difficultés rencontrées, singulièrement budgétaires et matérielles. Ces activités ont naturellement couvert la plupart des domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO (Éducation,

Sciences, Culture, Information et Communication, ainsi que le réSEAU). On peut citer parmi les activités les plus saillantes :

- La contribution au renouvellement des deux chaires UNESCO ;
- La contribution à l'élaboration de la Stratégie sectorielle de l'éducation (SSE) (2015-2025) ;
- La sensibilisation aux ODD et surtout à l'ODD4 ;
- Le séminaire de formation de 200 enseignants aux méthodes d'enseignement en sciences et mathématiques ;
- La contribution à la sensibilisation des administrateurs des sciences sur le suivi de deux activités essentielles : la question des comités nationaux concernant quelques programmes majeurs de l'UNESCO dans le domaine des sciences notamment PHI et MAB ;
- Le suivi de l'exécution de la revue périodique sur les réserves de biosphère du Congo Dimonika et Odzala Kokoua ;
- Le suivi de la révision de la Recommandation de 1974 concernant la condition des chercheurs scientifiques ;
- Le suivi de la mise en œuvre des conventions culturelles ratifiées par le Congo, du processus de ratification des autres conventions ainsi que le dossier des biens à inscrire au patrimoine mondial ;
- Le suivi du bien du Patrimoine mondial Trinational de la Sangha ;
- La contribution à l'élaboration du projet de création de l'Institut supérieur de formation aux métiers de l'information et de la communication ;
- La sensibilisation du public à l'importance de l'objectif stratégique n°9 de la Stratégie à moyen terme (37 C/4 2014-2021 de l'UNESCO), « Promouvoir la liberté d'expression, le développement des médias et l'accès à l'information et au savoir » et tous les objectifs et activités subséquents.

### Une activité réussie

Sous l'égide de la Mairie de Brazzaville en partenariat avec la Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO, le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville, le FESPAM, le Groupe culturel Biso-Na-Biso, le Groupe musical de Jazz -Ndule-Jazz et la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines de l'Université Marien Ngouabi, la journée internationale du Jazz édition 2017 a été célébrée avec un accent remarqué à Brazzaville les 27 et 28 avril 2017.

Les activités préparant la célébration de cette journée ont commencé 45 jours plus tôt par la sélection puis la formation aux instruments du Jazz de 100 jeunes. Grâce à une contribution financière de l'UNESCO au titre du Programme de participation (PP) ont été organisés :

- La formation aux instruments du Jazz de 100 jeunes garçons et filles, sur 4 semaines ;
- Une exposition les 27 et 28 avril à la Préfecture de Brazzaville, sur le Jazz par le Groupe culturel Biso-na-Biso ;
- Un séminaire animé par trois chercheurs de l'Université Marien NGOUABI avec trois exposés (Histoire du Jazz – de la musique identitaire à la musique universelle, les grands noms du Jazz, l'influence du Jazz sur la musique congolaise moderne) ;
- Un concert de clôture exécuté par le groupe musical Congo-NDULE-JAZZ, le 28 avril qui a connu la participation d'un large public et des autorités politiques.



La journée internationale du jazz : un succès au niveau national  
© Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La mise en place d'un cadre de suivi/examen de l'ODD4 mieux structuré et mieux outillé que ne l'a été celui de l'EPT 2000-2015. Un tel cadre pourrait être structuré à deux niveaux : national, sous-régional et devrait donc impliquer une coopération avec les Commissions nationales de la sous-région.

L'élaboration d'un projet phare sous régional sur l'atteinte des cibles de l'ODD 14 pour lequel la République du Congo va solliciter l'appui de l'UNESCO et en particulier à travers la COI pour renforcer hardiment sa politique de développement actuel de l'océanographie ayant pour axes : la protection de sa côte maritime, la préservation des écosystèmes côtiers, l'implantation des infrastructures adéquates et la formation des ressources humaines.

# CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente** : Mme Kandia Camara, Ministre de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle

**Secrétaire général** : M. N'golo Aboudou Soro

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

Depuis le 27 juillet 2017, le Dr SORO N'golo Aboudou, enseignant-chercheur à l'Université Alassane Ouattara, précédemment conseiller technique de Madame la Ministre de l'éducation nationale, a été nommé Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale Ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO. Lors de son installation tout en reconnaissant ce qui a été accompli par son prédécesseur, il a affirmé qu'il mettra un accent particulier sur la valorisation de toutes les ressources à sa disposition pour rehausser l'image de marque de notre nation au sein de cette organisation onusienne. La méthode de travail est focalisée essentiellement sur la gestion axée sur les résultats (GAR).

Plusieurs activités ont été menées conformément aux domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO avec son appui et aussi avec l'aide de partenaires techniques et financiers privés.

La Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO a participé à un atelier de sensibilisation et de formation des syndicats d'enseignants au dialogue social et la politique éducative, organisé par le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Abidjan avec pour objectif, la sensibilisation des organisations syndicales d'enseignants sur les fondements et les stratégies du dialogue social, et la participation à l'élaboration de la politique éducative.

La Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO a participé à une table-ronde sur le thème « Patrimoine naturel, culturel et immatériel » en avril 2017 en Turquie.



### Une activité réussie

Au cours de l'année 2017 la Coordination Nationale UNESCO-réSEAU de la Côte d'Ivoire à travers ses plates formes : « Université du réSEAU », le Centre d'Incubation de l'UNESCO a apporté à plus de 1250 personnes et partenaires des connaissances et les compétences qui leur sont nécessaires pour faire face aux défis locaux et mondiaux et pour devenir des citoyens mondiaux responsables participant à la construction d'un avenir plus juste, pacifique et viable. Après la création d'un patrimoine forestier par les élèves et enseignants et afin de contribuer à la réalisation des ODDs, le Centre d'Incubation de l'UNESCO dispose en sein toutes les expertises dans les domaines de compétences de l'UNESCO et inculque de nouvelles valeurs intelligentes et compétences à travers le coworking, l'Innovation week, les Formations qualifiantes, le pitch day, les KIDS and CIT intelligentes et compétences.

Inauguration du centre d'incubation, Visite guidée du Conseiller Technique du Ministre, du SG et du Président des Jeunes de Côte d'Ivoire au stand de l'entrepreneuriat agricole (culture hors sol) © Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO

En collaboration avec la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO, le Bureau UNESCO Abidjan, a organisé un Atelier de renforcement des capacités des animateurs de radios de proximité du 19 au 22 juin 2017. L'objectif de cette formation était d'amener les communicateurs à s'approprier le code d'éthique et de déontologie des journalistes afin d'exercer leur métier en toute responsabilité.

Le 20 septembre 2017 s'est tenu à l'Université Nangui Abrogoua (UNA), un atelier de validation du projet de Chaire UNESCO ERA-VD intitulé : « Création d'une Chaire UNESCO en éducation, recherche et actions pour la ville durable à l'UNA (CI) ».

La Commission nationale et le Comité national ivoirien Mémoire du monde (CNI-MEMO) ont organisé un atelier de renforcement des capacités des professionnels travaillant dans les bibliothèques, les archives, les musées et les média audiovisuels du District d'Abidjan du 27 au 28 septembre 2017, sur le thème : « La Mémoire du monde à l'ère numérique : mieux gérer les informations numériques fiables pour mieux préserver le patrimoine documentaire et participer ainsi au développement durable ». L'objectif visé est d'assurer aux structures concernées la préservation de leur patrimoine documentaire et d'en garantir la continuité numérique.

Le 21 octobre 2017, la Commission a organisé l'Assemblée Générale électorale du bureau de la Fédération des Associations et Clubs pour l'UNESCO. Cette activité est l'aboutissement du processus de réorganisation des Associations et Clubs pour l'UNESCO.

Le 13 décembre 2017, le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Abidjan, la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO et le Comité national ivoirien Mémoire du monde (CNI-MEMO) ont organisé la cérémonie d'investiture du Bureau et de lancement des activités du Comité National Ivoirien Mémoire du monde en présence de la Grande Chancelière de Côte d'Ivoire, Professeur Henriette Dagri Diabaté, Professeur titulaire d'histoire.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Pour le biennium 2018-2019, la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO compte exécuter la matrice d'action qu'elle s'est définie et parachever les projets en cours.

Elle a en priorités, sa réforme, l'organisation d'un colloque sous régionale sur l'immigration et la sécurité transfrontalière, l'organisation d'un atelier national sur la sécurité des professionnels des médias.

Le renforcement des capacités et la mobilisation des ressources sont toujours nécessaires dans tous les domaines de compétences de l'UNESCO surtout dans les domaines de l'éducation, du genre et de la jeunesse.

# REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

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

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

**Secrétaire permanent** : M. Lazare Liema Ibongo Botie

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

La Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO travaille dans un environnement de collaboration avec tous les ministères qui œuvrent dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO qui font d'ailleurs partie de ladite Commission ainsi que tous les partenaires traditionnels (Clubs pour l'UNESCO, Ecoles associées, Bibliothèques associées).

Avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Kinshasa, la Commission nationale réalise des travaux dans le cadre d'échange et de collaboration. A titre d'exemple, lors des préparatifs de la participation de la République démocratique du Congo à la 39<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, la Commission nationale a pu bénéficier de l'expertise du bureau de l'UNESCO pour l'élaboration du document relatif à la position de la République démocratique du Congo.

Durant l'année 2017, plusieurs activités ont été réalisées, entre autres l'organisation de l'atelier d'alignement/intégration de l'ODD4 à la stratégie sectorielle éducation et formation en RDC ; l'organisation de l'atelier sur le renforcement des capacités des enseignants pour le dialogue social et la politique de l'éducation ; l'organisation de la 1<sup>ère</sup> édition du Festival international de la Rumba et de l'Élégance (FIRE) du 30 juin au 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2017 où le Père de la Rumba congolaise, Joseph KABASELE (Grand Kalé) était à l'honneur et la tenue à Goma dans la province du Nord Kivu de la session de renforcement des capacités de déléguées nationales du Groupe de Travail Consultatif pour la promotion et la participation des femmes et des jeunes filles aux activités de jeunesse, sports et loisirs.



Remise symbolique des équipements aux écoles détruites par la pluie dévastatrice à Boma © Commission nationale de la République Démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

Treize écoles détruites par la pluie dévastatrice à Boma, dans la province du Kongo central ont bénéficié de la remise des équipements scolaires dans le cadre du Programme aide d'urgence de l'UNESCO.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Dans le cadre des projets sous régionaux, la Commission nationale de la RDC pour l'UNESCO envisage de réaliser avec la Commission nationale du Congo Brazzaville un certain nombre de projets communs, tels que la candidature d'une ville créative ; l'inscription de la Rumba à la liste de patrimoine mondial avec le concours de l'Angola ; et un projet de promotion de la paix « Fleuve Congo couloir de la paix ».

Le fleuve Congo constitue la frontière entre la RDC et la République du Congo. Kinshasa et Brazzaville sont les deux capitales les plus rapprochées du monde. Ils ont les mêmes ethnies et des langues communes.

Compte tenu de cette proximité et de la même culture que leurs habitants partagent, les deux Commissions nationales comptent développer les projets communs relatifs à la culture de la paix, notamment la mise en œuvre de l'appel de Kinshasa pour la sauvegarde et la valorisation du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel.

A l'occasion de la table ronde sur la place du patrimoine culturel matériels et immatériel de la RDC inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité de l'UNESCO, organisée à Kinshasa du 22 au 25 octobre 2013 par la Commission nationale de la RDC pour l'UNESCO et la Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO, une déclaration dénommée « Appel de Kinshasa pour la sauvegarde et la valorisation du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel » fut lancé.

Dans cette déclaration, les participants ont encouragé les autorités et les institutions compétentes à prendre certaines actions nécessaires à l'établissement d'une première liste indicative et d'une série d'axes opérationnels auprès des différents ministères et instances en charge du patrimoine en RDC en vue d'inscription des biens qui présentent une « valeur universelle exceptionnelle » selon les critères de l'UNESCO.

# DJIBOUTI

## Commission nationale de Djibouti pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (CNESC)

**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 2017

A Djibouti, la Commission nationale pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture (CNESC) est une de ces institutions façonnant la vie politique, judiciaire, socio-économique, administrative ou culturelle et qui constituent une véritable colonne vertébrale car leur bon fonctionnement influence la marche du pays.

Elle entretient des relations étroites avec ses partenaires stratégiques de l'ISESCO et de l'ALECSO pour atteindre les objectifs recherchés qui sous-tendent sa création et ses missions.

Au regard de certains, elle apparaît jeune mais elle compte tout de même car elle est une institution qui agit. Redynamisée

en 2016, réformée en 2017, ses missions sont entièrement consacrées aux objectifs fondateurs de l'UNESCO. Elle se singularise par l'unité de ses départements ministériels associés et ses parties prenantes, par le pluralisme qui caractérise leurs membres, et enfin par les liens qu'elle entretient avec la société civile djiboutienne dans sa globalité. Ce qui donne du sens aux diverses activités réalisées sur le terrain.

L'année 2017 a été, pour la Commission nationale de l'UNESCO de Djibouti, une année charnière qui a vu la réalisation d'un grand nombre d'actions nouvelles, s'ajoutant à celles menées en 2016. Au premier rang de ces actions majeures, on peut citer l'organisation d'ateliers structurants notamment (1) un atelier de renforcement de capacités des personnels de la Commission dans le domaine du numérique et de la maîtrise des outils de travail informatiques, (2) un atelier d'échanges et de partage sur le développement du mécanisme de coordination nationale de partenariat et de suivi sur l'ODD4 sur la base de la feuille de route nationale. En outre, on peut signaler que la Commission a célébré avec la collaboration de ses partenaires la Journée Internationale de la Paix. Enfin on peut ajouter sa contribution à la tenue de la conférence sur l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche portant sur la qualité et les défis futurs pour l'Afrique de l'Est et l'Océan Indien, à Djibouti.



### Une activité réussie

Le Ministère de l'éducation nationale et de la formation professionnelle (MENFOP) conformément à sa politique d'intégration des enfants réfugiés dans le système éducatif, a organisé en collaboration avec l'IGAD (Autorité intergouvernementale pour le développement) et la CNESC la première Conférence-Table ronde sous régionale des ministres en charge de l'éducation des pays membres de l'IGAD, à Djibouti du 12 au 14 décembre 2017, sous le haut patronage de Son Excellence le Premier Ministre Monsieur ABDOULKADER KAMIL MOHAMED.

Cette conférence a permis de mener des discussions et des échanges portant sur plusieurs thèmes dont l'élaboration d'une politique éducative commune facilitant l'intégration des enfants réfugiés dans les systèmes éducatifs nationaux et la création d'un mécanisme de partage de bonnes pratiques pour une éducation de qualité inclusive en faveur de tous les enfants réfugiés installés dans les pays membres de l'IGAD.

A l'issue des travaux de la conférence ministérielle régionale sur l'éducation des enfants réfugiés, les participants ont adopté « la Déclaration de Djibouti sur l'éducation des enfants réfugiés dans la région de l'IGAD ».

Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle Monsieur MOUSTAPHA MOHAMED MAHAMOUD signant la Déclaration de Djibouti sur l'Éducation des réfugiés

© Houssein Abdillahi Meraneh / Cripem

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Le biennium prochain 2018-2019 verra la réalisation d'un grand nombre d'activités visant à capitaliser les avancées et à consolider les acquis de cette année. Ainsi, des projets émergent déjà, notamment en lien avec les activités des partenaires nationaux et organismes du système des Nations Unies. Ces projets des différents agendas mobiliseront les commissions spécialisées de la Commission et permettront de s'investir dans le développement durable. La commission s'attellera :

- A l'intensification des actions de promotion des valeurs universelles de paix, de solidarité et de développement socio-économiques du pays
- A l'élaboration des programmes de formation et de renforcement de capacités
- Au développement des activités des commissions spécialisées qui correspondent précisément aux domaines de compétences de l'UNESCO : Éducation, Culture, Information, Communication, Sciences humaines et sociales, Sciences exactes.
- A l'organisation de campagnes de sensibilisation en collaboration avec la société civile pour le renforcement de la mise en œuvre de l'intégration de l'ODD4/Éducation dans les plans nationaux.

# GAMBIA

## Gambia National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Claudiana Ayo Cole, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Ousmane Senghor

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The increased visibility of UNESCO in the country, through the implementation of various programmes, has earned the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO great recognition amongst its local partners in a variety of fields across all sectors. This is manifest, on one hand, in the increased role and contributions of the Gambia National Commission in all policy dialogue and formulation in the country, on the other hand, in the increased financial support received from different Ministries and authorities.

In 2017, within the framework of the country's quest for sustainable development, the role of the Gambia National Commission has been pursued and enhanced through the implementation of various UNESCO sponsored activities in the Gambia. The Gambia National Commission under the Participation Programme for the 2016-2017 biennium successfully coordinated the implementation of various projects which benefitted several Gambian ministries and institutions. Thanks also to the funds received under the Participation

Programme, a cultural policy has been developed in participatory and inclusive manner, a comprehensive TVET data base is now established at the Ministry of Higher education, STI policy instruments are now identified and harmonized for integration into the GO-SPIN platform, a comprehensive and up-to-date curriculum on renewable energy is developed to be integrated into the mainstream Tertiary and Higher education curricula.

The UNESCO Dakar Regional Office, in collaboration with the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO, implemented the EU funded project for Media capacity building in Gambia. Through this project print media houses, Private Radio stations, the Gambia Press Union and the University of the Gambia benefitted from training of their staff and donation of state-of-the-art equipment. Other projects that emanated from the Dakar Regional Office were "the Youth, Peacebuilding and Regional Solidarity: Lessons from Africa" which brought 50 youth leaders from 19 countries in Africa. The project was a platform for sharing of experiences, lessons learned and reflections on the role of the youth in the democratic transition in Africa: drawing lessons from the Gambian experience and learning from the experience of other African countries.

Cognizant of the importance of promoting mother languages in fostering understanding and peace among people, the Gambia National Commission in collaboration with UNESCO Dakar Office, organized a one-week training on the harmonization of orthography, policy approaches and teaching methodology of Serer and Manjaku languages. This training workshop initiated on the basis of consolidating the efforts of revalorization and the maintenance of the cultural values of people across the two boarders, brought together experts from both countries.



Gambian youths standing for peace for Africa © Natcom Gambia

### A success story

The Gambia National Commission under the Participation Programme for the 2016-2017 biennium successfully implemented a project involving the engagement of 64 schools and 2 community-based UNESCO clubs. The participants were drawn from the 22 ASPnet Schools 44 School-based UNESCO Clubs plus the 2 Community-based clubs.

The project "Youth/Student Engagement to Foster Global Citizenship, Sustainable Development Initiatives and Peace Building in the Gambia" was envisaged to raise awareness among the youth population as it relates to the theme in order to facilitate their participation in the development process leading to global citizenship, sustainable development and peace building in Gambia. The project also targeted to train students/youths on entrepreneurial skills in order to avail them the required skills to contribute to social transformation in their communities.

The project was able to attract the goodwill and collaboration of various agencies and organizations. This has enabled the National Commission to elaborate the organization of the activity. The Peace Ambassadors powered one of the presentation – Peace Building and Maintenance. Youth organizations from across the country were invited to participate in the training activity.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Gender equality and youth empowerment continues to feature prominently in the activities of the National Commission to compliment the efforts of the government.

At national level, the country is trying to create an enabling policy framework based on a proper gender analysis and the provision of adequate gender statistics and budgets. In addition, there is an increasing focus on the improvement of women's and girls' employable skills and job opportunities by ensuring access in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

The Gambia has a youthful population with 37.2% between the ages of 13 and 30, the official age bracket for youth. The share of youth unemployment in total unemployment is about 70% while the ratio of youth unemployment to adult unemployment is 2.3.

The Gambia National Commission for UNESCO in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and in line with national priority areas deemed it necessary to prioritize Women and Youth activities in all future activities and programmes.

# GHANA

## Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh

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

### Update of activities in 2017

Over the years, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO has employed the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), one of its outreach vehicles, for propagating the ideals of UNESCO.

The Commission visited the St. John's Basic and JHS, one of the many ASPnet schools in Ghana and one of the oldest serving

member of the ASPnet fraternity in Ghana. The Commission sought to engage students and teachers of the school on ASPnet in order to sustain their interest.

The Commission further inaugurated a UNESCO Club at the Apeguso Senior High School in the Volta Region. Students were engaged in what UNESCO stands for, its aims and objectives; the Sustainable Development Goals and UNESCO's role in achieving these goals. Students were further introduced to UNESCO Clubs, their formation and membership. A five-member executive body was established to steer the affairs of the Club. The Commission donated books and four sets of Galileoscopes to the school to enhance learning.

In commemoration of the International Youth Day, the Commission collaborated with BlankCheque (an event organizing company) to create awareness of the day and the importance of the contribution of the youth to the development process. The celebration took place on the street of Asafo, a suburb of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Activities for the day included an interactive session with the youth of Asafo.



Participants in group discussions © Ghana National Commission

### A success story

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, as part of its outreach function as well as enhancing the visibility to UNESCO, embarked on activities to build formidable youth (Global Citizens – SDG 4, target 7) for the future development of our nation and the world at large.

With support from UNESCO's Participation Programme, the National Commission embarked on outreach activities in the Volta and Northern Regions to expand the ASPnet and UNESCO Clubs.

The Secretariat organized a two-day workshop for the formation of UNESCO Clubs and ASPnet on 8-9 August 2017 in Tamale, Northern Region and 23 and 24 August 2017 in Ho, Volta Region.

The Commission trained 34 teachers from 20 schools from various districts of the Northern Region for UNESCO Clubs and 31 teachers and heads of schools from 15 schools in respect of ASPnet.

In the Volta Region, the Commission trained 27 teachers and schools heads from 20 schools and 8 Circuit Supervisors (School Supervisors) from various districts of the Region as well as 2 officers from the Regional Education Directorate with respect to ASPnet and SDG 4.7. Also, 43 teachers from 15 Second Cycle Schools (Senior High and Technical Schools) were trained with respect to UNESCO Clubs and SDG 4.7.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO has in recent years embarked on a process of renewal. This includes the recruitment of new staff at managerial and at programme levels. The move has the objective of strengthening the Commission's operational apparatus to enable it contribute effectively to UNESCO's educational, scientific and cultural endeavours.

To that end, staff capacity development and training has become one of the priorities of the Commission and therefore looks forward to the National Commissions' Division at UNESCO to revamp its existing mode of contributing to building staff capacity in Member States.

Given the Organization's current financial challenges, the Commission believes that the areas of emphasis should be to engage the National Commissions in creating new partnerships in both public and private sectors towards fundraising in support of programmes and activities at the grass root level.

UNESCO has emphasized North-South and South-South co-operation as a means of solving the myriads of developmental challenges confronting the South. South-South co-operation presents unique opportunities for countries to solve common problems through experiential learning. In that direction, UNESCO must consider developing relevant modules that will build the capacities of NATCOM staff for the realization of the Organization's objectives.

There is also the need for interregional co-operation and joint activities particularly within the framework of ASPnet and UNESCO Clubs movement to push forward UNESCO's peace mission.

Finally, the roll-out of the C/5 remains central in the implementation of the Organization's activities at the national level. It is thus useful for new staff of NATCOMs to be trained in the processes leading to the development of the C/5 document as well as its implementation at the regional and national levels.

# GUINÉE

## Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Abdoulaye Yéro Balde

**Secrétaire général** : M. Ibrahima Solo Conde

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

En 2017, la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO a réalisé des activités d'un intérêt évident pour notre pays. Elles ont aidé l'UNESCO à atteindre la société civile et à accroître sa visibilité sur le plan national. Ces activités sont :

- Un atelier national ayant pour thème : « *Renforcement des capacités institutionnelles du service des statistiques et de la planification du Ministère de l'enseignement technique, de*

*la formation professionnelle, de l'emploi et du travail (SSP/METFP-ET) », tenu à Mamou du 4 au 9 janvier 2017. Cette formation a permis aux 40 participant(e)s provenant de structures des niveaux central et déconcentré de se former en techniques statistiques, Informatique et aux plans et outils de production des données statistiques ;*

- Un atelier national « *Campagne de sensibilisation sur la gestion des ressources sur la gestion en eau de la Guinée Forestière* », tenu à N'zérékoré, du 16 au 19 mai 2017. 30 participant(e)s ont bénéficié de cette session de formation axée sur la bonne gestion intégrée des ressources en eau dans la conservation de la biodiversité en Guinée.
- Un atelier national « *Un enfant, un livre de chevet* », tenu à Conakry en avril 2017, dans le cadre de Conakry – Capitale mondiale du Livre en 2017. Ce projet a permis de renforcer les capacités des jeunes guinéens en lecture et à la culture de l'écrit.



Campagne de Sensibilisation sur la gestion des ressources en eau de la Guinée Forestière © Commission nationale guinéenne Pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

La tenue d'une formation « *Campagne de sensibilisation sur la gestion des ressources en eau de la Guinée Forestière* » s'est déroulée à N'zérékoré allant du 12 au 16 mai 2017. L'Université de N'zérékoré en collaboration avec la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO et avec l'appui de l'UNESCO, a organisé cette session de formation. Cette dernière nous a permis d'amener par une sensibilisation multiforme tous les gestionnaires et usagers de l'eau à opérer un changement de comportement en vue de réussir le pari de la protection et de l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources en eau.

La connaissance de ces objectifs sur l'importance de l'eau pour le développement durable de la société, l'impact des activités humaines sur le régime des cours d'eau, la prévention des maladies d'origine hydrique et des catastrophes de temps de pluie et de sécheresse, le rôle de la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau dans la conservation de la biodiversité et la lutte contre la vulnérabilité aux changements climatiques par une meilleure

gestion des ressources en eau, a guidé nos responsables (étudiants et professeurs) du Centre de Documentation Environnementale de N'zérékoré (CREDEZ) et de ses services déconcentrés et communautaires de Beyla, Lola, Guéckédou, Macenta et Yomou à mieux gérer les ressources en eau vers un développement durable en République de Guinée.

Elle a favorisé la prise en compte de nos préoccupations majeures dans la zone, notamment :

- L'organisation de conférences scientifiques sur l'importance de l'eau pour le développement de la société ;
- L'organisation de conférences scientifiques sur l'impact des activités humaines sur le régime des cours d'eau ;
- L'analyse de la perception communautaire de la gestion des ressources en eau ;
- La réhabilitation de la vallée de la rivière Zalé.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Le bref exposé que nous venons de faire montre que la GIRE (Gestion intégrée des ressources en eau) est indispensable au développement durable économique et social durable de la Guinée Forestière, avec la participation des bénéficiaires de tous les programmes et projets y ayant trait, de la conception à l'évaluation et au suivi.

C'est seulement au prix de la création des agences opérationnelles, des clubs de riposte aux risques et catastrophe, des instances de règlement des conflits d'usage des eaux et de leurs ressources biologiques que la pauvreté sera réduite en Guinée Forestière en particulier et dans tout le pays d'une manière générale, dans un climat de parfaite collaboration avec les pays voisins, la GIRE des 6 BV est une jalousie constructive.

D'une manière ou d'une autre, il est impératif aux hommes d'aujourd'hui de léguer aux générations de demain un environnement viable. En tant que consommateurs et utilisateurs d'eau d'aujourd'hui, nous devons aussi devenir et demeurer les sages gardiens des ressources hydriques pour les générations futures. Nous comprenons tous que : « l'eau est le passé de l'Homme, les eaux sont l'avenir de l'humanité ».

Avec ces préalables, nous sommes contraints de travailler ensemble pour une solution harmonieuse pour cette préoccupation fondamentale qui est le changement climatique qui interpelle tous.

# KENYA

## Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM)

**Chairperson:** Mr Rashid A. Aman

**Secretary General:** Mr Evangeline Njoka

**Website:** <http://unesco.go.ke/>

### Update of activities in 2017

Throughout 2017, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) implemented activities in accordance with UNESCO's priorities in the five programme areas in collaboration with the concerned stakeholders.

To promote peaceful coexistence among communities in Kenya, a peace education programme was implemented, which included the strengthening of teachers' capacity for promoting values and the use of transformative pedagogy to foster peace-promoting behaviour among learners. The ASPnet in schools and institutions was also promoted.

In the field of natural sciences, KNATCOM conducted capacity building for secondary school career counselors in an effort to improve enrollment in TVET institutions. The Commission

also coordinated a STEM scientific camp of excellence for secondary school girls, and conducted capacity building for the management committee of the Mt. Kulal Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Kenya and the local community living within.

In social and human sciences, KNATCOM supported the Kenya UNESCO Youth Forum to develop a Strategic Plan 2017-2020 in line with Kenya Constitution and UNESCO Operational Strategy for Youth 2014-2021.

In culture, capacity building for the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention was also held. KNATCOM hosted a theatre arts conference/festival that brought together academia, policy makers, industry players and students to promote intellectual dialogue and enhance the link between education and creative sector.

In the field of communication and information, KNATCOM undertook research on the utilization of open solutions and ICT innovations in learning institutions in Kenya. It also marked the World Radio Day 2017 in line with the UNESCO tenet of promoting freedom of expression with a UNESCO supported community radio, in Northern Kenya. Moreover, it built the capacity of media professionals on freedom of expression, freedom of information and safety of journalists, by sensitizing them on the UN plan of Action on the safety of journalists.



### A success story

In July 2017, KNATCOM promoted conservation of the sacred Kaya forests of the Mijikenda by awarding the best managed and well conserved Forest. The Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests are a cultural site that was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2008 and consist of 11 separate forest sites spread over some 200 km along the coast containing the remains of numerous fortified villages, known as kayas, of the Mijikenda people. The kayas, created as of the 16<sup>th</sup> century but abandoned by the 1940s, are now regarded as the abodes of ancestors and are revered as sacred sites and, as such, are maintained by councils of elders. The site bears unique testimony to a cultural tradition and for its direct link to a living tradition.

The initiative to award the best-conserved and well-managed sacred Kaya Forest of the Mijikenda aimed at enhancing conservation efforts by Kaya elders through promotion of traditions and practices associated to the sacred Kaya Forests of the Mijikenda. The activity was in collaboration between KNATCOM, Kaya Elders, Athi River Mining Company and Base Titanium who joined hands to promote holistic conservation of the Kayas and to boost the enactment of living heritage.

Mijikenda communities conserve and safeguard their heritage while promoting peace, harmony and cohesion through traditional prayers as intangible cultural heritage © KNATCOM

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with Kenya's Ministry of Education and UNESCO will hold a high level Pan-African meeting on SDG 4 from 25 to 27 April 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. It is also planned to host the second edition of the Eastern Africa Regional conference on safety and security of journalists in 2018 to follow up on the recommendations made in the first edition of Nairobi conference in 2017.

The focus areas in education include capacity development and promoting innovative practices in ICT in education based on national and international best practices; awareness creation and training on SDG 4 at all levels of education; targeted peace-building interventions through education. Kenya is one of the pilot countries for GAP for ESD. There is need to build capacity of Ministry of Education staff and teachers on ESD to facilitate innovative and efficient practices in learning institutions.

Kenya has 6 biosphere reserves. Due to climate change and other factors, most of these biosphere reserves are now threatened. Resources are required to build the capacities of stakeholders in the conservation of biosphere reserves on the sustainable use of the natural resources.

Capacity building and resource mobilization are needed in numerous fields such as Youth engagement and empowerment for self-reliance, Youth and violence extremism, Social Transformations and General History of Africa, development of national cultural survey research tools, safety and security of journalists, Mobile apps development, empowerment of community radio stations and preservation of documentary heritage.

# LESOTHO

## Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU)

**President:** Mr Mokhele Moletsane, Minister of Education and Training

**Secretary General:** Ms Palesa Montšhi

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

### Summary of 2017 activities

The year 2017 has been mainly characterized by the implementation of the 2016-2017 Participation Programme Projects. In addition, Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU) implemented joint projects with its partners, namely, Korea National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and German Commission for UNESCO (DUK).

In an effort to improve the performance of young girls and boys in "Student training for Entrepreneurial Promotion" (STEM) subjects (mathematics and science), the focus of the Education programme working with a local science education NGO introduced the first ever solar powered mobile digital laboratory fully equipped with tablets, a laptop, a digital projector and a screen. Through this pilot project, the National Commission attempted to reach off grid and remote areas of Lesotho in an effort to promote STEM and bridge the digital divide. It is noteworthy to mention that 2017 was the second year that Lesotho joined the Africa Code Week (18 – 25 October) where more than 5,000 learners were trained on coding.

The main focus of the Natural Science programme has been the promotion of the MAB Programme through the National MAB Committee, with the support from the DUK, plans are at an advanced stage to establish the first biosphere reserve in Lesotho.

Tremendous strides were also made in the Culture sector. For instance, the first ever exhibition of the Basotho tangible heritage after independence was held in the country and was officially opened by the Head of State, His Majesty King Letsie III.

Similarly, under the Communication and Information programme, and in an endeavor to provide access to information and knowledge, a Mobile Digital Library project initiated in 2014/2015 biennium was replicated in the current biennium in order to meet the demands of disadvantaged rural communities of the Southern parts of Lesotho. The project was aimed at supporting distance teaching and learning by bringing library services and internet to rural schools that lacked library services.

Through a joint partnership between the DUK and LNCU, the two organizations reached a ground breaking record of training 500 recent university graduates in a period of three years in an entrepreneurial training programme better known as "Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion". The training was geared to be an answer to youth and graduate unemployment in Lesotho. The project reached its third and last year of support in 2017.

UNESCO's visibility was also seen throughout the country through the celebration of international days. With support from the UNESCO Harare Regional Office, LNCU celebrated, World Radio Day, World Press Freedom Day, Literacy Day and the International Day for Universal Access to Information, to mention but a few.



ECCD learners at Ha-Motsu CLC enjoying their meals sponsored through the KNCU Africa Bridge Programme © LNCU

### A success story

The partnership between the KNCU and LNCU has been growing since the introduction of the Bridge programme in Lesotho in 2010. The programme reached its peak in Lesotho in 2017. This is premised on the fact that a number of projects were implemented in 2017 with financial support of about USD \$ 59,000. The programme is intended to provide learning opportunities to educationally marginalized people. The programme places more emphasis on Literacy education; Early Childhood Care and Education Development (ECCD), and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

This project has been of great significance in Lesotho given the fact that it is viewed as another effort of assisting the country in realizing and or working towards the achievement of SDG 4. Major progress has been made in increasing access to education at all levels and in increasing enrolment rates especially under ECCD and TVET in all the three Community Learning Centres of Ha Motsu, Liphiring and Ha Teko.

In addition, the project has strived to improve the quality of education through the provision of textbooks and teaching and learning materials as well as construction and renovation of classrooms and workshops. Furthermore, several capacity development workshops for teachers and other CLC stakeholders have also contributed to ensure the quality education in the CLCs.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

LNCU is working very closely with the DUK in organizing a Southern African Sub regional training workshop aimed at building capacities of new staff members of National Commissions by familiarising them with the newly developed Training Manual for National Commissions for UNESCO by East African National Commissions. The manual is also intended to brief staff on the roles and functions of UNESCO. The training is considered as a good step towards the improvement network and working relations among the Southern African National Commissions for UNESCO.

A regional Participation Programme Proposal which has already received support from Malawi, Swaziland and Namibia will be submitted to UNESCO Headquarters for evaluation in 2018.

# LIBERIA

## The Liberian National Commission for UNESCO (LNATCOM)

**Chairman:** Mr George K. Werner, Minister of Education

**Secretary General:** Mr Sam E. Hare, Jr.

### Update of activities in 2017

The year 2017, being an elections year that led to the transition to a new government, presented its own challenges and opportunities to the Liberian National Commission for UNESCO.

After more than ten years of non-activity, the Board of Commissioners of the LNATCOM convened in line with its legislative mandate, and resolved to be more active and meet more than is required by law, towards the strengthening of the Commission.

In a bid to build the capacity of the LNATCOM's secretariat capacity for effective service delivery, a Project Officer was recruited and additional office equipment was procured.

LNATCOM experienced a 57% decrease in government subsidy due to budget shortfalls. This substantially impacted on LNATCOM's operations. Despite these challenges, LNATCOM was able to successfully implement and coordinate six projects within the UNESCO Participation Programme Framework,

strengthen 21 high school UNESCO Clubs in five counties and successfully coordinate Liberia's full participation in the UNESCO 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Paris, France.

The five implemented projects within the IUNESCO Participation Program Framework were as follows:

**High School Press Clubs Project:** 100 students from 10 high schools in 2 counties trained and capacitated in journalism to advocate for and highlight issues affecting them. Press clubs were established in these schools.

**Building the capacity of NATCOM Staff through IIEP Project:** A staff of LNATCOM participated in a 9-month training program on education planning at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning. He is now a part of the Ministry of Education's planning team.

**Peace, Human Rights and Citizenship Education Peer Mentoring Program in High Schools:** 2,500 students from 10 high schools in 5 counties orientated in citizenship education, peace building and human rights education.

**Research on The Impact of Gender based violence in three counties in Liberia:** Study was conducted on the scope and impact of gender based violence in three counties in Liberia. The findings were submitted to government to inform policy and program activities.

**Institutional Strengthening of LNATCOM's Secretariat:** The LNATCOM secretariat was strengthened with the provision with computers, laptops and internet equipment for effective service delivery.



### A success story

Over 1,500 students (UNESCO Clubbers) from 21 UNESCO High School Clubs in six counties were trained as advocates and ambassadors of the Sustainable Development Goals and the proponents of Global Citizenship. Their mission is to promote and advocate for the SDGs and global citizenship education in their schools and communities through practical projects and radio programming.

During an SDGs/ Global Citizenship workshop with UNESCO Clubs

© the Liberian National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The LNATCOM and the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO are planning a joint program under the Participation Program 2018 to conduct a workshop to train and orientate teachers of the Associated School Project Network (ASPnet) on the Sustainable Development Goals.

# MADAGASCAR

## Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO

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

**Secrétaire général** : M. Fanjamboahangy Ratsimisetra

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

Pour Madagascar, l'année 2017 aura été marquée par le lancement du nouveau Plan sectoriel de l'éducation. Un document cadre auquel ont pris part les 3 ministères en charge de l'éducation et dont la conception a été appuyé par l'UNESCO, depuis les consultations régionales jusqu'à la rédaction du document final. Au-delà des changements fondamentaux requis pour l'amélioration de la qualité de l'enseignement, notamment au niveau de la langue d'enseignement ou de la structure des cycles d'études, un accent particulier a été mis sur les ODD et l'EDD particulièrement dans la réforme curriculaire.

Toujours dans le secteur de l'éducation, une réforme du système des écoles associées et clubs pour l'UNESCO a également été engagée, à travers le Programme de participation de l'UNESCO. Il s'agissait surtout d'une redynamisation du système, accompagnée d'une mise à jour de la liste des membres actifs dans les régions d'Analamanga et d'Alaotra Mangoro.

Pour le secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, 2017 a été l'occasion de continuer les efforts de l'an passé pour une éducation scientifique. Ainsi, les activités ont été conçues de telle sorte à favoriser les filières scientifiques chez les apprenants, surtout les filles. L'accent a également été mis sur l'éducation au développement durable comme ce fut le cas

pour les activités organisées dans le cadre de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'environnement durant laquelle les thématiques de l'éco-responsabilité et écogestes ont été mis en avant. Une série d'activités de reboisement a également été initiée, avec suivi de la pousse des plants mis en terre, dans le cadre du programme : "Harena ho ahy ny hazo voleko anio" (traduit librement par : l'arbre que je plante aujourd'hui sera ma richesse de demain").

Autrement, pour le programme des sciences humaines et sociales, l'activité-phare consistait à focaliser ses activités sur la sensibilisation aux droits humains, et particulièrement aux droits des enfants. Ainsi, au-delà d'une série d'activités de sensibilisations sur les droits fondamentaux effectuées auprès d'établissements scolaires situés en zone rurale, il était aussi question d'effectuer quelques dotations en matériels pédagogiques, fournis par le Ministère de l'éducation nationale.

Dans le secteur de la culture, Madagascar figure parmi les rares pays ayant ratifié toutes les Conventions culturelles de l'UNESCO. Un message fort qui démontre bien du grand intérêt porté par le Gouvernement pour le secteur de la culture. Ainsi, 2017 aura été marquée par la première édition de l'atelier de poésie « L'aube des petits poètes », mais également par l'atelier d'initiation à la musique lors de la célébration de la Journée du Jazz.

Dans le domaine de la communication et information, la Commission a pu, grâce à la collaboration du Bureau régional de Nairobi et de son bureau de liaison à Antananarivo, contribuer à la réussite de la célébration de la Journée internationale de l'accès universel à l'information avec l'engagement de plusieurs entités publiques en faveur du partage des informations au grand public notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Projet Institutions Démocratiques Intègres Représentatives et Crédibles financé par le Peace Building Fund.



Une visite-découverte de la Colline royale d'Ambohimanga Rova, un site du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO  
@ Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

Dans le cadre de la célébration de la Journée du patrimoine mondial africain, le 5 mai 2017, la Commission nationale a choisi d'organiser, avec les membres du réseau des Ecoles associées et Clubs pour l'UNESCO une visite-découverte de la Colline royale d'Ambohimanga Rova, un site classé au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO depuis 2001. Ce fut également l'occasion de déguster et de redécouvrir des plats traditionnels de la Région d'Analamanga, aussi connu par le passé sous le nom de Royaume de l'Imerina.

Au terme de ces animations, les élèves et éducateurs les plus méritants ont été récompensés. La Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO a remercié particulièrement le Ministre de l'éducation nationale, M. RABARY Andrianiana Paul, pour son appui lors de cette célébration.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

En termes de compétences requises au sein de la Commission nationale, il s'avère qu'une formation sur le fonctionnement général de l'UNESCO serait la bienvenue. De même que des renforcements de capacités seraient requises pour une spécialisation dans les cinq grands programmes de l'UNESCO. En effet, bien que disposant d'une formation universitaire de base et d'une volonté réelle de fournir un travail de qualité, les techniciens actuellement rattachés à la Commission nationale ne peuvent pas encore être considérés comme des experts et fournir pleinement, à ce titre, le travail qu'on attend d'eux.

Concernant le Programme de participation, les discussions avaient été axées autour d'une formation régionale sur le fonctionnement général de l'UNESCO et ses programmes ainsi que sur les contributions pratiques des Commissions nationales, notamment concernant les Secrétaires généraux nouvellement nommés.

# MALAWI

## Malawi National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)

**Chairperson:** Mr Justin Saidi, Secretary for Education, Science and Technology

**Acting Executive Secretary:** Mr Emmanuel B. Z. Kondowe

**Web site:** <http://www.mnatcomunesco.mw>

### Update of activities in 2017

The Malawi National Commission for UNESCO had an illustrious 2017 in carrying out a number of activities under the Reform Agenda of the Government. One of MNCU's reform areas is the creation of new sources of funding to strengthen the implementation of UNESCO programmes. MNCU organized a consultation with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on 24 March 2017 to brief them about UNESCO's programmes and priorities. Positive immediate outcomes of the consultation include the strengthened partnerships that have emerged between MNCU and some MDAs, such as the Domasi College of Education on the implementation of Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development, the Malawi University of Science and Technology

(MUST) in Culture and Indigenous knowledge, the Malawi Polytechnic in Information and Communication, and the National Centre for Literacy and Adult Education (NCLAE) in non-formal education. MNCU has also partnerships with the Rei Foundation Limited of New Zealand, and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU).

Malawi celebrated international days, such as the World Radio Day, the World Press Freedom Day, and the International Literacy Day. MNCU collaborated with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – Basic Education Programme (GIZ/BEP) to commemorate the 2017 World Teachers Day, where 68 outstanding teachers (34 women and 34 men) were awarded certificates and prizes of recognition. The implementation of a project on Promotion of Digital-Wellness and Information Ethics Knowledge in Girls Secondary Schools, the Development of a Database of the Cultural Industries, and Global Citizenship Education Programme are some of the projects that were supported under Participation Programme that raised the profile of UNESCO.

The MNCU had a very positive collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in the implementation of a Skills and Technical Education Programme (STEP) funded by the European Union.

The MNCU has redesigned its website and can be accessed on: [www.malawinatcom.mw](http://www.malawinatcom.mw).



### A success story

Malawi joined the world in commemorating International Literacy Day on 8 September under the theme: "Literacy in a Digital World". The national event took place in Neno district brought together a cross section of civil society organizations, religious groups, political parties, Members of Parliament and civic leaders, as well as representatives of development partners.

The Minister of Civic Education, Culture and Community Development, Honourable Cecilia Chazama, M.P. was the Guest of Honour. Acting Executive Secretary of the National Commission, Mr Emmanuel Kondowe, delivered the official message from the Director General of UNESCO.

The Bridge Malawi Project funded by the KNCU supported the event. Representatives of the Community Learning Centres, supported by the Bridge Project, showcased their activities.

Minister of Civic Education, Culture and Community Development, Honourable Cecilia Chazama, M.P. being briefed on the Bridge Project supported by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO © Malawi National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Among others, planned key areas of intervention are:

**Education** – Facilitating the work of the National Task Force on the Implementation of SDG4. Engaging relevant units and institutions of UNESCO including the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in supporting the development of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for Early Childhood Development and the Adult Literacy Programmes; Implementing the Global Citizenship Education and Transformative Pedagogy in the teacher training institutions and schools.

**Science** – Implementing the sub-regional plan of action on Man and Biosphere (MAB) developed at a meeting of National Commissions held in June 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia and resuscitating the MAB National Committee.

**Social and Human Sciences** – Strengthening the Physical Education and Sport in the primary schools; Strengthening the capacity of the National Bioethics Committee and consolidating the establishment of the Malawi Anti-Doping Organization (MADO).

**Culture** – Raising awareness and promoting the ARIPO Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore; Preparing Nomination Dossier for Inscription of Kaligo Music Playing on Urgent Safeguarding List; Establishing the Technical and Vocational School for the Arts and development of its curriculum; Expanding a project on Storytelling and development of animations of Malawian folktales.

**Communication and Information** – Organizing a regional seminar on the status of implementation of Access to Information Legislation; Promoting an understanding of the Access to Information (ATI) Act – Sharpening journalists' understanding of the ATI Act and sensitizing the public on the ATI Act; Strengthening journalists' capacity in elections coverage as well as celebration of World Press Freedom Day and World Radio Day 2018 and 2019.

**Public Sector Reforms** – Under the Public Sector Reforms, MNCU intends to intensify efforts to establish a resource centre to enhance its mandate in carrying out capacity building programmes, research, and information sharing on UNESCO programmes and activities.

# MALI

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

**Président** : M. Assétou Founè Samake Migan, Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique

**Secrétaire générale** : Mme Diallo Kadia Maiga

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

La Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO a mis en œuvre en 2017, un certain nombre d'activités malgré la faiblesse de ses moyens et son déficit en ressources humaines avec le soutien financier de l'État malien, de l'UNESCO et de l'ISESCO ; les activités suivantes :

- L'atelier de sensibilisation pour la préservation et le renforcement de la scolarisation des filles dans les régions de Gao, Tombouctou et Kidal du 27 au 31 mars 2017 à Mopti. L'objectif visé était de renforcer la scolarisation des filles dans ces trois régions.
- L'atelier sur le rôle des radios dans la sauvegarde, la promotion et la protection du patrimoine culturel, tenu du 29 au 31 mai 2017 à Bamako. Cet atelier a permis de former les personnes de médias à la sauvegarde, la promotion et la protection du patrimoine culturel malien.
- L'atelier national de formation et de sensibilisation des jeunes et des femmes en matière de changement climatique du 3 au 5 juillet 2017 à Bamako ; la session de formation des jeunes et des femmes visait à promouvoir leur pleine participation

à la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique en renforçant leurs capacités et en développant leur esprit d'initiative et d'innovation en matière de conservation et de protection de l'environnement.

- L'atelier national de renforcement des capacités des femmes journalistes du Mali en plaidoyer et en genre du 3 au 4 mai 2017 à Bamako ; cette activité avait comme objectif de renforcer les capacités des femmes journalistes du Mali afin d'accroître leurs compétences de négociation et de plaidoyer social dans le sens de la réconciliation globale du pays.
- L'atelier de formation des facilitateurs scolaires des écoles associées sur le changement climatique du 24 au 27 mai 2017 à Niamana ; cette formation entre dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'approche globale du changement climatique par le biais du réseau au Mali.
- La cinquième Caravane médicale et socio-éducative du 11 au 17 octobre 2017, sous le haut parrainage de S.E Madame la Première Dame de la République du Mali, Mme KEITA Aminata MAIGA, Présidente-fondatrice de l'ONG « AGIR ». L'objectif de cette activité était d'octroyer des dons composés d'ordinateurs, de matériels de santé, de vêtements et de kits scolaires aux centres de santé, aux écoles et aux collèges. Elle a été financée par la Fondation El Waleed Philanthropies d'Arabie Saoudite et mise en œuvre par l'ISESCO et la Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO.
- Le séminaire-atelier préparatoire de la participation du Mali à la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO du 28 au 30 août 2017 à Bamako ; l'objet de cette rencontre était de préparer un document de travail sur la base du projet de programme et de budget 39C/5 pour la délégation malienne.



Une vue des participants en salle de la 4<sup>ème</sup> rencontre statutaire du Comité Directeur du Réseau des Ecoles Associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (RESEAO) © Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO

### Une activité réussie

L'activité phare fut la 4<sup>ème</sup> rencontre statutaire du Comité Directeur du Réseau des Ecoles Associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (RESEAO) du 30 juin au 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2017. Elle a regroupé les délégations des pays suivants : le Bénin, le Burkina Faso, la Côte d'Ivoire, la Gambie, la Guinée, le Mali, le Niger, le Sénégal et le Togo autour du thème : « combattre la violence liée au genre en milieu scolaire et promouvoir l'égalité du genre ». L'objectif de cette rencontre était de coordonner les activités des écoles associées dans ces différents pays susmentionnés. La rencontre sous régionale a permis d'établir le bilan des activités des Commissions nationales membres du RESEAO et de faire l'état des lieux des activités réalisées par le Mali durant sa présidence au secrétariat exécutif du comité directeur du RESEAO.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Nous avons renforcé notre coopération avec le bureau de l'UNESCO à Bamako en instituant des réunions périodiques d'information et de collaboration notamment dans l'organisation de nos activités.

Nous travaillons sur les requêtes du programme de participation et nous comptons dans ce cadre soumettre une requête sous régionale pour la création des réserves de biosphère transfrontalières du Bafing avec la Guinée et le Sénégal et du Gourma avec le Burkina Faso.

Nous organisons en coopération avec le Ministère de l'éducation nationale et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Bamako, le lancement du Rapport Mondial de suivi de l'Éducation au Mali le 19 janvier 2018 à Sikasso.

# MAURITIUS

## Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** 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 2017

Many activities promoting the ideals of UNESCO have been organized by various Clubs for UNESCO in schools and out of school. These vary from field trips on cultural sites, research works on UNESCO to celebrations of International Days.

Following the two-day National Consultation on the Implementation of SDG 4 Education 2030 held in September

2016 and the SDG Regional Forum for Eastern Africa held in Tanzania in February 2017, a High-Level Committee was set up to discuss and produce a first report on every specific target of SDG 4.

Different sub-committees were also set up to monitor the progress of all targets falling under the SDG4.

From July to December 2017, many activities were organised by the Commission in Mauritius: Regional Conference and Ministerial Roundtable for Eastern Africa and adjacent Indian Ocean Islands to strengthen synergies for the protection of cultural heritage; International Day for the Universal Access to Information (IDUAL); UNESCO International Scientific Committee on Indentured Slave Route; UNESCO International Scientific Committee on the Slave Route Project; a seminar on Biosphere Reserve; and the UNESCO Merck African Research Summit (UNESCO-MARS), which was organised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in collaboration with UNESCO and the Merck Foundation. The Opening Ceremony was graced by Mr Engida Getachew, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO.



Delegates in working groups © Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

In March 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 2347 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the G7 Culture Ministers' meeting adopted the "Florence Declaration". These recognized the distinctive role of culture as an instrument for dialogue, reconciliation and response to emergency situations.

The urgent need to safeguard and sustainably develop cultural heritage in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Islands, was demonstrated by the absence or minimal presence of culture in national plans for developing policies to protect and promote cultural heritage.

In light of these developments, the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Mauritius National Commission, organized the Regional Conference and Ministerial Roundtable for Eastern Africa and adjacent Indian Ocean Islands to strengthen synergies for the protection of cultural heritage.

Regional surveys were carried out to establish the existing level of cultural heritage protection at the national and regional levels in Eastern Africa. The findings of that survey were reviewed by the focal points and

the recommendations which resulted from them were presented at the Ministerial Roundtable for discussion and validation.

The Ministers built on these recommendations to develop their joint statement during the Ministerial Roundtable, which confirmed their countries' commitment to become party to international legal instruments in the field of cultural heritage protection in order to strengthen their national heritage protection.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

One of the priorities for joint work and technical assistance is the programme "Supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform in the Indian Ocean Islands region".

While the countries of the region have collectively a sizeable human capital, with the youth accounting for some 50% of the population, there is a need to develop their skills at both vocational and middle professional levels to meet the increasingly specialised needs of the world of work.

The programme's objective is to improve governance and private sector participation in the technical vocational education and training sector (TVET), with a view to raising the quality of skills development in line with labour market demands.

Proposed Approach:

1. *Governance and policy support:* Implementation of national TVET policies.
2. *Private sector engagement:* Facilitation and cooperation between public and private sectors.
3. *Implementation of reform TVET:* Modalities of work-based training approaches and networking in the region.
4. *Human Resources Development/Teacher Training:* Platform for Development pre-service and in-service training for TVET. Establishment of centres for training of trainers for the TVET sector.

# MOZAMBIQUE

## Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO

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

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The year 2017 was a very productive year, despite the fact that Mozambique is going through a financial crisis, which in some way reduces the volume of the budget allocated to public institutions. The National Commission was able to implement all the activities foreseen in the Plan of Activities for 2017, with particular emphasis on the following:

In education: implementation of a Bilingual Education Programme in the Maputo Province, celebration of World Youth Skills Day in Maputo City, celebration of the International Literacy Day in the Tete Province, and celebration of the World Teacher's Day in Maputo City.

In natural sciences: training seminar for the facilitators of the Global approach on climate change education for sustainable development in Sofala Province, German-African UNESCO Youth Conference on Climate Action Project in Maputo City, celebration of World Environment Day in Maputo City, World Ocean's Day celebrations in Maputo City, and submission of the candidature of the Quirimbas National Park (Cabo Delgado Province) to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

In culture: development of a Programme aiming to Support the Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Intercultural Dialogue in Gaza Province.

In information and communication: implementation of a training programme on the use of information and communication technologies and training courses for documentation and information managers in Maputo City.

The activities mentioned above were financed with funds provided by the Government of Mozambique through the State Investment Budget, the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), the German National Commission for UNESCO, as well as other National and International partners.



Students from Armando Guebuza Industrial Institute explaining the use of intranet to the UNESCO Representative in Maputo and the National Director for Technical and Vocational Education

© Custódio Carlos Tamele, Programme Officer for Education at the Mozambique National Commission

### A success story

#### Youth Skills Day Celebration in Mozambique

On 15 July 2017, the National Commission for UNESCO and UNEVOC Centre in Mozambique organized, for the first time in the country, the celebration of the World Youth Skills Day. The celebration has been held at the *Instituto Industrial de Maputo*, a technical and professional institution in Maputo City. More than 80 participants came together to share insights and reflect on the importance of youth skills, for employability, better job opportunities and entrepreneurship.

The initiative was supported by the National Directorate for Technical Education (UNEVOC Centre), in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher Education and Professional Training (MCTESTP), UNESCO Maputo Office and Colleges and Institutes of Canada.

The core activities consisted in a panel discussion and an exhibition. Students from different technical and professional schools in Maputo participated to the lively discussion and showcased the skills gained as part of their curricula. During the exhibition, students were given the opportunity to perform the skills acquired on different professional fields such as mechanic, tourism and hospitality, ITC, chemistry and renewable energy, as well as their artistic skills, while performing traditional Mozambican dances.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission Action Plan for 2018 is in line with the Government's main priorities set out in its Five Year Plan 2015-2019. According to his nature, it also includes priority actions set by UNESCO, aligned to international commitments in the areas of Education, Science, Culture and Communication and Information.

The main priorities are:

1. Primary Education, with emphasis to the use of local languages initiatives;
2. Literacy and Adult Education initiatives;
3. Activities related to the mitigation of the impact of climate changes;
4. Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries; and
5. The use of ICT in Public Administration sector.

The proposed activities will be financed with funds from the State Investment Budget; Participation Programmes and other sources.

Lastly, for the year 2018, the Mozambique National Commission plans to organize the second meeting on German and African UNESCO Youth Conference on Climate Action Project in close collaboration with the German National Commission for UNESCO. This event will bring together representatives from 10 African Countries to share the best practices as well as to evaluate de recommendation of the first meeting.

# NAMIBIA

## NAMIBIA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

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

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

### Update of activities in 2017

During 2017, which was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO (Namibia NatCom), the newly appointed and inaugurated Executive Committee and Programme Committee members of the National Commission provided valuable contributions to govern the Commission.

2017 was characterized by excellent cooperation with other National Commissions and with the staff members in ERI, UNESCO Headquarters. We recall the collaboration of the Namibia NatCom with the German Commission on the co-hosting of the "Sub-regional capacity-building meeting for Secretaries-General of National Commissions of Southern Africa" in Windhoek. Namibia hosted the "Memory of the World Training Workshop for the Africa Region" with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. Attendance of

workshops and meetings was facilitated with the Windhoek National Office and the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa; hence, contributing to Namibia deriving maximum benefits from UNESCO's expertise and resources in the different programme sectors.

In the different programme sectors, the following capacity building opportunities were offered: attendance of three conferences on TVET, launch of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report, discussion of Namibia's priorities in preparation of the Programme and Budget for 2018-2021, workshop on gender-responsive STI Policies and Governance Strategies for Sustainable Development, installation of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation in Arid Environments at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, workshop on Bioethics and attendance of 6<sup>th</sup> sessions of the meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention and 2005 Convention.

Four participation programme projects were successfully implemented: contracts relating to the "UNESCO-Namibia Water Sector Project"; 2003 Convention and 1972 World Heritage Convention, and "Whole-institution approach to climate change" were also successfully implemented.

Two Namibians were awarded the UNESCO/POLAND Co-Sponsored Fellowship in Engineering and the UNESCO-China Great Wall Fellowship (under the CFIT project), respectively.



Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, Head of the UNESCO Windhoek Office and UNESCO Representative to Namibia, (presenting) and Mr Ferdinand Katire, Programme Officer for the Sciences, Namibia National Commission for UNESCO  
© Namibia National Commission for UNESCO

Hon. Mr Stanley Simataa, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology and Chairperson of the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference, Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo, Head of UNESCO Windhoek National Office, Mr Axel Plathe, Director, Division for Field Support and Coordination, UNESCO Headquarters, and Mr Ulrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Namibia.

The output of the meeting was the signing of a Communique with agreed recommendations. Two of the outcomes included an increased understanding of the need for collaboration and awareness of the Action Plan of the Secretariat with National Commissions.

### A success story

The Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the German Commission hosted a sub-regional meeting for Secretaries-General and their delegations (from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Germany) from 5 to 7 June 2017 in Windhoek.

The objectives of the sub-regional meeting were to build on previous seminars; to explore areas of possible collaboration among National Commissions; to solidify a sub-regional action plan on collaborative initiatives and to reflect on different programmes of the work of National Commissions. Discussions centred around the role of National Commissions in the context of Agenda 2030; implementation of the action plan of the UNESCO Secretariat; implementation of UNESCO programmes beyond the participation programmes; and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

Various partners joined Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, and Chairperson of the Namibia NatCom, such as,

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Namibia National Commission will continue to support the Sub-regional meetings for officials of National Commissions of the Southern Africa Region, to be hosted on a rotation basis by the National Commission in the Sub-Region.

Furthermore, the Namibia National Commission will also host the African Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for ASPnet National Coordinators, from 13-15 March 2018, Windhoek, Namibia, in liaison with the Unit for UNESCO ASP Network, UNESCO Headquarters. Discussions are on-going with the Slovenian Commission for UNESCO to jointly host an ASPnet Camp in 2018, focusing on Youth Development, in Namibia.

The National Commission is of the opinion that capacity building in the following areas would be useful to enhance the mandate of the Commission, namely, capacity building and training for the Secretariat; fund-raising initiatives and resource mobilization; project management; multi-lateral diplomacy, heritage conservation, and monitoring and evaluation of projects (including SDGs).

# NIGER

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

**Président** : M. Daouda Mamadou Marthe, Ministre de l'enseignement primaire, de l'alphabétisation, de la promotion des langues nationales et de l'éducation civique

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

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

Au cours du biennium 2016-2017, la Commission nationale nigérienne pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO a axé essentiellement ses activités sur les préparatifs de la participation du Niger à la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO, la mise en œuvre des activités de six requêtes approuvées par l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme de participation (PP) et les tâches administratives quotidiennes.

S'agissant du premier point, le Niger a participé à la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale à travers une délégation de vingt et un membres composés de cinq Ministres, de deux députés nationaux représentant l'Assemblée nationale, le Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission, un représentant de chaque Ministère relevant des domaines de

compétence de l'UNESCO au nombre de sept dont le Ministère des affaires étrangères, un représentant des Universités du Niger, un représentant des Instituts et écoles supérieures de formation publics et privés du Niger.

S'agissant du deuxième point, le Niger a bénéficié de six requêtes dont deux au profit de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et l'ISESCO, une au profit du Ministère en charge de la culture, une au profit de la Fédération des Clubs pour l'UNESCO et Ecoles Associées, une au profit de deux structures de la société civile : Le Réseau Nigérien des Journalistes pour l'Éducation et le Développement (RENJED) et le Réseau Ouest Africain des Enseignants pour l'Intégration et la Paix (ROASE/IP).

Pour le troisième point, il s'agit d'activités autour de la gestion administrative quotidienne et suivi régulier des correspondances et dossiers reçus ou à envoyer à l'UNESCO dont les diverses consultations au titre de l'UNESCO sur les conventions et autres documents de protocole d'accord à réviser nécessitant les avis ou ratification par les Etats parties, la Supervision et/ou implication de la Commission dans la mise en œuvre de certaines activités et projets financés par l'UNESCO tels que le CapEfa, la Collaboration de la Commission dans les réflexions et ou la mise en œuvre de certaines activités et projets dont sont bénéficiaires les Ministères chargés des relations avec l'UNESCO et les appuis/conseils réguliers aux Ministres chargés des relations avec l'UNESCO sur des questions ayant trait à la vie de ladite organisation.



Séminaire sous régional sur les pratiques et expressions de la parenté à plaisanterie © Youssef Diallo Abdourahamane

### Une activité réussie

Un exemple de bonne pratique ou d'activité réussie menée en 2017, qui nous a paru particulièrement pertinente et qui a entraîné une contribution significative aux objectifs de l'UNESCO et à la promotion de sa visibilité, est le « Séminaire Sous régional d'informations et d'échanges d'expériences entre les acteurs culturels du Burkina Faso, Mali, Bénin et Niger sur les pratiques et expressions de la parenté à plaisanterie ».

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du Niger souhaite en 2018 poursuivre les activités suivantes :

- Organiser, en rapport avec le Ministère en charge de la culture, un séminaire régional sur les Pratiques et expressions de la parenté à plaisanterie (inscrit sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité en 2014) à l'instar du séminaire sous régional conçu et mis en œuvre conjointement en 2017 par le Ministère en charge de la culture, le groupe universitaire des recherches sur les Pratiques et expressions de la parenté à plaisanterie et la Commission nationale.
- Organiser un séminaire sous régional d'information et de partage au profit des acteurs clés des secteurs de l'éducation avec l'appui technique et financier de l'UNESCO sur la méthodologie de mise en œuvre de l'ODD4. Ce séminaire pourra regrouper par exemple des représentants des structures étatiques et non étatiques œuvrant dans le domaine de l'éducation. Cette rencontre pourra avoir comme objectif général d'échanger sur l'ODD4 et de définir les mécanismes pratiques de sa mise en œuvre dans des pays ayant une situation et un système éducatif semblable tels que le Niger, le Bénin, le Burkina Faso et le Mali.

Le choix de la première thématique est motivé par la recherche des voies et moyens d'une solution de paix durable dans notre région en proie à plusieurs types des conflits créant ainsi une instabilité généralisée dans la zone depuis un peu plus d'une demi décennie.

Quant au deuxième choix, il est motivé par le souci d'avoir un instrument pédagogique approprié à même d'aider les acteurs éducatifs et non seulement de mieux comprendre l'ODD4 mais surtout d'être opérationnel sur le terrain afin que les objectifs fixés à l'horizon 2030 en matière d'éducation soient atteints.

# NIGERIA

## Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Mallam Adamu Adamu

**Secretary-General:** Mr Kehinde A. Ayotunde

### Update of activities in 2017

During the year under review, UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, at its 11<sup>th</sup> Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, gave international recognition to Nigeria's Argungu International Fishing and Cultural Festival, by approving its inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This will spur greater tourism potentials for Nigeria.

The Commission collaborated with the National Institute for Cultural Orientation, to organize a two-day National Conference on "Culture, Peace, and National Security: The Role of Traditional Rulers" in June in Enugu. The Conference sensitized traditional rulers on their roles in the sustenance of peace and security.

In the area of the UNESCO Fellowships Programme, Ms. C. Nnandi-Esom, a beneficiary of the UNESCO/People's Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-sponsored Fellowships Programme, completed a programme in Nuclear Energy Engineering in July 2017. Mr M. E. Takheri was also selected to undertake the UNESCO/Poland Co-sponsored Fellowships Programme in Engineering from October 2017 to March 2018.

To promote girls' participation in STEM careers, especially in Mathematics, the Commission collaborated with the National Mathematical Centre to organize a capacity building in Mathematics for girl-child in November, in Abuja. It provided an avenue for the talented girl-children to be properly consulted on choosing and taking up careers in Mathematical Sciences.

In 2017, the Commission collaborated with relevant government agencies to commemorate World Radio Day, World Press Freedom Day, and World Science Day.

The Revitalizing Adult and Youth Literacy (RAYL) Phase I project in Nigeria, which started in 2012 and which is designed to address the illiteracy challenges in the country, was successfully concluded and the final report presented to the Hon. Minister of Education. An event was organized with the private sector and other stakeholders to discuss the sustainability of the project and non-formal education delivery in Nigeria.



Director, Educational Planning, Research and Development, Dr. C.J. Nwadei; Secretary-General, Mr. Kehinde Ayotunde; Secretary, Education Sector, Mrs. F.E. Oguah, Secretary, Natural Sciences Sector, Mr. J.U. Ngedu and other staff members at the retreat © Benjamin Odeh

### A success story

Nigeria benefited from the UNESCO Participation Programme of the 2016-2017 biennium with the approval of four requests and the release of fund by UNESCO Headquarters. One of the approved projects was a capacity building retreat for the staff of the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO. A training workshop was successfully held from 11 to 13 December 2017, at Ramat Hotels, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Staff were trained on UNESCO programmes and services, effective communication, report writing, developing strategies for resource mobilization and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), among others. The programme was commended by all officers as it provided a platform for the enrichment of their knowledge about UNESCO and its operations as well the enhancement of their skills.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, the Commission is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja to organize an International Conference on Lake Chad Basin, scheduled for 26-28 February. It is expected that all stakeholders from the African Region will be in attendance as it affects water, security, migration and energy of the surrounding eight countries.

The Commission will co-organize with UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, a meeting of National Commissions in the region, aimed for cross-fertilization of ideas and exchange of best practices on UNESCO programmes in the region in the 2018-2019 biennial.

Also, a regional retreat of Secretaries-General is to be organized by the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, in collaboration with the Commission to discuss the collaboration and visibility of their work among the National Commissions in the region.

The Commission, along with the National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education, technically enabled by the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja plans to implement the Stage One of the Phase II of RAYL as a fund-in-trust for the programme in Nigeria.

Towards the end of 2018 programme year, the Commission is to embark on its staff Annual Capacity Building Retreat to enhance and retool its staff skills, knowledge and value for better performance.

# RWANDA

## Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO (CNRU)

**Vice- Chairperson & Ag. Chairperson:** Ms Marie Christine Gasingirwa

**Secretary General:** Mr Eliphaz Bahizi

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

### Update of activities in 2017

During the year 2017, the National Commission of Rwanda (CNRU) undertook variety of activities such as celebration of UNESCO World Days: International Day of Freedom of the Press, International Day of Traditional Medicine, the World Science Day, etc. This was done through programs broadcast on radios and televisions, in a bi-annual magazine of the CNRU, through press releases, articles in newspapers and private magazines, as well as awareness activities of the youth of the ASPnet Schools countrywide to the SDG's.

The Commission facilitated also different national and sub-regional workshops:

From 6 to 7 December 2017, in Kigali, the Rwanda Natcom in collaboration with Uganda and German NATCOMs, organized a capacity building training workshop on UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks in Eastern Africa. Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda participated.

In collaboration with The Ministry of Education and with UNESCO Nairobi Regional Office, a two days consultative meeting has been organized and brought together different experts from the Country, including lectures and researchers from different Colleges of the University of Rwanda, Development Partners for a preliminary review of the country profile, and develop an action plan on capacity building of Future Earth Initiative.

A three days validation workshop on the volcanoes biosphere periodic review report was held in Musanze district from 8 to 10 May 2017. This workshop brought together different partners, national and international working in the field of tourism, environmental conservation, management of Rwanda national parks, representatives of civil society and representatives of beneficiaries community and UNESCO Headquarters.



Children's in the ground of the ECD Temporary CLC in Mayange Sector, Bugesera © NATCOM Rwanda

committed to establish a model Community learning Centre with a multi-purpose learning space where all forms of educational activities will take place.

The Centre (CLC) is located in rural area (in Kavumu Village, Gakamba Cell, Mayange Sector, Bugesera District, in Eastern Province).

While waiting for the end of the Bridge Model CLC construction, an ECD temporary CLC was set up, a temporary ECD class started and equipped with learning materials for kids.

### A success story

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) developed the Bridge Africa Project with the aim of promoting field-level efforts that expand access to quality education in Sub-Saharan African countries.

CNRU has signed a partnership MoU with KNCU in October 2010, renewed in March 2014. The two parties agreed to work in partnership and to contribute to reaching the goals of the UNESCO's Education for All (EFA) program through among others establishing and operating community learning centres (CLCs) accredited by EFA National Coordination.

Since 2016, the two NATCOMs are

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

An East Africa NATCOMs joint and trans-boundary project: "Establishment of the Lake Victoria Geo Park" led by Uganda National Commission.

# SÃO TOMÉ-ET-PRINCIPE

## Commission nationale de São Tomé-et-Principe pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Olinto da Silva e Sousa Daio, Ministre de l'éducation, culture, science et communication

**Secrétaire générale** : Mme Sonia Almeida de Ceita Carvalho

## Compte rendu des activités 2017

La Commission nationale de São Tomé-et-Principe, depuis 2015, a développé quelques activités pour sa revitalisation notamment avec l'appui de la Commission portugaise. La Commission souhaite organiser un réseau des écoles associées à São Tomé-et-Principe. Malgré le manque de conditions financières, les activités dans ces écoles ont été menées avec succès. Les activités développées concernaient l'éducation pour le développement durable, la culture de la paix, la protection environnementale, et l'échange entre des générations et protections des personnes âgées. La Commission a participé à des rencontres régionales et interrégionales visant le renforcement de coopération avec la Commission nationale du Cameroun et des Commissions nationales de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise (CPLP).

### Une activité réussie

Les photos témoignent de l'activité de protection environnementale, avec la plantation d'arbres, organisée par l'École de Desejada. Cette activité, visant à l'ODD 13, a consisté en la plantation d'arbres dans les zones déboisées du district de Lobata, île de São Tomé, en partenariat avec la Direction des Forêts, qui a fourni les pépinières des arbres. L'adhésion des étudiants démontre leur engagement envers les questions environnementales, en particulier dans notre pays, qui est un état assez vulnérable.



Activités de protection environnementale © Martinique José

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Pour le biennium 2018-2019, la Commission nationale désire renforcer sa présence au niveau national et interrégionale, en organisant des activités, soit à partir de financements du Programme de participation, soit à partir de financements des autres programmes. En 2019 le pays commémore le centenaire de la preuve de la théorie de la relativité, en île de Principe, réserve de biosphère de l'UNESCO depuis 2012. Plusieurs activités sont prévues et nous comptons sur l'UNESCO comme partenaire.

Nous comptons travailler avec l'UNESCO, encore une fois, pour que, au niveau interrégional, la Commission organise la rencontre des Commissions nationales de Langue Portugaise pour analyser le degré de conformité avec ODD 4 au niveau de la CPLP.

Mais, pour que la Commission nationale soit capable d'organiser ces activités, elle a besoin d'être renforcée et en capacité, en tenant compte que, depuis plusieurs années, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO de São Tomé-et-Principe était presque inactive.

# SÉNÉGAL

## Commission nationale sénégalaise pour l'UNESCO

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

**Secrétaire général** : M. Aliou Ly

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

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

La Commission nationale sénégalaise a mené plusieurs activités courant 2017 parmi lesquelles on peut citer :

- Un colloque international sur le thème « Produire et Préserver les Biens culturels à l'ère du Numérique » organisé en partenariat avec l'Alliance des Forum pour une autre Afrique. L'objectif de ce colloque était de conduire une réflexion en vue d'identifier et de saisir les opportunités offertes par le numérique sous l'inspiration de la Convention de 2005 afin d'accroître les capacités de création, de préservation et de circulation des biens culturels.
- Des activités de « Science citoyenne à l'appui de la recherche et du développement durable pour le Parc National du Niokolo-Koba (PNNK) » qui ont permis d'entreprendre des recherches scientifiques participatives dans trois domaines prioritaires : la cartographie électronique, l'ornithologie et le suivi des grands mammifères. Elles ont comporté aussi un axe général destiné à assurer l'appropriation du projet et de sa suite par les populations locales et par la communauté scientifique sénégalaise.
- Un atelier national de sensibilisation des gouvernements scolaires sur la paix, la culture de la paix, la citoyenneté et la démocratie. L'objectif principal de ce séminaire-formation des élèves membres des gouvernements scolaires du Sénégal était de sensibiliser les jeunes apprenantes et apprenants sur les potentialités de l'école à faire d'eux des citoyens responsables, parce qu'épris de paix et de culture citoyenne et démocratique.
- Un atelier de formation sur le changement climatique pour les facilitateurs des écoles associées participant au projet « Aujourd'hui pour demain : coordination et mise en œuvre du Programme d'action global pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable ». L'atelier national de formation pour l'ensemble des facilitateurs scolaires avait pour but de les former à l'approche globale du changement climatique et à sa mise en œuvre dans les écoles et les institutions éducatives.
- Une consultation nationale sur la situation des prisons au Sénégal. L'objectif général de la consultation était d'offrir la possibilité de réfléchir aux problèmes des prisons au Sénégal ; de proposer des solutions viables aux décideurs et autres acteurs travaillant dans le domaine de l'éducation pénitentiaire et de faire le point sur l'offre de formation pendant la purge de la peine et sur la perspective de la réinsertion sociale.
- Une rencontre sur le thème « Améliorer le soutien et la participation des enseignants aux groupes d'éducation locaux ». L'objectif était de réfléchir sur les enjeux de la participation des enseignants aux groupes d'éducation locaux à travers des mécanismes d'amélioration et de soutien, d'en définir les contours et de formuler des recommandations en vue d'aboutir à un dialogue fécond gage d'un système éducatif stable.



Colloque international sur le thème « Produire et Préserver les Biens culturels à l'ère du Numérique » organisé en partenariat avec l'Alliance des Forum pour une autre Afrique. (De gauche à droite le représentant de la Sonatel, le Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, le Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de l'Économie numérique, le Ministre de la Culture, le Président de l'Alliance des Forum pour une autre Afrique et le Directeur p.i du bureau de l'UNESCO à Dakar.) © Commission nationale sénégalaise pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

Le colloque international sur le thème « Produire et Préserver les Biens culturels à l'ère du Numérique » a été organisé en partenariat avec l'Alliance des Forum pour une autre Afrique.

L'objectif de ce colloque était de conduire une réflexion en vue d'identifier et de saisir les opportunités offertes par le numérique sous l'inspiration de la Convention de 2005 afin d'accroître les capacités de création, de préservation et de circulation des biens culturels.

L'appropriation du numérique est une exigence qui permettra à l'Afrique de passer de l'informel au formel en vue d'une participation à l'économie du numérique. Le colloque a émis des recommandations sur les tendances émergentes dans les technologies du numérique qui devraient être exploitées par l'Afrique conformément à la neutralité technologique, principe affirmée dans la Convention de 2005 et qui constitue la base de l'exception culturelle.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Pour le biennium 2018-2019, la Commission nationale compte travailler dans le domaine de la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent par l'autonomisation des jeunes garçons et filles, des migrations, des droits humains et de la diversité culturelle, du patrimoine culturel immatériel, de la gouvernance scolaire et de la sensibilisation des élus sur le mandat et les missions de l'UNESCO.

Au niveau sous-régional, la Commission nationale compte organiser une rencontre de renforcement de capacité des nouveaux Secrétaires généraux et fonctionnaires sur l'organisation, le mandat et le fonctionnement de l'UNESCO ainsi que ceux des Commissions nationales.

# SEYCHELLES

## Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO

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

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The Seychelles National Commission participated in two major international Conferences: the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress on Open Educational Resources (OER) in September in Slovenia and the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in November in Paris. Seychelles hosted the First International Biennial Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): *Building Resilient Early Childhood Care and Education Systems: Lessons of Experience* in collaboration with the International Bureau for Education (IBE) UNESCO in February, attended by over 160 participants (overseas and national). Side events included seminars and an Exhibition *ECCE in Action* depicting Seychelles major milestones in ECCE organized

in joint collaboration with Health and Social Affairs Sectors and Seychelles Institute for Early Childhood Development (IECD). The National Commission participated in the Regional Conference on strengthening synergies for cultural heritage protection in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Island States in June in Mauritius. The recommendations and statement from the Conference provided a road map for strengthening national and regional protection of cultural heritage for the Region.

The National Heritage Research & Protection Section of the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture organized a two-day workshop facilitated by two UNESCO-ICH experts. The participants comprised representatives from various national heritage stakeholders. Recommendations from the workshop included sensitization on ICH values and the need for engagement of the community in the conservation of Seychelles intangible cultural heritage.

National workshops from UNESCO Participation Programme funds 2016-2017 were held for empowerment of youth in cultural heritage knowledge, administration and calculation of the National Multidimensional Poverty Indicators, Women empowerment in election issues and development of the STI policy and strategy.



The CEO of NISTI Mr Xavier Estico presenting a copy of the STI Policy and Strategy 2016-2025 to the Seychelles Vice President, Mr Vincent Meriton at the STI workshop 26 September 2017.

© NISTI Seychelles 2017

### A success story

The National Institute for Science and Technology Innovation (NISTI) created in 2014 in line with the NISTI Act of 2014, organized a workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation: Transition from an Efficiency-driven Economy to Innovation-driven Knowledge-based Economy by 2025" (25-26 September 2017 at Eden Bleu Hotel, Eden Island Seychelles). The aim of the workshop was to officially launch the National STI Policy and Strategy. Participants comprised high-level government officials including the Vice President responsible for Science and Technology Innovation and Chairperson of the High Level Steering Committee for Knowledge Based Economy. Other participants were international delegates, representatives from Ministries, agencies and NGOs and the private sector. Participants were sensitized on policy and strategy 2016-2025 in national socio-economic development on a range of related thematic areas through presentations, discussions and interventions. This created enabling space for the policy and strategy to become an integral part of Seychelles socio-economic ecosystem on its road to implementation. It also focused on the importance and role of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in support of the national STI agenda. Implementation of the STI Policy and strategy will ensure Seychelles' transition to a knowledge-based economy by 2025.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

### National priorities

**Education Sector:** the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development requires technical assistance in the development of Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) Policy and Teacher Development and Management Policy; strengthening training of curriculum developers, middle managers and teachers in competency based approach in curriculum and assessment; and expertise in the development of Distance and Open Learning programmes and resources.

**Culture sector:** the Department of Culture from the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture requires expertise in the collection of cultural indicators to demonstrate the impact of culture on economic and Sustainable development; digitalization of archives documents for national archives of Seychelles; and development of a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the 1972 World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme for Seychelles heritage.

### Regional /interregional meetings in Seychelles

**Green and Blue Economy and sustainable development:** Seychelles could host workshops/seminars in the Green and Blue Economy and Sustainable development to showcase and share best practices and establish networking with other Member States.

**Early Childhood care and Education (ECCE):** considering Seychelles is the Early Childhood Regional Hub for General Education Quality Analysis Framework (GEQAF) countries, Seychelles could share experiences on development of standards for early childhood.

### Regional /interregional networking and partnerships

The National Commission could establish partnerships with other countries in:

- teacher education and training institutions and other education stakeholders
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education
- empowerment of TVET trainers in the development of programmes in different areas.
- expertise in working with at risk juvenile for capacity building in the development of alternative education programmes for reintegration in schools and society.
- implementation of the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States.

# SOUTH AFRICA

## South African National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Am Motshekga, MP, Minister of Basic Education

**Chairperson:** Mr Ihron Rensburg

**Secretary-General:** Mr Carlton Lufuno Mukwevho

### Update of activities in 2017

The South African National Commission for UNESCO, working together with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, and the Department of Social Development hosted the Most School on Sustainability Science, in Cape Town (14-17 February 2017), aimed at enlarging the pool of qualified young professionals from different backgrounds in order to strengthen the research-policy interface. Participants included, government policy makers, academics and civil society from South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Swaziland.

The country held the annual UNESCO-Africa Engineering Week, at the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein,

on 18-19 October 2017, aimed at addressing the challenge of shortage of engineers in South Africa and attracts learners into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.

In celebrating the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Department of Arts and Culture launched the online digitized audiovisual recordings, including those of the Rivonia Trial. The aim being to build a global awareness of the various issues at stake in preserving the audiovisual heritage and make these recordings accessible to the present and future generations.

A three-day training, on the legal framework of freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists, co-organized by the University of Pretoria and UNESCO, was hosted. The training was designed for judicial officers in Africa, as they are essential partners in the development, interpretation, implementation and enforcement of laws related to freedom of expression, press freedom and the safety of journalists in the continent.

At the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee meeting held in July 2017 in Poland, UNESCO announced the inscription of the Khomani Cultural Landscape, as South Africa's 9<sup>th</sup> heritage site. The Khomani San are one of the only groups of San still practising their traditional hunter-gatherer way of life.



### A success story

The country launched the Global Education Monitoring Report by presenting it to various stakeholders, annually. The 2017/18 report was launched in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province, at the HBE Conference Centre, Hamashamba. The significance of launching it in one of the most rural areas of South Africa was not only to raise consciousness towards the educational challenges that South Africa still experiences more than twenty years into democracy, but also to mobilize rural communities for active involvement in the education of their children.

Global Education Monitoring Report  
launching ceremony in Hamashamba  
© South African National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The country will continue to serve in the councils of four UNESCO subsidiary bodies, the IBE, CUJEP, MAB and IFAP. The country will continue to support neighboring States in the establishment of their biosphere reserves.

# SWAZILAND

## Swaziland National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Phineas L. Magagula, Minister of Education and Training

**Secretary-General:** Ms Hazel B. Zungu

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The Swaziland National Commission for Commission had a very productive and effective year in 2017, with the support from the Government of Swaziland, the UNESCO Regional office, Headquarters and other National Commissions.

Through these collaborations, partnerships and support, the Swaziland National Commission supported projects in Science, Education and Information and Communication sectors in particular through the UNESCO Participation Programme.

The participation Programme activities have a contributed a lot to enhance UNESCO's visibility in the country. Through the Participation Programme, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Teachers' Associations for Science, Mathematics and ICT conducted Science, Mathematics and ICT Fairs to particularly encourage the participation of girls in SME. Teachers were also trained on how they can encourage both gender of pupils to participate in these subjects. Another Participation Programme activity that has had immense contribution to the Ministry of Education and Training was aimed at helping the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) Unit which integrate indicators for the "Education Sector's Response to the HIV and AIDS Pandemic".

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), supported the Swaziland National Commission by organizing the commemoration of the International Mother Language Day, the World Press Freedom Day, International Literacy Day and the World Teachers Day. It may added that through the Commemoration of the International Mother Language Day in 2017, the Government of Swaziland through the Prime Minister, announced a new Education Policy on Language where the native language, SiSwati has now become compulsory from ECCE level to Secondary level. The SiSwati Language Board was also established and Government set funds aside for its operations. The Prime Minister thanked UNESCO for supporting the preservation of mother languages and emphasizing its importance in ensuring quality education.

Further to this, the National Commission also received support from ROSA to conduct a workshop for the dissemination of the SACMEQIV results to the relevant stakeholders and to develop National Teachers' Competences and Standards Framework, which Swaziland did not have. The National Commission supported Swaziland in the Strengthening of Sub-regional and National Capacities in Southern African countries on safeguarding the ICH (2003 Convention) through support from UNESCO ROSA and the Flanders Government. The National Commission in collaboration with ROSA also organized a training workshop for cities in Swaziland on Localizing SDG11.

The Swaziland National Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) have established a National Man and Biosphere (MAB) National Committee, which is part of the initiative towards implement the MAB programme in Swaziland and establishing at least one MAB Reserve in Swaziland. Collaborative measures were also established between the MTEA and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) of the Republic of South Africa, and in this regards South Africa is supporting Swaziland in this new initiative for the country.



Children playing in the playground at Kugeza CLC © Swaziland National Commission for UNESCO

ceremony for ECCE learners and Basic Literacy learners was held in KuGeza CLC, attended by the Minister of Education and Training and the Member of Parliament of the area. The Junior Certificate Results at the end of the year has enable 13 young people who were had dropped out of school to be re-integrated to the formal school when the new year, 2018 begins. Others still have will continue in the formal sector.

### A success story

In partnership and support of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO in the Bridge Swaziland Project, the Swaziland National Commission established the third Community Learning Center (CLC), constructed a total of six classrooms, and provided Teaching/Learning materials, including outdoor facilities, furniture and sewing machines in the CLCs in 2017. The two CLCs, KuGeza and Emhlangeni, provided ECCE, Adult Basic Literacy, non-formal Secondary Education and Skills (Sewing), with the third CLC still providing ECCE only, benefitting a total of 93 ECCE, 48 Basic Literacy, 96 NFSE learners and 36 skills Trainees in these communities. Through the Bridge Swaziland Project, teachers, facilitators and Bridge Community Committees were trained for better management of the centres and provision of quality education, including non-formal education methodologies. The First ever graduation

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Swaziland National Commission Plans to organize a Sub-regional Workshop in June 2018 for National Commissions and governments relevant stake holders in Climate Change, Water Affairs and environmental Affairs to identify future joint projects that could be established in raising awareness for Climate Change resilience in communities.

# TOGO

## Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Octave Nicoué K. Broohm

**Secrétaire général** : M. Michel Koffi Agboh

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

L'année 2017 fut riche en activités pour la Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO. Au titre du biennium 2016-2017, il y a eu des requêtes approuvées ayant pour but d'appuyer les activités de la Commission nationale et divers comités nationaux des programmes intergouvernementaux. Ainsi, elle a travaillé avec la coordination nationale du réseau des écoles associées au sein de la Commission, la Fédération des Clubs pour l'UNESCO, le Comité national du programme MAB et le comité national du Programme Hydrologique international (PHI).

La Commission nationale, en collaboration avec la coordination nationale, a sensibilisé les élèves des écoles du réSEAU sur le concept de citoyenneté mondiale. Il s'agit des valeurs (respect, tolérance, solidarité, culture de la paix, ...)

qu'il faut développer pour être citoyen du monde et pour faire face aux défis mondiaux (pauvreté, changement climatique, extrémisme violent, le radicalisme, etc.). Les activités qui ont servi de toile de fond à l'éducation, à la citoyenneté mondiale et au développement durable sont le volley-ball pour les lycées et collèges, le théâtre pour les écoles primaires. Le chef de la division des clubs pour l'UNESCO et écoles associées s'est associé à la fédération des clubs pour l'UNESCO dans le cadre d'une tournée nationale de sensibilisation sur le même thème.

La Commission a également réalisé la formation et la sensibilisation des membres du Comité national du Programme MAB récemment restructuré et la sensibilisation des acteurs sur la protection, la conservation et la gestion de l'eau avec le Comité national du PHI. Elle a aussi organisé des ateliers de formation sur le patrimoine mondial culturel avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Abuja et la Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO.

Par ailleurs, la Commission nationale a organisé un camp des sciences pour les jeunes filles afin de les sensibiliser aux filières scientifiques. Elles sont cinquante filles venues de toutes les régions du pays à y prendre part. L'encadrement a été assuré par des étudiantes en fin de cycle dans les filières de mathématiques, sciences physiques et chimie, informatique, ingénierie et sciences de la vie et de la terre.



« L'éducation de la jeune fille » mise en scène par l'École primaire publique de Bè-Plage © Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

L'activité la plus pertinente pour notre Commission nationale fut le tournoi interscolaire de théâtre au profit des écoles de base participant au réseau national des écoles associées. Le tournoi était placé sous le thème "la recherche de solutions locales aux défis mondiaux et la diffusion des bonnes pratiques liées à l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale par le théâtre" au sein du réSEAU national. Il a rassemblé cinq établissements scolaires de la capitale. Les groupes ont développé plusieurs sous-thèmes notamment : carton rouge à la discrimination des handicapés ; culture de la paix et citoyenneté mondiale ; éducation de la jeune fille ; mariage précoce et forcé de la jeune fille scolaire. Les écoles ont donc sensibilisé les parents, les enseignants et les élèves sur diverses problématiques du développement durable et de la citoyenneté mondiale. Tous les groupes sont repartis avec des prix et les meilleurs ont eu une coupe.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale entend continuer, pour 2018-2019, ses activités de formation et de sensibilisation sur l'éducation au développement durable et à la citoyenneté mondiale. Elle travaillera aussi à promouvoir les jeunes filles scolaires dans les sciences, mathématiques et l'ingénierie pour réduire l'inégalité des sexes.

Elle prendra également des dispositions pour diffuser et faire comprendre le contenu du nouveau cadre réglementaire régissant les relations entre les Clubs pour l'UNESCO et les Commissions nationales, adopté à la 39<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale.

En collaboration avec d'autres structures nationales, la Commission nationale s'impliquera dans les activités de mise en œuvre de l'ODD 4 ; la protection du patrimoine mondial culturel matériel et immatériel ; la gestion des réserves de biosphère constitue des domaines qui nous intéressent. Enfin, notre Commission nationale sera ouverte à la réalisation des activités sous régionales avec les Commissions nationales de notre région.

# UGANDA

## Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM)

**Chairperson:** Ms Janet Kataaha Musevini

**Secretary-General:** Ms Rosie Agoi

**Website:** <http://www.unesco-uganda.ug>

### Update of activities in 2017

The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO has continued operating with limited staffing and meagre subvention funding from the Government. Efforts for improved funding and staffing have continued. Several projects were implemented under UNESCO support in promoting of 2030 Agenda.

In the education programme, two participation projects were implemented, one on enhancing science education in Secondary School Teachers from Iganga and another, a study on the learning outcomes in secondary schools in nineteen districts. UNATCOM also conducted capacity building in education with support from the governments of Japan and Korea.

In the natural science programme, two participation projects included one on a study to establish alternative parts utilization for conservation of endangered medicinal plants in Mount Elgon Biosphere and Metu Forest Reserve and another on identification of important natural sites for designation as biosphere reserves or geoparks.

The social and human sciences programme implemented a participation project on empowerment of youth as agents of peace building in twenty schools in two of the previously war-affected Northern Ugandan districts of Amuru and Lamwo. Under the UNESCO Regional office Nairobi, an ethics teacher training course was conducted in which thirty participants were trained.

In culture, the National Commission implemented one activity, which was conducted on strengthening the sustainability of creative industries in Uganda.

In the communication and information programme, a participation project was implemented in collaboration with Uganda Journalists Association (UJA) for capacity building and celebration of the World Press Freedom.

Under the ASPnet programme, the National Commission promoted "Whole School Approach" to Climate Change Action in Schools" in Uganda and built the national Capacity of the ASPnet Schools on the Whole Institutional Approach to Climate Change project, 3 – 5 July 2017.



A trainer guiding teachers (Patrons of the Peace Club members) through the Peace training Manual © Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

As outputs, twenty thousand children, parents, teachers and community members trained to prevent, respond and cope with conflict and promote peace, ten thousand students and pupils empowered with quality education, policy statements recommendations made for the appropriate level and a full report prepared.

The civil and political leadership in the two districts and school leadership embraced the project, which increased the visibility of UNATCOM and UNESCO.

### A success story

#### Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace Building and Sustainable Development

This was a participation project to foster dialogue and promote peace through establishment of the "culture of peace" among the youth in the post-conflict region of Northern Uganda in the two districts of Amuru and Lamwo. The project trained the youth to reject violence and prevent conflicts, solve problems through dialogue and negotiation to guarantee development in the districts. Twenty Schools both primary and senior secondary benefited.

Amuru and Lamwo districts suffered long and continued conflict from the insurgency and the widespread land resettlement-related conflicts, child marriages, child labour and gender divisions most of which affect women and children.

The focus areas were Resilience, Conflict analysis, social cohesions, human/child security, development and education.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Nomination for designation of transboundary biosphere reserves: Mt Elgon between Uganda and Kenya and Lake Victoria Ecosystem for the five Countries of East Africa.

In the Freshwater field, there are plans to engage in transboundary management of underground aquifers (Elgon aquifer) between Uganda and Kenya.

There is also a regional capacity-building plan for the five countries of the East African Region. The areas of capacity building include skills in evaluation of biosphere reserves and geoparks and governance of programmes. Other programmes include support to communities resident in biosphere reserves to initiate green enterprises for alternative livelihoods to minimize dependence on the natural resources of the park and avoid conflicts with the management of the reserves, which are protected areas under the laws of the Country.

Nationally, more lobbying is required to secure the status of the National Commission in line the Charter of National Commissions, 1978.

# UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

## UNESCO National Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania

**Chairperson:** Mr Elifas Tozo Bisanda

**Secretary-General a.i.:** Mr Moshi M. Kimizi

**Website:** [www.natcom.go.tz](http://www.natcom.go.tz)

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Tanzania National Commission for UNESCO undertook a variety of activities including:

In education, the National Commission coordinated various fellowships, scholarships and prizes. It implemented a national training on Climate Change Project under ASPnet; teachers were trained on whole school approach in addressing climate change. Participating schools are now implementing the climate action plan in their respective schools, which is expected to bring a new culture of involving every school community member in various climate change actions.

In natural sciences, the key activities implemented by the National Commission included among others organizing and participating in various workshops and seminars relative to the promotion of Science and Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which aims at making use of STEM for sustainable development and protecting environment. The National Commission also participated in the development of MAB strategic plan in the country for 2018-2024. The

project evaluation results disclose alternative means of income generation to farmers around the East Usambara Biosphere reserve. Additionally, the National Commission participated in the Green Economy Biosphere Reserve project in East Usambara where the project impact was evaluated. The National Commission also worked on two Multi International Designated Areas – MIDAS (Gombe Masitu Ugalla Ecosystems – Prospective Biosphere Reserve and Ngorongoro Lengai – Prospective Geopark); the two-nomination application for the prospective MIDAS was submitted to UNESCO HQ for further action.

In social and human science, the National Commission established two national committees; Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and Bioethics. MOST is one of the key positive social changes, it contributes to development and the eradication of poverty. Bioethics aims to define and promote a common ethical standard-setting framework and policy advisory task in the light of the advancement of science and technology in the country.

In culture, the National Commission collaborated with Ministries and government institutions in implementing the World Heritage Committee decisions and 1972 Convention by preparing State of Conservation Reports and assisting Site Mangers administratively in terms of inter-ministerial issues affecting their protection and conservation.

In communication and information, the National Commission implemented various workshops and forums on Internet Governance and Media and Information Literacy. A particular focus of the MIL workshops was on training secondary schools students and sensitized them on the importance of MIL in education. Further, the National Commission, in collaboration with UNESCO Dar-es-Salaam Office, commemorated different UNESCO days including World Radio Day and World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.



Media interviewing a Participant with visual impairment © Open University of Tanzania

### A success story

The Tanzania National Commission for UNESCO supported the Open University of Tanzania to implement ICT training for persons with visual impairment and deaf. The training aimed to equip ICT skills to respective disabled persons to enable them use the skills in improving their daily activities and to contribute to their families and national at large. The training was implemented in two regions (Iringa and Njombe) and a total of 33 persons with disabilities, 17 persons (9 women) with hearing impairment and 16 (5 women) visually impaired persons got full residential ICT skills training for 15 days for each group. The success of this training was acknowledged by beneficiaries who became able to use ICT skills to improve their daily activities and create new opportunities through communication, learning and sharing ideas to improve quality of their life. Participants also developed self-confidence and reduced dependency in their daily activities for example they were able to read online newspapers, write their letters, send emails and receive emails, share online discussions, earn capacity, and seek for employment opportunities.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Tanzania National Commission and the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) plan to start ICT laboratories for visually and hearing impaired. Already the OUT has send Expression of Interest (Eoi) for localization of the guidelines and Plan of Action in Open and Distance Learning. The Eoi is meant to pilot UNESCO document entitled "Learning for All: Guidelines on the inclusion of learner with disabilities in Open and Distance Learning." Similarly, we expect to start developing ICT signs for the deaf. Agreed with stakeholders to organize activities and events in celebration and commemoration of UNESCO international days within the sector and have plan of action to implement joint programmes and activities including capacity building for East Africa National Commissions.

# ZAMBIA

## Zambia National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Dennis Wanchinga

**Secretary General:** Mr Charles Ndakala

### Update of activities in 2017

The Zambia National Commission for UNESCO organized several activities to increase the visibility and appreciation of UNESCO in the country. It commemorated most United Nations International Days in collaboration with other stakeholders with extensive media coverage and public awareness activities. In addition, it launched the second phase of the UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) Project in Zambia aimed at "Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Africa". Alongside the CFIT, the Commission also started implementing the UNESCO Capacity Building (CapEd) project in teacher education.

The Commission was part of the facilitators of, and participated in, several milestone conferences, workshops and fairs, such

as the Consultation and Strategic Planning Workshop for National Commissions (5-7 June 2017) held in Windhoek; and the Regional Meeting on Sustainability Starts with Teachers (5-9 June 2017), collaboratively organized with the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) and UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, as an international "flagship" programme of the Global Action Plan on ESD implemented in conjunction with Rhodes University and the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD).

Other activities included the Regional Meeting for Teacher Standards and Competencies in Lusaka (14-15 June 2017), organised in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and SADC Secretariat; the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Centre of Expertise Conference on Education For Sustainable Development (2-4 August 2017) held in Lusaka; the AfriMAB Southern Africa Sub-Region Workshop on Biosphere Reserves (28-29 August 2017) held in Cape Town; the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (3-9 December 2017) in Jeju Island of the Republic of Korea; and the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of UNESCO General Conference (30 October – 14 November 2017) in Paris, France.



Inventoring the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District  
© Zambia National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

#### Kaoma Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention Project

The Commission successfully implemented a Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage approved project known as "Inventoring the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District". The approach used in inventorying was community based. It involved relevant Government departments, NGOs from Kaoma district, chiefs and their indunas as well as cultural groups. To attain its purpose, the project identified and selected ten Custodians and ten practitioners in performing arts heritage among the Lozi and Nkoya ethnic groups. It also trained cultural staff, Nkoya and Lozi cultural custodians and practitioners on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and how to undertake community based inventorying. Further, it sensitised and raised awareness of the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention in Kaoma District through, media advertisements, workshops and exhibitions. The Inventory generated was showcased to community people of Kaoma District and presented to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage during its 12<sup>th</sup> Session Conference held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 4 to 9 December 2017.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Commission is working on documenting and archiving all the Commission's work and Zambia's lived experience in working with UNESCO. It is hoped that this will work as an evaluating tool on what has not yet been done that should be done and what is being done that should be sustained for the mutual benefit of UNESCO and Zambia.

Also, the Commission has since established that capacity that was built in community radio stations through UNESCO supported capacity building trainings has since eroded due to brain drain – the journalists and other media personnel that were trained have since, and continue to leave these stations in search of greener pastures either locally or internationally. Thus, there is a need to establish strategies of continuous capability building and staff retention mechanisms for these radio stations.

# ZIMBABWE

## Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development

**Secretary General:** Ms Margaret Chirapa

### Update of activities in 2017

The Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO implemented a number of projects in the areas of Education, Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information during the year 2017. Each of the sectors had a project funded under 2016-2017 Participation. Other activities such as training cultural officers in ICH inventorying and implementing the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee on Mana Pools World Heritage site were supported under the Regular Programme.

The National Commission co-ordinated the work of National Committees such as IHP, IFAP and MAB and extensively

disseminated Calls for nominations and invitations to participate in UNESCO regional and international workshops. In this regard, Zimbabwe participated and contributed in most UNESCO supported activities organized by UNESCO ROSA. Efforts are being made to cascade the outcomes and recommendations of regional and international workshops to national level in order to ensure achievement of national goals and the SDGs.

At the international level, Zimbabwe was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board and the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Intergovernmental Council during the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO General Conference. Zimbabwe was also nominated as a Vice President of MINEPS during the 6<sup>th</sup> MINEPS Conference held in Russia in July 2017. In addition, the country is serving a 4-year term (2016-2019) on the World Heritage Committee and acquitted itself well during the 41<sup>st</sup> session held in Krakow, Poland in July 2017.

All the sectors successfully commemorated the UN Days, which were platforms for visibility and advocacy for UNESCO Programmes and activities.



The Deputy Head, Ms N. Siziba demonstrating the operations of the Hand Washing Facility and Irrigation of Orchard. Mr M. Magava (left), the ZIMNACOM Education Programme Officer and other Sihlengeni School staff © Zimbabwe National Commission

parents. The permaculture programme at the school involves growing and caring for fruit trees, indigenous trees, vegetable gardening, herbal gardening and animal husbandry (piggery and poultry), all on an integrated small piece of land.

The project is further supported by a well maintained water harvesting and management system that also promotes hygienic life style among the learners through hand washing system where the used water is channelled to fruit trees. The school grounds are maintained through technics that minimise runoff and soil erosion. Below is one of the Education for Sustainable Development projects at the school.

### A success story

#### Zimbabwe won the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD

One of the three UNESCO-Japan Prizes on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) was won by Sihlengeni Primary School for its permaculture programme. The Prizes were presented by the Japanese Ambassador at UNESCO Headquarters during the General Conference.

The award ceremony was a proud moment for Zimbabwe and the school is already sharing the best practice with other schools and the local community. The prize of USD 50,000 to the school will go a long way in promoting ESD and is a motivation to other schools and institutions.

Sihlengeni Primary School is in the dry region of Matabeleland South Province where there are predominantly subsistence farmers who are largely dependent on livestock and crops. In this regard, the school offers hands-on activities, which can be applied by both learners and

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In line with the Draft Action Plan drawn up during the Regional Seminar for officials of the National Commissions of Southern Africa in Windhoek in 2017, the Commission has the interest to co-organize a sub-regional training for heritage experts on the process of nominating sites for inscription on the World Heritage List. The activity is intended to build the capacity of heritage experts from the SADC region to identify and nominate sites for inscription on the Tentative and World Heritage Lists. The objective of the training is to enable heritage workers in Southern Africa to understand the processes of nominating sites as well as strengthen efforts towards protection of World Heritage sites in the region. It is expected that the training will create a critical mass of knowledgeable personnel in the heritage sector, which will result in an increase in the number of World Heritage sites from Africa.



Wafa, a teacher in Amman, engages with students  
© UNESCO Amman office / Christien van den Brink

# 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 en 2017

La Commission nationale réorganisée et redynamisée depuis le 16 février 2016 (réf. décret exécutif n°16-67 du 16 février 2016) s'est activement impliquée à la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre d'actions dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. C'est grâce à la mise en place de nouveaux organes : Assemblée générale, Comité exécutif et Comités techniques composés de Coordonnateurs des écoles associées et des Chaires UNESCO, représentants des Clubs pour l'UNESCO et des mouvements associatifs, personnalités culturelles et récipiendaires des prix UNESCO que la Commission a pu travailler dans un environnement propice et bénéfique.

Par ailleurs, en dépit de ses ressources financières limitées, la Commission a pu organiser un certain nombre d'activités durant l'année 2017 dont :

- quatre projets présentés par la Commission dans le cadre du programme de participation de l'UNESCO (2016-2017) sur le thème de l'égalité des genres et la citoyenneté mondiale. Ces projets ont été mis en œuvre sous le prisme de l'éducation, la science et la culture ;
- séminaire national de mise en place du nouveau réseau national des écoles associées de l'UNESCO, qui compte aujourd'hui plus de 300 écoles ;
- deuxième réunion du Comité exécutif et de l'Assemblée générale.

A l'échelle internationale, la Commission nationale a également :

- renforcé la coopération avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour les sciences dans les pays arabes, au Caire. Cette coopération s'est illustrée par l'organisation de la 9<sup>e</sup> réunion du Réseau ArabMAB et l'atelier régional sur les Réserves de biosphère.
- concentré ses efforts à la participation, de Madame la Ministre de l'Éducation nationale, Présidente de la Commission, chef de délégation, à la 39<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et du Secrétaire général aux travaux de la 4<sup>e</sup> réunion interrégionale des Commissions nationales.



9<sup>ème</sup> Réunion du Réseau ArabMAB et Atelier régional sur les Réserves de biosphère  
© Ministère de l'éducation nationale

### Une activité réussie

Le Comité MAB de la Commission a contribué à :

- l'organisation, à l'occasion du 20<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Réseau ArabMAB, de la 9<sup>e</sup> réunion du Réseau ArabMAB (22-23 mai), et ce, en collaboration avec le Secrétariat du MAB de l'UNESCO à Paris et le Bureau régional pour les sciences dans les pays arabes, au Caire ;
- l'organisation d'un atelier dédié aux thèmes « Gouvernance, gestion financière et économie verte » (24 mai). Durant cet atelier, le Comité MAB a participé activement à la mise en place de la nouvelle stratégie MAB 2016-2025 dans la Région arabe et à l'issue de cette rencontre, l'Algérie a été installée à la présidence du Réseau ArabMAB pour un mandat de deux ans et un nouveau bureau composé de représentants de l'Algérie, la Jordanie, la Tunisie, l'Égypte et l'Arabie Saoudite a été élu.

Il est à noter que ces deux événements ont vu la participation de Madame la Ministre de l'Éducation nationale, Présidente de la Commission, de la Sous-directrice générale pour les Sciences exactes et naturelles de l'UNESCO, du Directeur du Secrétariat du MAB UNESCO à Paris et de représentants de réseaux régionaux : Réseau ArabMAB, AfriMAB, AsieMAB, EuroMAB.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale a établi dans son plan d'actions pour 2018 un programme ambitieux dans lequel elle a inscrit :

- un projet de partenariat avec les entreprises nationales et privées pour mener à bien les activités de son programme ;
- un certain nombre d'activités afin de mettre en œuvre, au niveau national, les programmes phares de l'UNESCO, dont principalement, celui du développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et ce, afin de soutenir l'UNESCO dans la mise en œuvre de ces domaines de compétence au développement durable et le renforcement de sa visibilité à l'échelle nationale ;
- un colloque international sur la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du développement durable, notamment l'objectif 4, en Algérie ;
- un colloque sur les thématiques développées par les chaires UNESCO dans les universités algériennes.

A cette fin, la Commission nationale souhaite vivement la précieuse assistance de l'UNESCO ou de ses bureaux régionaux en matière d'expertise technique et académique.

# BAHRAIN

## Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

**President:** Mr Majid Ali Alnoaimi, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Lubna Selaiibeekh

**Website:** [http://www.moedu.gov.bh/natl\\_comm/](http://www.moedu.gov.bh/natl_comm/)

### Update of activities in 2017

The Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved a new accomplishment at the international level by being selected as one of the vice-presidents of the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain has accomplished great results in the elections to a number of important UNESCO bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport concerned with policies of this vital

sector globally, including programs for young people as well as the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Program (IFAP) responsible to follow up the implementation of the policies adopted by the General Conference for the use of international standards in information in UNESCO's fields of competence. Bahrain has also won the membership of the Education for All Committee on the follow-up to the Global Education Monitoring Reports and continued as a member of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST).

UNESCO Associated Schools of Bahrain gained international commendation during the meeting of officials of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Paris for their work on climate change and their experience in utilizing the network to benefit the values of cooperation and serve the objectives of UNESCO. The film, prepared by the National Commission of Bahrain, was also selected to be posted on the website.

The schools of the Kingdom of Bahrain were honored by Ms Irina Bokova, then Director General of UNESCO, during the closing ceremony of the UNESCO Associated Schools that was held in the National Charter Monument in Sakhir, Bahrain.



The Secretary-General with a group of experts from Arab countries in the regional workshop "Enhancing the Image of Women in the Arab Media"  
© Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

### A success story

As part of its efforts to optimize the use of international, regional and Arab expertise, the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted three regional and sub-regional workshops with 116 international and local participants from various civil society organizations.

The regional workshop on "Enhancing the Image of Women in the Arab Media" was organized in cooperation with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well as the Supreme Council for Women and the Public Information Authority. It aimed to highlight the cultural role of women and its effectiveness in constructive development, to promote and support efforts in the empowerment of Arab women through the analysis of media content and correction of its track effects. Approximately 40 participants attended.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Cultural, within the framework of its efforts, has sought to intensify communication with international, regional and Arab organizations, considering it as a key factor in implementation of the programs and projects that would help the Member States to develop their educational, cultural and scientific systems to meet their own aspirations.

The Secretariat of Bahrain National Commission has ensured the preparation of a plan covering all the needs of the official bodies related to the fields of competence of the Organization (education, science and culture). Moreover, relevant civil society institutions have taken into consideration the plan, because of its positive role in achieving the intended goals.

The education sector is a major concern for all the organizations, as it is considered to be a foundation of the learning process. The education sector is keen to choose the most appropriate programs that are in line with the Ministry of Education's orientations and goals.

Bahrain National Commission has suggested to implement some actions in the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to give a chance for the largest possible number of the beneficiaries and stakeholders in the following areas:

The Field of Education:

- Developing the academic curricula in proportion to the labor market needs;
- Developing the education system to promote a good and lifelong learning for all;
- Developing educational indicators and encouraging the use of data analysis.

The Field of Science:

- Developing a scientific awareness culture among the students;
- Contributing to the promotion of the international cooperation in science, in order to meet the challenges of the sustainable development;
- Supporting the efforts in conserving water resources and developing environmental awareness.

The Field of Culture :

- Supporting and promoting tolerance, dialogue and cultural diversity;
- Capacity building in preserving of monuments and manuscripts.

# EGYPT

## Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairman:** Mr Khaled Abd Elghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

**Secretary-General:** Mr Hossam El-Mallahi

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

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the National Commission started to implement a project "Strengthening Science and ICT for Environment Protection and Promoting and Exploiting Energy for Sustainable Development" as the second stage of the 2014 project for fostering science for sustainable development "Management of Africa's natural resources and disaster risk reduction". The project focuses on finding solutions to the environmental challenges especially caused by the pollution. Experts prepared a study on the status of fuel energy, new energy and their alternatives, and conducted a training course to provide best practices and experiences to youth interested in this field.

A regional project was launched to strengthen cooperation between Arab countries in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural

Heritage and to identify policies of Arab states by involving government and non-governmental organizations and civil society in workshops on the inventory of common ICH in Arab states. 11 Arab experts participate in the project.

The National Commission organized an expert meeting and 3 workshops in the framework of the project "Culture Diversity and Creative Culture Industries, Their Role in Facing Challenges of Sustainable Development" aimed at reviving and promoting the creative industries to achieve the development of local communities and improve their participation through all categories of society especially women, youth and children.

Three workshops were organized for marginalized women, NGO and media as part of the project "Empowerment of Marginalized Women, Girls and those with Special Needs on the Comprehensive Use of Information and Knowledge". This project addresses current development challenges faced particularly by marginalized women with special needs and aims at raising their awareness of ICT so that they can generate livelihoods.

A project "Education for Peace Building Future youth" was implemented to enhance the empowerment of children, youth and adults to enable them to contemplate their environment and factors lying behind discrimination, extremism and disputes, to respect the others, to build more comprehensive educational environments and to take the necessary procedures to promote and protect individual rights. The National Commission organized an expert meeting and students camp in this regard.



The new UNESCO Regional Office Science in the Arab Region and the Egypt National Commission © Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The new Regional Office and the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO opened on 6 October in the city.

Ms Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO, Prof Dr Ashraf Al-Shehhi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Mr Hossam El-Mallahi, Secretary-General of the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO, opened the new UNESCO Regional Office for Science in the Arab Region.

It is worth mentioning that the new headquarters is one of the most modern and sophisticated buildings, designed according to the international criteria. This new headquarters aim at enhancing the level of cooperation with UNESCO in the future, disseminating UNESCO's mission to promote scientific knowledge and policies for sustainable development, supporting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication, and addressing social and ethical challenges.

For her part, Ms Irina Bokova expressed her sincere appreciation to Egypt for its pioneering cultural and intellectual role in UNESCO, reflecting its cultural weight and historical heritage.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission will focus its efforts on the following areas:

- Implementation of activities in the field of preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, especially in conflict zones;
- Implementation of training courses to enhance the role of the Egyptian National Commission and the Arab states through experts in different fields;
- Implementation of activities aimed to clarify UNESCO's image and increase visibility in the society;
- Promotion of ASPnet for the dissemination of values of tolerance, and rejection of violence and extremism.

# IRAQ

## The Iraqi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**President:** Mr Mohammed Iqbal Omar Al-Saidaly, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Hasanain Fadhil Mualla

### Update of activities in 2017

The end of 2017 witnessed the one-year anniversary of the inscription of “the Ahwar of Southern Iraq: refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict landscape of the Mesopotamian cities” on the World Heritage List.

The Iraqi committee in charge of the inscription of the Marshes on UNESCO’s list did its best to submit a state of conservation

report on the Ahwar World Heritage property, which was one of the most important tasks to undertake during 2017. The report covers several successful activities and events held by the Iraqi National Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and a number of local authorities. H.E. Minister of Education, Mr Mohammed Iqbal Omar Al-Saidaly, sought to exert maximum efforts and to provide support to both civil society organizations and the ministries concerned (Ministry of Health and Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Ministry of Water Resources, the Iraqi Marshlands Rehabilitation Center, Basra, Thi-qar and Maysan governorates). Following the registration of the Marshes of Southern Iraq on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (10 -20 July 2016), the Iraqi Council of Ministers decided to consider 18 July every year as the World Heritage Day and the period from 23 to 28 July as the Iraqi Heritage Week.



The launch ceremony of the project “Universal access to quality primary and secondary school education in crisis-affected area in Iraq”  
© The Iraqi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

### A Success Story

The project “Access to inclusive quality primary and secondary education for displaced (IDPs) and refugees in crisis-affected area in Iraq” was launched in June 2017, under the sponsorship of the Minister of Education and head of the Iraqi National Commission, Mr Mohammed Iqbal Omar Al- Al-Saidaly, and in cooperation with UNESCO, the European Union and the UNESCO Iraq Office. The beneficiaries included displaced and refugee populations in Iraq and the international and national civil society organizations active in emergency education in Iraq.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

One of the main priorities for the Iraqi National Commission will be the development of New Civil Education. In this regard, it seeks to organize a 3-day workshop for target groups involving Mass Education directory (primary and secondary education as well as educational instruction departments), Curricula directory (specialists in social studies), General directories of Education in Baghdad in other governorates (teachers, supervisors, mentors, social instructors), Human Rights Department and other ministries (Culture, Higher Education, Health and Environment).

The subject of the workshop will be enhancing the spirit of citizenship in the Iraqi society in general, and educational cadre particularly, through educating teachers who will later on teach students the right concepts of citizenship. The following topics will be covered:

- Demonstrating new concepts of citizenship such as rejecting violence and extremity, enhancing the sense of peace and love among individuals and groups;
- Protecting the general property of the country specially the cultural heritage, deepening the sense of responsibility towards the society;
- Keeping the educational institutions clean and tidy, more commitment to laws and rules that preserve the society empty of crime and chaos;
- Keeping the environment, protecting it from pollution and noise, warning the students about the damage of smoking and drugs on human health;
- Mutual understanding and accepting others’ attitudes towards general concepts concerning religion, nationality, social beliefs and rituals, rooting the sense of belonging towards the country and humanity in general;
- Gender equity, respecting women’s and children’s rights.

The National Commission is interested in coordination and cooperation with other National Commissions working on the same topic to conduct this workshop. Its actual implementation will be subject to the availability of funds.

# JORDAN

## Jordan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**Chairperson:** Mr Omar Al Razzaz, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Ibtisam Aqab Ayoub

**Website:** [www.natcom.gov.jo](http://www.natcom.gov.jo)

### Update of activities in 2017

Jordan National Commission is working under the umbrella of the Jordanian Ministry of Education. It works cooperatively with international parties and organizations, as well as with local government and non-governmental authorities. In 2017, it implemented several activities in the fields of education, science, culture and communication in line with its plans and the plans of the organizations it works with. Some of these activities include the following.

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the fourth goal on Education (SDG4), Education Sector organized a series of workshops in three different regions of Jordan on designing activities and projects in the fields of sustainable development, girls' education and climate change. The objectives of these workshops were to develop the capacity of the Jordanian ASPnet coordinators on designing educational activities for sustainable development, and to encourage teachers and students to use the available resources in schools to promote sustainable development in the school and the whole community.

Jordan National Commission for UNESCO held a workshop on the capacity building on SDG4 Agenda, in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Amman and the National Center for Human Resource Development, from 12 to 13 September

2017, for the benefit of members of the 2030 Steering Committee and Technical Committee.

It was involved in presenting lectures about tangible and intangible cultural heritage, specially tailored for the Jordanian air forces.

Jordan National Commission, in close cooperation with UNESCO Amman Office and the Ministry of Culture, held many workshops on audiovisual archives for the concerned staff to enhance the state of preservation of documentary heritage in Jordan. A National MoW Register Committee for Jordan has been established.

"Zikra for Popular Learning" from Jordan was awarded the 2017 UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD. Zikra promotes alternative learning to empower people to reconnect with their local culture and traditions, and to utilize local knowledge to inspire sustainable solutions to the local community's most stressing social, economic and environmental challenges.

"We Love Reading" from Jordan has been awarded "The UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize". Concerned about the lack of libraries in Jordan, Rana Dajani, the founder of the 'We Love Reading', started the programme in 2006 with the vision of creating a library in every neighbourhood. She wanted to plant the seed for the love of reading in children, and to create the possibility of sustaining access to education in circumstances where formal learning was not possible. In 2016, around 20,000 learners, among whom 60 % are women, benefited from the programme.

Four requests were approved under the Participation Programme 2016-2017. These projects were related to enhancing capacity for ASPnet school teachers on designing educational activities for sustainable development, National inventory and documentation, the factors associated with the variation in school readiness between male and female enroller as well as designing the Ministry of Education's e-gov portal.



Circassian dance to show cultural diversity © Jordan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

### A success story

Jordan National Commission organized an awareness-raising campaign in Marka district of Amman targeting students and local community to advance UNESCO's ideals and objectives related to the safeguarding and protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Students and teachers from several schools in Marka district were encouraged to participate in traditional handicraft exhibitions and traditional folkloric dances and rituals presenting tangible and intangible elements from Jordan. Representatives and guests from civil society were invited to visit the exhibitions and to taste traditional dishes at a buffet prepared by students, teachers and the local community.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Jordan National Commission is committed to continuing its efforts to achieve and monitor progress toward SDG4, by implementing the road map prepared by the National Team of SDG4 and its annual plan. Provision is made for introducing the Annual Award for best Practices in Sustainable Development/UNESCO ASPnet.

The National Commission will follow up the nomination files of tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites and elements to the UNESCO lists as well as the establishment of new UNESCO Chairs.

There are plans to organize awareness workshops and meetings on the risks of information security/UNESCO ASP, MAB, IHP, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and bioethics.

# KUWAIT

## Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Hamed Al-Azmi, Minister of Education and Higher Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Khaled Al-Rashed

**Website:** [www.kwtnatcom.gov.kw](http://www.kwtnatcom.gov.kw)

### Update of activities in 2017

Thanks to the considerable support received from the government institutions, communities and civil society, during 2017, the National Commission participated in many programmes and events on the topics of education, culture, communication and information. The most important of these activities are presented below.

In December 2017, the National Commission, in cooperation with the Arab Bureau for the Gulf States and the Department

of Education of the Ministry of Education, initiated training programmes to help develop special education school manuals.

In December 2017, an education workshop was organized with the participation and support of the UNESCO Regional Office in Doha. There was a large attendance of teachers and officials from the Ministry of Education and civil society institutions.

In June 2017, in cooperation with the National Council of Culture, Arts and Literature of the State of Kuwait and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, a meeting was convened for the Arab experts in preparation for the meetings of the World Heritage Committee.

In May 2017, a training course took place for the coordinators of UNESCO ASPnet on the application of the UNESCO project on comprehensive school approaches to the phenomenon of climate change.

In April 2017, a semi-regional meeting on preschool education was held with participation of representatives from eight Arab States. Material and technical support was provided from the Arab and Islamic organizations.



### A success story

The Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO had many achievements and successes in cooperation with the UNESCO ASPnet, currently numbering 75 schools from kindergarten to secondary level, and both from the private and public sector, as well as special education schools. It is interested in building community and solidarity partnerships with professional associations from the non-governmental sector at the local and international level, including the Joint Committee on collaboration with Boubyan Bank, UNESCO Regional Office in Doha and the Ministry of Education in the annual Green Environment Initiative competition.

Annual Green Environment Initiative competition © Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Guided by the UNESCO Plan of Action for the current phase and its global orientations on many topics of common interest, foremost among them being the issues of education, motherhood and childhood and ensuring equal educational opportunities, the National Commission suggests that UNESCO should strengthen its efforts towards the implementation of activities and programmes in the following areas:

- Gender equality in vocational and technical education, "empowering women";
- Education for sustainable development (school family community);
- Early childhood development and care (rational and optimal investment);
- Building national capacities for the preservation and protection of the heritage of the State of Kuwait.

# 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 2017

La Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO a mené au cours de 2017 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

à Beyrouth, le Conseil national pour la recherche scientifique, les universités et les écoles, ainsi que les organisations de la société civile.

Outre les activités culturelles organisées dans le domaine de la culture, de l'éducation, des sciences et de la communication, la Commission nationale libanaise a, cette année, accordé un intérêt particulier à la prévention de l'extrémisme violent, organisant une série de conférences : Conférence internationale sur la Jeunesse et les Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication : vers la prévention de l'extrémisme violent dans le cyberspace ; Conférence nationale sur la prévention de l'extrémisme violent par l'éducation ; et Forum en faveur de la prévention de la radicalisation : la jeunesse au cœur des transformations sociales et de la prévention des violences – engagement des chercheurs et des villes.



Conférence internationale sur la jeunesse et les technologies de l'information et de la communication : Vers la prévention de l'extrémisme violent dans le cyberspace © Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

Sous le patronage du Ministre de l'Information M. Melhem Riachy, la Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO a organisé, en partenariat avec l'UNESCO – Programme Information pour Tous (PIPT), le Bureau Régional de l'UNESCO à Beyrouth, et le Rotary Club de Beyrouth, une conférence internationale sur la Jeunesse et les Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication : vers la prévention de l'extrémisme violent dans le cyberspace, du 17 au 19 mai 2017 à Beyrouth.

Cette conférence s'inscrit dans le cadre d'une série de conférences organisées par l'UNESCO avec le PIPT, en coopération avec tous les secteurs y relatifs : la toute première conférence internationale intitulée

« Les Jeunes et l'internet : combattre la radicalisation et l'extrémisme » tenue au Siège de l'UNESCO à Paris les 16 et 17 juin 2015 ; la conférence internationale organisée par l'UNESCO et le gouvernement du Québec du 30 octobre au 1er novembre 2016 au Québec (Canada) sous le titre « Internet et la radicalisation des jeunes : prévenir, agir et vivre ensemble ».

La conférence a rassemblé environ 200 participants, des chercheurs, des experts en sociologie et en médias sociaux, des représentants de la société civile ainsi que des représentants du gouvernement et des institutions du secteur privé venant de 20 pays : France, Algérie, Tunisie, Sénégal, Égypte, Pays-Bas, Soudan, Palestine, Syrie, Iran (République islamique d'), Fédération de Russie, Royaume-Uni, Ghana, Botswana, Grenade, Jordanie, Maroc, Irak, Oman et Koweït, dans le but d'étudier les moyens visant à prévenir la radicalisation menant à l'extrémisme violent, la discrimination et la haine sur Internet tout en mettant l'accent sur les jeunes.

La conférence a abouti à l'Appel de Beyrouth, qui invite à adopter et mettre en œuvre des stratégies et plans d'action afin de contrer l'extrémisme violent dans le cyberspace, ainsi qu'à promouvoir un Internet libre, orienté vers la paix, le développement, et le dialogue interculturel.

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO célèbre son 70<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire en 2018, et à cet égard, elle a élaboré une stratégie d'action qui repose sur les axes suivants :

- Renforcer l'action en faveur de la diversité culturelle et du dialogue interculturel,
- Promouvoir l'éducation pour le développement durable,
- Développer chez les jeunes l'esprit critique dans le domaine des médias et les nouvelles technologies de l'Information,
- Favoriser les éthiques des sciences et des technologies,
- Assurer plus de visibilité pour l'UNESCO et la Commission nationale libanaise à travers la production d'un clip.

Ces activités seront favorisées par l'établissement de partenariats avec le secteur privé et les organisations de la société civile.

# MAURITANIE

## Commission nationale mauritanienne pour l'éducation, la culture et les sciences (CNECS)

**Président** : M. Mohamed Lemine Ould Cheikh, Ministre de la culture et de l'artisanat

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

## Compte rendu des activités en 2017

2016-2017 ont été des années où la Commission nationale mauritanienne pour l'éducation, la culture et les sciences (CNECS), de par sa position et le rôle qu'elle joue au niveau national, a rempli efficacement un certain nombre d'activités avec ses partenaires : l'UNESCO, l'ISESCO, l'ALECSO et l'OIF. Avec l'UNESCO, la Commission a réalisé beaucoup d'activités, en coopération avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour le Maghreb à Rabat : plusieurs ateliers de formation sur la lutte du trafic illicite des biens culturels, formation à la présentation d'une demande au Patrimoine Mondial au profit des cadres du Ministère de la culture et de l'artisanat et d'autres ateliers au profit du Ministère de l'Éducation nationale pour la finalisation du manuel du formateur.



### Une activité réussie

La Commission nationale, en collaboration avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour le Maghreb, a réalisé quatre ateliers de formation sur La gestion du Partenariat et Mobilisation Communautaire. Celui de Nouakchott a permis de boucler et de faire la synthèse des travaux des ateliers. Cette expérience était riche et opportune pour un milieu enseignant qui n'a pas été préparé avant pour pouvoir élargir l'activité éducative et la rendre possible et efficace au sein de la société civile.

Atelier de Kiffa, les 11, 12 et 13 décembre 2017 © CNECS

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale a deux projets prioritaires en perspective : Le premier est au profit des femmes en milieu rural. Ce projet met l'accent sur les droits humains, en général et sur les droits culturels sociaux (vote libre) en particulier. Un travail a été fait dans ce sens et la Commission travaille à renforcer cette action.

L'autre projet concerne la jeunesse. En 2010, la Commission a mobilisé un nombre important de jeunes pour en faire des acteurs pour la lutte contre l'extrémisme de tout bord et compte se redéployer dans les écoles, au niveau des clubs pour l'UNESCO et écoles associées et la société civile, pour que cette action en faveur de la paix et du développement durable ait un plus grand écho.

Notre souhait est de partager cette expérience au niveau régional par l'implication de plus d'acteurs et de ce que nous appelons « Ambassadeurs de la Paix », afin de permettre à des jeunes de contrées et de cultures différentes de porter un seul combat qui est celui de la dignité humaine et de la réussite. Il n'y a pas de développement durable dans un milieu où règne la peur et l'insécurité.

# OMAN

## Oman National Commission for Education, Sciences and Culture

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

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The year 2017 was a remarkable year for the Oman National Commission in terms of the activities and programs carried out in cooperation with the UNESCO.

The Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences of UNESCO, Ms Flavia Schlegel, visited the Sultanate from 24 to 26 January 2017 to discuss cooperation between Oman and UNESCO in the field of natural sciences as well as to tour some of the scientific and research centers in the Sultanate.

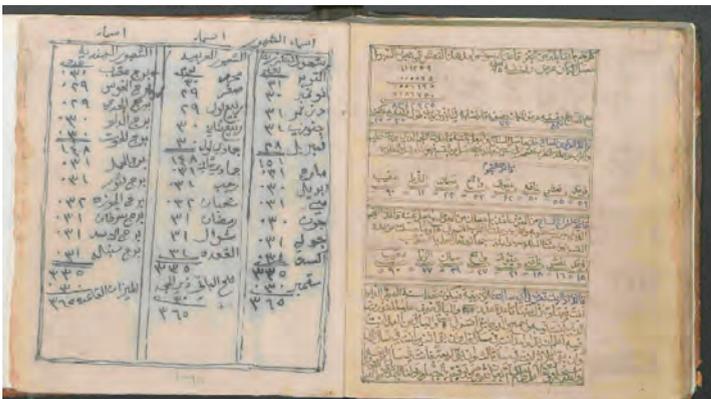
In the scientific field, the Sultanate has signed a memorandum of understanding with UNESCO on the promotion of bioethics programs. The agreement aims to train and build the

capacities and expertise of the National Bioethics Committee. In cooperation with UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, a regional training workshop was conducted on 12-15 March 2017 for teachers and parties interested in teaching bioethics. The Committee also organized a national workshop on the effective policies for bioethics issues from 2 to 4 April 2017.

On 17 September 2017, the Sultanate in cooperation with UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut hosted the 16th Regional Meeting of the National Hydrological (IHP) Committees in the Arab Region and the third regular meeting of the Arab network for water resources management in the arid and semi-arid regions.

In the field of education, on 18-20 December 2017 the Sultanate hosted the regional training workshop on the indicators of SDG4 and ways to meet them, with participation of experts in the field of education from several Arab countries.

The Omani ASPnet Schools, Youth programs and UNESCO Club have developed a school culture of sustainability in 26 schools by applying a whole-school approach to climate change. 3 connecting culture trips to build up bridges of understanding between youth from different cultures were also conducted.



Explanation of the position of the stars and Gregorian, Hijri and hindi month names © Omanncol.com

### A success story

The Sultanate has succeeded in inscribing the book “Mineral Secrets in Marine Science” authored by Captain Nasser Al-Khudoury on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register, as the first Omani document to be included in this list. This achievement is a new addition to the previous registrations of Omani heritage symbols and sites in various UNESCO cultural heritage of humanity lists.

Captain Nasser al-Khudoury was a well-known sailor in Oman, India, Sindh, Malabar, East Africa, the Comoros, the Seychelles, the Persian Gulf States, Persia, Iraq and other countries. He was a professional in several sciences, including mathematics, astronomy, marine meteorology, and measurement tools such as compass, square and astrolabe.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission is working closely with the Omani authorities concerned, in particular those committed to reviving the glory of the Sultanate’s maritime history, to reflect UNESCO’s international listing of “Mineral Secrets in Marine Science” in their national plans and strategies. Also, it is important to highlight this achievement on all national and international occasions. This manuscript remains an active area of research and studies in Captain Nasser’s voyage trips to keep it as a sustainable inspirational source for coming generations. In addition, the Commission suggests investing this achievement in cultural tourism by making it available to the public as an immortal national heritage throughout the ages.

The Sultanate has committed itself with the rest of the world to implementing SDG4 targets. The Sultanate has formed a national team of different education stakeholders to ensure the achievement of SDG4 through education plans and strategies. The team also works to ensure staff capacity building to provide needed data and statistics to meet SDG4 indicators.

In the next phase, the Sultanate will work through the National Team for Education 2030 to disseminate media advocacy and education regarding SDG4/Education 2030 to different parties. A report will be prepared in 2018 to monitor and follow up the implementation of SDG4 according to the indicators adopted so far. The Team will communicate with the National Center for Statistics and Information to provide the necessary data from various surveys, especially household expenditure and income surveys, and coordinate with the Center to ensure availability of education data.

# 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 2017

The year 2017 was rich in achievements by the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science through a number of successful workshops and events organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and other government and local organizations and institutions.

The Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science has implemented "The Young story tellers" project through the Participation Program funded by UNESCO. It is an interactive project in Aspent Schools based on the employment of storytelling learning methodology (known as Hikaya telling in the Palestinian intangible cultural heritage) to help create an interactive learning environment within the classroom. The Arabic language and civic education teachers will adopt this

approach to effectively use it in the transfer of knowledge to students through storytelling, drawings, role playing or using any other interactive activities to ensure the participation of all students regardless of their academic achievements.

Story telling is accompanied by different methodologies of delivery, such as changing the voice tone and facial expression, the use of puppets, drama, role-playing, colouring activities and/or case scenarios. The methodology aims at enabling educators to transmit concepts of the stories and everything related to them in an appropriate tone and terminology for the age of target group. A competition between students will be held on writing and drawing stories so that the winning stories could be printed in a document book to be published in the school libraries. At the end of the project, an exhibition will be arranged for students to show their achievements such as stories, role playing, drama and the stories document book.

Another achievement to be attained through the UNESCO Participation Program has been "Reading Stations on Wheels" project based on the generalization of the public reading in the Palestinian society by providing public places such as public parks with five reading stations. These stations are similar to the bus waiting stations and are provided with a small library of books, replaced and changed regularly. The reading stations will be designed in a way that will encourage people to read, as everyone now is driven away from reading into the use of social media and modern ICTs.



Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on strengthening the mechanisms and laws of intellectual property in Palestine, under the patronage of the President of the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science Mr. Mahmoud Ismael © Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

be achieved is getting the full membership of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Finally, the establishment of a unified intellectual property and industrial office in Palestine is also being considered.

### A success story

The Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, under the patronage of its President Mr. Mahmoud Ismael, held a workshop to strengthen the mechanisms and laws of intellectual property in Palestine. This workshop, attended by many cultural, educational and civil organizations and institutions, is considered a unique experience because the Palestinian National Commission was able to gather both government and private sectors around this idea.

This workshop comes to fill a legal gap in the field of scientific and educational innovation in Palestine, as well as to allow for more depth in the subject of intellectual property protection and protection of creativity in the Arab region. As a result of the hard work of the partner institutions, a number of experts recommended the adoption of a law for the protection of intellectual property.

Other important recommendations of this workshop included the need to speed up the adoption of the law on industrial property and copyright. Another goal to

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Capacity building is required to maintain the Palestinian heritage through developing skills and qualifying the specialists of the cultural institutions in the field of manuscripts conservation. Manuscripts are considered to be a cultural and historical treasure for the Palestinian people, because of their high and important value in the historical and facts documentation. The manuscripts can be defined as everything that has been written by hand, whether it is books, documents or letters due to the absence of printing machines at that time. The manuscripts are very rare source of information that may not be available in any other source and are a historical link between the past and the present. They can be considered as a national heritage that is handed down from one generation to another.

# QATAR

## Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science

**Chairman:** Mr. Mohammed bin Abdul Wahid Al-Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr. Hamda Hasan Al-Sulaiti

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The year 2017 marked a series of goal-driven initiatives and projects that Qatar National Commission is proud to have implemented and hereby share their impact on achieving both the mandate and the desired promotion of diversified education, culture and science through internal action plans and fruitful cooperation with stakeholders.

The enhanced implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education (SDG4) represents the culmination of an informed plan on building capacity and training that was put into action. Through organizing ground-changing events with

key local and international partners, including but not limited to Qatar University (January), the UNESCO ASPnet Schools (April), and the GCC Education for All national coordinators group (May), as well as the state ministries throughout the year, the National Commission monitored the progress of SDG4 in ASPnet Schools and documented the practical results that reflect the optimal implementation of a related awareness booklet issued by the National Commission in this regard.

Our solid ties with UNESCO have reached unprecedented levels in 2017. The amendment of the agreement on the operation of the UNESCO Doha Office during the visit of then Director-General of UNESCO shows a keen interest of the State of Qatar to remain a key player and partner of UNESCO towards excellence in education and diversity, which can be seen in the accession of Al-Wakrah to UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2017.

Promoting cultural and arts diversity is another key element to report. The 2017 Forum of Theatrical and Musical Arts held under the sponsorship of the National Commission witnesses a broader scope of participation of the ASPnet Schools in terms of volume and rich content. Besides, the National Commission coordinated the signing of the cooperation agreement on cultural diversity between the Cultural Village Katara and UNESCO.



The National Commission held successful seminars and meetings in 2017 with educational institutions to establish partnerships for implementation and alignment of SDG4 with the other 16 Goals of Sustainable Development Plan 2030

© Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science

The National Committee for Education for All published a booklet on SDG4 and its relevance to the rest of Sustainable Development Plan goals and objectives. The National Commission held successful seminars and meetings in 2017 with educational institutions to establish partnerships for implementation and alignment of SDG4 with the other 16 Goals of Sustainable Development Plan 2030.

### A success story

Qatar signed the Sustainable Development Plan 2030 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2015. Considering that the implementation of the goals of this Plan is a true example of Qatar's staunch commitment to partnership with the world, the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science has formed the National Committee for Education for All 2030 by virtue of Decision No. (47) of 2016 by His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Under the Chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the National Commission and the membership of the state ministries, institutions and stakeholders in education, the mission of the Committee is to oversee the implementation of SDG4 by mobilizing all resources and sparing no efforts to achieve its targets. The related action plan covers six areas: capacity building, identification of training needs, development of curriculum, reporting, monitoring, and follow-up, as well as through the implementation of the Roadmap for Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science will continue to support the implementation of SDG4 in 2018-2019 with a stronger vision and better means. This includes the organization of a series of training and capacity building workshops, in parallel with the promotion of the awareness plan on a wider scope. The objective is to target more youth, children and juniors and engage them in SDG4-related competitions, meetings, audiovisual materials and publications. The implementation of the Framework of the National Committee for Education for All 2030 is another axis the National Commission is currently working on with a view to further achieve its objectives, which are to provide a world-class education for all, forever.

In the field of culture, the National Commission will continue its partnership with the UNESCO Office in Doha and the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum in preparation for the Acquisition Exhibition that will be launched from UNESCO Headquarters in 2018. Besides, the Festival of Cultural Diversity with Katara Cultural Village will remain an activity of the National Commission in 2018. In the area of youth, work is underway with the Office on the Mobile Youth Program, and the support for the Junior Professionals Program will continue through the recruitment of young qualified Qatari personnel in UNESCO.

# SAUDI ARABIA

## Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

**President:** Mr Ahamd Mohammad Al-Essa, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Ghormallah Saleh Al-Ghamdi

### Update of activities in 2017

Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science has been established as a liaison commission between the Saudi organizations and agencies, UNESCO as well as ALECSO, ISESCO and ABEGS. It derives its activities from the mandates of these international and regional organizations and works for developing the membership of the country to make the best use of their programs. The Commission contributes to the spread of the culture of building peace in the minds of people by participating in the activities of UNESCO. It encourages the participation of government and non-governmental organizations and agencies to contribute to studies, seminars, meetings and conferences, symposia, sharing

information and making visits to ensure mutual benefit from all intellectual, cultural, scientific and administrative assistance.

Saudi National Commission is committed to developing its staff through the participation in different training workshops. It enhances the cooperation with the competent authorities in the Ministry of Education. It develops the National Commission's library that includes the latest publications and distributes a quarterly publication on the work of the Commission.

Saudi National Commission works with other national organizations and agencies to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the General Conferences of UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO and ABEGS and to circulate them to the concerned parties for developing the educational, cultural, scientific and communication fields in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also provides these organizations with studies, proposals and different survey tools such as questionnaires (survey monkey) to make the needed reflection on specific topics. It works with government and non-governmental organizations and agencies to nominate Saudis for vacant positions in these organizations, and encourages the Saudi experts in the fields of education, culture and science to take part in the dissemination and implementation of new trends and programs in their own working environments.



Objectives of Ministry of Education consistent with the 4th Sustainable Development Goal and its targets

© Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

### A success story

Saudi National Commission's success is due to its ability to adjust and adapt to changing situations. The National Commission has integrated educational, cultural and scientific activities to build relationships and networks as well as to expand on its credibility. It continues its efforts to create solutions for international problems, such as the management of international initiatives. Such factors encourage the Commission to set priorities for the regional and international representation to improve the participation of government and non-governmental organizations and agencies across the country. It shares best practices and disseminates knowledge to add value to the national efforts to be presented at regional and international meetings. Lately, Saudi National Commission has been advancing the strategies and activities of SDGs through effective and transparent communication to make a major contribution to acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.

Saudi National Commission requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behavior and take action for sustainable development that feeds the economy, builds generations and improves quality of life without threatening natural and environmental resources in the Kingdom. This is a simple overview of the objectives, aspirations and efforts of the Ministry of Education in working on the axes of sustainable development to achieve this vision.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Saudi National Commission sets its priorities not to lose track of the big picture with so many competing requests from different agencies. Concurrently, it contributes to strengthening a global framework to address essential issues and develop dialogue and cooperation between government and non-governmental organizations and agencies by:

- Broadening the contribution to the UN agenda to ensure the fulfillment of duties locally, regionally and internationally;
- Building a good quality framework to be recognized by the international community for its technical aspects and openness;
- Disseminating information to improve the performance of different members of the National Commission, government and non-governmental organizations and agencies;
- Setting a new proactive strategy for achieving the requirements of SDGs mainly SDG4 and its targets, in addition to providing government and non-governmental organizations and agencies with the needed information and data for the implementation of SDGs through focusing on learning to generate debate that has often been lacking;
- Ensuring commitment to its objectives derived from the general objectives of UNESCO and other relevant organizations;
- Encouraging different educational departments to identify topics and concepts through policies, curricula, textbooks programs and learning outcomes;
- Emphasizing lifelong learning programs for achieving social and economic transformation.

Engagement in debates on key educational challenges would be a good opportunity for exchanging information on educational SDGs-related programs and projects.

# SUDAN

## Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

**Chairperson:** Ms Asya Mohamed Abdalla Iddris, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr AbdulGadir Muhammad Hassan Nouredin

### Update of activities in 2017

To increase the efficiency of the National Commission a proposed functional structure has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for final approval, it will appoint 12 junior staff during 2018. The Ministry of Finance has increased the budget allocated for the National Commission by 53%.

The National Commission implemented, in collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters, the Field Office in Khartoum, and the Regional Offices in Cairo and Beirut several workshops, training courses, and meetings in addition to the implementation of the 7 approved Participation Programme project requests.

Examples of main achievements include approval of STI policy by Sudan's Government; signature of an agreement between

UNESCO Khartoum Office and the Republic of Sudan, for the organization of a Community Radio funded by the Italian Government; validation of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer Project; declaration of Jabel Aldair as a Biosphere Reserve; development of a World Heritage Site "Sanganeb Atoll and Dounonab Bay", as well as documentation and inventory of the intangible culture heritage in the Republic of Sudan (a pilot project in Kordofan and Blue Nile regions).

Another focus area was training and capacity building of the researchers and specialists of Sudan's National Center for Curriculum and Education Research (NCCER) in the field of curriculum development for basic and secondary education.

Sudanese National Commission celebrated some of the International Days in collaboration with related institutions, IGO's and NGO's: World Radio Day, World Water Day, 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, and World Day of Arabic Language.

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

The National Commission has a good relationship with the other National Commissions, UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO centers.



Opening Ceremony of Sennar Capital of Islamic Culture – Sudan's Vice-President Ebrahim Mahmoud Hamed – Director General of ISESCO Abdulaziz Altwaijri – Minister of Culture Eltayeb Badawi

© Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture and General Secretariat of Sennar Capital of Islamic Culture 2017

### A success story

The National Commission, in coordination with ISESCO, the Ministry of Culture and the General Secretariat of Sennar implemented a project titled "Sennar Capital of Islamic Culture 2017", to enhance regional cooperation in the area of cultural diversity and dialogue. The project was one of the most effective projects of the Government, as it succeeded in presenting the value of the cultural diversity of Sennar, and how societies were able to live together in peace despite their differences for a long time. Sennar city is one of the historical cities dating back to 1504. It emerged as a result of the confederation of the African and the Arabic tribes. The project included many activities such as festivals, cultural events, art and books exhibitions, conferences, workshops and different programs that reflect cultural expressions, including theater performances and literary, music and artistic forums.

New cultural infrastructures have been established such as cultural center, tourist village and museum. Significant achievement is the approval to establish a Regional Center known as "Sennar Center for Dialogue and Cultural Diversity" to strengthen regional relations in the area of cultural dialogue and cultural exchange.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The project proposal to organize a Consultation forum on Adequate Financing for Realizing Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education for All by 2030 has been submitted for UNESCO support. Encouraged by UNESCO's strong commitment and appreciable support, this regional workshop is designed to facilitate an active engagement of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the activities of the Arab campaign for Education for All and its member coalitions.

Evidently, due to critical factors, low priority and very poor financing of education, many countries failed to secure the right to quality education for all within the MDGs period. Hence, the project's ultimate objective is to help realize the right to quality education for all by 2030. The project provides a forum for delegates to exchange lessons learned, practical experiences and good practices achieved by their countries. The participants during the working groups will discuss the challenges and problems encountered and develop sound recommendations suggesting solutions for adequate financing of education to fulfil their commitment to the right to quality education for all.

The consultation forum is intended to provide civil society representatives a regional platform to exchange knowledge and experiences regarding challenges and problems concerning education financing construing provision of adequate financing of education. Sound recommendations for implementable solutions should be the final outcome of the workshop.

# 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](http://www.syrianatcom.gov.sy)

### Update of activities in 2017

In the framework of the official efforts to face the current crisis and its results, the related ministries in the field of education, cultural heritage, higher education, information and environment focused their activities on promoting national capacity building through collaboration with the Syrian National Commission for UNESCO, which in turn communicated with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut. Its Director and many experts visited Damascus to study the basic needs during the current crisis and to put a strategy to achieve an effective response to the increasing needs in the above-mentioned sectors.

In 2017, the National Commission, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, continued the "Condensed curriculum" project for the basic education grade for the year 2016-2017 given its great success in the academic year 2015-2016. In addition to that, a second chance was given to the pupils of the first grade and the ninth grade who had missed the first semester 2016-2017 in Aleppo Governorate. 44 centers were opened for the first grade (10,000 beneficiaries) and 11 centers were opened for the ninth grade (574 beneficiaries).

The National Commission set up the "Information School Management System Project", in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and the Kenj's Company.

Workshops to build the capacities of the higher education sector's staff in the field of Bio-Ethics' Teaching and Research Ethics as well as the National Tests, Measurement and Evaluation were organized.

The National Commission conducted workshops in the media field on the Safety of Journalists/ the Journalists Ethics and held the Conference on Environmental Investment in Syria in the Reconstruction Phase.

The Commission was represented at the workshops organized in Beirut and Berlin in cooperation with UNESCO Office in Beirut and German Archaeological Institute in the framework of the Emergency Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage.

It also participated in international conferences, the most prominent among them was the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO, where the Syrian National Commission delegation was headed by its Chairman, His Excellency Minister of Education. His Excellency had active contributions, speeches and interventions during several forums including UNESCO general policy debates, high-level meeting on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4, Donors' Meeting and Education Finance Meeting in the Arab Region which is witnessing crisis, where the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Dr. Qian Tang was invited to visit the Syrian Arab Republic. During his subsequent visit on 28 November 2017, the strategic emergency plan of the national education, launched globally at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 2 November 2017, was presented.

Many participants attended specialized training workshops and meetings held at UNESCO Office in Beirut and in the Arab countries.

In the framework of the Participation Program, Syria has UNESCO's approval of 4 applications for the Ministries of Higher Education, Water Resources, Media and Tourism and was also granted two fellowships under the UNESCO-L'Oreal Program and in Archeology.



On 28 November 2017, the Syrian Trust for Development launched the first library in Bab Sharqi Community in cooperation with UNESCO  
© Media Office of the Syria Trust for Development

### A success story

The Syrian Trust for Development launched on 28 November 2017 the first library in Bab Sharqi Community in cooperation with UNESCO Office in Beirut and in the presence of UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Mr Qian Tang, Director of UNESCO Office in Beirut Mr Hamad bin Saif Al-Hammami, Secretary General of the Syria Trust for Development, Deputy Ministers of Education, Secretary-General of the National Commission and a large crowd of invitees.

This library comes as a fruitful joint cooperation between the Syria Trust for Development and UNESCO in the cultural field aimed to help achieve a social development.

It is designed according to high quality standards to provide youth with information through a series of multi-topic books in Arabic and English, to present the necessary knowledge of practical life and to broaden their ideas. The number of beneficiaries of the Bab Sharqi Center was of 31,000 in 2017 due to its safe location and ability to provide other complementary services.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The future priorities of the concerned ministries are to ensure the cooperation and coordination with UNESCO to obtain expertise in policy-making and capacity building. The post-war phase in the fields of school restoration and rehabilitation to accommodate students after the return of people to areas liberated from terrorism and the restoration of antiquities destroyed by terrorists are among other major issues.

# TUNISIE

## Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Hatem Ben Salem, Ministre de l'éducation

**Secrétaire général** : M. Mohamed Bouhlel

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

En 2017, la Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO a poursuivi ses efforts pour s'acquitter au mieux de son rôle.

Son étroite relation avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Rabat s'est distinguée en 2017 par l'organisation d'une série d'ateliers de renforcement des capacités nationales en matière de sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel au profit du milieu institutionnel de la culture et du patrimoine ainsi que la société civile.

Le Ministère des affaires culturelles a présenté la candidature des « savoir-faire liés à la poterie des femmes de Sejnane » pour inscription sur la liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel, ainsi que le dossier de la « Table de Jugurta » comme site mixte pour inscription sur la liste indicative du Patrimoine mondial. Ce dernier est un géosite d'une valeur universelle exceptionnelle qui défie le temps et qui offre un paysage pittoresque unique. L'État partie présentera entre autres à l'UNESCO son engagement à protéger, valoriser et aménager l'infrastructure de ce site en vue de l'intégrer dans le circuit touristique.

La 39<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO a reconnu l'inscription sur le registre « Mémoire du monde »

du dossier présenté par la Tunisie relatif à l'abolition de l'esclavage 1841-1846. Il s'agit d'une collection d'archives, de circulaires, de correspondances, d'actes notariés et de registres fiscaux conservés aux Archives nationales. Une série d'événements sont prévus à l'UNESCO à l'occasion de cette inscription (exposition, table ronde ...).

La Commission nationale a accompagné la mairie de Tunis dans le processus d'intégration de la ville de Tunis dans le Réseau villes créatives de l'UNESCO et dans celui de l'obtention du Prix UNESCO ville apprenante.

Dans le domaine des Sciences, la Commission nationale a reçu Madame Flavia Shlegel, Sous-Directrice générale, Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles de l'UNESCO, dans le cadre de sa mission en Tunisie en mai 2017. Celle-ci a mis le point sur les axes de coopération discutés avec les différents départements, essentiellement sur la question de l'eau.

Par ailleurs, deux tunisiennes (Ibtissem Ghefrachi de l'Université de Gabès et Amel Benanes de l'Université de Manouba) ont été retenues par l'UNESCO dans le cadre de l'appel au Prix UNESCO – l'Oréal « pour les Femmes et la Science » pour sa 4<sup>ème</sup> édition Maghreb.

Dans le cadre du projet Euro-arabe les Commissions nationales Tunisienne et Allemande ont organisé conjointement une Rencontre en mars 2017 au profit de jeunes de Tunisie, d'Allemagne, d'Algérie, d'Australie, du Liban, d'Oman, d'Égypte, de Palestine, du Maroc et de Suisse, basée sur « Apprendre à vivre ensemble » et l'échange d'expériences. Le site archéologique de Carthage ainsi que la Médina de Tunis, classés Sites du Patrimoine Mondial, ont fait l'objet d'une visite de découverte. La clôture de cette rencontre a été assurée par Monsieur le Ministre de l'éducation, Président de la Commission nationale.



### Une activité réussie

Dans le cadre du Programme de Bourses coparrainées UNESCO / République populaire de Chine (La Grande Muraille), la candidature de deux jeunes étudiantes : Donia Benzarti et Fadoua Saïdane a été retenue pour l'année 2017-2018. Leur résidence en Chine durant une année leur offrira l'opportunité d'échange d'expériences et d'acquisition d'un précieux savoir-faire dans le domaine du textile ce qui promouvra leurs compétences et par conséquent facilitera leurs inclusion dans le marché du travail.

Dans le cadre du Programme de Bourses coparrainées UNESCO / République populaire de Chine (La Grande Muraille) la candidature de deux jeunes étudiantes a été retenue pour l'année 2017-2018 © Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO envisage d'organiser avec l'appui du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Rabat et celui de Beyrouth, un séminaire régional sur la prévention de l'extrémisme violent par l'éducation et le renforcement de l'enseignement des arts, de la culture et l'éducation physique dans les écoles.

Egalement, une réunion sous régionale est envisagée avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Rabat dans le but d'établir un réseau de coordination et d'échanges des Chaires UNESCO Maghreb afin de créer entre elles des passerelles et d'encourager la coopération universitaire internationale et les échanges d'étudiants.

# 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

**Website:** <https://Natcom.gov.ae>

### Update of activities in 2017

The UAE National Commission for UNESCO implemented and coordinated a variety of activities in the educational, scientific and cultural sectors through 2017 as part of the ongoing partnership between the United Arab Emirates and UNESCO. Below is a summary of some of the activities.

The UAE delegation, comprised of representatives from various ministries and organizations concerned, participated in main meetings and side events of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO General Conference, held in Paris from 30 October to 14 November 2017. From 25 to 27 October 2017, the UAE Ministry of Education participated in the Mid-Term Review of the Sixth International Conference (CONFINTEA VI) on Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in Suwon, South Korea.

The Mid-Term Review represented a unique opportunity for UAE to support adult learners worldwide and maximize the benefits of adult education for sustainable development. Senior-level decision makers from policy and practice, including representatives of government, civil society, academia and the private sector, gathered to identify achievements and challenges, and consider trends and policies that will shape the future of ALE.

On 28 August 2017, the UAE delegation participated in the UNESCO International Symposium and Policy Forum "Cracking the code: girls' education in STEM", which served as a platform for debate and hands-on learning, seeking to present latest findings from research and practice and facilitate policy dialogue, experience-sharing and networking plus make the case for strengthening girls' education in STEM subjects.

On 19-20 April 2017, a workshop on environment and education was held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with participation of Member States. The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Abu Dhabi Environment Authority (EAD), presented the sustainable schools guides and distributed them to the organizers and participants to benefit from the UAE experience. An Archeological Exhibition "40 years of archaeological cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and France" was held in Sharjah from 18 October 2017 to 31 January 2018 at Sharjah Archaeology Museum. This exhibition depicts the United Arab Emirates history as a pathway for the first men between Africa and Asia, and as a land of dialogue among civilizations and cultures at the crossroads of important trade routes.



The Quran Monument at the Cultural Center roundabout in Sharjah, UAE.  
© Bodour Bint Sultan Al Qasimi The Executive Office- Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

an opportunity to develop their sense of intellectualism, tolerance and understanding of cultures and to empower their thinking through learning about Arab histories and heritages. From a communal standpoint, Sharjah was a leading example in its efforts to disseminate as much literature as possible among all its citizens and began distributing thousands of free libraries to Emirati households across the country, through "Knowledge without Borders" initiative.

### A success story

Sharjah has recently been named the World Book Capital 2019 by UNESCO, a prestigious accolade that marks a significant milestone representing a series of achievements Sharjah has accomplished in leading the culture and education industry both locally and regionally. The celebrations will be take place from 23 April 2019 to 22 April 2020 under the theme "Read...You Are in Sharjah", in order to reinforce Sharjah's stature as a beacon for book lovers and enthusiasts from all nationalities living in the UAE.

The launch of the first edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) in January 1982 was Sharjah's first move towards communicating the Emirate's dynamic culture, exhibiting books that ranged from tales of Sharjah spoken directly from the wisdom of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi, to books that told interactive stories of the great Arab cultures and histories. The fair was the first of its kind in instilling the love of literature among many Emiratis, residents and international visitors alike, and it enabled participants

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

#### I. Education

- Education for Sustainable Development agenda 2030.
- Expanding UNESCO ASP net in UAE.

#### II Natural Sciences

- Strengthening capacity building for natural sciences.
- Sustainable development and biosphere conservation.
- Introducing artificial intelligence for natural sciences.

#### III Oceans

- Preserving the Ocean – UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

#### IV Social and Human Sciences

- Social transformations and intercultural dialogue.

- Youth engagement. Sport and Antidoping

#### V Culture

- Building capacities to protect promote and transmit heritage.
- Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions.
- Promoting shared history and memory for reconciliation and dialogue

#### VI Communication & Information

- Memory of the World Program (MOW).
- Open Solutions via ICTs for building knowledge societies. ICTs for Persons living with Disabilities

The top priorities at the UAE NATCOM are also seen in the Sustainable Development Goals.



High school students are using the tailor-made English mobile learning application developed by UNESCO in class in Basic Education High School (Kawa) in Bago Region, Myanmar. Teachers were trained on how to use tablets for effective teaching under the ICT for Education project implemented by UNESCO Project Office in Myanmar.  
© UNESCO/Anthony Tam

# Asia and the Pacific

# AFGHANISTAN

## Afghanistan National Commission for UNESCO (ANCU)

**President:** Mr Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari

**Secretary-General:** Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar

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

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017 ANCU coordinated, monitored, evaluated and reported on the Workshop and Campaign to Increase Girls' Enrolment to Schools organized by the Ministry of Women's Affairs; on the 2016-2017 Project of the Ministry of Education (MOE) on Strengthening the Capacity of the MOE's Female Staff in Management, Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as on the Project of the Ministry of Water and Energy on the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources in Chamcha Mast Watershed.

The Commission successfully implemented Capacity Development Workshops in English Language, Computer Skills and Basic Skills of Management to build managerial capacity

of ANCU's staff. Also, ANCU's 3-year Strategic Plan (2018-2020) has been developed during 2017.

Eligible Afghan candidates, active in promoting non-violence against women, girls' enrolment in education and conservation of cultural heritage, were nominated and introduced for international prizes and awards to share their experiences with the countries, having the same context as Afghanistan. In addition, eligible candidates from various government agencies were nominated for attending seminars, workshops, conferences and training programs outside Afghanistan to disseminate experiences and exchange lessons learned with international community.

ANCU has kept durable and regular working relations and contacts with other National Commissions of UNESCO Member States to coordinate, implement and monitor activities and projects aligned with international good practices.

ANCU has achieved membership in three national committees namely the National High Literacy Committee of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Scientific and Cultural Committee of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Culture and Arts Committee of the Chief Executive Office of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. This accomplishment has enabled ANCU to take an active part in policy making, planning and monitoring of literacy, scientific, cultural and art-related activities and assignments of Afghanistan.



Opening ceremony of the Strategic Plan Development Workshop, Kabul-Afghanistan © Afghanistan National Commission for UNESCO

the spirit of the Constitution of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Equally, the Strategic Plan will be a good guideline for ANCU to coordinate with the relevant agencies and will pave the way for achieving SDGs, particularly SDG4.

Under the able leadership of the Secretary-General, Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar, ANCU's staff played an active role in preparing the Strategic Plan.

### A success story

For the first time in history, ANCU has developed and drafted an inclusive 3-year Strategic Plan (2018-2020) based on consultative approach providing a clear roadmap for its future activities and programmes. This plan was developed in close coordination with sectoral ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabilities) as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Afghan Women Network, Private Universities Union and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

This Strategic Plan provides a specific framework to expand ANCU's activities in the field of gender equality, protecting cultural heritage, improving education, standardizing higher education and strengthening communication at the national level.

ANCU's Strategic Plan (2018-2020) is aligned with and seeks to advance

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

ANCU as an active entity in the field of education, science and culture is committed to working efficiently and effectively towards the following priorities:

1. Achieving SDGs, particularly SDG4 (Quality Education) and SDG5 (Gender Equality) in Afghanistan through coordination and consultation with the main stakeholders involved, based on the assessment of needs;
2. Contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage in Afghanistan including historical palaces, sculptures, monuments, traditions and customs through playing an active role in the Scientific and Cultural Committee of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Culture and Arts Committee of the Chief Executive Office of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;
3. Strengthening Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) via use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to align Afghan education streams with international good practices for the purpose of enhancing quality literacy programs in the country;
4. Enabling environment to create partnership for achievement of SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through promoting education and literacy for peace and sustainable development; and
5. Building the capacity of youth to take part in the national development process and promoting freedom of expression and mutual respect to improve participation of young generation in national policymaking initiatives.

# AUSTRALIA

## Australian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Kylie Walker

**Secretary-General:** Mr Adam Illman

**Website:** <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/international-organisations/un/unesco/pages/australian-national-commission-for-unesco.aspx>

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 saw the appointment of a new Chair, Ms Kylie Walker, as well as of several new Commission members, all of whom bring their own energy and expertise to the work of the National Commission. This injection of new energy will surely push the National Commission to new heights and thus promote UNESCO's global objectives in Australia.

The small grants projects continue to achieve both their individual objectives and the wider objective of the National Commission to promote UNESCO and its ideals in Australia and the region. Thus, a project to build the capacity of Fijian Women in disaster risk assessment, preparedness, response and recovery promotes a positive view of gender equity to the wider community and increases the overall pool of people with relevant skills to help in the event of a disaster. Examples also include a project to document the establishment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood service in Queensland by recording stories from those involved. This project aligns

with UNESCO's Education Sector priorities in relation to early childhood education and aligns with its ongoing policy and program work to engage with indigenous peoples. Another project that should be mentioned is the global participation of children in developing their own children's books on the themes of the sea and the environment. The project has produced two books written and illustrated by children themselves: children in one country (Solomon Islands) drew (pictures) and children in another country (Australia) considered the works and wrote the complementary stories (words).

A new UNESCO Chair has been created at the University of Southern Queensland relating to the study of Groundwater Arsenic and the SDGs, and the Victorian City of Geelong successfully applied to become a Creative City in Design.

A subcommittee of the National Commission reviewed Australia's engagement in the Man and Biosphere programme and worked with reserve managers to strengthen their respective management and communications arrangements.

In mid-2017, the National Commission was very glad to welcome Ms Nisha, Director of the UNESCO Office in Apia, and greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss the ongoing work of her office and to update her on the work of the National Commission, as well as to identify future opportunities for collaboration.

Sydney has been chosen as the Host City for the 2019 International Jazz Day Gala Concert, which will take place in Sydney's iconic World Heritage property, the Sydney Opera House. In 2018, ways will be explored for the National Commission to make a meaningful contribution to this exciting event

### A success story

In late 2017, the Australian National Commission was very pleased to formally partner with Melbourne-based organisation, Cultural Infusion. This amazing community organisation, based in Melbourne, will work with the National Commission in coming years to promote a mutually beneficial collection of activities and educational programs designed to be delivered in school classrooms across the country. Read more about Cultural Infusion here: <https://culturalinfusion.org.au/>

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

2018 offers several opportunities to increase the visibility of the National Commission in the community through partnerships, increased social media presence and a more targeted calendar of events.

A medium-term strategic plan will be developed in the first half of the year to guide future activities of the National Commission over the medium term. There are also plans to explore ways to deliver interventions at the national level in support of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, as well as to consider possible collaborations with other National Commissions.

# BHUTAN

## Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Norbu Wangchuk, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Karma Yeshey

**Website:** [www.bhutanunesco.bt](http://www.bhutanunesco.bt)

### Update of activities in 2017

The launch of the annual magazine ' ' themed Happiness on 20 March coinciding with International Day of Happiness reached a milestone with support from the Royal Government of Bhutan. It had literary pieces contributed by children and teachers across the country.

Refreshers Course for teacher coordinators was conducted in the field of Global Citizenship Education with support from the Royal Government of Bhutan.

As part of the UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017, a Capacity Building Workshop in the field of Global Citizenship Education was conducted for UNESCO Clubs and ASPnet school coordinators. In addition, Participation Programme 2016-2017 provided financial assistance for Institutional linkages and TVET skills development program; Developing guidelines on action research for teachers; Study tour for school guidance counsellors on mental well-being; and the first ever STEM Olympiad.

A joint program with APCEIU, ROK on Project Based Learning (PBL) on GCED pedagogy was carried out for teachers in eastern Bhutan. In addition, a one-day seminar was held for teachers to share good practices on GCED.

An art competition Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa 2017-2018 was conducted on the theme " ". Children aged 6 to 12 years across the country participated to share their daily life to other Asians through drawings. The National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) supported the Enikki Festa.

### A success story

The First National STEM Olympiad was organized by the Royal Education Council (REC) in Thimphu (capital city of Bhutan) on 12-14 May 2017, with support from UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017. It represented the culmination of several years' nationwide science and technology exhibitions at school and regional levels, designed to attract children's interest and expose the general public to the wonders of science in real life.

The two-day program, extended to three days at the instruction of the Prime Minister of Bhutan, witnessed a variety of science exhibits, displays and demonstration of social and scientific skills by children. Programs were categorized into Competition and Fun categories. The 12 best performers from four regions competed on displays of "science and technology artifacts and project works" and "onsite challenge". Fun activities included display of an array of open house activities on science and mathematics, 3D shows, a special gallery walk-through and cultural programs.

The events impressed wide range of audiences, which included politicians, general public, teachers and students. The quality and relevance of schools' exhibits, and children's articulate competencies in succinct and convincing justification of their projects, manifested the steady improvement in their performance in the field of science, technology and Mathematics, as well as in general education.



The Prime Minister interacts with students during the exhibition © Royal Education Council

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Bhutan National Commission intends to carry out a critical review and evaluation of existing programs delivered by the Commission. The findings would be used to develop a strategic planning document or reference document for a minimum of 10 years with a view to strengthen the National Commission's work in facilitating and implementing UNESCO program and activities in Bhutan.

# CAMBODGE

## Commission nationale du Cambodge pour l'UNESCO

**Présidente** : Mme PHOEURNG Sackona, Ministre de la Culture et des Beaux-Arts

**Secrétaire générale** : Mme TAN Theany

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

En coopération étroite avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Phnom Penh, le Ministère de l'Éducation s'est engagé pleinement avec ODD4 pour l'Éducation 2030. La formation des enseignants a été axée sur la qualité de l'éducation pour bien préparer les apprenants aux défis du XXI<sup>ème</sup> siècle. Les cours d'alphabétisation pour les jeunes femmes travaillant dans le prêt à porter ont également été renforcés en qualité.

Dans le cadre du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), nous avons fêté le 20<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de l'inclusion du Tonlé Sap dans le Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère.

Le Royaume du Cambodge a obtenu une 2<sup>ème</sup> inscription « les Manuscrits de Panji Tales » dans le Registre international de la Mémoire du Monde en octobre 2017.

Dans le domaine de la culture, le Comité pour la protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé, réuni au Siège de l'UNESCO à Paris du 29 au 30 novembre 2017, a accordé le statut de « protection renforcée » à Angkor, site culturel du patrimoine mondial, au 25<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de son inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Le Cambodge a été réélu membre du Comité pour un 2<sup>ème</sup> mandat de 4 ans, de 2018 à 2021 et en a obtenu la présidence pour l'année 2018. A sa 41<sup>ème</sup> session à Cracovie en juillet 2017, le Comité du Patrimoine mondial a inscrit « la Zone des Temples du site de Sambor Prei Kuk » sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial. Enfin, concernant la Convention de 2003, à la suite de l'inscription « Chapei Dang Veng » sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité, nous avons obtenu un financement pour la mise en œuvre du plan de sauvegarde par le Département de l'Immatériel du Ministère de la Culture et des Beaux-Arts, en vue de la formation de la génération à venir.



L'inauguration de l'exposition par la Présidente de la Commission Nationale  
© Commission Nationale du Cambodge pour l'UNESCO

L'exposition a duré 9 mois au Musée National de Phnom Penh, et au début de décembre 2017, elle a été transférée à la « Maison de la Jeunesse et de la Culture » d'une ONG française de la province de Kampot pour une durée de six mois.

### Une activité réussie

Pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la protection du patrimoine culturel subaquatique, sur financement de la Flandre (Belgique), l'unité de Culture du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Phnom Penh, a coopéré étroitement avec les institutions nationales (Commission, Archives et Musée) pour mettre en place une exposition de photos montrant la participation du Cambodge (étant sous protectorat français) à la première guerre mondiale. Cette exposition est accompagnée d'un film documentaire.

Les anciennes photos et documents dans les musées et archives nous ont permis de réaliser cette exposition sur le Cambodge et la 1<sup>ère</sup> guerre mondiale, qui connaît un grand succès aussi bien dans le public national que dans le public international (les visiteurs du Musée National).

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Au cours du biennium 2018-2019, nous nous concentrons sur le développement durable. Avec le soutien indéfectible du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Phnom Penh dans la recherche du financement et en coopération étroite avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Bangkok, notre Ministère de l'Éducation continue à s'engager dans ODD4 en préparant « Éducation 2030 Feuille de route » et y met l'accent sur la qualité de l'enseignement de la petite enfance, de l'enseignement primaire et secondaire tout en améliorant la qualité des enseignants. La Commission Nationale coordonnera et encouragera la participation des enseignants cambodgiens aux séminaires coorganisés par les autres Commissions nationales (surtout Chinoise et Coréenne) et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Bangkok.

La Présidente de la Commission nationale a décidé de mettre en place un atelier de travail du 5 au 8 février 2018, au siège de l'APSARA à Siem Reap, Cambodge, avec cofinancement du SEAMEO SPAFA et de l'APSARA (autorité nationale gestionnaire du site d'Angkor) ayant pour thème le développement durable et la gestion du tourisme dans les sites archéologiques culturels et naturels.

La Commission soumettra, au titre du Programme de Participation, un projet pour organiser un atelier de 8 à 10 jours en juillet à Angkor / Siem Reap, sur la gestion des sites du Patrimoine mondial, destiné aux jeunes gestionnaires des sites culturels. Nous réunirons une vingtaine de participants venant de la République démocratique populaire lao, de la Thaïlande et du Viet Nam, et ceux venant des trois autorités gestionnaires d'Angkor, de Preah Vihear et de Sambor Prei Kuk. Le thème prévu sera « la Conservation préventive des monuments pour le développement durable, face au tourisme de masse, et la participation des communautés autour des sites ».

# CHINA

## National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Du Yue

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the partnership between China and UNESCO has been further enhanced. On 14 May, H.E. Ms Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of China, signed an MOU on cooperation between China and UNESCO with H.E. Ms Irina Bokova, the visiting Director-General of UNESCO, which laid a solid foundation for the future collaboration of the two sides. On 5 September, China hosted the awarding ceremony of the 2nd UNESCO Prize for

Girls' and Women's Education at Xiamen University in Fujian Province, during the ninth BRICS Summit and the Dialogue of Emerging Market and Developing Countries. Professor Peng Liyuan, wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, together with then Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, awarded the prize to the representatives of the award-winning projects from Thailand, Peru and the winner of

a special mention from South Africa. Wives of the presidents of South Africa, Guinea and Mexico, and the prime minister of Thailand, attended the ceremony.

In 2017, China continued to actively support UNESCO to organize major international events in the fields of education, culture, science, communication and information in China, including International Conference for UNESCO's Associated Schools Network in Hainan on 8-9 April, "One Belt and One Road" Forum on Youth Creation and Heritage in Changsha and Quanzhou respectively on 17-22 April, TVET International Conference 2017 titled "Quality, Innovation and Sustainable Development" in Tianjin on 9 May, International Forum on ICT and Education 2030 in Qingdao on 23 May, Regional Conference on Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific in Shenzhen on 15-16 June, and Dujiangyan International Forum "Ensuring Quality Education and Lifelong Learning through ICT" in Chengdu on 13 July.

In the fields of culture, information and communication, China has been closely cooperating with UNESCO for a fruitful outcome. In 2017, China's Kulangsu historic international settlement in Fujian Province and Hoh Xil in Qinghai Province were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Two documentary heritage items were listed on the International Memory of the World Register, including Chinese Oracle-Bone Inscriptions and the Archives of Suzhou Silk from Modern and Contemporary Times. Four Chinese cities have been selected to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).



UNESCO announces winners for Girls and Women's Education Prize 2017  
© Xinhua News Agency

### A success story

On 5 September 2017, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, the Chinese Government hosted the Award Ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, which has highly enhanced the international influence of this Prize and contributed to the promotion of girls' and women's education in the world.

The laureates of the 2017 edition of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, selected based on the recommendations made by the International Jury of the Prize, were announced by Madam Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO.

The two laureates, the Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities Center in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (DEPDC/GMS) in Thailand and the Mini Academy of Science and Technology (MaCTec) in Peru, received a diploma honoring their outstanding contribution in the field of girls' and women's education and an award of USD 50,000 to support their work. A special mention was also jointly given to South Africa's WomEng programme for empowering girls to pursue STEM subjects through unique pedagogies and mentoring.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission will further its cooperation with UNESCO in 2018. Efforts will be made to enhance the high-level exchange and increased support in co-organizing some major events, including the ceremony and relevant activities of UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, as well as an international forum on the for its 70th anniversary.

The National Commission will continue to organize "One Belt and One Road" Forum on Youth Creation and Heritage, to strengthen cooperation between nations in particular nations along the Belt and Road, carry forward people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations to contribute to the building of a community of shared future for mankind, and jointly help realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, more efforts will be put into promoting the development of UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

The National Commission will further increase the visibility of UNESCO in China and support the partnership between UNESCO and local governments and private sectors in China.

# FIJI

## Fiji National Commission for UNESCO

**Permanent Secretary:** Ms Alison Burchell

**Secretary-General:** Ms Tupou Gavidi

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The Fiji Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts embarked on a project with UNESCO in 2016 titled " " (QPE). Fiji was chosen as the country in the Pacific region to work on the project. It was in 2013 at the World Sports Ministers Conference i.e., MINEPS V, that UNESCO called for and joined forces with the North Western Counties Physical Education Association (NWCPEA) and undertook a Global Survey and Literature Review on the Situation of Physical Education (PE). The Survey portrayed seven areas of concerns, including: persistent gaps between PE policy and implementation; continuing deficiencies in curriculum time allocation; relevance and quality of the PE curriculum; quality of initial teacher training programs; inadequacies in the quality and maintenance of facilities; continued barriers to equal provision and access for all; and inadequate school-community coordination.

Aimed at developing a set of benchmark indicators on QPE which could be framed as core aspects and be adopted and adapted for implementation, the QPE policy journey started.

The QPE National Team for the project was appointed made up of the National Expert Coordinator contracted by UNESCO, the Secretary-General of the National Commission, the incumbents from the Curriculum Advisory and Corporate Services with the expertise on PE policy and the Youth Olympian Ambassador in swimming. With the QPE National Team as the working group team, two working committees also were established, namely the QPE Steering Committee made up of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries and the Technical Working Group Committee which is made up of different professional figures like the Heads of Departments for PE in schools. To commence with the project, a draft on PE policy for the Ministry of Education was used to gauge the status of Physical Education taught in the schools in Fiji. From the PE policy a review was drafted and this was used to conduct a nationwide consultation in the four divisions, North, Eastern (for schools in Levuka), Central and the West for the nine Education Districts, Central, Rakiraki, Ba/Tavua, Lautoka/Nadi/Yasawa, Nadroga/Navosa, Bua/Macuata, Cakaurove, Eastern and Nausori schools. A separate questionnaire for primary students, secondary students, teachers and early childhood education students and special education students and teachers was distributed to the school districts around the nation. In total, about 3,000 questionnaires were distributed and 2,712 were received back completed.

From the number of returned questionnaires, the National QPE Team had presumed that the QPE project was going to be a success. The Project was fully funded by the Ministry and UNESCO allowed for the National Expert Coordinator as a contract consultant to assist the Team from the Ministry in driving the project forward.

### A success story

To raise awareness on the QPE policy project, it was important to hold a training particularly with Physical Education teachers, special and minority groups, teacher's colleges, universities, Ministry of Youth and Sports and sporting bodies. The Technical Working Group consultation workshop was conducted on 28 June 2017. Physical Education in secondary schools was viewed as not an important subject owing to the low qualified and certified PE teachers in the country to teach PE lessons from early childhood to primary and secondary education and to special and inclusive education. This training discussed PE policy and possible improvements that could be made. This was a relevant exercise as it set the stepping stone to the National QPE Team on what other consultative methods should be used to improve the Draft QPE Policy.



The National QPE Team at work © Fiji National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission has interest to co-organize an activity with sub-regional and Asia-Pacific countries on the pretext of funding possibility available. Specific areas that need capacity building include: data training, monitoring and evaluation training, specialized curriculum development in all areas of science, culture and education with designing learning and teaching materials for primary and secondary, digital literacy and all components of digitalized technology with cyber policing as well as training on Technical and Vocation Education.

# INDONESIA

## Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Muhadjir Effendy

**Secretary-General:** Mr Arief Rachman

**Website:** <http://kniu.kemdikbud.go.id/>

### Update of activities in 2017

On 11 December 2017, the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO organized a Meeting of its Members, with participation of representatives of relevant Ministries, institutions and key partners in all UNESCO's fields of competence as well as the Director and Staff of UNESCO Jakarta Office, to share the progress and achievements of UNESCO programmes for 2017 and plans for 2018.

At the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Indonesia was elected as a member of UNESCO Executive Board for the period of 2017-2021. Through this forum, Indonesia will continue to support UNESCO ideals to achieve world peace through the leadership of the new UNESCO Director-General, Madam Audrey Azoulay.

The 2017 World Press Freedom Day with the theme "Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies" was held in Jakarta Convention

Center on 1-4 May 2017. At the opening ceremony on 3 May, the Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, underlined the importance to protect press freedom in the face of dangers posed by the spread of misinformation, extremism and hatred. Then Director-General of UNESCO, Madam Irina Bokova, stressed the need for journalists to maintain independence and objectivity in their work by pointing out a significant danger of media houses becoming partisan and biased. At the closing ceremony, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr Joko Widodo, participated in awarding the UNESCO Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2017 to Mr Dawit Isaak, an Eritrean-Swedish journalist imprisoned since 2001.

Under the Management of Social Transformations programme, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) participated in a workshop on Sustainability Sciences Linking Social Action and Policy Making organized by UNESCO Jakarta Office in Padang on 1-2 February 2017.

ASPnet Indonesia has focused its efforts on a whole school approach (WSA) to climate change and throughout 2017 has been actively involved in JFIT project, initiated by UNESCO ASPnet International Coordinator. In 2018, Indonesia will continue by expanding this WSA to climate change activity to other schools that are potential members of UNESCO ASPnet.

The National Coordinator of ASPnet Indonesia was invited by the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO to be one of the resource persons at ASPnet Conference held in Hanoi on 13-16 December 2017.

### A success story

In the framework of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO organized, in cooperation with and supported by APCEIU, a Training Workshop on GCED at Atlet Century Park Hotel in Jakarta on 22- 24 November 2017. This training workshop, attended by ASPnet teachers and teacher trainers from the Ministry of Education and Culture, was aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of GCED and its implementation at school level. In 2018, the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with APCEIU, plans to have a National Workshop on GCED in order to provide capacity-building for more schools to implement GCED.



A lecture by Ms Yangsook Lee on GCED © Indonesian Natcom for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Indonesia will organize the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Man and the Biosphere Programme International Coordinating Council on 23-27 July 2018.

# IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

## Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Mansour Gholami

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

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

## Update of activities in 2017

During this period, the Education Department of the National Commission organized several events, including the National Conference on Promoting Quality and Improving Learning Outcomes in the Iranian Educational System on 20 December 2017 and the Expert meeting on Citizen Participation in Achieving Inclusive, Quality and Continuous Education" on 29 April 2017. In the framework of the Global Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI), a two-day workshop was held on 28-29 August 2017, in cooperation with UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office and UNICEF.

In the field of Natural Sciences, the nomination dossier was prepared for the inscription of the Hyrcanian Forests on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The principles governing virtual water, practical strategies of virtual water at national level, food security and the negative effects of population growth and climate change were discussed at the first International Conference of Virtual Water, held in Iran on 29-30 April 2017.

The Social and Human Sciences Department of the National Commission organized a ceremony on the occasion of the International Youth Day in cooperation with UTCO. The international seminar was conducted on 7 December 2017 on the theme "New Research Achievements in Sports available for the persons with disabilities".

In the field of culture, several events on promoting a reading culture in more than one hundred villages and cities were organized. The Jundi-Shapur University hosted the national conference dedicated to the 1750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the University.

As far as Communication and Information area was concerned, UNESCO Chair on communication and Information was established at Allameh Tabatabaee University. The regional meeting on strengthening the cooperation for preservation of and access to documentary heritage was held on 29-30 August 2017.



Ms Irmgard Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, programme specialist of UNESCO at the "Consultative meeting on the Development of a Draft National Policy to introduce ICT accessibility for Persons with Disabilities", 24-25 January 2017, Tehran  
© Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

On 24-25 January 2017, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with UTCO, organized the "Consultative meeting on the Development of a Draft National Policy to introduce ICT accessibility for Persons with Disabilities". The meeting was attended by Ms Irmgard Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, the programme specialist of the Knowledge Societies Division at the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO.

Ms Kasinskaite-Buddeberg introduced UNESCO Model Policy on Inclusive ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities. She explained different levels of the educational systems that influence the educational experiences of learners with disability (learner level, organization level, system level). She explained that the development and implementation of UNESCO Model Policy is underpinned by two criteria: provision of inclusive ICTs for learners with disabilities should be aligned with macro policies of inclusive education, and strategies of inclusive ICTs should be applied to educational opportunities of lifelong learning. One of the panels of the meeting was devoted to the plans and measures undertaken in Iran by other organizations. A working group was also established for the development of a national policy through such measures as implementation of research projects by taking into account international standards and UNESCO programmes, identification of challenges and opportunities of learning for persons with disabilities as well as coordination of cooperation among the relevant national organizations.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Considering the national plans of the country, a number of projects for improving capacity-building practices at national level are envisaged in such fields as empowerment of persons with disabilities, enhancing educational skills and entrepreneurship, raising awareness about the concept of lifelong learning for teacher training instructors, developing strategies for preserving tangible cultural heritage through learning processes of formal and informal education systems, citizenship education to enhance preservation of cultural heritage as well as empowerment of women and improving social health.

Future projects at regional level will include an expert regional meeting for identification and exchange of documents in the field of documentary heritage, an international conference on the occasion of the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the active life of Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi, an international conference on the occasion of the 1750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the University of Jundi-Shapur as well as an expert international meeting on Geoparks in Qeshm, to be jointly organized with UNESCO, the Qeshm Free Zone and the Iranian National Committee for IGGP. There are prospects for cooperation with EuroMAB and the German National MAB Committee on knowledge transfer in the areas of ecological and biological management and green economy on biosphere reserves. Opportunities will be explored for collaborative working with neighbouring countries on nominating transboundary biosphere reserves. There is also an initiative to propose and submit a regional prize on renewable energies, jointly with the UNESCO Chair in Clean and Renewable Energies and UNESCO.

# JAPAN

## Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU)

**President:** Mr Yuichiro Anzai

**Secretary-General:** Mr Kazuaki Kawabata

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is made up of 60 distinct members representing educational and research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, local UNESCO associations, government officials and others. Through subcommittees in various fields and general assembly, which meets twice a year, the Commission is working to disseminate and promote UNESCO-related activities both in Japan and abroad.

In the education field, JNCU has worked to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and formulated Japan's Implementation Plan for the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP). In 2017, in response to the adoption of the SDGs, JNCU issued message targeting educators to provide suggestions for the further promotion of ESD. In Japan, the number of ASPnet schools which the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and JNCU

place as hubs to promote ESD exceeds 1000, and the number of people attending an annual national conference of ASPnet, now in its 9th year, has increased year by year. In addition, efforts on promoting ESD are being conducted not only inside schools, but also at the local area communities. These various stakeholders form a consortium and support organizations that conduct diverse and effective practices. In the field of higher education, 2017 saw Japan's deposit of an instrument of accession to the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education. Also, 4 universities were newly approved by UNESCO for the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme (official establishment is currently in progress). Further efforts will be expected in the future by utilizing UNESCO's network for each Chair.

In the field of science, two sites recommended by Japan, Sobo, Katamuki and Okue as well as Minakami, were approved as biosphere reserves at the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme held in June 2017. In addition, supported by Japan, UNESCO published "Guidelines on Sustainability Science in Research and Education" aimed at helping Member States reinforce a sustainability science approach within their sustainable development strategies.

Furthermore, JNCU is actively working towards achieving SDGs by participating in the international conferences of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).



Panel discussion at the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the UNESCO Movement, held in Sendai, Miyagi.

© Sendai UNESCO Association

### A success story

Japan was the first country in the world where a private, non-governmental UNESCO movement was formed. Today, there are around 200 UNESCO Associations throughout the country organized under the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUJ) and actively engaged in UNESCO-related activities.

2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the formation of the non-governmental UNESCO activities in Japan. To commemorate this milestone, the 73<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the UNESCO Movement was held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, the birthplace of the movement. At the National Conference, not only JNCU members and secretariat but also local high school students attended and presented their activities. In addition, Mr Rajendra Pachauri, former Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPC), delivered a speech at the Conference, and a number of participants gathered to hear him speak.

Since local UNESCO associations are fostered through the collaboration with JNCU, the National Commission will continue to work cooperatively and in close partnership with them to support UNESCO-related activities at the grassroots level.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Through contributions to UNESCO by Japanese Funds-in-Trust, and through subsidizing projects promoting UNESCO's fields of competence, the Japanese government will continue to support the development of domestic and international UNESCO activities both in and outside of Japan.

Following the formulation of SDGs, JNCU is seeking to reorganize the way of supporting UNESCO activities. More specifically, JNCU will encourage the activities which have shown a clear contribution to achieving SDGs targets.

In particular, JNCU seeks to support projects in the area of education, science, culture or inter-sectoral competence that contribute to the attainment of SDGs through funds-in-trust to the regional UNESCO offices.

JNCU also prioritizes projects that will contribute to achieving SDGs by bringing domestic universities and private organizations and foreign countries together to work in close cooperation.

Through the ESD Consortium programme, JNCU aims to encourage people to promote a more sustainable society in the local communities.

With these goals in mind, JNCU actively seeks to contribute to UNESCO-related projects in both Japan and abroad to fully realize UNESCO's ideal "that it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed".

# KAZAKHSTAN

## National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO

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

**Secretary-General:** Mrs Dinara Izanova

**Website:** [www.natcom.kz](http://www.natcom.kz)

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, Kazakhstan celebrated the 25th anniversary of joining UNESCO and founding of the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO. The National Commission has successfully achieved its mandate by executing numerous activities in line with UNESCO's priorities as well as participating in the sessions of UNESCO's governing bodies and other key events.

An Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) initiated by Kazakhstan has resulted in the designation of the International Centre for the Rapprochement of Cultures in Almaty as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

Other achievements of the year include the recognition of "Karatau" and "Altyn Emel" National Parks as well as "Great Altay" transboundary nomination (with Russia) as

part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. These nominations were a result of joint coordinated efforts by Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committee for the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) under Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO. The designation of these sites is an important step to ensure not only the protection of their unique value but also the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 13 and 15.

In October 2017, Kazakhstan presented the National Programme "Course towards the Future: Modernization of the Public Consciousness" at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. As part of the event, a thematic scientific conference, exhibition and gala concert were held to showcase Kazakhstan's cultural and scientific achievements.

In December 2017, Kazakhstan's national nomination "Traditional Kazakh Assyk Games" has been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.

Moreover, the National Committee for Education aimed at achieving SDG4 by 2030 and the National Committee for the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme have been established under the supervision of the National Commission, thus bringing the number of its programme committees to nine.

Overall, in 2017 Kazakhstan National Commission has demonstrated its continuing commitment to further enhancing UNESCO's activities and visibility at national, regional and global levels.



Karatau © National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO

got support from Kazakhstan National Geographic Society, thus representing successful examples of initiating multilateral partnerships to strengthen the network for MAB activities and biosphere reserves projects at the national level.

### A success story

The inclusion of "Altyn Emel" and "Karatau" National Parks to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves has been a major accomplishment of the past year entailing close coordination and collaboration with National Commissions at regional and subregional levels. Additionally, numerous site visits were conducted to evaluate the unique value of their flora and fauna.

The combination of rich biological and natural diversity, cultural heritage and geological features make Altyn Emel unique and one of the largest parks in Kazakhstan with mammalian fauna that includes at least 70 species. The reserve is currently home to 42 rare species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and dozens of rare invertebrate animal species.

Karatau National Park also gained the status of UNESCO biosphere reserve in July 2017. It is important to note that both of these nominations

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Guided by its Plan of Action for 2018, Kazakhstan National Commission plans to co-organize regional and interregional activities related to UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence. In particular, activities are planned in the area of ICH (preparation of joint nomination) and MAB Programme (hosting interregional event). The National Commission remains strongly committed to contribute to capacity building, strengthening relationships and partnership networks between Kazakhstan and UNESCO. It recognizes that facilitation and strengthening of UNESCO Secretariat with Field Offices as a whole will result in a well-coordinated effective work of National Commissions as a network. This kind of coordination has the potential to yield not only new projects and activities, but also new partnerships and alliances. Therefore, Kazakhstan National Commission reaffirms its commitment and support to UNESCO and its initiatives.

# KYRGYZSTAN

## National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Sapar Isakov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Secretary-General:** Ms Sabira Soltongeldieva

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO organized and implemented several activities in line with UNESCO's priorities, in cooperation with government and nongovernmental organizations, national cultural and educational foundations.

The National Commission supported the 5<sup>th</sup> Educational Festival held in Bishkek in April 2017. The Festival is a large educational event, which combines the format of an educational service fair and a professional forum in the field of pre-school, out-of-school, school, vocational and higher education. The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Festival "Healthy lifestyle" was aimed to advocate for a healthy lifestyle among the youth and senior citizens of Kyrgyzstan as well as to promote ecological education of the younger generation.

In cooperation with the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP), the National Commission organized Subregional training workshop for facilitators in Central Asia. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacities for effective intangible cultural heritage (ICH) safeguarding in Central Asia, and to develop trainers with capability to interpret the Convention and safeguarding planning in their own language within the region.

On 1 November, the International Conference "Community mass media in Kyrgyzstan and their role in the development of the society" was organized by the Association of Community Mass Media of Kyrgyzstan and Deutsche Welle Akademie. The main objectives of the Conference were to share experience at both national and international level and to learn new strategies for fundraising activities.

In 2017, the Association of Clubs for UNESCO in Kyrgyzstan became a member of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations. Currently, there are 14 Clubs for UNESCO in Kyrgyzstan situated in all seven regions of the country.

On 14 November, during the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, the Kyrgyz Republic was elected a member of the World Heritage Committee amongst 12 newly elected members.



ICH Film Festival and Photo exhibition in July 2017, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
© National Commission of the KR for UNESCO

During the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH, the Central Asia Video and Photo Exhibition was presented as the result of a long-term successful and cooperative partnership between Central Asia National Commissions and ICHCAP.

### A success story

In July 2017, the National Commission in cooperation with the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) organized Central Asia ICH Film Festival and Photo Exhibition. The Festival and Exhibition raised the visibility of ICH among the public and provided an opportunity for visitors to be more acquainted with ICH of Central Asia and Mongolia.

The ICH Film Festival and Photo Exhibition allowed participating states to share the outcomes of the second three-year cooperative project on ICH video documentation and assess their potential as broadcast content and educational/research materials. It was agreed to use the materials for further raising the visibility of ICH.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

From 2014, Kyrgyzstan holds the World Nomad Games every 2 years on the shores of Lake Issy-Kul, celebrating the great traditions of nomadic people across the world. Traditional games and sports reflect cultural diversity, foster mutual understanding and tolerance among communities and nations. The main goal of the Games is to revive and preserve the historical cultural heritage of the nomadic people, which aligns with UNESCO's activities in safeguarding and promoting ICH.

The III World Nomad Games will be held in September 2018 to raise awareness of traditional nomadic games and sports globally. Representatives from 120 countries are expected to take part in the Games. In this regard, the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic has the pleasure to invite all National Commissions for UNESCO and other interested stakeholders to visit the Games.

# LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

## Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU)

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

**Secretary-General:** Mr Somboun Masouvanh

**Website:** [www.lncu.gov.la](http://www.lncu.gov.la)

## Update of activities in 2017

Lao National Commission for UNESCO implemented significant activities throughout the year, including the Annual Meeting of National Commission and Sub-Commission for UNESCO (GOL Funding Source), the Training Workshop on Global Citizenship Education for the Principals and Teachers from 33 ASPnet Schools in Lao PDR (UNESCO Paris Funding Source), the Annual National Meeting of UNESCO ASPnet Schools (GOL Funding Source) as well as Monitoring and Evaluation of their performance and good practices (GOL Funding Source). A delegation of Lao officials participated in the International ASPnet Training of Trainers on the Whole-Institution Approach

to Climate Change in Rabat, Morocco, and then organized the Training Workshop on the Whole-Institution Approach for Principals and Teachers from 10 ASPnet Schools in Laos (Japanese Funds-In-Trust Funding Source). LNCU joined UNESCO Bangkok in organizing the National Launch of the 2016 GEM Report (UNESCO BKK Funding Source) and participated in several events organized by the Office such as the Capacity Development Training for Designing Innovative Education Projects for Out-of-School Children and the Workshop for Officials of Asian National Commissions for UNESCO. In cooperation with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO Team for the Craft Design for Sustainable Development Programme, the Training Workshop on Modern Ceramic Production for Sustainable Development 2017 was conducted for local pottery artisans, teachers and students of Luang Prabang Arts College in Ban Chan Village, Chomphet District, Luang Prabang Province (KNCU Funding Source). LNCU joined the Department of Heritage and other stakeholders concerned in the process of nomination for World Heritage of the Megalithic Jars Site in Xiengkhouang – Plain of Jars, Lao PDR. The National Commission was represented at the 2017 UNESCO-UNITWIN Network Establishment Workshop in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Capacity-Building Workshop on Global Citizenship Education in Seoul and Tongyeong, Republic of Korea, the Third International Conference on Learning Cities “Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all by 2030” in Cork, Ireland, as well as the 39<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference in Paris, France.

## A success story

Global Citizenship Education (GCED) is a crucial issue included in target 7 of SDG4 which aims to be transformative and build the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that will enable learners to contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful world. It applies a lifelong learning perspective, beginning from early childhood and continuing through all levels of education and into adulthood.

However, GCED is a relatively new term for most of the Lao people, including education administrators and teachers to train Lao children to be global citizens. Therefore, LNCU organized the Training Workshop to promote GCED concept and raise awareness amongst principals and teachers from 33 UNESCO ASPnet Schools in 5 Provinces of Lao PDR so that they can further disseminate and implement this program at schools and communities.



Lao National Commission for UNESCO organized the Training Workshop to promote GCED concept and raise awareness for principals and teachers from 33 UNESCO ASPnet Schools © Lao National Commission for UNESCO

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Since 2016, LNCU has disseminated the concepts of SDGs and GCED to the Ministry of Education and Sports, UNESCO ASPnet Schools and Provincial Education and Sports Services in Lao PDR. The practice of dissemination of these concepts and activities to educational institutions and other sectors shall be continued.

LNCU plans to join in with Mass Media Department and other media channels to do a campaign for raising public awareness about SDGs and GCED to gradually change the minds of people in a society.

# MALAYSIA

## Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)

**President:** Mr Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Minister of Education Malaysia

**Secretary-General:** Mr Mohd Khairul Adib bin Abd Rahman (February 2014-July 2017), Mr Anesee Ibrahim (July 2017-December 2017)

### Update of activities in 2017

The Malaysian Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development as the Permanent Sub-Committee of Social Science for the MNCU organized the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum of Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 22 to 23 March 2017. Under the theme "Building Inclusive Societies in Asia-Pacific", the forum acted as a platform for sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience in developing and implementing policies.

On 25 April 2017, The Vice-President of MNCU, representing the Government of Malaysia signed a supplementary

agreement with UNESCO for the no-cost extension of the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP). This supplementary agreement ensures the implementation of the programme until June 2019.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Technical Capacity Development Workshop on Effective Planning of Education Sector was held from 24 to 28 July 2017. It was co-organized by UNESCO Bangkok Office with Yayasan Hasanah and Permanent Sub-Committee of Education for the MNCU. This project aimed to build capacity among participants to complement the national education development plans with the Global Education 2030 Agenda for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) among member-countries. The regional workshop was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia.

Malaysia celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> Hari UNESCO Malaysia (Malaysia UNESCO Day) from 9 to 10 September 2017 in Kudasang, Sabah. Under the theme "Harmony with Nature", MNCU co-organized the celebration with Sabah Parks, an institution tasked with caretaking Kinabalu Park, Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was officiated by the President of MNCU in the presence of the Minister of Sabah Tourism, Culture and Environment as well as the Director of UNESCO Jakarta Office.

### A success story

Hari UNESCO Malaysia (Malaysia UNESCO Day) has long been celebrated since 2011, following the decision made at MNCU's 36<sup>th</sup> General Meeting in April 2011.

There are six main objectives of Hari UNESCO Malaysia, among which are to serve as a platform to promote Malaysia's achievements at the UNESCO level; to bring awareness to institutions and public about MNCU's role and function; to demonstrate Malaysia's tangible and intangible culture to the public; to build rapport and networking between MNCU, institutions and public; to promote and encourage Malaysian participation and involvement in UNESCO's programmes and activities; and to promote MNCU's visibility.

Since 2011, Hari UNESCO Malaysia has been celebrated in seven locations throughout Malaysia. The 7<sup>th</sup> Hari UNESCO Malaysia that was held in September 2017, commemorated the 17<sup>th</sup> year of inscription of Kinabalu Park as Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage site.

The celebration consisted of awareness programmes and campaigns on the relationship between Man and Nature. Programmes were carried out to incite the public interest in Mount Kinabalu, as well as to highlight various efforts of agencies and public organizations towards conservation of Mount Kinabalu, while maintaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Crowds visiting the booths during Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2017 © Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

MNCU has interest in collaborating with other National Commissions across the globe, particularly on the aspects of cultural (heritage site management) and intangible cultural heritage (inventory making), ASPnet as well as the establishment of UNESCO Learning Cities. The National Commission is keen to be involved and participate in any platform to share and exchange best practices and experience.

# MALDIVES

## Maldives National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Aishath Shiham, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Aminath Namza

### Update of activities in 2017

The Maldives National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO, being a part of the Ministry of Education, is mostly invested in the work being done by the Ministry of Education, towards ensuring quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning.

Two years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Maldives is well on track in achieving the targets of SDG4 to “ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning”. The national education policies and sector plans are in full alignment with the SDG4 on quality education and the country is on the right path to achieving all targets far ahead of 2030.

The overarching education policy of the current government “No Child Left Behind” reaffirms its commitment to ensuring inclusive quality learning opportunities to cater for the needs of every child in reaching their full potential. As such, all children are now guaranteed 14 years of free education starting at the age

of 4 in pre-primary education till they complete higher secondary education at the age of 18 or 19, which includes a 10-year compulsory cycle from grades 1 to 10.

In cooperation with the Department of Heritage, the International Experts Workshop on “Coral Stone Mosques in the Maldives - Defining its Outstanding Universal Value” was held on 8-13 January 2017. The workshop resulted in imperative findings supported by both international and local experts. It also helped identify key areas of research that needs to be completed for the dossier to be finalized and presented to UNESCO. Research and monitoring of the six mosques were ongoing throughout the year with the updating and sharing of information with international experts who participated in the workshop. A follow-up workshop was held for local experts in November 2017.

On 13 June 2012, the Government of Maldives established and opened the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office under the Ministry of Environment and Energy in the capital of Baa Atoll, Eydhafushi. The outcome of this designation was a high-level political interest to roll out such conservation and sustainable development measures throughout the Maldives. The Maldives Biosphere Reserve work was kicked off with a National Conference followed by the adoption of the *National Biosphere Reserve Implementation Plan*. Much work is being done on communication and outreach to complete a stakeholder and community engagement component. However, as it was not possible to meet the 2017 deadline, it was decided to *delay the submission of the application to September 2018*. Hence, work for finalizing the application is ongoing.



The establishment of MEMIS to prioritize the need to address education priorities and challenges through evidence-based decisions, would pave the way for providing quality education for all and catering for the needs of every individual student, because every child counts. © Ministry of Education of the Maldives/Maldives National Commission of UNESCO and ISESCO

### A success story

OpenEMIS or the EMIS platform is a global initiative launched by UNESCO with the aim of providing support to countries in the area of education system planning and management through the availability of timely, accurate and quality sub-national data for evidence-based decision-making, leading to better education outcomes.

MEMIS, Maldives Education Management Information System, was launched on 16 July 2017. Its establishment has enabled the Maldives Ministry of Education to account for every child and every student real time through a single portal.

The OpenEMIS initiative was coordinated with UNESCO and a strong technical support team was equipped to assist the Maldives with all aspects of country implementation, including customization, integration, migration, installation, configuration and upgrades.

MEMIS is now a Local Web Application that has been customized and configured to meet the requirements, context, culture and practice of the Maldives. MEMIS would be a significant tool utilized by the education sector to assess, implement and monitor the education system to ensure that it is on track to meet the national and international targets and goals pertinent to education.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

While the Maldives is clearly on the right track to achieving the SDG4 (quality education goal), the challenges that it faces remain imminent through its journey towards 2030. A large number of widely dispersed, small island population greatly increases the cost of providing educational services.

While the country has a high literacy rate and universal primary and secondary education, there is an acute shortage of qualified workforce in all areas. Hence, the Maldives would continue to require international cooperation and support in sustainably maintaining the current status quo of progressive educational achievements to attain the SDG4 targets.

# MONGOLIA

## Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Tsogtbaatar Damdin,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar

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

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 was a very productive year for the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, as it marked the 55th anniversary of Mongolia joining the UNESCO, and the one-year anniversary since the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Government of Mongolia and UNESCO (2016-2021) was signed and ratified. The most significant event of the year was the inscription of the Mongolian Traditional Practices of Worshipping the Sacred Sites on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as well as of the multinational nomination by Mongolia and the Russian Federation "Landscapes of Dauria" on the World Heritage List.

In 2017, the Mongolian National Commission successfully implemented numerous activities in all fields of UNESCO's competence. The following achievements in each field can be highlighted.

In the field of education, two national consultations on "The Localization of the SDG4 – Education 2030 Agenda" and

"UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of the Qualification in Higher Education and the National Qualification Frameworks" were organized with the support of relevant organizations following the national capacity-building workshop on education statistics. The National Commission translated and launched the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report.

In cooperation with national and international organizations, it organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on the stabilization of the archeological tomb of Shoroon Bumbagar and the "Capacity Building Workshop: On the Role of Media for Implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage".

In the field of natural science, the Mongolian National Commission translated the Oslo manual, the standard practice guidelines for collecting and reporting data including the OECD Fourth Community Innovation Survey questionnaire, methodological recommendations and the UNESCO IHP 8th Phase Strategic Plan from English to Mongolian and published them along with a detailed analytical report based on the innovation survey.

In the course of the year, four projects were successfully implemented within the framework of UNESCO's Participation Programme 2016-2017 and the national conferences on bioethics, safe school campaign, gender-based violence, youth employment and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities were organized in the field of social and human sciences. Furthermore, the National Commission organized the third "Model UNESCO Mongolia" conference in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office and UNYAP.



"IPDCtalks: Mongolia" forum on 28 September 2017

© Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

IPDCtalks Mongolia gathered over 90 participants, including representatives from various ministries and embassies in Ulaanbaatar, civil society and journalists. It is also important to note that the forum was broadcast live and live streamed.

### A success story

On the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to Information, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO successfully launched the "IPDCtalks Mongolia" forum for the first time on 28 September. The forum was organized in collaboration with the Globe International Center NGO with support from the UNESCO Beijing Office and UNESCO's IPDC program.

The purpose of this forum was to raise public awareness of the media's important role in monitoring progress towards the SDGs and in holding governmental organizations accountable for their actions as well as to support the initiatives of developing countries on promoting media and access to information.

Following the opening remarks made by UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms Beate Trankmann, Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission, Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar, Senior Statistician of the National Statistical Office, Ms Oyunjargal Mangalsuren, and 30 representatives of media and civil society organizations gave speeches on how to successfully overcome the obstacles to achieving the SDGs by engaging the public.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO is planning to co-organize the following activities in 2018:

- A regional "Model UNESCO" conference in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office, aimed to empower and inspire the youth in the region by providing them with an opportunity to learn about diplomacy, possible ways to solve global issues and the current agenda of UNESCO and its Member States;
- A subregional meeting for Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in North East Asia to be hosted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in collaboration with ICHCAP and UNESCO Beijing Office; and
- An international scientific conference "Studying Jangar (Mongolian epic)" to be held on 11-12 May in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in collaboration with the Studying Jangar NGO Specialists, bearers of ICH and scholars from Russia, China, Japan, German, Hungary and Korea.

# NAURU

## Nauru National Commission for UNESCO

**Chair:** Mr Charmaine Scotty, Minister for Education

**Secretary-General:** Ms Jerielyn Teleni

### Update of activities in 2017

Observances of special UNESCO days have been many.

The Education sector and school students with teachers and community stakeholders celebrated the following special days: World Book and Copyright Day (23 April), World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May), International Literacy Day (8 September), World Teachers' Day (5 October) and International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). Concurrently, there was a hive of activities targeted towards the Re-Entry Programme (through woodworking activities) at the Primary Level. Furthermore, an Anti-bullying programme under the Participation Programme 2016-2017 was implemented.

The Associated Schools Project Network needs to be strengthened by further improving communications between

head office and national office to see more effective realisation of projects through this network.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (Culture, Language, Community Affairs, Youth, Women) celebrated the World Indigenous Language day with competitions in song writing, poetry writing and authoring in the local vernacular. Other observances which were practically performed included International Mother Language Day (21 February), World Poetry Day (21 March), International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), International Women's Day (8 March) and International Youth Day (12 August). Most of the activities involved school students and participation from community members.

At the same time, the Department of Youth Affairs under the umbrella of Home Affairs carried out the Working with Wood Project under the Participation Programme 2016-2017.

The training and upgrading of local staff enabled them to build and share their knowledge of global issues especially in education and development during the activities of National Commissions, WHITRAP training, APMED consultations and others.

The Sector for Natural Sciences focused on constructing and working on the Weather Substation Project for schools.

The National Commission thanks its regional partners for their continued support and collaboration in ensuring awareness of the latest developments and contributing towards resolving issues.



Re-Entry project at Nauru College © Nauru College, 2017

### A success story

The Re-Entry Pilot programme "Working with Wood" was implemented over a 3-month period at Nauru College which caters for students aged 12-14 years. The skills in woodworking and technical drawing were theoretically taught at the basic level to enable students to complete the practical components of the project.

Target students were those who were seen as high-risk students as they were chronic absentees and drop outs. The programme aimed to invite students back to school and to improve school attendance by developing appropriate attitudes and skills in solving practical problems as well as gaining experience in a work-related area that can steer students toward their future career and develop understanding of designing practical projects.

The practical outcomes of the project were seen in the coffee tables, packing boxes, tea trays, and coconut scrapers.

The participation of girls in this male stereotyped area was encouraging and one comment from one female student (E. Jeremiah) while sanding her coffee table was, "Why? You don't believe that girls too can also do the men's job?"

The students obtained skills in handling and using hand tools such as a hammer, saw, paintbrush and varnish, sanding, using electrical rota for cut joints and edges of the coffee tables; joining and nailing ply board pieces to make or complete the products and selling them at the market day held by the school.

Acknowledgements are due to UNESCO for the approval and funding of this project designed to enhance learning capacities of students in Nauru. Furthermore, thanks are given to the trainers, Mr Tanimana and Mr Itaita for sharing their expertise as well as to the school heads, parents and transport sector for free services and of course to the students. Without them, the project could not have eventuated.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission has plans to build technical capacity in young people in areas of Documentary and Audio/Video Archiving, Librarian training and Museum Curatorship in the coming biennium that will involve the Departments of Culture, Communications, Education, Language and Youth Development.

These plans would see the dispatching of young officers to regional organisations for capacity building and upskilling. These upskilling opportunities should not only be practical but should encompass some academic recognition and accreditation. Financial support will be sought to see these endeavours succeed.

# NEPAL

## Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NNCU)

**Chairperson:** Mr Gopal Man Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Madhu Prasad Regmi

**Website:** <http://www.nncu.org.np/>

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, NNCU implemented seven projects under UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017 through various organizations. These activities focused on Education for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), Quality Education and Girls' Enrolment, Capacity Building of Local Media People, Food Security, Promotion and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Career Counseling and Motivation for Youth.

NNCU was heavily engaged in various activities, mainly on sharing good practices to ensure sustainable development and empowerment of education system for implementing SDG4, providing orientation about innovation of UNESCO and capacity building especially at local level, supporting celebration of UNESCO and UN days, promoting local

initiatives on climate change and Global Citizenship Education as well as organizing the General conference of the National Commission and its participation in the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Committees of NNCU were involved in creative activities of Education, Natural Science, Culture, Mass Media, Social Science, Man and Biosphere and International Hydrological Programmes of UNESCO.

NNCU published a trimester bulletin, conducted a study on contemporary issues and activities related to the priorities of UNESCO and the Government of Nepal. Furthermore, the Government of Nepal, UNESCO Paris, UNESCO Kathmandu, UNESCO Bangkok, Korean National Commission for UNESCO, Japan National Commission for UNESCO, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO and International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under auspices of UNESCO provided guidance, financial and technical support to the schools destroyed by earthquake. As a result, NNCU was successful in capacity building, awareness raising, advocacy, action orientation, transformation, integration and innovation especially for the implementation of SDG4, Education for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship Education and Climate Change Actions. It was also instrumental in enhancing the visibility of UNESCO at local level, preservation of cultural heritage and reducing impunity and conflict.



Rita Mahato with her mother © Nepal National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

One of NNCU's projects implemented under UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017 was "Social Transformation in Rautahat through Girls Education", aimed to enrol out-of-school girls by supporting, encouraging and motivating them to continue education. Parents of out-of-school girls of a low economic status were counselled and supported for income generation activities as opportunity costs for enrolling school-age girls at school. As the result of the project 320 school-age girls, not enrolled or dropouts, were enrolled at school. They expressed their intention to continue their study at least up to grade 12.

Rita Mahato, a 14 year-old girl, is one of them. She is the 5<sup>th</sup> child out of six siblings. Her mother forced her to leave school education after the death of her father and involved her in income generating activities. Activists of the project found out the reason of Rita's dropout from school and motivated her mother through counseling to reenroll her at school. Now Rita is studying at Secondary School. She is keenly interested in continuing her education.

## Future Priorities and Possibilities for Joint Work

As known, the consequences of global warming have been adversely affecting the mountain regions. Melting of ice in the Himalayas may cause Glacial Lake Outburst Flood resulting in widespread damage to the biodiversity of not only Nepal but also of the entire South Asian Region. This issue thus demands urgent action through the programmes where UNESCO can play a pivotal role such as Man and the Biosphere, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and sustainable use of natural resources. The IHP-Nepal, in coordination with UNESCO IHP and other related agencies in Nepal, is aiming at participating in river basin planning and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) training as a part of IHP VIII "Water education". Furthermore, the IHP-Nepal intends to establish a UNESCO category II "Knowledge Centre on Water Resources and Climate Changes Adaptation" in Nepal with the support of UNESCO. Since the rivers play an important role in the livelihood of humankind, UNESCO is urged to take an initiation for a dedicated inter-sectoral program to link "life and rivers" and the implementation of water programs as a separate Main Line of Actions.

NNCU has given priority to effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, Global Citizenship Education, Education for Sustainable Development, and Climate Change Education. NNCU is planning to co-work and support the Government of Nepal as well as regional and local level stakeholders. In this context, financial and technical support is required from international partners for capacity building, awareness raising, advocacy, action orientation, experience sharing and building sustainable network. The NNCU's specific plan (or interest) is to co-organize a regional/interregional IHP activity under Participation Programme 2018-2019 as well as to invite international collaboration in the above mentioned areas.

# 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 2017

One of the National Commission's key areas of focus has been Global Citizenship Education (GCED). Specific investment in this area includes sending key representatives to the Third UNESCO Forum on GCED in Canada and then holding seminars to share their learning and insights. A New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO Award in Global Citizenship Education, open to both the education sector and community groups, has also been launched. Given the importance of this area to the National Commission's work programme, it is keen to reward, celebrate and share the great work being undertaken throughout the country. Not only that,

the award will enable to identify aspects of GCED that might be enhanced through collaborative work and areas where there appears to be little current activity.

Another exciting initiative that is underway is the establishment of a UNESCO Global Geoparks programme in New Zealand. The National Commission has established an Expert Advisory Panel charged with designing and overseeing the application process and will invite expressions of interest in 2018.

In 2017, a number of activities and projects that were closely aligned with the National Commission's strategic priorities were supported through its UNESCO Contestable Activity Fund (UCAF) and minor grant funding.

Looking ahead the National Commission is particularly keen to strengthen relationships with other groups that are working in areas of mutual interest. It recognises that to realise the ambition captured in its strategic priorities there is a need to keep a steady focus. The National Commission plans to revitalise existing collaborations and to establish new ones, both nationally and internationally. This will help it be more strategic in the ways of using collective energy and expertise to make a positive difference to the lives of New Zealanders and our Pacific neighbours.

### A success story

One of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO funded projects that made an important impact in 2017 was the Human Library project Te Hā Tangata – the Breath of the People. This project enabled people to sit with people who have experienced homelessness, hear their stories and ask questions. Its goals were to promote tolerance, reduce discrimination, and encourage the free exchange of ideas in a non-threatening and open environment.

The project was developed over three months with Taonga (participants) attending regular workshops. Three sessions were held for three different audiences – Taonga's families, the public and community leaders.

The success of this project is reflected in the words of the Taonga who shared their stories and the manuhiri (guests) who came and listened to the stories.

*"This experience has taught me a lot. It's taught me that my story is worthwhile telling, and the effect of my story on people would be a good one."* (Robert, Te Hā Tangata Taonga)

*"So many words have been published and spoken about homelessness, but it is so great for once to be able to listen. We don't have that opportunity often enough."* (Human Library Visitor, Te Hā Tangata).



Taonga discovers his gift for the written word © Pat Shepherd

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has agreed its strategic plan for 2017-2021 with the mission of connecting Aotearoa-New Zealand to UNESCO and the world by fostering and sharing ideas; and contributing to building the knowledge and capabilities needed to ensure a better future for all. The National Commission will focus its strength and efforts on the priorities of indigenous knowledge, particularly as it intersects with the five UNESCO programme areas, and sustainability with a particular focus on oceans, as being part of the Pacific region. It will actively engage with UNESCO to support efforts to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

# PAKISTAN

## Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU)

**Chairperson:** Mr Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (MFEPT)

**Secretary-General:** Mr Iftikhar Ahmad Babar

### Update of activities in 2017

PNCU undertook various UNESCO activities and programmes aimed at advancing knowledge, cultural cohesion and promotion of peace and tranquillity across the globe. It also contributed through circulation of UNESCO publications and sharing information at various forums, meetings/conferences at national and international level.

PNCU implemented various UNESCO activities in collaboration with government and non-governmental organizations on issues within UNESCO's mandate.

It ensured the process of submission of applications for UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme and two students were awarded the fellowship. One Pakistani student from the International Islamic University, Islamabad, was selected for studying in China within the framework of UNESCO/People's Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-sponsored Fellowships Programme.

The National Commission coordinated with UNESCO and MFEPT 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 Girls' Right to Education.

PNCU facilitated participation of 63 experts in UNESCO's activities in its various fields of competence. It coordinated the implementation of three approved projects under UNESCO Participation Programme.

In collaboration with National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), PNCU organized Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa with participation of children aged 6-12 years. Out of 1128 submitted entries, the National Screening Committee selected the best eight entries for consideration by NFUAJ.

The National Commission organized celebration of World Science Day 2017, in coordination with Pakistan Science Foundation. International World Literacy Day 2017 was celebrated with ASPnet to highlight the importance of education to develop a socio-economically progressed and empowered nation.

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

The 2017 Carlos J. Finlay UNESCO Prize for Microbiology was awarded to Dr Shahida Hasnain, HEC National Distinguished Professor at the University of the Punjab, Lahore.

An agreement is to be signed between UNESCO and the Information Technology University, Lahore (ITU) for the establishment of UNESCO Chair at ITU.

During the 39th session of UNESCO General Conference, Pakistan was elected a member of several UNESCO bodies, including the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP) for 2018-2021, the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) for 2018-2021, Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme for 2018-2021 and the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board for 2017-2019.



Group Photo of the Awards and Certificates Distribution Ceremony of Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa © Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

PNCU organized Awards/Certificates Distribution Ceremony of Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa on 23 May 2017 in Islamabad. Mr Muhammad Baligh-ur Rehman, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training graced the occasion as a Chief Guest. Other officials from MFEPT, ASPnet focal points, heads of different ASPnet schools, teachers, Awards/Certificates winners and their parents from Sindh, AJK, Rawalpindi and Islamabad participated in this ceremony. Ms Rashida Aun Ali, a student of Springfield Public School, Rawalpindi won Grand Prix Award, Gold Medal and Certificate from NFUAJ.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

PNCU will provide facilitation to the experts, researchers and eminent scholars for participation in UNESCO activities. Under the 2018-2019 Participation Programme, six national and one subregional project will be submitted to UNESCO for approval. A proposal for the establishment of a category 2 Centre on Literacy and Non Formal Education in Pakistan is also under submission to UNESCO.

The main activities planned for 2018-2019 are celebration of Literacy Day (September 2018) and World Teachers Day (October 2018), coordination of projects under the 2018-2019 Participation Programme, collaboration and networking between PNCU and ASPnet for project planning and dissemination of information about the post 2015 EFA agenda as well as participation in the 204th and 205th sessions of UNESCO Executive Board.

The following suggestions can be made: exchange programme may be arranged/funded to promote quality of basic education, teachers training, science programmes and preservation of cultural heritage; UNESCO ASPnet Coordinators seminars may be organized to share good practices; training of UNESCO ASPnet coordinators in financial management to improve administration skills as well as provision of ICT facilities for PNCU and ASPnet schools are required; and capacity building programme is necessary to empower National Commissions for UNESCO and to promote their more active and better-informed engagement.

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO

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

**Secretary-General:** Mr Wesley Lakain

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

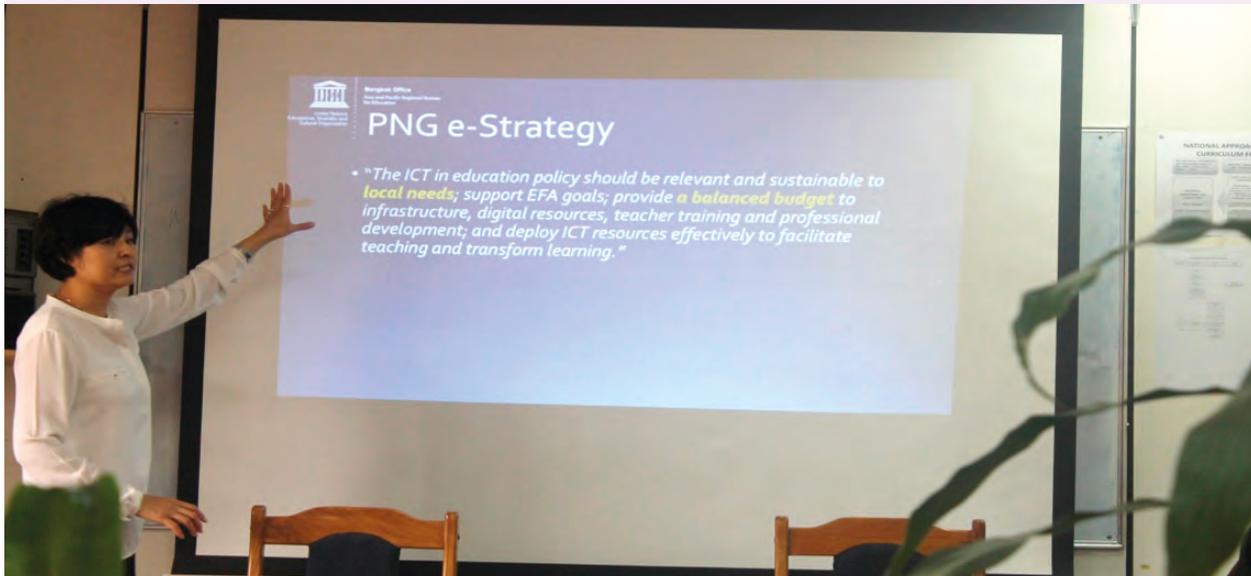
## Update of activities in 2017

The National Commission participated in the National Scoping workshop conducted by UNESCO Bangkok Bureau on the development of ICT in Education policy document for Papua New Guinea. It was also involved in the development of the Management Plan for Kuk World Heritage site in PNG working in partnership with national and international key stakeholders. The National Stakeholder consultations have been facilitated with a view to support government initiatives to strengthen and promote an integrated National Qualification Framework (NQF), a project under the custodianship of the Department of Higher Education, Sciences, Research and Technology. Among other accomplished activities are a PNG Country Analysis on the status of TVET, a Report compiled by PNG National Commission for Commonwealth Technical Education Facility (CTEF) jointly funded by UNESCO and Malaysian Government Funds-In Trust (MFIT) and PNG's contribution to the 2017 Asia-Pacific Regional Report on Alternative Pathways to Education.

## A success story

The delivery of education in Papua New Guinea faces huge challenges as it continues to use the traditional classroom style of teaching and learning. The harsh difficulties in the timely distribution of educational materials to the remotest schools of the country and their presentation for learning by teachers continue to be a painstaking task. The realization of government's universal basic education agenda by enrolling every school age child by the year 2015 poses new challenges. There should be actual learning taking place in the classroom, and therefore the need to prioritize quality learning in schools must be realized. In this regard, the use of ICT in Education is seen as the best way forward in the delivery of quality education in Papua New Guinea.

Upon request by the PNG Department of Education, in May 2016 the UNESCO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific facilitated a National Scoping Workshop for the development of national ICT policy in Education. The participants included both government and non-governmental national key agencies responsible for education policy and implementation. The meeting resulted in work plan capturing activities leading up to a national workshop for the actual policy write-up in mid-2018. Currently, the National ICT policy Steering Committee is tasked to complete a national survey on the use of ICT in Education, this data will be used as the basis for identifying education priorities for the development of PNG's first ever integrated national policy on the use of ICT in Education.



UNESCO Expert facilitating the ICT policy Workshop © Papua New Guinea National Commission for UNESCO

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In recognition of the need for immediate response to assist victims of Manam and Kadavor volcanic eruption in 2017 and 2018 in the Madang and East Sepik Provinces of Papua New Guinea, UNESCO financial and technical support under the Participation Programme 2018-2019 and the Emergency Relief Assistance Programme will be sought to ensure school children are in school through provision of education materials. The on-going project on the development of ICT in Education Policy in PNG will be completed by mid-2019 and experts of UNESCO Bangkok shall be deployed with necessary support from key stakeholders on that project. PNG National Commission will continue to support the implementation of the Kuk World Heritage site Management Plan as well as follow-up activities needed in 7 other tentative sites listed.

# PHILIPPINES

## Philippine National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

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

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.gov.ph/>

### Update of activities in 2017

The Philippine National Commission facilitated, in line with UNESCO's focus on gender, the "Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Gender Sensitivity in Philippine Media" project under the UNESCO Participation Programme (PP), implemented by the Philippine Social Science Council. It supported the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity PP project, through the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication's research "Integration of the Safety of Journalists in the Curricula of Philippine Journalism Schools", which developed modules that were presented to national education agencies for tertiary level mainstreaming.

As part of the Philippine delegation, the National Commission facilitated Experts Review of Nomination Dossiers and Reports for the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland, as well as for the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Jeju Island, Korea.

It raised awareness on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by supporting Philippine cities in their bids to be part of the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN). In October 2017, Baguio City became the first-ever UNESCO designated Creative City in Philippines, in the Crafts and Folk Arts category.

The National Commission helped implement, under UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, an inter-agency project led by the Center for Integrative Studies in the University of the Philippines entitled: "Valorizing Research and Evidence on Inclusive Social Development to Achieve the SDGs in the Philippines".

In cooperation with UNESCO-International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP) and the Department of Education, the Philippine National Commission organized a Policy Forum on using Open School Data to Improve Transparency and Accountability in Education.

The National Committee on Marine Sciences (NCMS) was revitalized as focal body and clearinghouse on all UNESCO-IOC matters. The Philippine Network of Biosphere Reserves (BRs) was established to serve as a platform for sharing best practices, providing assistance, updated action plans and potential nomination dossiers related to BRs.

Among other activities, the National Commission launched a new website (<http://www.unesco.gov.ph/>), strengthening its web presence and vigorously promoting UNESCO programs and projects, and disseminated a desk calendar depicting all the Philippine World Heritage Sites to strategic partners.



Director Carmen Zubiaga (National Council on Disability Affairs) and Dr. Arief Rachman (Indonesian National Commission) sing a duet during Dr. Rachman's presentation © Philippine National Commission

### A success story

The Philippine National Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Education, initiated a Regional Conference on Inclusive and Rights-Based Education in October 2017, bringing together representatives from the National Commissions and Ministries of Education of 10 countries in the Southeast Asian region and UNESCO regional offices as well as independent experts, to share insights and practices on ensuring inclusive education for all. Outcomes included recommendations to improve indicators for SDG targets 4.5 and 4.7. Topics included bottle-necks to sustainable development; expanding access to quality education; mainstreaming gender equality; designing culturally-appropriate and responsive curricula for indigenous peoples and persons with disability; and mainstreaming human rights into educational content and teaching methods. One key finding was the need to collect accurate data on all identified marginalized and at-risk populations on a regular basis to prevent vulnerable groups from falling through the cracks, enabling governments to adequately assess their distinct needs, determine resource requirements, and make appropriate policy and program decisions. With the support of UNESCO, the Philippine National Commission disseminated a publication entitled: "In Pursuit of Inclusive Education in Southeast Asia: Programs and Challenges."

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Relative to the proposed hosting of the IOC-Western Pacific (WESTPAC) Intergovernmental Session in 2019, the Philippine National Commission through NCMS-IOC will spearhead the coordination with key agencies in the first quarter of 2018. The Philippine National Commission will also assist in the submission of the Philippine proposal to host a Regional Training Research Center for IOC-WESTPAC.

For the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, meetings and projects will commence in the first quarter of 2018 in line with the establishment of the Philippine Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Philippine National Commission intends to be very active not just in regional meetings of National Commissions but also in facilitating coordination between National Commissions and potential partners in the Philippines. The Philippine National Commission will also continue engaging in capacity building activities with other National Commissions, as supported by UNESCO Field/Regional Offices.

# REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU)

**Chairperson:** Mr Sang-kon KIM, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Kwang-ho KIM

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.or.kr> (Korean), <http://eng.unesco.or.kr> (English)

## Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, a new government was installed following the presidential election in May. Subsequently, KNCU welcomed a new Chairperson in July. A new Secretary-General had also been appointed at the end of 2016. This new leadership brought in some changes to the National Commission.

First, the work of the Commission was refocused on the basic roles and functions of National Commission for UNESCO, as laid down in the national law concerning UNESCO activities. Second, greater emphasis was put on partnership and cooperation with local governments, so as to facilitate and support their participation in UNESCO activities. Thirdly, more effective cooperation with other National Commissions was sought. In connection with such efforts, KNCU carried out a series of activities to facilitate discussions on the SDGs at the national level, supported the cities of Suwon and Osan in co-hosting the Mid-Term Review of CONFITEA VI in October, and organized a national workshop for Creative Cities in the Republic of Korea in November. With regard to KNCU's Bridge Programmes in Africa and Asia, better communication with local partners and improved monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were developed.

The government of the Republic of Korea continued to provide the main financial resources for the Commission, while donations from individual citizens and the private sector remained stable. Cooperation with field offices was also strong. In particular, in June KNCU co-organized a regional workshop for National Commissions with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok.



A Q&A session on SDG 4.1, 4.2, and 4.6, was met with great enthusiasm during the National Forum on Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 held in Seoul, November 2017 © KNCU

## A success story

KNCU successfully carried out a series of activities to promote the SDGs at the national level. It began publishing a Korean-language series titled "The SDGs and Korean Society" for the general public. The first two books introduce SDGs 7 (energy) and 11 (city) and address the challenges in achieving them in the Korean context. Two further books in this series are expected to be published in 2018.

Also, KNCU organized two national forums on the SDGs: the first on SDG4 and Education 2030, and the second on the role of UNESCO's networks in science, gender equality, and youth in relation to the SDGs. The SDG4 forum was held in partnership with the Ministry of Education and other education-related institutions, to examine the status and identify priority areas of action required to achieve SDG4. The second one was held for UNESCO's networks with a view to seeking their contribution to the SDGs. National partners for IHP, IO, and MAB, and national institutions for gender equality and youth joined the forum and presented their potential contributions.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

KNCU will continue its cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat (Headquarters and Bangkok Office) to organize a regional meeting for National Commissions in Asia and the Pacific in late August or early September 2018 in the Republic of Korea. This meeting will serve as a regional follow-up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions to be held in Kenya in June. Therefore, it will focus on expressing regional views with regard to the relevance of UNESCO in the current global circumstances and the role of National Commissions in that regard. Representatives of National Commissions of the Asia-Pacific region and other observer National Commissions will be invited.

A training workshop on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is planned for later in 2018. In cooperation with UNESCO, KNCU hopes to train about 30 specialists from Asia and the Pacific on the 2005 Convention's guiding principles, and UNESCO's capacity-building strategy and methodology. It will be working with various UNESCO field offices to support the implementation of the 2005 Convention in the Asia-Pacific region and to establish a network of experts to provide ongoing technical assistance.

Furthermore, KNCU will be organizing an international forum on the relations between the Republic of Korea and UNESCO. As part of an upcoming year-long study on the challenges surrounding the Organization and the Republic of Korea's possible responses to them, this forum will involve experts from various institutions in and outside of the country. Co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the forum will encourage extensive discussions on how the Republic of Korea should shape its strategy *vis-à-vis* UNESCO and maximize the efficacy of its contributions to the Organization, financial and otherwise.

# SINGAPORE

## Singapore National Commission for UNESCO (SNC)

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

**Secretary-General:** Mrs Rosa Daniel

**Website:** <https://www.unesco.sg/>

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 was an eventful and rewarding year for SNC. Mutually-beneficial initiatives helped advance UNESCO's agenda in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.

At the UNESCO 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and SNC Chairperson, Ms Grace Fu emphasised Singapore's efforts to draw up a comprehensive national blueprint for its heritage sector, including the establishment of a repository for intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Singapore is stepping up its efforts in this area and is looking into the ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The National Archives of Singapore conducted a workshop on the preservation of audio and video records at the International Council on Archives Congress, in South Korea.

One of Singapore's national monuments, the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd and Rectory Building, was awarded an Honourable Mention at the Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2017. Singapore's National Parks Board, which manages UNESCO World Heritage Site – Singapore Botanic Gardens, was also named the laureate of the 2017 UNESCO Sultan Gaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation.

With Singapore as a UNESCO Creative City of Design, the Design Singapore Council was involved in the review of applications from other cities seeking to be a part of this network. The innovativeness of Singapore's design industry was also shared at the Wuhan Design Biennale in China.

Singapore was successfully re-elected to the Intergovernmental Bioethics (IGBC) Committee for a second term (2018-2021), and also as IGBC Rapporteur for another two-year term until 2019.

Judge (ret.) Richard Magnus from Singapore was similarly re-elected as Vice-Chair of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). Singapore hosted a closed-door meeting for the international panel of authors of the *UNESCO-BAC Handbook on Global Bioethics for Judges*. A separate meeting of IBC Asian members was also held.

Singapore shared information about its education system, and the SkillsFuture movement in the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning's publication "*Lifelong Learning in Transformation: Promising Practices in Southeast Asia*".



Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Chair of the Singapore National Commission for UNESCO, Grace Fu, with children visitors in front of a LEGO miniature of the Singapore Botanic Gardens' iconic bandstand © Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore

### A success story

In celebration of the Singapore Botanic Gardens' 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as ASEAN's 50th anniversary, the "*Piece of Peace*" touring exhibition was held at Singapore's Fort Canning Arts Centre from 27 July to 3 September 2017.

Organised by LEGO and the Piece of Peace committee to raise awareness of heritage matters and spread a message of peace, this was the first time the exhibition had been held in Southeast Asia. It featured a selection of 43 UNESCO World Heritage sites reproduced in LEGO bricks from 25 countries. Seven new miniatures of World Heritage Sites from Southeast Asia, including the Singapore Botanic Gardens, were specially created for this edition.

The exhibition attracted nearly 40,000 visitors, as well as extensive media coverage.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Singapore will continue to enhance efforts to safeguard both its tangible and intangible heritage:

As such, it promotes the Singapore Botanic Gardens, and welcomes visitors to the nation's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Alongside preservation and conservation efforts, the Singapore Botanic Gardens is constantly upgraded to better serve horticultural, operational and research needs. For example, a first-of-its-kind Seed Bank has been established, and dedicated exclusively to preserving the seeds of threatened plant species from Southeast Asia.

Singapore is also looking into the ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the coming years. As a national repository for ICH is established, Singapore will further develop its capacity to promote and safeguard elements of ICH that resonate deeply with its communities.

On the Bioethics front, Singapore will continue to participate actively and contribute constructively as a member to the IGBC.

In-line with UNESCO's focus on the implementation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), especially in education, Singapore is ready to share its experiences in education system development with UNESCO Member States. As part of Singapore's support for the SDGs, it will also continue to organise and host the biennial World Cities Summit to provide a platform for leaders and mayors from around the world to meet and discuss the development of sustainable cities.

# SRI LANKA

## Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

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

**Secretary-General:** Ms Dhammika Wijayasinghe

**Website:** <http://www.slncu.lk/>

## Update of activities in 2017

The National Commission, in line with the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka placed highest priority on Heritage Protection, encompassing Cultural, Natural and Intangible Heritage. It had to conduct its work under severe deficiency of workforce. However, it was able to carry out all the tasks as planned and deliver expected results.

The Commission would like to express its gratitude to UNESCO for granting Emergency Assistance subsequent to extreme floods

in 2016 and 2017 that had destroyed considerable amount of school infrastructure. The 2016 Emergency Assistance Project was completed by providing ICT infrastructure and training for relevant personnel to restore the school computer labs and ensure un-interrupted education during emergencies.

The Regional Consultation Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions held in New Delhi helped to clear up some communication and coordination issues and to collaborate more strongly with UNESCO, giving a glimpse of its activities in the region as well.

The National Commission collaborated and coordinated with relevant government and non-governmental organizations in various attempts to improve heritage protection and management. Stakeholder meetings and awareness creation programmes were held in this regard. The National Committees on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) played a very active role in stakeholder consultation, participatory management and awareness creation on relevant issues and improving UNESCO visibility within the country.

## A success story

Sri Lanka stands quite well with regard to gender parity in most sectors including education and government service. However, certain inequalities of treatment could be found across various sectors. Also, the reported incidences of Gender Based violence could be seen through media reports. Therefore, awareness creation on such issues and Gender Action Planning is regarded as of utmost importance to the society.

The Eastern University of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the National Commission for UNESCO hosted an International Symposium on Gender Equity and Equality.

The objectives of the project were to create awareness among student leaders, academics, government officials and community leaders on gender equality and equity, sexual and gender based issues as well as existing laws and gaps in the legal system. It was also aimed at conducting in-depth studies on such issues within the University System, preparing a Lobbying Document to be presented to relevant authorities in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English) and developing a preventive mechanism for prevention of Gender Based violence and Discrimination at all levels of administration.



International Symposium on Gender Equity and Equality © Eastern University of Sri Lanka

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Ministry of Education has placed high priority on ICT in Education and Teacher Development. Hence, the Ministry requested the National Commission and UNESCO to assist the government in its quest to enhance ICT in Education. UNESCO has already worked with the Ministry and the National Commission in formulating the National Policy and Master Plan for ICT in Education. In addition, UNESCO has pledged technical expertise in developing a comprehensive Education Management Information System for Sri Lanka. The South Asian Centre for Teacher Development will continue collaborating with UNESCO and other Member States in the region to enhance quality of education through Teacher Development.

# TAJIKISTAN

## Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda, Minister of Culture

**Executive Secretary:** Ms Zulfiya Butaeva

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO has continued to deliver its mandate throughout 2017.

In cooperation with the Federation of Clubs for UNESCO and Tajikistan Gallery of Modern Art, a series of events dedicated to the presentation of the book "Golden cup of love" were held in Dushanbe.

With the support of the National Commission, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), Korean Educational Broadcasting System (EBS) and the Asian Culture Center (ACC), a crew of professionals was invited to Tajikistan to make documentary films about "Navruz" and "Maqom".

To celebrate the anniversary of Navruz, an exhibition titled "Creativity for the nation prosperity" featuring works by Komil

Yodgor and modern artists of the Republic of Tajikistan was held by the National Commission in association with the Federation of Clubs for UNESCO.

At the National Commission's initiative, research and practical conferences on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage of the Tajik people were organized in collaboration with Tajik film studio and Christensen Fund.

The conference was held as a part of the implementation of the National Commission's project "Development of the Rights and Opportunities of Women in the Community: Practice and Dialogue" supported by UNESCO's Participation Programme 2016-2017. The event was attended by government officials, scientists, experts, representatives from NGOs and Clubs for UNESCO.

The National Commission delegation participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Talks on the Silk Road, A World without War" in Almaty. The conference brought together representatives of National Commissions for UNESCO of Central Asia as well as Russia and China to discuss the tools of peaceful resolution of international disputes.

In November 2017 the National Commission delegation attended the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO, where a number of new projects were initiated for submission to UNESCO, including celebration of traditional holiday Mehrgon.

With some improvements and additions made, the project of the Hulbuk ancient city has been re-registered with the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.



The sub-regional meeting "Developing Management Strategies for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Central Asia" brought together representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. © UNESCO Tashkent

field. It will also address the issues of preserving and protecting historical cultural monuments and preventing smuggling and illegal trade of historical artifacts. This event may attract not only state officials but also ordinary citizens who will be able to learn about their rich cultural heritage.

### A success story

In September 2017, a delegation of Tajikistan attended the subregional conference "Developing Management Strategies for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Central Asia" held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It should be noted that the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to host a subregional seminar on the serial transnational nomination "Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor" in Khujand during the second phase of the project "Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia" (2018-2019) was approved.

The hosting of this event will provide an opportunity not only to share and further knowledge on the Great Silk Roads but also to understand better a framework of cooperation between Tajikistan and UNESCO in this

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Tajikistan National Commission plans to conduct a number of activities.

25 years ago, Tajikistan became a full member of UNESCO and the National Commission has intention to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tajikistan's cooperation with UNESCO in April 2018. In this regard, several educational, cultural and scientific events will be organized in Tajikistan and probably at the UNESCO Headquarters with the aim to appreciate and further strengthen the relationship between Tajikistan and UNESCO. Moreover, through these events the Tajikistan National Commission intends to raise public awareness about the significance of cooperation between Tajikistan and UNESCO. The events will be publicized via domestic and foreign mass media. As far as it is possible, all former Executive Secretaries of the National Commission will be invited in order to make presentations regarding their tenure of office.

Also, the National Commission intends to hold workshops in Dushanbe with participation of experts from UNESCO Almaty Office. The main topic will be devoted to how to make project proposals in compliance with the requirements of the UNESCO Participation Programme. Due to the current lack of specialists in this field, assistance and suggestions from the UNESCO Secretariat and Almaty Office would be most welcome.

# THAILAND

## Thai National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin

**Secretary-General:** Mr Watanaporn Ra-Ngubtook

**Website:** <http://www.bic.moe.go.th/newth/>

## Update of activities in 2017

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO continued its active role in coordinating with UNESCO to implement programmes in the fields of UNESCO areas, to meet both national and international development targets. In line with the 2030 Education agenda, on 12 June 2017 the Thai National Commission and the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) organized a national seminar to promote SDG4 – Education 2030, under the project "Strengthening Thailand's Potential for Achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda 2030". The forum was attended by more than 100 participants and concluded with an agreement between all stakeholders on the need to create a roadmap for

implementing SDG4 targets 4.1 and 4.2 as well as to develop systematic national indicators for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

The Thai National Commission, jointly with the Korean National Commission and UNESCO Bangkok, organized a Training Workshop for officials of Asian National Commissions for UNESCO on 20-23 June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop contributed to the effective functioning of National Commissions for UNESCO by helping them to better understand current issues within UNESCO, and by providing them with first-hand opportunities for project planning. It was attended by 43 participants from 25 countries.

The Thai National Commission has been carrying out an Exchange Programme of the Staff Members of the National Commissions for UNESCO since 1970. The purpose of this programme is to strengthen cooperation and understanding between the National Commissions for UNESCO of the participating countries. In 2017, a staff member from each of the participating National Commissions (China, Japan, Korea, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) attended the programme between 4 and 12 September 2017. These officials had a chance to visit UNESCO regional officials, an ASPnet school in Ayutthaya province, World Heritage Site – Ayutthaya Historical Park, Satun Geopark in Satun province and related activities.



All Participants had a group photo in front of That Phanom Temple, Nakhon Phanom Province  
© Thai National Commission for UNESCO

Thailand and Viet Nam, UNESCO and ICOMOS PRERICO). The experts of the attending States, World Heritage site managers, international resource persons and researchers met, consulted and widely shared their experiences on this important topic.

The outcome was related to the UNESCO Initiative on the Heritage of Religious Interest. All participants considered that a large number of the World Heritage sites worldwide are in the category of properties with associated sacred and spiritual values. They recognized that many of these World Heritage sites, though ancient in terms of origin and history, have been continuously safeguarded and used by communities, while maintaining the original location, form, function and spirit, in order to continue to serve as spiritual sanctuaries for contemporary societies. In this regard, they recommended that during the process of preparation or revision of the Tentative Lists and nomination dossiers, due attention should be given to identification within the relevant cultural context of all attributes, justifying the Outstanding Universal Value, including those justifying the associative spiritual and sacred values of the property. They suggested that the general guidance on conservation and management of the World Heritage of religious interest should also include the principles as shown in the Nakhon Phanom Statement which called on UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, all the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre and the States Parties to support the UNESCO Initiative on the Heritage of Religious Interest.

## A success story

The National Commission in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Thai Ministry of Culture, the Nakorn Phnom Province, Thailand, and UNESCO Bangkok, organized an International Consultative Workshop on the Conservation and Management of the World Heritage of Religious Interest for the Asia-Pacific Region on 17-19 May 2017 in Bangkok and Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand.

It was aimed at providing the participants with knowledge on the key concepts and processes of the World Heritage Convention and their links to religious significance. Discussion also centered on existing national or regional mechanisms and challenges for the effective protection and management of heritage of religious interest, special spiritual values of the religious heritage, as well as the role and responsibilities of all stakeholders concerned.

Twelve States were represented at the Workshop (namely Bhutan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri-Lanka,

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Thai National Commission for UNESCO plans to organize an ASPnet Meeting and SDG4-related Forum. UNESCO Bangkok and some of member countries from Asia and the Pacific will be invited to these events.

# TIMOR-LESTE

## Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO (TLNCU)

**President:** Mr Fernando Hanjam, Minister of Education and Culture

**Secretary-General:** Ms Cedelizia Faria Dos Santos

### Update of activities in 2017

In the area of Education, TLNCU was the implementing body of the pilot program on Multilingual Education Based on Mother Tongue, in 3 municipalities in Timor-Leste using 3 different languages: Baikeno, Galolen and Fataluku. This program ran for 5 years and 2017 was its final year. 9 teacher trainings were conducted with a total of 171 teachers attending. Approximately 1000 books of various types and titles in mother tongue were produced, printed and distributed to the schools. 9 school monitoring visits were conducted by the national team.

TLNCU also continued to implement the National Teacher Training for junior high-level mathematics and science teachers. 366 teachers from four municipalities attended the final Session C training, followed by school visits and carrying out student assessment. TLNCU organized launching of the Student Workbook and Central Laboratory of Science and Mathematics that were officially inaugurated by the Vice Minister of Education in presence of Director and Representatives of UNESCO Jakarta and Country Director of KOICA Timor-Leste.

In the area of Culture, TLNCU conducted a survey on the preservation of the traditional houses of Timor-Leste in 3 different municipalities. The objective of the survey was to know the impact of using traditional and modern materials on changes to the structure of traditional houses. The result of the survey formed a book launched by the Secretary of State Art and Culture in June 2017.

In Communication and Information, TLNCU worked closely with UNESCO Jakarta to establish the National Memory of the World Committee. Three workshops were conducted to increase the capacity of the members of the Committee in identification and registration procedures.

### A success story

The 2017 World Science Day event was organized by TLNCU in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and with the support of Conoco Philips and UNESCO Jakarta. TLNCU also selected Nimia Catherine Company as the event organizer to handle all the logistical arrangements.

The theme of the commemoration of the 2017 World Science Day was Peace and Development. TLNCU's subdivision SESIM organized a three-night camping event at Railaco, Ermera, with around 900 participants (students, teachers, stakeholders and others).

The activities were centered around practical science and mathematics competition for junior and senior high schools from 13 municipalities of Timor-Leste. The program also included seminars on education, health and the environment organized for students by local universities and NGOs, mini-research with a SESIM team, exhibitions by students and cultural activities. The event was officially launched by the Minister of Education, in presence of two members of parliament. The logos of the Ministry of Education, Conoco Philips, UNESCO and the donors were printed on the banners of the event as well as the T-Shirts, bags and hats that were distributed to all the participants. The event was broadcasted in nearly all the media channels in Timor-Leste.



Word Science Day 2017 in Timor Leste

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World Science Day 2017 in Timor-Leste © Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2015 Timor-Leste ratified 3 UNESCO conventions including the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Following that, TLNCU has received a special request from the Minister of Education and Culture to establish the National Committees of Tangible and Intangible Heritage in order to identify the cultural heritage of Timor-Leste and to begin the process for its inscription by UNESCO. Hence, TLNCU requests the UNESCO HQ to support these plans.

# UZBEKISTAN

## National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Kahramon Akmalov, Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Secretary-General:** Mr Alisher Ikramov

### Update of activities in 2017

The activities of the Uzbekistan National Commission were focused on implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and contribution to the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth. UNESCO Participation Programme and other donor-supported projects promoted networking among various stakeholders (governmental institutions, NGOs and private sector) in the field of education (global citizenship education, adult education), sciences (engineering technologies, management of social transformations), culture (protection and promotion of museums and collection, inventory of the intangible cultural heritage) and communication (open educational resources, documentary heritage).

The National Commission coordinated preparation, implementation and evaluation of joint projects. As the

result, a draft national strategy on lifelong learning has been prepared and submitted to the government. The National Commission organized a national conference on lifelong learning and capacity building trainings on global citizenship education as well as provided support for development of open educational resources in universities and libraries. The partnership among universities, academia and private sector in the field of utilization of renewable sources of energy has been established. A catalogue and a set of documentary films on intangible cultural heritage of Uzbekistan were published and "Atlas Bayrami" Third Festival of Traditional Textile was organized. Multilingual mobile applications of History Museum, Arts Museum and Geology Museum have been produced and the national capacity for preservation of the documentary heritage of Uzbekistan has been improved. It should be outlined that all projects of the National Commission were implemented in close cooperation with and involvement of the UNESCO Tashkent Office.

The governmental delegations of Uzbekistan participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport and the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Training Course on Renewable Energy Technologies © National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

The training programme included one-day field visit to the Solar Station in Tashkent Region. Eleven outstanding professors and specialists in the field of renewable energy technologies from respective Institutes of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan were invited as trainers. A training manual on "Renewable Energy Technologies" was published and distributed among the course participants. As a follow-up, the networking between universities, academic institutions and entrepreneurs has been established.

### A success story

Training courses in "Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development" and international conference on "Fundamental and Applied Problems of Physics" were organized in Tashkent in May-June 2017. The objective of the project was building institutional capacities of graduate students, young researchers and entrepreneurs in science and engineering. Training modules covered theoretical and practical issues of solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy and bio energy technologies. The training courses were organized at the Physics-Technical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. About 90 participants (gender balanced) arrived from various regions of Uzbekistan upon the recommendation of respective educational establishments of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, Institutes of the Academy of Sciences, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan as well as the Association of Farmers of Uzbekistan.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission plans to implement interregional and subregional activities in 2018-2019, such as organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Festival and Symposium on Maqam Performances in Shakhriyabz (autumn 2018), 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> "Atlas Bayrami" Subregional Festivals in Margilan (September 2018 and 2019) and 12<sup>th</sup> "Sharq Taronalari" International Music Festival in Samarkand (August 2019). All mentioned events are related to the promotion of the UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Moreover, it is planned to organize the Central Asian Youth Forum on Basic and Applied Sciences in Tashkent in 2018 within the Annual National Fair on Sciences and Technology and Innovations. The Forum can be considered as a capacity building follow-up to the UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030.

In the field of Social and Human Sciences, the National Commission will continue to support the regional research programs of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies in Samarkand, which was established with support of UNESCO in 1995 as an outcome of the UNESCO's Decade Programme "Integral Study of the Silk Roads – Roads of Dialogue".

In regard to the regional activities in the field of education, the National Commission will maintain a fruitful cooperation network with UNESCO Field Offices in Tashkent, Almaty and Bangkok.

# VANUATU

## Vanuatu National Commission for UNESCO (VNCU)

**Chairman:** Mr Jean Pierre Nirua, Minister for Education and Training

**Secretary-General:** Mr Jesse Dick Joe

## Update of activities in 2017

The Secretariat of VNCU has been reduced to a Focal Point with one single staff member called UNESCO Officer. The Commission is a very small organization with 7 Members capturing 5 core fields of competences of UNESCO. Throughout the year the UNESCO Officer works in collaboration with the Chairman, Secretary-General and Members of the Commission who represent respective domains of UNESCO. The UNESCO Focal Point is placed under the Ministry of Education and Training and operates with a very limited operational budget provided by the Ministry. The Focal Point does not have any additional budget for its operation from other source of funding. The Focal Point maintains a good working relationship with the UNESCO Subregional Office in Apia, Samoa.

### A success story

When the Honorable Jean Pierre Nirua (MP) took office as the Chairman of the Commission he committed himself to revive the Commission by appointing its new Members. The success story of good practice is that he has appointed top technical position members of the Government to compose the new Commission with the prime target to invigorate and boost its activities. His engagement complies with the fundamental principle to put the right man at the right position. The Commission is a small institution and the direction initiated by the Chairman was paramount and vital for the efficient operation and running of the organization. Unfortunately, the Commission has not taken any photograph of the new Members of the Commission to immortalize the event.



The Honorable Minister Jean Pierre Nirua (MP), New Chairman of the Vanuatu National Commission for UNESCO in his Office at the Ministry of Education and Training in Port Vila

© Ms Esther Tinning, the Communication Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Commission has immense interest to co-organize sub-regional, regional and inter-regional events but there is also a real need for capacity building given that the Focal Point is occupied by one single staff and it is very crucial for a small organization. Providing a capacity building to the members of the Commission or to the personnel of the UNESCO Focal Point will be of utmost benefit. It is equally important since the Focal Point has a very limited operational budget to initiate activities.

In 2019 VNCU, in collaboration with Port Vila based UNICEF and Nouméa based SPC, has the intention to co-organize a Regional Workshop on Education Data Analysis. The Commission depends on the capacity of these organizations to carry out the planned activities. Given lack of funding, VNCU through its Secretary-General will submit a project proposal for possible funding under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2018-2019.

# 2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM

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in Europe



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# Europe and North America

# ALBANIA

## Albanian National Commission for UNESCO

**Secretary-General:** Mr. Sokol Gjoka

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.al>

### Update of activities in 2017

The Albanian National Commission for UNESCO is in close contacts and cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Albania for the protection and preservation of the ancient and medieval sites of the Butrint Archaeological Centre and the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra. These World Heritage Sites are part of our historical and cultural memory and they should be protected and preserved by the Albanian competent institutions. The Albanian National Commission has rendered its contribution in this respect, to prevent any infrastructure projects that affect these sites and has supported the measures taken by the Albanian Government to protect these ancient and mediaeval time historical monuments.

The Albanian National Commission has supported the whole process of the major regional project of Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, which is an extensive transboundary World Heritage site. The Albanian National Commission has worked closely with the Ministry of Environment, with different environmental profile civic organizations in order to make computable and include two Albanian very old beech forests in two different

attractive areas of Albania, Northeast and Southeast into this big European project of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe. Due to this common undertaking between the Albanian institutions, civic society and the Albanian National Commission, we managed to include our two Primeval Beech Forests, that of Gashi River and Rajca, into this impressive regional project.

The Albanian National Commission is very much involved, as well, in the Natural and Cultural Heritage project of the Ohrid Lake. This is considered as a regional project, because it involves two neighbouring countries, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which incorporate the same biodiversity resources and cultural heritage. The Albanian National Commission has been contributing to make the project move ahead, by pushing the concerned Albanian institutions to meet their obligations and by finalizing it at the beginning of the coming year.

We have also cooperated with some educational institutions in the country, which promote UNESCO's values through their educational curricula. We have been in contact with the academic and student bodies of several high education institutions, such as the University "Marin Barleti" in Tirana, Social Science University in Tirana, and, some middle education schools, where we have promoted through lectures the values of UNESCO and the work done in Albania in this respect. Then Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Qian Tang, visited and lectured in "Marin Barleti" University in 2017.

The Albanian National Commission has been in contact with its regional and world homologues in exchanging experiences and undertaking common projects.



SDG4-Education 2030 and the Education Policy Review

© Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

aspirations. Drawing on UNESCO's expertise, the Education Policy Review report provides an evidence-base and analysis for the harmonization of ongoing national reform efforts with Albania's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the area of education. Albania focuses on developing and aligning its education policies and practices with European and international agendas, in particular the European Union's Education Benchmarks for 2020 and SDG4-Education 2030.

### A success story

In April 2017, Albania launched SDG4-Education 2030 and the Education Policy Review. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of Albania and the Institute for Educational Development of Albania in cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF. It was attended by Mr Qian Tang, then UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, along with other education stakeholders. The Albanian National Commission was part of the preparatory group and contributor to this event. The Secretary-General of the National Commission delivered a speech on how this institution is assisting in the implementation of the SDG 4.

The Education Policy Review was initiated in 2015 by Albania with the purpose of supporting the country's vision for educational reform in the context of its national, regional, and international

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Contribution to finalize the regional project on the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid Lake region.

Cooperation between Albania and Italy for the support of the Arbëresh community, and cooperation with the National Historic Museum for the revitalization of national heritage museum. Also regional cooperation with different actors (Conference of National Commissions network).

Focus on the transboundary project of Shkodra Lake.

Follow-up of the Education Policy Review and of the activities on the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albania's membership in UNESCO (exhibitions; scientific conference; visits to world heritage sites; activity in UNESCO headquarter in Paris etc).

Preparation of celebration of the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Albanian national hero, Scanderbeg, in cooperation with the relevant Albanian institutions, by promoting the historical and cultural values of Albania.

# ANDORRE

## Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO (CNAU)

**Président** : M. Josep Dallerès Codina

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

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

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

Dans le cadre de l'Année internationale du tourisme durable pour le développement, la Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO était associée à la commission de coordination de nombreux projets organisés tout au long de l'année : conférences, présentations d'études du potentiel touristique dans notre site inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial (Vallée du Madriu-Perafita-Claror), vidéos, expositions dans les écoles associées à l'UNESCO. Pour terminer cette année

internationale !, nous avons participé à une conférence débat autour des bonnes pratiques en Andorre dans le cadre des pratiques sportives, le 11 décembre, Journée internationale de la montagne.

La CNAU a concentré ses efforts sur le suivi de projets au sein de nos écoles associées, mais aussi a renforcé ses liens avec Malte et sa commission nationale dans le cadre d'Art camp. Ce projet artistique existe en Andorre depuis 2008 et a pu être développé à Malte en 2015 et en 2017 pour une deuxième édition pleine de succès. Chaque deux ans nous réunissons ainsi une trentaine d'artistes peintres du monde entier pour apprendre à vivre et créer ensemble autour des valeurs de l'UNESCO.

La CNAU continue à développer les soutiens privés pour pouvoir trouver la capacité financière nécessaire à la mise en œuvre de ses projets.

La rencontre des commissions nationales de la région Europe à Thessaloniki en Grèce, a été l'occasion de renforcer nos liens avec de nombreuses commissions nationales et ouvrir de nombreuses perspectives de projets futurs.



Journée internationale de la montagne (11 décembre) et Année internationale du tourisme durable pour le développement © Yvan Lara

personnes, entités et administrations travaillent activement à rendre compatibles l'activité sportive et touristique avec la conservation des montagnes. C'est le cas de la course de ski de randonnée de la Font Blanca en Andorre. Première course du circuit mondial de cette discipline a été neutre en émissions de CO<sub>2</sub>.

La Journée internationale de la montagne a donc été l'occasion de faire connaître ces bonnes pratiques et d'autres qui veillent au respect de l'environnement lors d'événements sportifs.

### Une activité réussie

Journée internationale de la montagne (11 décembre) et Année internationale du tourisme durable pour le développement.

Les montagnes couvrent environ 22 % de la surface émergée de la terre et abritent 13 % de la population mondiale. Les montagnes fournissent entre 60 et 80 % de l'eau douce de la planète – sans laquelle le développement durable qui vise à éliminer la pauvreté et la faim serait impossible.

Au cours des dernières décennies, les zones montagneuses ont connu une forte croissance d'activités touristiques et de loisirs, au point de représenter aujourd'hui entre 15 et 20% du volume de touristes au niveau mondial. Le résultat de ce boom d'activités à l'air libre a été une perte progressive de la qualité environnementale dans les zones de montagne.

Face à ce constat, de plus en plus de

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Les priorités futures de la CNAU seront de renforcer la visibilité de l'UNESCO en Andorre tout en continuant de tisser des liens réels auprès de nos commissions voisines et amies.

Dans le cadre de la CSW 62 (Commission de la Condition de la Femme des Nations Unies, qui aura lieu du 12 au 23 mars 2018) et de la célébration de la journée de la femme (8 mars), la CNAU organisera une exposition aux Nations Unies du 5 au 10 mars 2018. L'exposition se composera d'œuvres originales et vidéos des artistes féminines ayant participé aux 5 dernières éditions d'Art Camp Andorra.

La CNAU serait disposée à organiser une réunion de travail à caractère régional en collaboration avec la France ou l'Espagne.

# ARMENIA

## Armenian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Mr Vahram Kazhoyan

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

### Update of activities in 2017

Delegation headed by the Foreign Minister, President of the National Commission, participated in the 39th session of the General Conference.

Armenia submitted National Periodic Reports on the implementation of the 1954 and 2005 Conventions.

The Secretariat of the National Commission coordinated and monitored the implementation of projects approved by UNESCO within the framework of the 2016-2017 Participation Programme, implementing projects of key importance and contributing to public awareness about UNESCO.

Armenia was elected to the ICPRCP (Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation) of the 1970 Convention and re-elected to the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Convention. Armenia is willing to contribute to the efforts aimed at the protection and preservation of humanity's cultural heritage.

The Commission transmitted to the Secretariat information regarding the implementation of relevant provisions of UNSC Res.2347 and UNGA Res.70/214.

The Commission submitted requests for two anniversaries of eminent personalities to be celebrated in association with UNESCO in 2018-2019.

The nomination "Kochari, traditional group dance" submitted by the Commission was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Commission, in cooperation with the Tehran Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, organized a workshop for ICH experts of Armenia.

The Commission, in cooperation with the UNDPI Office and the Public Radio of Armenia held a special broadcast on the occasion of World Radio Day.

The Commission continuously encouraged Armenia's participation in UNESCO Fellowships and Prizes and three nominations were approved for fellowships.

The Secretariat of the Commission continued providing guidance for Armenia's participation in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), with two new members joining four previously admitted cities.

The Commission has actively participated in the meetings of the 1954, 1970, 1972, 2003 Conventions. It continued cooperation with the UNESCO Category 2 Regional Centres for the safeguarding of Intangible Heritage in Sophia and Teheran.



The Exhibition "Hovhannes Aivazovsky: Creation"  
© National Gallery of the Republic of Armenia, Armenian National Commission for UNESCO

the collections of the National Gallery, which holds the second largest collection of the artist's works, the Venice Mekhitarist Congregation, the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, the National Archive and the Charents Museum of Literature and Arts.

### A success story

As a result of the coordinated work of the National Commission, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Aivazovsky (Hovhannes Aivazian), painter (1817-1900) was included in the list of anniversaries celebrated in 2016-2017 in association with UNESCO, as a joint nomination by Armenia and the Russian Federation with the support rendered by Italy, and various events dedicated to Aivazovsky's life and work were held worldwide.

The key event in Armenia in this regard is certainly the exhibition of Aivazovsky's works, entitled "Hovhannes Aivazovsky: Creation" which opened at the National Gallery of Armenia in September 2017 and was to last 4 months. Due to the high public interest, the National Gallery decided to prolong the exhibition till 15 February 2018. The exhibition has had an unprecedented number of visitors.

The exhibited items, among which – canvas, graphic works, photos, archive documents, etc., were from

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The "Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum Reservations" (NCSO) will organize the Conference on "The Methodology for the Conservation and Strengthening of the Rock-Cut Churches and the Drainage System for Monastic Complex of Geghard" under the 2016-2017 UNESCO Participation Programme.

On behalf of the National Commission, the Ministry of Culture has expressed its readiness to organize a three-day training workshop in Armenia themed "Inventorying of the Intangible Cultural Heritage".

Armenia will be holding events in celebration of the "150th anniversary of the birth of Soghomon Soghomonian, known as Komitas Vardapet, composer, ethnomusicologist, music collector, singer (1869-1935)" (supported by France and Germany) and the "150th anniversary of the birth of Hovhannes Tumanyan, poet, writer, translator (1869-1923)" (supported by Georgia and the Russian Federation). Both anniversaries will be celebrated in association with UNESCO in 2018-2019.

On behalf of the Commission, in 2018, the Ministry of Nature Protection is planning to organize the visit of Patrick J. Mc Keever, Secretary of the International Geoscience Programme and Chief of the Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section to discuss the potential of establishing UNESCO Global Geoparks in the country.

The Armenian authorities are currently discussing the possibilities of participating in the UNESCO MAB Programme World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

# AUSTRIA

## Austrian Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Eva Nowotny

**Secretary-General:** Ms Gabriele Eschig

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

## Update of activities in 2017

The Austrian Commission for UNESCO operates as an association, advising the federal, state and local level as well as NGOs on the implementation of UNESCO's objectives. It establishes and maintains contacts between UNESCO and national partner institutions and informs the public of UNESCO's goals and programmes.

**Culture** The Commission is entrusted by the government with the implementation of the 2003 Convention. It compiles and maintains the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, counting to date 103 inscriptions, pursues safeguarding measures and contributes through strategic partnerships like "ICH Goes Science" to a lively debate.

Likewise, the Commission operates as focal point for the 2005 Convention. "Learning from international experience" was

the guiding motive in 2017, including an in-depth analysis of implementation measures in other countries, a public workshop with governmental and civil society stakeholders, and a reader on the results.

In the field of World Heritage, the Commission acts as administrative office for the World Heritage stakeholders in Austria, providing information for the government and organising training workshops in 2017 on "Monitoring WH-sites" with national and international experts.

**Education** The Commission coordinates the Austrian ASPnet comprising 91 schools, focusing in 2017 on "Education for the wellbeing of mankind and planet earth". To foster implementation of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and SDG4, an inter-sectorial expert group was set up at the Commission, launching a series of public debates (see box below).

**Science** In collaboration with L'OREAL Austria and the Austrian Academy of Science, the Commission awarded seven fellowships "For Women in Science" to excellent young female scientists.

A further highlight in 2017 marked the approval of the General Conference to establish an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels in Graz/Austria as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre.



## A success story

### Stimulating Debate on the SDGs

Communicating and raising awareness for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG4, took centre stage in 2017. Only if the goals are widely known, a debate on how society wants to contribute can unfold. The target groups were education institutions – schools and training facilities for teachers – as well as youth organisations all over Austria. Questions like the role of education for a social-ecological transformation of our (economic) way of life, the challenges of equal education for all, global citizenship education and the topic of the GEMR 2017/18, accountability in education, were discussed in dedicated classes and public events. Further a poster series on the SDGs was developed and distributed among UNESCO associated schools, encouraging pupils to share their point of view.

The events showed that knowledge and understanding of the Agenda 2030 is not as widespread as one might assume. Hence the Austrian Commission for UNESCO decided to highlight in all future activities explicitly a reference to the respective SDG.

SDG poster campaign in cooperation with the ASP-net Austria © ÖUK

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

### The Value of Intangible Cultural Heritage for Society Today

One of the main obligations for each State Party to the 2003 Convention is drawing up, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more inventories of the Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) present in its territory. According to the UNESCO Convention, ICH has to be compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.

While ICH provides a given community with a sense of identity and continuity, however, its relevance today as well as the importance of its safeguarding are not necessarily obvious to the wider public. Social norms and values as well as political and personal histories have always played an important role for how traditions, their significance for a given community, group or an individual as well as for society are perceived. Hence, ICH has become subject to critical reflection about shared values.

In Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland a comparatively small number of elements has caused fierce discussions among experts and the public regarding their inscription on a national inventory of ICH. A joint sub-regional conference organised by the National Commissions of Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria, will deal with the value of ICH for the increasingly technologized and diverse societies of today in the context of controversial elements. The conference aims at sharing good (and bad) practices between experts and States Parties as well as at developing constructive approaches for the encounter with sensitive issues related to gender equality, minority rights, commercialisation and animal welfare. The conference will be held in Vienna from 8 to 9 May 2018 and is aimed at selected experts, practitioners and bearers of ICH.

# AZERBAIJAN

## National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

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

**Secretary-General:** Mr Elnur Sultanov

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

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its membership in UNESCO. A number of events were held on this occasion in Azerbaijan and at UNESCO Headquarters.

On 6 May, 2017, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership in UNESCO, a jubilee meeting of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO was held in Baku in the presence of Ms Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO. Mr Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the National Commission, Ms Irina Bokova and members of the National Commission exchanged their views on fruitful cooperation, as well as future perspectives of cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO.

On 5-6 May, 2017, Ms Irina Bokova visited Azerbaijan in order to participate at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. She attended the First High-level Meeting of International Organizations and the round table entitled "Preventing violent extremism through education for girls". In the framework of

the Forum, the Third meeting of the International Network for UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform and the Second Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs in Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue were held.

On 19 December, 2017, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership of UNESCO was again celebrated in Baku. Speeches by Mr Elmar Mammadyarov and other members of the National Commission were delivered, an art exhibition devoted to the cultural elements of Azerbaijan inscribed on the UNESCO lists and a concert were organized.

In the framework of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership to UNESCO, the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death of great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Imadaddin Nasimi and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German settlements in the South Caucasus (jointly presented with Georgia and supported by Germany) were marked at UNESCO Headquarters under the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated.

The copy of the manuscript of Mahammad Fuzuli's "divan", collection of poems written in native language by great Azerbaijani poet Mahammad Fuzuli was inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register.

2017 was remarkable with the inclusion of Sheki City in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as "the City of Crafts and Folk Art".

On 4-9 December 2017, during the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, "Art of crafting and playing with Kamantchek/Kamancha, a bowed string musical instrument" (jointly presented with the Islamic Republic of Iran) was included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan participating at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, on 4-9 December, 2017, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea © AZERTAG

### A success story

2017 was remarkable with the inscription of Azerbaijan's nomination "Dolma making and sharing tradition, a marker of cultural identity" on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The relevant decision was adopted during the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held on 4-9 December, 2017.

Dolma tradition is a set of knowledge and skills relating to the preparation of the traditional meal 'dolma', which takes the form of small fillings wrapped in fresh or pre-cooked leaves or stuffed in fruits and vegetables. The name of the tradition originates from the shortened Turkic word 'doldurma', meaning 'stuffed'. The meal is shared within families or local communities, with different methods, techniques and ingredients used to prepare the traditional meal by different communities. The tradition is present throughout the Republic of Azerbaijan and is perceived as a central culinary practice in all regions. It is enjoyed on special occasions and gatherings and expresses solidarity, respect and hospitality.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO intends to extend its activities aimed at further promotion of UNESCO principles and ideals at the regional and sub-regional levels through implementing various projects. The National Commission enjoys close and fruitful relations with a range of National Commissions of different countries. The National Commission will continue the partnership with relevant National Commissions in the framework of UNESCO in the spheres of culture, intercultural dialogue, science, education, and others.

# BELARUS

## National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

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

**Secretary-General:** Ms Natalya Schasnovich

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the National Commission played an active role in furthering UNESCO objectives in the areas of education, science, culture, communication and information in Belarus.

In cooperation with its partners, the National Commission implemented a number of international and national events in the context of its joint celebration with UNESCO of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belarusian book-printing. A key event was the International Congress which brought together more than 600 experts from libraries, museums, archives, research and educational institutions from 24 countries.

Strengthening national capacities for protection, management and use of cultural heritage is an important concern of the National Commission. It contributed to the organization of a wide range of workshops devoted to the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The National Commission participated in a large number of activities organized by ASPnet schools and UNESCO Chairs.

The National Commission supported the UNESCO Chair on “Vocational Education in the Sphere of Information and Communication Technologies of Persons with Special Needs” and was actively involved in organizing the international Conference “Continuous vocational education of persons with special educational needs” in Minsk (14 December).

In partnership with Belarusian State University, the National Commission held the workshop “Legal safeguards and implementation of gender equality principles” (10 November).

The National Commission maintained a strong partnership with the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs. Among most successful common activities was the project “Youth participation in sustainable development of Belarusian regions”.

The National Commission’s Committee on Science organized training and workshops on the importance of conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources. In particular, during the year a quantitative assessment of the volume and composition of greenhouse gases produced by lakes in Vitebsk region was conducted.

Also, the National Commission coordinated the implementation of six projects approved under the Participation Programme.



Presentation of the Children’s Legal Website © National Center of Legal Information of the Republic of Belarus

teenagers, their parents and teachers in Belarus, containing information on the rights and duties of children and teenagers and current legislation in this field.

The topics covered by the experts were: problems of domestic violence and measures for its prevention, safety on the Internet for children and teenagers, prevention of crimes of minors in various fields.

### A success story

In 2017, the National Commission implemented a joint project with the National Center of Legal Information “Education of children and teenagers on their rights via adapted information media”. This project was approved and funded under the Participation Programme for the 2016 – 2017 biennium.

The main goal was to raise the level of legal culture of children and teenagers, legal awareness of teachers on issues related to children’s rights, through the development of an adapted information environment – Children’s Legal Website. Within the framework of the project, six seminars were held in all main regional cities. More than 300 specialists working directly with children participated in the seminars.

In the focus of the seminars was the presentation of the Children’s Legal Website ([www.mir.pravo.by](http://www.mir.pravo.by)) – the only specialized Internet resource for children,

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

A series of capacity building workshops for National Commissions and training workshops for officials of National Commissions (at the sub-regional (for the CIS counties) and interregional level). The aim is to increase awareness and understanding of the activities of UNESCO, improve technical knowledge in different areas of UNESCO in order to organize work at the national level.

A series of capacity building trainings in the CIS countries and the Eastern European region within the framework of UNESCO programs in the field of the World Heritage protection and the Intangible Cultural Heritage safeguarding and management. The aim is to increase the professional potential and competence of local experts in this field.

A series of trainings on using the natural and cultural heritage resources for sustainable development of historic cities for local stakeholders and representatives of local authorities (interregional level). The aim is to strengthen awareness of local communities on the development of their cities on the basis of the cultural and natural heritage potential.

A series of workshops on learning cities and education for sustainable development (sub-regional level). The aim is to discuss how lifelong learning policies and strategies can be developed and implemented to address social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges in cities and promote ESD at the local level.

A series of workshops on creative cities. The aim is to share good practices that integrate culture and creativity as enablers for building city identity, to discuss various issues related to the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

# 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 2017

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.

Elle a axé ses travaux autour des principales Conventions adoptées par l'UNESCO, en matière de lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels, de patrimoine, matériel, immatériel et documentaire, et de promotion de la diversité culturelle.

Elle a également inscrit ses réflexions dans le cadre des grandes problématiques actuelles, la prévention de l'extrémisme violent, la protection des humanités, les transformations sociales.

### Une activité réussie

En octobre 2013, la Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO et la Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO organisaient conjointement, à Kinshasa, une Table ronde sur le thème « *Place du Patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel de la République démocratique du Congo sur les Listes du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO* ».

Au départ de cette initiative, une réflexion initiée par l'UNESCO et l'ICOMOS dès 1992 dans leur Stratégie globale pour une Liste du patrimoine mondial équilibrée et crédible, visant à obtenir une meilleure représentativité des biens inscrits sur cette Liste.

La tenue de la Table ronde répondait dès lors à plusieurs objectifs :

- sensibiliser les autorités responsables et les professionnels du patrimoine, comme la population congolaise, aux richesses culturelles exceptionnelles de la RDC ;
- favoriser la constitution de dossiers d'inscription ;
- contribuer à l'établissement d'une législation actualisée en matière de conservation, de restauration et de valorisation des patrimoines.

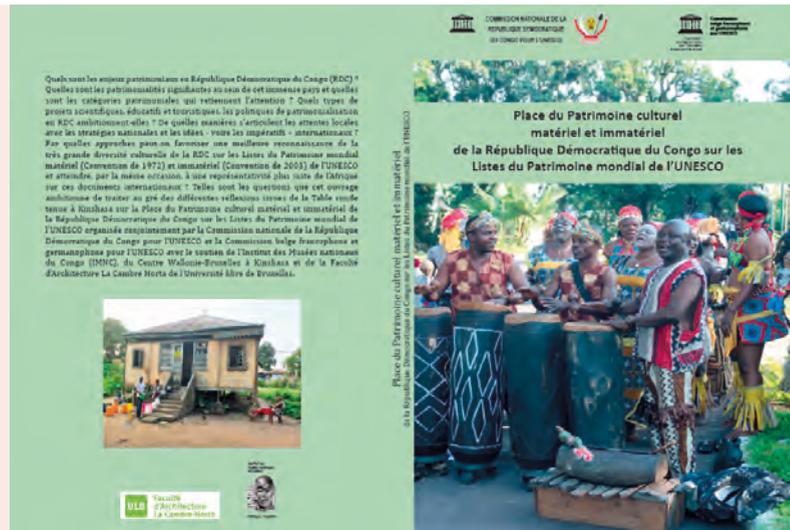
A l'issue des travaux, fut officiellement lancé l'Appel de Kinshasa pour une politique volontariste en la matière. Au-delà, il a semblé tout aussi indispensable de pouvoir disposer des Actes de cet événement.

Trois ans furent nécessaires pour réunir les textes et effectuer un important travail d'édition, dépassant le format habituel d'une simple compilation pour entamer une réflexion plus globale sur l'importance du patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel non seulement en RDC, mais également au niveau du continent africain.

C'est donc en 2017 que fut éditée la publication « *Place du Patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel de la République démocratique du Congo sur les Listes du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO* », fruit de la collaboration entre les deux Commissions pour l'UNESCO, mais également de l'Institut des Musées nationaux du Congo et de la Faculté d'Architecture La Cambre Horta de l'Université libre de Bruxelles.

Cet ouvrage se veut une référence sur la voie d'une meilleure appréhension des différentes facettes des politiques patrimoniales menées ou à mener en Afrique sub-saharienne.

A noter qu'il peut être obtenu gratuitement sur simple demande adressée à [m.faure@wbi.be](mailto:m.faure@wbi.be)



La publication « *Place du Patrimoine culturel matériel et immatériel de la République démocratique du Congo sur les Listes du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO* » © M. Yves Robert

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission participera, en 2018, à l'organisation du Congrès mondial portant sur les défis auxquels doit faire face la justice juvénile, dont le désengagement de l'extrémisme violent, prévu au Siège de l'UNESCO, du 28 au 30 mai. Cette problématique étant parallèlement abordée au sein de la Commission, celle-ci a décidé de s'associer à un consortium international d'ONGs, dont l'Association Internationale des Magistrats de la Jeunesse et de la Famille, pour la tenue de cet événement, en lien avec le Programme Information pour tous.

Dans le contexte politique actuel et les difficultés traversées par l'UNESCO, allant jusqu'à la remise en question de son rôle, la Commission envisage d'entamer une réflexion sur le fonctionnement de l'Organisation, s'agissant, par exemple, des procédures de reconnaissance du patrimoine matériel, immatériel et documentaire.

La Commission souhaite aussi ardemment collaborer avec d'autres commissions nationales, de toutes régions, pour développer conjointement des projets. Outre le lien déjà évoqué avec la Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo, des contacts ont été établis avec la Commission nationale des Comores en vue d'une éventuelle assistance dans le domaine de l'hydrologie, ainsi qu'avec celle du Cambodge pour la conservation et la restauration du Temple de Preah Vihear.

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Adil Osmanović, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Secretary-General:** Ms Biljana Čamur Veselinović

**Website:** [www.unescobih.mcp.gov.ba](http://www.unescobih.mcp.gov.ba)

## Update of activities in 2017

The National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NatCom BiH) continued its efforts to promote and implement various activities in the fields of UNESCO's competence throughout 2017.

The Commission continuously monitors the status of World Heritage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar and Mehmed-paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad, and a number of activities were undertaken on the implementation of the Management Plan for the Stećci – Medieval Tombstones Graveyards, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2016.

The Strict Nature Reserve – Primeval forest “Perućica” was added to the Tentative List of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage was held in Sarajevo. Activities on the preparation of nominations of several new elements for the inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage have been undertaken, and Konjic woodcarving was inscribed on the List in December 2017.

The Sarajevo Haggadah manuscript, an exquisite example of the medieval Hebrew illuminated and decorative art, was inscribed in the Memory of the World International Register in 2017. The Sarajevo Haggadah is the first item of documentary heritage from Bosnia and Herzegovina to be included in the Register.

In cooperation with the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo, NatCom BiH has continued activities on the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, by establishing the Working Group with the involvement of all competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has initiated activities aimed to improve the existing database of stolen objects.

In 2017, two students from Bosnia and Herzegovina were recipients of the UNESCO/ISED Russian Federation Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme and the UNESCO/Great Wall of China Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme.



## A success story

Bosnia and Herzegovina was elected for the first time to be a member of the World Heritage Committee for the period 2018-2021.

Considering the field of culture of utmost importance, Bosnia and Herzegovina is keen to give its contribution to intensifying the collaboration with State Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, paying special attention to the exchange of experiences and good practices.

Through their engagement in the work of the World Heritage Committee, experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina will apply their extensive experience to the preservation, protection and restoration of world's cultural treasury, but remain open to any constructive and innovative ideas that could further enhance our ability to improve and streamline efforts in the preservation of world's cultural heritage as well as raising public awareness of this important issue.

The Sarajevo Haggadah manuscript, an exquisite example of the medieval Hebrew illuminated and decorative art, was inscribed in the Memory of the World Register in 2017 © Dr Mirsad Sijarić, on behalf of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In the upcoming period, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in particular interested in building capacities, which will allow us to intensify activities on the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

In the field of Education in 2018-2019 our priorities and interest for joint work resident in the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in terms of possibility for support in the establishment of a Regional ENIC (European Network of Information Centres in the European Region) /NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union) Network. This initiative follows up on the conclusions from the First Regional ENIC Conference held in Mostar in 2011.

Likewise, we would like to express our interest for the support in identification of indicators for the UN Sustainable Development Goals in general, and specifically:

- SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- SDG 6 – through the activities of the UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme ;
- SDG 9 – through strengthening scientific and technological capacities ;
- SDG 15 – sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (through undertaking of activities to establish Biosphere Reserves).

# BULGARIA

## National Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Yuri Shterk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Iskra Andreeva

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

### Update of activities in 2017

One of the major priorities of the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO in 2017 was the successful inscription of Bulgaria's two nominations of high historical importance on UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register: Boril's Synodicon – a valuable document from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and "The Gospels of Tsar Ivan Alexander" – an illustrated manuscript from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

At its twelfth session held in December 2017 in the Republic of Korea, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage decided to inscribe Bulgarian Chitalishte (cultural community centre) on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and to include the multinational nomination "Cultural Practices Associated to 1st of March – Martenitza" in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Bulgarian National Commission actively contributed to the conclusion of a new 6-year agreement between Bulgaria and UNESCO for continuation of the activity of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe /Category 2 centre in Sofia. This renewed agreement is a clear recognition of Bulgaria's strong

and continuing commitment in implementing and promoting the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Thanks to the support given by the National Commission for UNESCO and the active efforts of local authorities, the town of Gabrovo has been designated as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network due to the original folk art of craftsmen at "Etara".

Dr Isabella Genova, Dr. Kirilka Mladenova and Dr. Natalia Berberova-Buhova are the winners of the L'Oreal and UNESCO's national scholarship "For women in science" in 2017. They were presented with this prestigious prize on the World Day of Sciences for Peace and Development for their high scientific achievements in the field of organic chemistry, cellular biology and engineering physics. Honorary guest of the Programme's seventh edition was Mrs Iliana Yotova, Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Last year the National Commission granted nine patronages to national and international events held in Bulgaria.

Under the patronage of UNESCO and the National Commission, the Fifth International Summit on Information Technologies in Education- "Rethinking Learning in a Digital Age" took place. The forum brought together around 100 educators, scientists and researchers from across the world to deliberate on key emerging issues of the integration of IT in education and addressing successfully the challenges educational systems face at regional, national, and international level.

Under the motto "Ancient Thrace: Myth and Reality", the 13th International Congress on Thracology was held in September 2017, in the town of Kazanlak – the valley of the Thracian kings. Over 200 eminent and world known scientists in Thracology from 25 countries participated in the forum presenting their new research and works.



Concert of the Big Band of the Bulgarian National Radio © A to Jazz

### A success story

On 30 April 2017, the International Jazz Day was celebrated in Sofia. This musical event was held on the initiative of the non-governmental organization "A to Jazz Festival" and under the patronage of the National Commission for UNESCO, the National Music School and the State Cultural Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The programme was dedicated to all periods and forms of this music style with a focus on Ella Fitzgerald's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A special moment during the International Jazz Day was the programme for children presenting an inter-active open air concert-play at which by the means of musical performances, children got acquainted with the history of the most popular jazz instruments. Famous jazz bands and performers took part in the concert.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, the National Commission will draw up new Internal Rules for work with clubs and associations for UNESCO based on *Regulatory framework regarding associations and clubs for UNESCO* adopted at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference in November 2017. In order to improve coordination with the NGOs and to attain greater efficiency and future interaction in the realization of the clubs and associations' goals, the National Commission sets itself the task to mobilize wider national resources aimed at achieving tangible results.

2018 has been declared as the European Cultural Heritage Year in the framework of which the National Commission envisages to cooperate with the Institute for Culture to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, in organizing some of the events included in the national programme to mark the Year.

# CANADA

## Canadian Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Christina Cameron

**Secretary-General:** Mr Sébastien Goupil

**Website:** [www.en.ccunesco.ca](http://www.en.ccunesco.ca) / [www.fr.ccunesco.ca](http://www.fr.ccunesco.ca)

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the year of its 60th anniversary, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) pursued its efforts to be more relevant, engaging and visible. This involved revisiting the composition and functions of its advisory committees, reviewing its strategic partnerships, revamping its website and launching initiatives to address new priorities. These efforts also galvanized its members and networks and raised the profile of both the Commission and UNESCO in Canada.

Under the banner of the “UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education” in March

2017, CCUNESCO and UNESCO jointly organized two events in Ottawa where 500 experts from 90 countries attended: the Review Forum for the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Third UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship Education (GCED). With the support of its Youth Advisory Group (YAG), CCUNESCO ensured that young people played a major role during the Week.

The Commission also collaborated with the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) to showcase the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Located in Canada’s Northwest Territories, Tsá Tué, is the first biosphere reserve in the world to be managed by the local Indigenous community. CCUNESCO, the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) and a number of federal MPs from various political parties also joined forces to organize the first day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to highlight Canada’s biosphere reserves. This was an opportunity for more than 100 MPs to learn how the country’s 18 biosphere reserves contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.



UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education, Ottawa, Canada, March 2017 © [Finnsquare.com](http://Finnsquare.com)

### A success story

In 2017, CCUNESCO took part in many social media campaigns across the country that reached thousands of decision-makers, including many mayors belonging to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination, as well as teachers, researchers, young people and community leaders. These campaigns mobilized Canadians to find solutions to the local or global problems that affect all of us.

The bilingual *It Starts with Me / Ça commence par moi* campaign on Twitter that culminated in the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2017 reached more than two million “followers”.

In September 2017, CCUNESCO partnered with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) to launch the Centre’s *What If I Was Wrong?* campaign. Developed by youth for youth, this campaign is designed to raise public awareness about the issues associated with violent radicalization. The campaign specifically aims to develop the critical thinking of young people aged 13 – 35. It also equips teachers (including those in UNESCO Associated Schools) and frontline practitioners with more effective tools to address these issues.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

CCUNESCO will continue to play an active role in various social media campaigns such as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March). The Commission intends to share the tools developed for these campaigns with other National Commissions.

In 2018, CCUNESCO will continue to mobilize its networks and partners to contribute to rapprochement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. For example, it hopes to work with other National Commissions to mark the International Year of Indigenous Languages during 2019 and continue to promote Indigenous languages and cultures thereafter. In this spirit, CCUNESCO will pursue its dialogue series on reconciliation in partnership with major Canadian institutions such as the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the National Film Board of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and Library and Archives Canada. These dialogues showcase the richness of Indigenous histories, languages and cultures. They also create spaces where Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities – still too often unknown to each other – can interact in a spirit of openness and mutual discovery.

Lastly, CCUNESCO would like to explore the feasibility of collaborating with other UNESCO National Commissions to develop training on how to better showcase the role and contributions of National Commissions around the world. This training could then be used to facilitate the integration of new Secretary Generals and their staff into the National Commission family. The training could also introduce other key people within and outside UNESCO to this network that plays a crucial role in promoting UNESCO values and priorities, and helping implement its programmes and initiatives.

# 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 2017

Croatia's transnational nomination together with Italy and Montenegro of Venetian Works of defence between the 16th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar, was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The extension of the transnational nomination of Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe was approved by the World Heritage Committee. The site now stretches over 12 countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine.

The Republic of Croatia was a member of the World Heritage Committee from 2013 to 2017. The Republic of Croatia has become a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for the second time.

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia organized the International

Interdisciplinary Symposium "Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: Positive Experience of Croatia in the European Context" under the patronage of Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, held in Zagreb on 21 November 2017. The main purpose of the Symposium was to evaluate cultural and religious diversity as an integral part of Croatian society and to share it as an example to the community of European nations and the wider world.

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO has finalized the project Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS). Technical and Analytical reports will be presented to relevant stakeholders in 2018. The Croatian Commission for UNESCO has been planning a conference upon the finalization of the project with the support of UNESCO.

In art education, the Croatian Commission for UNESCO 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.

During 2017, Croatia celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Faust Vrančić (1551–1617) with which UNESCO was associated.

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture together with L'ORÉAL ADRIA organized and celebrated in 2017 the Annual National Award for Women in Science. On this occasion four fellowships in the amount of 5 000 Euros each had been successfully awarded for the 12<sup>th</sup> time.



Participants of the National Workshop Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites, Jelsa on the island of Hvar, Croatia © Croatian Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture

### A success story

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, organized a National Workshop Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites, including Biosphere Reserves, from 25 to 28 September 2017 in Jelsa on the island of Hvar, Croatia.

The aim of the workshop was to provide insight into the tools and methodologies developed by UNESCO and other relevant agencies for Managing Disaster

Risks for World Heritage as well as to contribute to the development of institutional and professional capacities related to resource-based disaster risk management, methodologies and resource materials developed by UNESCO and other relevant agencies. Participants of the meeting were representatives of the Ministry of Culture and other competent bodies responsible for managing cultural and natural sites in the Republic of Croatia together with international experts and representatives of UNESCO.

Special focus was devoted to risk preparedness for geohazards, with particular emphasis on landslides, seismic events, floods, and wild fires, through the participation of an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified international resource persons. In particular, as immediate follow-up actions to the workshop, the participants in accordance with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNESCO Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction for World Heritage properties agreed on the need of 1) Understanding Disaster Risks to heritage; 2) Strengthening Disaster Risk governance of heritage sector; 3) Investing in DRR for heritage and 4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of heritage.

The workshop was an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, with a view to developing a broader framework of collaboration through an interdisciplinary approach.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Following the International Interdisciplinary Symposium "Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: Positive Experience of Croatia in the European Context" successfully held in Zagreb in November 2017, as mentioned above, we would also like to hear impressions of other countries and National Commissions that participated at the International Conference in Paris and are active in this initiative. In that sense we would like to share our experiences with other National Commissions and organize a regional activity in 2018-2019, related to intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

# 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 2017

In 2017, the main areas of activity of the Cyprus National Commission related to the implementation of UNESCO's 2003 and 2005 Conventions. The Commission formed strategic partnerships to deliver a series of activities designed to reach out to civil society and increase its visibility at a national and international level.

In the field of intangible cultural heritage, the Commission collaborated with experts, communities, associations, museums, non-governmental organisations and other bodies to inscribe eleven new elements on the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. These include the Byzantine chant, the traditional Cypriot dances and the craft of pottery in the

village of Phini. The Commission also actively collaborated with the relevant National Commissions of Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland to submit the multinational nomination file for the inscription of the Art of Dry Stone on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In collaboration with the A. G. Leventis Gallery, the Commission organized a one-day workshop on "The Role of Museums in the Promotion and Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage". In collaboration with the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia and Mediazone, the Commission produced a short film showcasing the tradition of Lefkara Embroidery Lace, an element inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List. The film was presented during the inauguration of a special exhibition organised by the Commission in Strasburg, in the framework of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

In the fields linked to the diversity of cultural expressions, the Commission and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture produced the bilingual (Greek and English) publication "Cultural Expressions and Pluralism: Aspects of Contemporary Creativity in Cyprus". The publication includes updated information on main cultural policy issues and priorities in Cyprus and on funding opportunities available for the production and dissemination of cultural goods and services.



Members and collaborators of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO © Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

With a view to enhancing its operational capacities as an independent body, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO successfully completed in 2017 a multi-annual effort to revise its statute and budget and enlarge its board of members (Decisions of the Council of Ministers 81.711 and 82.868). The changes aim to help the Commission to deal with the increasing complexity of its strategic and operational goals and promote its operation as an advisory body of the State and as an information point for the public on all issues concerning UNESCO. They will also facilitate the better collaboration with other National Commissions and UNESCO Regional Offices, to set and achieve common goals.

According to the revised Statute, the Commission: i) cooperates with governmental authorities, ministries, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, and individuals whose activities are related to those of UNESCO for the successful planning, realization and evaluation of UNESCO programmes; ii) informs the general public and the relevant institutions about issues concerning UNESCO and its programmes; iii) promotes cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat and the Permanent Delegation of Cyprus in Paris, UNESCO Regional Offices, other National Commissions and with various European and international networks, organisations and centres in official partnership with UNESCO; iv) ensures active participation of Cyprus in UNESCO's governing bodies; and v) organises and supports the realization of various cultural, educational and scientific events and activities.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Investing in cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, the Commission will continue to work towards enhancing partnerships between national, regional and international networks and bodies, both by implementing targeted actions on a national level and by attending subregional, regional and international meetings organised by UNESCO, UNESCO field offices, Centres and networks.

The election of Cyprus as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2016-2020) presents an excellent opportunity for identifying areas of strategic action and pursuing further opportunities for collaborative initiatives serving to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the region.

The Commission also supports and participates in the activities of the Sofia-based Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, maintaining a strong working relationship with the Centre and its members. In the next five years, the Commission plans to organise, in collaboration with strategic partners, a series of training workshops and activities to strengthen national, sub-regional and regional capacity to implement the 2003 Convention (e.g. production of short films for the nomination of ICH elements; creation, maintenance, preservation and use of ICH archives, inventories and audio-visual records; preserving and revitalizing ICH elements through festivals and commemorations).

# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Czech Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Stanislav Štech

**Secretary-General:** Mrs Radka Bordes

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

## Update of activities in 2017

The Czech Commission for UNESCO was established by the Government's decision of 1 June 1994 as the Government's advisory body structurally attached to the UN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission consists of 60 Members (in 2017). The new President of the Commission, Mr. Stanislav Štech, was appointed on 1 February 2017.

In the course of 2017, the ad hoc working group "Memory of the World Programme" was officially established and at the same time, deliberations on establishing the National Committee for "Memory of the World Programme" were launched. The three subsidiaries of the Commission continued their active work related to specific areas.

The ongoing discussion on UNESCO 2015 "Recommendation on the protection and promotion of museums and collections" and

UNESCO 2015 "Recommendation concerning the preservation of and the access to the documentary heritage including in digital form" lead to a series of proposals for their internal implementation and these were sent out to the appropriate ministries, organisations and institutions for consideration.

The Commission concluded an agreement on cooperation with the Czech Radio so that the general public could be better informed on Czech activities within UNESCO. It also beefed up its cooperation with Czech Tourism agency and the UNESCO Chair for museology and world heritage at the Masaryk University in Brno. The Commission Library is being completely revised. As in previous years, the Commission co-organized the L'Oréal-UNESCO Programme "For Women in Science" and the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the ASPnet Schools. Two topics for the UNESCO Associated Schools Week were approved: "Eights in Czech history" and "Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace".

In 2017, the Commission assumed patronage of 18 events related to implementation of UNESCO approved programmes.

A major success is the autumn inscription of three nominations – Daguerreotype of Kynžvart, Leoš Janáček Archives and Camocio maps (together with Malta) – to the Memory of the World International Registry as well as proclaiming Brno a Creative City of UNESCO in the field of music.

Finally, the Secretariat continued to publish monthly its online newsletter providing information about important UNESCO events and Commission activities.



Czech education project "Basic PC and Internet Course" in Africa © Rober Buřič, Czech Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

A "Basic PC and Internet Literacy Course" project was carried out in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30 October through 10 November 2017 under the UNESCO Participation Programme. It was the fourteenth in a series of Czech education projects in Africa launched in January 2005. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Interior and a local logistical partner, the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI). Two Czech teachers supervised the courses, in which they trained two groups of twenty girls and boys from the PCEA Ngong Hills Secondary School. On that occasion, three computer sets were donated to the school.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of regional cooperation for international relations. We play an active role in the Visegrad Group where some UNESCO specific topics are dealt with at high level meetings. The Czech Republic participates in the European Network of National Commissions. A joint meeting of the Czech and Slovak National Commissions is planned for 2018 on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

# DENMARK

## Danish National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Bo Manderup-Jensen

**Secretary-General:** Mr Jens Dalsgaard

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 was a great UNESCO year in Denmark, and numerous results stand out.

Danish municipalities and institutions stepped up interest and participation in UNESCO programmes and networks, such as the Man and Biosphere Programme, the Creative Cities Network, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, and the UNESCO Chairs Programme.

The Danish National Commission for UNESCO strengthened its partnership and concrete cooperation with key stakeholders on UNESCO priorities such as the right to quality education, the protection of culture in conflict, freedom of expression and safety of journalists and women in science.

The National Commission proactively advised the Danish government on the national follow-up of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda, and on the significant role and contribution of UNESCO actions in this regard.

Danish ASPnet schools successfully improved and intensified their action in education for global citizenship, sustainable development, climate change and intercultural dialogue, including concrete cooperation and exchanges with students and teachers from Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Lebanon, Namibia, Oman, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands.

Out of the many events and activities, the National Commission can highlight only a few in this context.

**Breaking the Silence: How to deal with a shared history of colonialism and slavery and its lasting impact?** This was the question to historians, artists, teachers and students, including outstanding students from the Virgin Islands, when the Danish National Commission and ASPnet schools in March 2017 contributed to the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sale and the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the USA. Acknowledging the importance of historical ties and stimulating continued dialogue and cooperation were some of the ideas put forward.

**Refugees and the Right to Education:** Refugee children are 5x more likely to be out of school than other children. In a very eye-opening seminar in October, the Danish National Commission together with partners, focused on this important challenge, nationally as well as globally. How can governments, professionals and civil society work together to ensure the right to quality education for all and leaving no one behind. Good practice examples from Denmark were shared, but numerous questions remain open for further debate.

### A success story

*UNESCO visibility, local involvement and impact.* With an encouraging and growing number of cities, municipalities, sites and institutions aspiring and qualifying for UNESCO designations and participation in UNESCO Programmes, the need for national networking, sharing of experiences and quality assurance is growing. In May 2017 representatives from approved and aspiring World Heritage sites, UNESCO Global Geoparks and Man and Biosphere reserves in Denmark and Greenland gathered in the UNESCO Global Geopark of Odsherret to discuss exactly how to strengthen local involvement, and the overall visibility and impact of UNESCO in local development, including through sustainable tourism. Many good ideas were shared and the foundation for future professional cooperation was laid. Furthermore, the seminar was planned as a UNESCO contribution to the overall activities of the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.



Participants at the first national meeting for all UNESCO sites and designations at the castle of Dragsholm, May 2017 © the Danish National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2017, Denmark hosted the annual meeting of Nordic National Commissions for UNESCO and relevant authorities. It was a very fruitful meeting aimed at preparing Nordic participation in the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference. This event was a regular step in the very well established and constantly evolving Nordic cooperation in UNESCO. The 2018 meeting of National Commissions in the Nordic sub region will be hosted by the Faroe Islands.

The Danish National Commission is also committed to be an active partner in the European Network of National Commissions and in the Interregional Meetings of National Commissions, and we greatly benefit particularly from the exchanges with other National Commissions. Given our very constrained human and financial resources, the Danish National Commission has a limited capacity to engage in further cooperation, but we are open to consider concrete proposals when relevant and feasible.

# ESTONIA

## Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Kristin Kootma

**Secretary-General:** Ms Kerli Gutman

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

### Update of activities in 2017

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, Advisory Committee and Secretariat.

In 2017, Estonia continued and finished its term as a Member of the Executive Board. As Estonia held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2017 the National commission also had a role in assisting our Permanent Delegation in Paris, supporting cultural events in the Headquarters etc. The sharing of our experiences via expert advice has also become more and more important and we aim to continue contributing to multilateralism through our experts. We continued our excellent partnership with Samsung in digital competences and with L'Oréal Baltic. Together with L'Oréal Baltic and the Estonian Academy of Sciences we launched for the first time the UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science Programme in Estonia.



Signing of the Agreement to launch UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science Programme in Estonia © the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Founded in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science partnership was created to recognize and promote talented women in science, to reduce gender inequality, to inspire the next generation of women. Since the launch of the programme, more than 2500 women researchers from over 112 countries have received support for building their career. In 2017 an agreement was signed between L'Oréal Baltic, the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO and the Estonian Academy of Sciences to launch for the first time the L'Oréal For Women in Science Programme in Estonia. Outstanding Estonian women researchers had an opportunity to join the programme: one fellowship of 6000 EUR was to be awarded to a PhD student under the age of 40 working in Estonia in the field of life and environmental sciences or physical sciences. A jury established by the Estonian Academy of Sciences evaluated the applications. The nominee in 2017 was Dr. Els Heinsalu. The programme will continue in 2018 and is planned to run also in the coming years.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Estonian National Commission is an active member of the European Network of National Commissions and we plan to continue this engagement as the network is very useful and fosters regional and interregional cooperation and knowledge sharing. We are also exploring ways how to contribute to the 2019 Year of indigenous languages which UNESCO is leading. We plan to enhance our work with youth and try to incorporate young people among others to the work of our European Network of National Commissions. We are glad that UNESCO is making efforts to reform the network of ASP schools as the network is also one of our priorities as a tool in implementing education for global citizenship.

# FINLAND

## Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Jutta Urpilainen

**Secretary-General:** Ms Zabrina Holmström

**Website:** [minedu.fi/en/national-commission-for-unesco](http://minedu.fi/en/national-commission-for-unesco)

## Update of activities in 2017

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.

The Commission had six meetings in 2017. In addition, the National Commission organized a national World Press Freedom Day satellite event in Päivälehti Museum in Helsinki in May. The event was organized in cooperation with the Union

of Journalists in Finland, the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation and the Finnish Foundation for Media and Development (Vikes).

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 Denmark. The meeting focused mainly on the preparation of the 39th session of UNESCO's General Conference.

The National Commission gave its support to the applications of two new UNESCO Chairs and to the first UNITWIN network in Finland, which were accepted as part of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair programme:

- UNESCO Chair on Values, Dialogue and Human Rights in Education, Prof. Arto Kallioniemi, University of Helsinki
- UNESCO Chair on Educational Ecosystems for Equity and Quality of Learning, Prof. Hannele Niemi, University of Helsinki
- The Thematic Network on Teacher Education and Social Justice and Diversity in Education, UNITWIN network coordinated by the University of Lapland

In September, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) organized the annual seminar for the Finnish UNESCO ASPnet schools. Mr Svein Østtveit, Director of the Executive Office from UNESCO's Education Sector participated in the event.

Elections de membres du Conseil exécutif - Résultats				
<b>Groupe I</b>	<b>Groupe II</b>	<b>Groupe III</b>	<b>Groupe IV</b>	<b>Groupe V (a)</b>
• Finlande • Portugal • Turquie	• Albanie • Bélarus • Bulgarie	• Cuba • Grenade • Jamaïque • Sainte-Lucie • Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines • Venezuela (République bolivarienne du)	• Bangladesh • Chine • Inde • Indonésie • Japon • Philippines	• Burundi • Éthiopie • Guinée équatoriale • Madagascar • Zambie • Zimbabwe
				<b>Groupe V (b)</b>
				• Égypte • Jordanie • Maroc

In November 2017 Finland was elected to the Executive Board © Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

## A success story

Throughout the year the National Commission supported and worked for the Candidature of Finland to the Executive Board of UNESCO for 2017–2021. In November Finland was elected to the Executive Board with the highest number of votes in the electoral group I.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

A close and well established cooperation exists between the Nordic countries in UNESCO related issues. The National Commissions are an essential part of this cooperation. The coordination is conducted by each Nordic country in turn. In 2018, Finland is in charge of the coordination.

The Finnish National Commission also participates in the work of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO through sharing information and participating in regional meetings.

# FRANCE

## Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Daniel Janicot

**Secrétaire général** : M. Alexandre S. Navarro

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

## Compte rendu des activités 2017

2017 fut l'année de renforcement des relations entre la Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO (CNFU) et les différents secteurs de l'UNESCO : participation accentuée de la CNFU aux travaux du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale ; soutien accru aux Comités nationaux en appui des programmes de l'UNESCO (Comité français des sciences humaines – MOST, Comité français de la Mémoire du monde, Comité national des Géoparcs de France, Comité national du programme MAB et du PHI) ; participation élargie aux conseils et comités intergouvernementaux des programmes de l'Organisation (MOST, CIB, CIGB ...).

Parmi les objectifs prioritaires, le pilotage et le développement des réseaux (Ecoles associées, Chaires, Clubs) et des labels (villes créatives, villes apprenantes) de l'UNESCO en France.

Le rééquilibrage territorial de la présence de l'UNESCO en France a été repensé après un premier inventaire des activités de l'UNESCO dans les régions françaises.

La diversification des partenaires auprès de la société civile et la signature de partenariats avec des institutions scientifiques (dont l'Académie nationale de médecine, l'Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger, la Conférence des Présidents d'Université) sont au cœur des avancées et ont contribué à replacer la société civile dans le fonctionnement de la CNFU.

En matière de coopération internationale, l'accent fut mis sur le resserrement des coopérations avec les autres Commissions nationales (Chine, République de Corée, Allemagne...) notamment lors de la réunion du réseau européen des Commissions nationales à Thessalonique et lors de la commémoration du bicentenaire de la mort de Madame de Staël, romancière et essayiste (1766-1817) célébrée le 22 juin en association avec l'UNESCO et les Délégations permanentes d'Allemagne, de Suisse et de France auprès de l'UNESCO. Enfin, tout au long de l'année, lors de rencontres internationales, la CNFU a prolongé ses engagements en faveur de l'égalité des genres ; de la liberté d'expression ; du changement climatique ; de la promotion de l'objectif de développement durable sur l'éducation (ODD4) ; de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale ; de la promotion du patrimoine matériel ou immatériel.



Ice Memory, pour la création d'une archive mondiale de la mémoire des glaces © Sarah Del Ben / Wild Touch / Fondation UGA Carottage sur le Col du Dôme en 2016

### Une activité réussie

La CNFU a accompagné les responsables du projet ICE MEMORY, placé sous l'égide de la Fondation Université de Grenoble dans leur volonté d'impliquer l'UNESCO dans cette initiative franco-italienne. La CNFU a ainsi célébré le lancement international du projet le 8 mars 2017 à l'UNESCO. Face au phénomène de fonte des glaciers lié au changement climatique, ce programme international vise à préserver la mémoire du climat et de l'évolution des espèces. Les connaissances et les outils scientifiques d'aujourd'hui ne permettent pas en effet d'exploiter toute l'information que renferme les glaciers. La préservation de carottes glaciaires dans un sanctuaire international devrait permettre à la communauté scientifique des générations futures d'avoir accès à cette information. Forte de son succès lors du colloque, l'initiative a débouché sur l'idée d'un engagement plus formel de l'UNESCO vis à vis de cette initiative. A cette fin, un texte de projet de décision a été discuté puis présenté conjointement par la France et l'Italie pour être enfin adopté à la 202<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil Exécutif de l'UNESCO. Il s'agit du document 202 EX/42, intitulé « La mémoire de la Glace : un enjeu pour le Futur ».

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

En 2018, la CNFU continuera à développer et à faire vivre ses coopérations et partenariats nationaux et internationaux en direction des Commissions nationales d'autres pays : la CNFU proposera de tenir l'organisation de la réunion du réseau européen des Commissions nationales destinée au partage des expériences mais aussi à la définition de positions communes. Parmi les projets que nous avons envisagés, figure l'organisation, en partenariat avec la Chine, d'une exposition d'un artiste chinois, Jiang Shanqing au siège de l'UNESCO.

Dans la continuité du partenariat de la CNFU avec le Bureau de Bamako à l'occasion des « rencontres d'équations nomades » et la participation de Clubs pour l'UNESCO français, les coopérations s'amplifieront en direction de l'Afrique, notamment à l'occasion du colloque « Éducation et protection de la petite enfance » organisé par la CNFU conjointement avec l'UNESCO les 5 et 6 mars 2018.

Le transhumanisme sera au cœur de la réflexion d'un processus d'élaboration d'un texte posant les principes éthiques qui doivent guider les évolutions engendrées par le transhumanisme, inspiré par la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'Homme (1948), la Déclaration universelle sur le génome humain et les droits de l'homme (1997) et la Déclaration universelle sur la bioéthique et les droits de l'homme (2005).

Enfin, 2018 sera l'année du développement des programmes et activités de la CNFU dans l'Outre-Mer français.

# 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 2017

In 2017, the Georgian National Commission significantly contributed to ensuring country's participation in UNESCO's programmes and projects in various spheres of its competence.

The secretariat of the National Commission traditionally turned to be an important body for liaison and advice regarding implementation of the projects approved in the framework of the Participation Programme for 2016-2017 as well as the country's partnership with the Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport. Furthermore, intensive process of the preparation of the National Report on the implementation of the Hague Convention of 1954 and its two Protocols was a good example of National Commission's fruitful cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention and relevant governmental and civil organizations.

Intensive cooperation with the World Heritage Center and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention regarding the submission of the new nomination for possible inscription in 2018 on

the Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity is also worth mentioning.

The National Commission was actively involved in the commemoration of anniversaries with which UNESCO was associated in the biennium 2016-2017.

In March 2017, the Tbilisi Museum of Modern Art hosted an exhibition on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German settlements in the South Caucasus Region "Architecture-building bridges between people and times". The event was organized with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, the Georgian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Economic and Sustainable Development of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, the Tbilisi City Hall, the National Tourism Administration, the Georgian National Museum and the Union of Architects. The Secretary-General of the Georgian National Commission for UNESCO welcomed the participants of the event underlining UNESCO's leading role in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue for better mutual understanding and peace.

Another important event, advancing the ideals and objectives of UNESCO, took place in September 2017 in Batumi, Georgia. The UNESCO Artist for Peace Ms Elisso Bolkvadze, in close cooperation with the National Commission and under the patronage of UNESCO, organized the 5<sup>th</sup> International Music Festival "Batumi Music Fest", bringing together Georgian and foreign musicians. Master classes were held in order to discover, inspire and motivate young talents from the whole of Georgia. The young participants were awarded a special prize founded by "Lyra" Charity Foundation.



The conference entitled "Common Heritage for Intercultural Dialogue and Development" organized in the framework of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German settlements in Georgia was held at the National Museum of Georgia, in December 2017 © Georgian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

With the support of the Georgian National Commission, a conference entitled "Common Heritage for Intercultural Dialogue and Development", organized in the framework of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German settlements in Georgia, was held at the National Museum of Georgia, in December 2017.

The participants of the conference – the Secretaries-General of the National Commissions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia for UNESCO, Azerbaijani, German and Georgian scientists and experts, stressed the important role of the German heritage for the development of intercultural dialogue in the Caucasus region. The UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Dialogue established at the Tbilisi State University was among the participants of the conference as well. The participation of the Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan was a brilliant opportunity to share experiences in the fields of UNESCO's competence and discuss the full scope of future cooperation between the National Commissions of the two countries.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018-2019, the Georgian National Commission will actively cooperate with partners from the National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the framework of celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Marjory Scott Wardrop, endorsed by the General Conference at its 39<sup>th</sup> session.

# 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 2017

In 2017, the German Commission for UNESCO continued to regroup its activities strategically around two key notions, Education and Heritage.

In Heritage, the German Commission sought synergies among World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Memory of the World, Biosphere Reserves, and Geoparks. Germany hosted the third European Meeting of World Heritage Associations, initiated national workshops on World Heritage presentation, interpretation, and heritage impact assessments, and translated key manuals into German. The Geoparks national committee, founded in 2016, completed pre-evaluations, worked on key characteristics of Geoparks, and held workshops on renewable energies and ESD. In MAB, the Commission strongly supported

the new "quality process" in the World Network, produced the new World Map, and hosted national meetings on ESD and on global cooperation. In Intangible Cultural Heritage, Germany concluded the third phase of submissions to the national inventory and a very successful campaign, identifying "cultural talents". In March, Germany hosted the Berlin meeting of the international MoW Working Group, tasked with developing reform proposals.

In Education, priorities continue to be implementing Education Agenda 2030 and the Global Action Programme ESD. In September, the German government adopted the new ESD National Action Plan. At the second annual national ESD summit, 63 institutions received our best practice award. The principals of the 250 German Associated Schools met for the first time in the Federal Foreign Office to discuss the whole school approach. The GEMR was launched in Germany on 23 November. The Commission published a GEMR German short version, the Education 2030 Framework for Action in German translation and an abridged version, as well as a new English-language publication presenting German UNESCO Chairs working towards Agenda 2030.

The German Commission successfully supported most UNESCO networks in Germany to adopt Agenda 2030 as a reference framework.



Train-the-trainer seminar STEP Mexico 2016  
© German Commission for UNESCO/Sophie Wissner

STEP has high impact providing a response to youth unemployment. 2 years after the training, 75% of the participants have founded a business with 3.5 employees on average, far more than those in the control group, also generating double the income of the control groups' businesses (example Kenya). Participants are also generally more satisfied with their life. The National Commissions have successfully used STEP to even better position themselves as education policy innovators.

### A success story

Since 2010, the Commission has cooperated with the National Commissions of Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, Lesotho, as well as Mexico to introduce entrepreneurship to selected universities, using the "Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion" (STEP) methodology. More than 3,000 students have been trained so far. STEP, locally adapted, has been implemented over three years. Annually, a 12-week course is offered while working towards integrating entrepreneurship into curricula and educational strategies.

STEP is unique for several reasons: Students work on a real-life business case, using refundable start-up capital. STEP's success is scientifically monitored by control groups. Trainers are local and partner institutions are empowered to continue STEP by themselves after three years. Full local ownership is a high priority. STEP is run by Lüneburg University (Germany), financial support is diverse, with strong support from BASF Foundation.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The German Commission for UNESCO seeks to further expand regional and global cooperation of National Commissions at all levels. The subregional cooperation among National Commissions of EU and EFTA countries will continue through annual meetings and an online platform hosted by the German Commission.

Cooperation within UNESCO networks, e.g. World Heritage site managers, will be continued, both at European level and among German-speaking countries.

The Commission will continue its longstanding cooperation with several National Commissions in Sub-Saharan Africa. The National Commissions in Southern Africa have also set up an online platform for their knowledge exchange with our support.

In 2018 and 2019, German Commission will support processes in Southern Africa to strengthen the implementation of the MAB Programme.

The STEP methodology of strengthening entrepreneurship education together with partner National Commissions will be further expanded in 2018 to two additional Member States (see success story).

The German ASPnet schools will strengthen their participation in the Climate Action Project and particularly their cooperation with Africa.

The Commission will also further consolidate its international volunteering programme "kulturweit". In 2017, more than 500 Germans between 18 and 27 started their work abroad for 6 or 12 months; a similar number of young persons will be sent in 2018. More National Commissions would be welcome to be part of the programme. Work with the now more than 3,000 returning alumni will be further strengthened.

At the global level, the German Commission seeks to strengthen the exchange of experiences and good practices, in particular to support the implementation of Agenda 2030 through National Commissions.

# GREECE

## Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mrs Ekaterini Tzitzikosta

**Website:** <https://unesco-hellas.org/>

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO promoted UNESCO's Programmes & Priorities through a wide range of activities, the most important of which are the following:

In the Education Sector, the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Educational Contribution in Primary Education in Border and Remote Areas of Greece" Awards were presented in Athens by Mr Qian Tang, then Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Education, for the second time. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of ASPnet schools of the Attica Region, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium of ASPnet schools of the Central Macedonia Region took place. A new UNESCO Chair entitled "Women and Peace Security: Building Capacity and Resilience through Education and Research" was approved and is currently under establishment at the University of Macedonia, marking the 11th UNESCO

Chair in Greece. Regarding Culture, the Hellenic Commission organized a Conference entitled "Protection of Cultural Properties in the event of Illicit Trafficking and Armed Conflict within the Framework of UNESCO's Conventions: Evaluating the Contribution of Greece" in which Mr. Francesco Bandarin, then Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture, was the Keynote Speaker. Furthermore, the musical and cultural expression "Rebetiko" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Concerning the Sciences, a Coordination Meeting regarding UNESCO's Global Geoparks programme was organized in Athens, aiming to incorporate the Resolutions of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, as well as to further promote the aforementioned Programme in Greece.

Finally, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO in Thessaloniki, in which representatives from 35 National Commissions participated, as well as Mr. Eric Falt, then Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information. Furthermore, the Hellenic Commission participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in the margins of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.



### A success story

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2017 by the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO and the Region of South Aegean for the promotion of UNESCO's programmes and priorities.

The Region of South Aegean consists of two island groups, namely Cyclades and Dodecanese, located in the central and southeastern part of the Aegean Sea. Through this synergy, the Region of South Aegean will get acquainted with UNESCO's Programmes regarding the Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as with the Organization's fundamental Programmes within its fields of competence, such as the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs, Memory of the World, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks. Furthermore, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO will assist the Region of South Aegean in the preparation of nomination files for the inscription of properties on UNESCO's World Heritage List, elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and municipalities in UNESCO's Cities Networks. The cooperation of the two partners is an important initiative, since it will disseminate UNESCO's priorities and will raise its visibility to 52 Greek islands and approximately to 300.000 Greek citizens.

Raising UNESCO's visibility in the South Aegean: the Home Page of the Region's official website <http://www.pnai.gov.gr/> © Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus will be organized by the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO in May 2018 in Athens, at the premises of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Conference will be supported by the Hellenic Government.

Since 2004 Greece has been supporting the development of Global Geoparks and since 2007 the organization of the main capacity building on Global Geoparks in collaboration with UNESCO.

The Conference will cover all main topics related to UNESCO Global Geoparks programme development and operation, as well as its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The aforementioned Conference will significantly improve the collaboration at the sub-regional level on geo-heritage protection and management, geo-education, geohazards, climate change and local development. Furthermore, not only it will promote the dissemination of information, raising the public awareness regarding the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme in both countries, but it will also strengthen knowledge about geological heritage protection and management, offering a variety of tools for sustainable local development. Also, it will act as a best practice for countries in the Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean Region in order to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme and cooperate both in a sub-regional and regional level.

# 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 2017

The Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO continues to be particularly relevant for defining our mission as well as the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs that give us the strategic framework for action. The National Commission continues to see its role as the connection between UNESCO, national government, civil society, academic and professional communities in order to translate UNESCO's ideals into action on the ground in partnership with stakeholders. The National Commission has also sought to raise awareness of the general public about the Agenda 2030 and has continued its cooperation with the UN Information Service in Vienna. The National Commission established five partnership agreements for specific projects with civil organisations and academic communities whose mission and activities fall within UNESCO's mandate. These have proved to be very efficient in gaining visibility for UNESCO and for promoting causes, projects and activities directly relevant to the Organisation. Another useful way of coordinating national efforts has been the anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated, in particular the anniversary of Zoltán Kodály in 2017.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Interreligious Dialogue Conference "Common reflection on our future – Conference on the cultural and moral unity of

man and the environment", was held in the Benedictine Abbey of Tihany, Hungary on 14 and 15 June 2017. This conference was organised by the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO with the substantial moral and practical support of the Ministry of Human Capacities. The focus of the conference was the responsibility of man and the role of culture and religion in achieving the SDGs.

The Hungarian National Commission continued to support the initiative of *Human Ecology Workshop on Global Co-existence* that disseminates knowledge in an interdisciplinary framework on the social-ecological crisis of our planet and on possible solutions for the public, first of all for young intellectuals and university students. Attendees may use this complex knowledge for widening the perspective of their university education. In partnership with the Loránd Eötvös University, the following courses were held: Crisis of the Biosphere in the Carpathian Basin; Environmental Ethical Decisions – Personal Life Strategies; From Development to Sustainability; Theory and Practice of Ecological Systems; Alternative Farming – Rural Development; 'Be the change...'; Rurality – in change? ; Ecological System Change.

In partnership with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the National Commission convened a conference in November on the theme "From development to sustainability". The conference took as its discussion starting point Julian S. Huxley's pamphlet UNESCO, its Purpose and its Philosophy (1946) and reviewed the changes of the concept of development in the past 70 years, as well as its current understandings with scholars of natural and social sciences and theology.

The Hungarian edition of "Global Citizenship Education. Topics and Learning Objectives" was published in 2017.

Two Hungarian cities joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities: Pécs and Kaposvár.



Pupils are voting about their favourite dish made from locally produced ingredients during the launching event of the World's Largest Lesson 2017, in Hungary.

© PontVelem Ltd

### A success story

In partnership with the Ministry of Human Capacities, the National Commission participated in the third edition of the World's Largest Lesson aimed to introduce the Sustainable Development Goals to children and young people everywhere and unite them in action. Thanks to the cooperation of an external partner, PontVelem Ltd, 517 schools, 3913 classes, and more than 80 thousand pupils participated in the project. This year the focus was on food: responsible food consumption and its relationship to sustainability. The lesson plans were made available in Hungarian to the participating schools and three competitions were also launched: a drawing competition on tales of food for elementary schools classes 1-4, another on interview with a "star vegetable", for classes 5-8, and a planning competition on Eco-Party for secondary schools. The food habits of 2500 pupils were surveyed through questionnaires for a research project. The opening event was attended by 100 students and was also attended by high-level representatives of the Ministry of Human Capacities and UNICEF Hungary.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission intends to revitalize our ASP Network in line with the recent guidelines published by UNESCO. The Commission would like to exchange good practices in this regard and also to put connect interested schools with each other. Another priority is the sustained revival of Zoltán Kodály's rich cultural and educational heritage following the inscription of on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of intangible cultural heritage in 2016 by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH.

# 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 2017

The Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO consists of a President and six members who have expertise in the fields of UNESCO's competence. The Minister of Education, Science and Culture nominates members for a four-year term. The 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. The National Commission has put emphasis on playing a facilitating, monitoring and coordinating role by exchanging advice, guidance and support.

The Rector of the University of Iceland signed a UNITWIN Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO and 17 other universities in four continents in April 2017. This was the first time that the University of Iceland participated in such a network. The main objective of the Co-operation Agreement

is to consolidate scientific cooperation, skills and resources in the field of counseling to those in the labor market, and who, to date, have little access to study and career guidance or further education. Icelanders can share good experience in this area, where adult people offer educational and career counseling within lifelong learning institutions in the country. The aim of the partnership is also to enhance the knowledge and implementation of related learning and career counseling for a lifetime that promotes both a decent work for people and sustainable development of jobs.

The National Commission took part in a seminar and consultation with Katla UNESCO Global Geopark and Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark. A top priority of the parks is to protect the natural environment, promote local sustainable development, introduce local culture and place a strong emphasis on nature tourism.

The Commission worked closely with the city of Reykjavik which was designated as a UNESCO City of Literature in August 2011, and which organized many events each year. The Reykjavik City of Literature hosts the Reykjavik Reads Festival in October each year. This month-long festival has a special theme each year and it is dedicated to the art of the word in its broadest sense. It celebrates reading and writing for people of all ages, children, teenagers and grown-ups. This year also opened a Writers' Home in the heart of the Old Town, which is open to the public with exhibitions and also serves as a writers' accommodation. Reykjavik UNESCO City of Literature is an active partner of the Creative Cities Network.



The new building for Veröld – International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding opened in April 2017 © The Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding

areas has never been as important to us as it is today, especially in education, technology, trade, politics, aid and development. In a world of growing contacts in so many fields, language skills are becoming increasingly vital.

The Vigdís World Language Centre will be an information centre for languages and culture with excellent facilities for research, language learning and dissemination. In cooperation with other institutes, international scholars and those interested in languages, the centre is a significant contribution towards preserving and strengthening linguistic diversity.

### A success story

Veröld – Vigdís' house was opened on 20 April of 2017 and it houses the UNESCO Category 2 Centre the Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding. In Veröld, you can learn about Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the first woman democratically elected as president of a country and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Languages.

The primary purpose of the Centre is to raise awareness of the importance of languages as one of mankind's most precious cultural assets. The languages of the world and the cultures associated with them serve as one of the cornerstones of mankind's cultural heritage. Language is the means by which people develop both cultural unity and personal identity. Linguistic versatility and an understanding of different cultures are the most important tools for bringing people together at national and international levels.

Global cooperation between different cultural and linguistic

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO hosted in 2016 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 to exchange views to enhance the work of UNESCO in plenary sessions and thematic group discussions. The Nordic National Commissions meeting in 2017 was hosted by Denmark and was attended by the Icelandic National Commission. In Iceland we also put emphasis on the Creative Cities Network, The Nordic World Heritage Sites Network, The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and the Nordic ICH Network.

# IRELAND

## Irish National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Vincent Landers

**Website:** [www.education.ie/en/](http://www.education.ie/en/)

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2016, Cork was chosen by UNESCO to host its 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Learning Cities. The conference took place in September 2017. This was the first time this prestigious conference was held in Europe, following in the footsteps of previous conferences held in Mexico City (2015) and Beijing (2013). Key officials from some of the world's major cities came together to identify ways in which education can contribute to create change, foster inclusion and promote sustainability. The conference was deemed a huge success, with more than 650 delegates from 92 countries gathering to

share their knowledge and experiences in building inclusive and sustainable learning cities.

2017 was the International Year for Sustainable Tourism Development, and the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Ireland took an active role in demonstrating just how they contributed to sustainable tourism. These included the final seminar of the GeoparkLIFE project at the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, a project that sought a collaborative balance between tourism and conservation needs in the Geopark region. The Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark organized an amazing community festival to raise awareness of the Geopark and to help empower the local communities further. The Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark opened the Cuilcagh Mountain Boardwalk funded as part of the Border Uplands Project. This spectacular walkway provides access to the uplands of Cuilcagh Mountain using environmentally-sensitive infrastructure and construction methods. The year culminated in the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee Seminar in December where all of the Geoparks presented on their achievements for the year and discussed issues and challenges of developing sustainable tourism products.



Fionnán Mac Gabhann (left) teaching a piping class at the 2015 Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy (Willie Clancy Summer School) © Ben Taylor, NPU, 2015

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in partnership with Na Piobairí Uilleann, the Uilleann Pipers association, and the Permanent Delegation of Ireland to UNESCO in Paris. It also followed the successful inscription of the Irish Folklore Commission Collection 1935-1970 on the Memory of the World Register in October 2017.

Both of these inscriptions not only demonstrate Ireland's commitment to its cultural heritage, they also affirm our engagement with UNESCO in general and with the area of intangible cultural heritage in particular.

### A success story

In 2017, at the UNESCO twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ireland's application – Uilleann Piping – was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Ireland ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2015, and Uilleann Piping was our first national application.

Minister Josepha Madigan described the inscription as "a wonderful affirmation of the value of one of the most distinct musical forms to be found anywhere in the world – music which instantly transports you back to Ireland no matter where you are".

This is a particular success story for Ireland as it is the culmination of over 18 months' work which commenced in March 2016, led by the

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In the area of intangible cultural heritage, Ireland's priorities are twofold:

1. To progress our 2017 application for Hurling to be inscribed on the UNESCO ICH Representative List. Hurling is believed to be the world's oldest field game, is a unique part of Irish cultural and sporting heritage and has featured in Irish history and folklore for over 2,000 years.
2. To further develop our National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Originally established as an interim inventory in 2016, an open call is currently underway for submissions to a broader National Inventory, which it is envisaged will record and assist in safeguarding Irish living heritage practices now and in the future.

The Irish National Commission also looks forward to an early decision on the application by Dublin City University to establish a Chair in tackling bullying. This may be a possible area for collaboration in the future.

# 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 2017

The Italian Commission's coordination with the relevant Italian Ministries led to the successful selection of the Italian candidacies for inscription in the World Heritage List and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Commission was actively involved in the establishment of a Commission for the promotion of the Italian Intangible Heritage. It hosted the meeting *Learning City and cultural diversity*, in collaboration with the University of Roma 3 and participated in the conference *The Heritage Interpretation for the conservation and management of environmental assets*. It also organized with the University of Turin a forum dedicated to the integrated management of UNESCO initiatives (WH, IH, MAB, Geoparcs) in Italy. It also took part in the meeting of the Italian creative cities held in Fabriano, in the presence of Ms Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO. The Commission was involved in an Creative Cities event and participated in the meeting of

the Italian 'Memory of the World' Committee focused on the opportunities for networking and valorization.

The Commission was engaged with the Ministry of Culture in the initiative "You are in a wonderful country" of Autostrade per l'Italia to promote Italian world heritage sites along the Italian motorway.

Under the theme of the diversity of cultural expression, the Commission cooperated with the Ministry of Culture for the project Italiani dell'altrove, a series of events to present the 12 ethnic and linguistic minorities in Italy and participated in the international Art Camp organized by the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO, in Malta.

The Commission took part in the project "The role of mass-media in treating the refugees & migrants topic", set in Bucharest by the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.

Collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe located in Venice continued.

The Commission supported the activity of the 26 UNESCO Chairs in Italy, organizing a coordination meeting in Rome.

The Commission has also been cooperating with Rai Italia for the television programmes "Community and Italian Beauty", showing to Italians living abroad, Italian World Heritage sites and elements inscribed on the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage, in 2017 and 2018.



Rome Marathon 2017: running through history © Italian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Building on the experience of the "National Committee for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development-DESS", the Commission promoted the creation of a "National Committee for Education on Sustainability – Agenda 2030" (CNES), inviting all members of the Committee to organize educational initiatives and information campaign open to everybody in all Italian regions, in order to promote the values and best practices of sustainable development, spreading them mostly among young generations.

CNES started its activity by supporting the edition of the Italian version of the guide for education professionals *Education for Sustainable Development Goals. Learning objectives*, undertaken by the Commission together with the Center for UNESCO in Turin. The booklet is available either in digital format on the Italian National Commission's website or in printed copies destined to clubs for UNESCO and UNESCO associated schools, and it was widely disseminated and utilized by the Italian Ministry of Education.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

With the aim to reinvigorate the Education 2030 Agenda goals and to strengthen national capacity through training, technical advice, exchange of experiences, one priority for 2018 consists of supporting education planning through associations and NGOs. In cooperation with the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), the Commission is engaged in raising the awareness on the importance of achieving the SDGs within Italian society and amongst economic stakeholders and institutions through the organizations of cultural events.

In 2018 the Commission will keep on working on the project started in 2017 of a national marathon network to enhance our heritage of historical centers, highlighting their usability even at a sporting level. It is a way to underline the links between sport, art and culture, three elements that contribute to a healthy and quality life that is positively reflected not only at the individual level but also at the social level. It is also a way to spread an idea of sustainable tourism that is based on rhythms of use more in harmony with the body and the mind.

Furthermore, the Commission started relationship with the Ghana National Commission, with the aim to support the idea of the Italian proponents to activate a transnational candidacy between the two countries sharing a competence model to build together a proposal for the Intangible Heritage List.

# LATVIA

## Latvian National Commission for UNESCO (LNC UNESCO)

**President:** Mrs Dace Melbārde, Minister of Culture

**Secretary-General:** Mrs Baiba Moļņika

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

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO actively worked towards promoting and informing society about the SDGs. Particularly, we put our effort in fostering the SDG4 on quality education by organizing a nationwide campaign in schools on sustainable consumption and production, promoting fair food chains and reducing wastage. During the campaign, more than 100 lessons on SDGs took place that involved more than 3000 youngsters in all regions of Latvia. This activity was part of the World's Largest Lesson campaign.

At regional level, the L'Oréal Baltic for Women in Science Fellowship Programme was established to advance progress towards SDG5 on gender equality. This programme is a continuation of a long-term L'Oréal Latvia cooperation with the National Commission and the Latvian Academy of Science, and now involves partners from Estonia and Lithuania. The programme rewards established women scientists whose outstanding achievements have contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge and of its benefits to society and provides support to promising young women who are already making significant contributions in their scientific disciplines. In 2017, the programme rewarded 5 women scientists – 3 from Latvia, 1 from Estonia and 1 from Lithuania – in the fields of life sciences and physical sciences.

In support of the global movement #Unite4Heritage, the LNC UNESCO organized an educational campaign – competition for youngsters "Heritage: My Story – Your Story". Around 200 people entered the competition and submitted their artwork – a photo collage which depicts the author and heritage that she or he values the most. The photo collage was supplemented by a short story that revealed the importance of the particular heritage to the author. As a result, a calendar and a traveling exhibition were created.



The Project "Cultural Diversity as Means for Youth Empowerment and Promotion of Multilingualism and Intercultural Dialogue" © Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, Indra Lapinska

### A success story

In 2017 the LNC UNESCO in cooperation with local and regional institutions carried out a project called "Cultural Diversity as Means for Youth Empowerment and Promotion of Multilingualism and Intercultural Dialogue" which aimed to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue by highlighting the role of youth and encouraging them to contribute to this cause.

The project's objective was to provide young translators with the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills, as well as to learn about the specifics of their profession and gain valuable professional and academic contacts.

The target audience of the project were students studying Latvian language and culture in foreign universities (Estonia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland and Finland) and Latvian students learning foreign languages. During the project these universities organized various events to discuss different trends in their national and Latvian literature, as well as to reflect on the challenges of translating literature. The key-event of the project was a conference and summer school in Latvia, which brought together all participants of the project to take part in lectures and workshops led by professional translators and industry experts.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, the LNC UNESCO will work towards fostering the cooperation between ASPnet schools in Latvia and abroad in the fields of heritage education, human rights education and education for sustainable development. We highly appreciate our cooperation with the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO and Estonian ASPnet in organizing the international Model United Nations that involves youngsters from Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine and other countries to debate the most pressing global challenges of today. In 2018, the focus will be put on the rights of indigenous people, media literacy and women and children rights.

Media literacy will also be the main topic for the upcoming MIL (Media and Information Literacy) Youth Agenda Forum that will take place in Riga during the Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2018 as a side event of the Feature Conference in Kaunas, Lithuania. Organized by the University of Latvia and the

UNESCO Chair on Media and Information Literacy at the University of Latvia, the Youth Forum will tackle the new possibilities and challenges that emerge with the development of information and communication technologies. Recognizing and appreciating the role of young people in digital media, and the risks that it brings to their privacy, reputations and identities, the Youth Forum will address the need for improvement of digital and media literacy among the young generation. It will also encourage young people (as digital natives) to share their insight and knowledge of media and information literacy with younger and older generations to bring positive changes in the era of digital algorithms.

# 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 2017

In 2017, the National Commission, in cooperation with the Association of Non-Formal Youth Education, reorganized the national network of the Associated Schools and expanded the project "Integrating Open Badge Standard in ASPnet schools in Lithuania" aimed at introducing the non-formal education achievement recognition system. The methodology was made available in English and distributed to the International Coordinator of the UNESCO ASPnet.

In 2017, Kaunas modernism architecture "Kaunas 1919-1939: The Capital Inspired by the Modern Movement" was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. The Commission together with the experts continuously proceeds its participation in the preparation of a nomination file. An international exhibition "Architecture of Optimism: Kaunas

phenomenon, 1918-1940" is going to be displayed in Paris (UNESCO HQ), Rome, Tallinn, Wrocław, Brussels.

During 2017, the Commission coordinated an inter-institutional working group, which collected, shared and exchanged the data on the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the status of the elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. After the submission of the periodic report to UNESCO, it is also foreseen that the Commission will elaborate a set of recommendations to be addressed to the Ministry of Culture and other organizations concerned in 2018.

For the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lithuania's participation in the Memory of the World Programme, the Commission together with the National MoW Committee, the Polish Institute in Vilnius and other state institutions, organized a ceremony for the inclusion of 5 new items in the National MoW Register and a seminar for Lithuanian and Polish representatives of memory institutions. The speakers and participants of the seminar prepared the Recommendations concerning the cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish institutions.

The year 2017 also witnessed the inscription of Polish-Lithuanian joint nomination "The Act of the Union of Lublin document (1569)" on the MoW International Register.



Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers © Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The Commission (in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, organized the sub-regional *Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers* in Vilnius from 18 to 20 October 2017. The seminar was led by international experts and was attended by site managers and representatives of the world heritage properties of Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania.

The idea of the seminar was to bring a particular attention to the importance of site manager's role in implementing the World Heritage Convention and to work on stronger synergy between the procedural world heritage protection system and site managers, who safeguard outstanding universal value and constitute the World Heritage Convention *in situ*. Special focus of the seminar was on strengthening site managers' abilities to consolidate their institutional and social position, specifying determination of their functions, role, competences, responsibilities, and developing of their skills on cooperation, communication.

The final document of the seminar – Recommendations on the World Heritage Site Manager's Role, Functions and Competences – was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM for consideration towards better implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

After the successful sub-regional Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers held in Vilnius, the Commission finds it highly meaningful to develop a regular regional partnership and cooperation in the field of conservation, management and sustainable development issues of the World Heritage, especially fostering a new approaches based on the 2011 Historic Urban Landscapes Recommendation into the national policies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

In 2018, the Commission is planning to organize an international conference "Modernism for future. Mapping early modernities (1919-1939): architecture of Central and Eastern Europe" dedicated to Kaunas' modernism architecture and its diversity, interactions, similarities and individual faces. The conference will discuss the experience of modernism interpretations in the context of European heritage. Particular attention will be paid to the determination of the universal value of Kaunas modernism, its comparative analysis.

The National Commission is also interested in sharing the experience on application of the non-formal education achievement recognition system based on open badges platform in other states and the worldwide ASPnet.

In 2018 the National Commission is going to organize the travelling exhibition dedicated to celebrate Józef Czechowicz's 200th birth anniversary associated with UNESCO. The exhibition will represent the works of this outstanding photographer of the 19<sup>th</sup> c., a member of the French Photographic Society, who documented the landscapes and cities in Lithuania, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. The exhibition will be held at the UNESCO Headquarters from 3 to 7 December 2018.

# LUXEMBOURG

## Commission 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)

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

La Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO a accompagné l'élaboration du dossier de candidature du « Naturpark Mëllerdall » pour le programme des « UNESCO Global Geoparks ».

Dans le but de préparer une candidature au programme sur « l'homme et la biosphère » au sud du Grand-Duché, la Commission a constitué un groupe de travail regroupant des spécialistes de différents domaines. Le bureau hors-siège de l'UNESCO à Venise aide ce groupe de travail luxembourgeois avec ses conseils et son expertise. Une attention particulière sera accordée aux multiples aspects de la durabilité et à une élaboration participative du dossier. Dès à présent, l'intérêt des nombreuses ONG et associations sur place pour le dossier de candidature au programme sur « l'homme et la biosphère » est vif et contribue ainsi à une plus grande notoriété des programmes et des visions de l'UNESCO.

La Commission a activement soutenu la création du poste de UNESCO Site Manager au sein du Ministère de la Culture afin de pouvoir gérer efficacement les différents volets du site

« Luxembourg, vieux quartiers et fortifications » inscrit comme patrimoine mondial en 1994. Une collaboration productive entre les instances nationales et communales, ainsi qu'avec la société civile seront bénéfiques à une bonne gestion du site.

La Commission a élaboré avec des représentants de la société civile et différentes autorités des promenades UNESCO qui conduiront visiteurs à pied et à vélo à travers les vieux quartiers et les fortifications spectaculaires qui ont valu à Luxembourg l'inscription comme patrimoine mondial. Ces sentiers seront finalisés au courant de l'année 2018.

La Commission a particulièrement salué en mars l'arrivée de l'École de la deuxième chance comme nouveau membre du réseau luxembourgeois des Ecoles associées de l'UNESCO. Cette école qui s'inscrit dans le contexte du Lifelong Learning et s'adresse à des jeunes adultes ayant dû interrompre leurs études s'intègre parfaitement dans le concept de l'UNESCO de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie.

Par ailleurs, la Commission a participé à de multiples fora et réunions organisés par l'UNESCO et le réseau des Commissions nationales. En janvier 2017, la Commission luxembourgeoise a accueilli les Commissions nationales germanophones au Luxembourg.

La participation à la 39<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO fut un moment emblématique avec la participation de M. le Secrétaire d'État à la Culture, Guy Arendt au débat de politique générale et l'élection de la nouvelle Directrice générale.

Son Altesse Royale la Grande-Duchesse du Luxembourg a participé en sa qualité d'Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO à la cérémonie d'adieu de Madame Irina Bokova.



Les Rendez-vous de l'UNESCO © Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO

### Une activité réussie

La Commission a initié en 2017 une série de conférences-débats intitulés « Les Rendez-vous de l'UNESCO » avec comme thème principal les différents aspects de la notion de patrimoine. Ainsi, en présence d'un public nombreux, des conférenciers de renom se sont penchés sur la notion de patrimoine artistique, audio-visuel et immatériel. Ils ont analysé l'influence qu'un patrimoine peut avoir sur les identités des hommes et des femmes qui habitent une certaine région. Le cycle se poursuit avec l'examen de la notion de patrimoine industriel et la notion de patrimonialisation et se terminera en juin 2018 avec un aperçu donné par Flavia Schlegel, ADG pour les programmes des sciences exactes et naturelles, sur les programmes scientifiques de l'UNESCO. La variété des sujets et la qualité des intervenants assurent aux « Rendez-vous » un public intéressé par les différents programmes de l'UNESCO et participant de façon active aux débats après les exposés.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

En 2018, dans le cadre de la présidence luxembourgeoise de la Grande Région, la Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO envisage l'organisation d'une réunion des sites UNESCO de la Grande Région. La Grande Région abrite des sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, des réserves de biosphère ainsi que des Géoparcs mondiaux de l'UNESCO. Lors de cette réunion – dont le but ultime serait une mise en réseau efficace de ces sites et de ces inscriptions – il serait possible échanger avec les collègues allemands, belges et français des bonnes pratiques, élaborer des projets communs, évoquer des projets touristiques ou des initiatives pédagogiques.

# MALTA

## Maltese National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Raymond Bondin

**Executive Secretary:** Mr Philip Cassar

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

### Update of activities in 2017

During the past year, the National Commission was busy with the preparation of the UNESCO Art Camp 2017. This Art Camp held on the island of Gozo, was attended by 23 Artists. This event was mainly financed by the Ministry for Gozo, the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Institute of Tourism Studies, the Malta Arts Council and HSBC. Other sponsors

included Gozo Holiday Village, l'Aragosta Restaurant and VeeGeeBee.

Through the Coordinator for UNESCO Associated Schools network, the year 2017 saw two new schools join the UNESCO ASPnet. These are the Zejtun Primary A and the Tal-Handaq Middle School.

Throughout the year, the National Commission collaborated on a regular basis with Malta's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.

In September, the National Commission also sent a representative as an observer to the Arbertis Foundation in Vila Franca, Spain, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Managers' Meeting.

In October, the National Commission sent a representative to Namibia, who attended, as an observer, the Workshop on the Memory of the World, which was held at Windhoek.



Art Camp artists interacting with the community in Xaghra Gozo during a community outreach event as part of the Art Camp programme © Maltese National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

In May 2017, the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO together with UNESCO Associated Schools (Malta) hosted the second UNESCO Art Camp MALTA, on the Island of Gozo, which brought together artists from 16 EU Countries, 2 European non-EU countries, 3 Middle East Countries and 1 from an Asian country. This project, launched in 2008 in Andorra, is now framed in the *International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures* (2013-2022), and is promoted by UNESCO. This project was organised thanks to the collaboration of both public and private institutions.

This twelve-day project proved to be a successful experience of cross-cultural meetings where artistic expression was the common and universal language.

The artists' work obtained an extra value, as it was the result of living together with other peers and sharing their cultures within a wide range of activities and experiences.

Once again, Mrs Hedva Ser, Goodwill Ambassador and Special Envoy for Cultural Diplomacy of UNESCO, was the Special Patron of the project.

The extraordinary success of the Art Camp Malta 2017 was mainly due to the concept of creating a temporary Artists Village on Gozo, with an artist-in-residence programme offering participating foreign artists and local artists an environment ideal for creative people and a time and space away from their usual environment and obligations. The Art Camp Malta provided a time of reflection, research, presentation and production relation to the chosen central theme of the project – Building Bridges of Understanding.

The Art Camp Malta residency programme, based on Gozo, which was prepared for the visiting artists, emphasized the importance of meaningful and multi-layered cultural exchange and immersion into another culture.

An exhibition with a selection of the artworks produced by the participating artists of the Art Camp Malta 2017 was held in June 2017, at the newly restored Casino Notabile in Mdina, Malta, and another exhibition is being proposed for May 2019 at the Foyer of the Ministry of Education and Employment.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission is currently co-operating with the Coordinator for UNESCO Associated Schools network, in encouraging more schools in Malta to join the Network. The National Commission needs to have staff in its Secretariat and more funds in order to plan and cooperate with other entities and implement new projects. For this reason, the National Commission is planning meetings with local authorities in order to seek a way forward.

# MONTENEGRO

## National Commission of Montenegro for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Branislav Mićunović

**Secretary-General:** Ms Milica Nikolić

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The year 2017 was mostly devoted to the implementation of World Heritage Committee's decisions relating to four UNESCO World Heritage sites in Montenegro. A lot of efforts had been made in the preparation and adoption of the *Action plan for the implementation of Decisions relating to the Kotor region*, which was adopted in Istanbul in July 2016 by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and which the Government of Montenegro adopted on 2 February 2017. The Action plan was prepared as a recommendation, within the framework of best practices, summarizing the actions to be taken as the effective responses of the State Member to the requests made in the Decisions.

The implementation of the Action plan resulted in many activities which were carried out by different stakeholders. These include the adoption of the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Area of Montenegro, prohibiting new construction in the Natural and Cultural – Historical area of Kotor. The main accomplishment of this Action plan was the adoption of the *Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Natural and Culture-Historical Region of Kotor*, based on the ICOMOS Guidelines, which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro. This document was prepared by the experts team of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Montenegro. The process of HIA preparation was led by two international experts with strong support from the national team, and the document was additionally assessed and revised by an international expert having specific experience in the production of similar documents. This document has crucial importance for the proper management of the site within the Area and it represents the guiding principle to the State Party and concerned municipal authorities for further spatial planning.

The inscription of the transnational serial nomination of Italy, Croatia and Montenegro – Venetian Works of Defense between the XVI and the XVII centuries on the World Heritage List, was an extremely significant event, which also marked the year 2017.

### A success story

Last year, a significant improvement was registered in the implementation of the activities to carry out for Tara River Basin as part of the Man and Biosphere Programme. That improvement was based on the valuable cooperation between the Montenegrin authorities and the UNESCO Office in Venice with support of UNDP in Montenegro. Based on this cooperation, Montenegro submitted a report on this programme, which will hopefully prevent further implementation of Exit Strategy which had previously started for this biosphere reserve. More importantly, serial consultation with local authorities were organized by different stakeholders and that activities resulted in a concrete offer from the Municipality of Mojkovac to provide offices and equipment as a support to the Managing body which is now being established. In cooperation with UNDP, a draft Action Plan was prepared, which will be adopted by the relevant authorities. MAB programme was defined as one of the priorities of all municipalities sharing the concerned area and it is especially important for the municipalities Žabljak and Plužine whose territories are also part of UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Stećci – Medieval Tombstones and National Park Durmitor.



First meeting dedicated to the establishment of the MAB Committee for Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve held in the core of Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve area, Mojkovac, May 2017 © Municipality of Mojkovac

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, in cooperation with the UNESCO office in Venice, the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro and the National Commission of Montenegro for UNESCO will host the ministerial meeting on Project of rehabilitation of ex-Yugoslav pavilion in the State Museum Auschwitz Birkenau.

The National Commission of Montenegro for UNESCO is ready to co-organize different activities which could be of regional or international character and which could be developed for any of UNESCO's fields of interest.

# NETHERLANDS

## Netherlands Commission for UNESCO

**Chair:** Ms Andrée van Es

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marielies Schelhaas

**Website:** [www.unesco.nl](http://www.unesco.nl) ; [www.unescoscholen.nl](http://www.unescoscholen.nl)

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 was the second year of the Netherlands Commission's biannual working programme. Highlight was a big event addressing the future of the science. More than 500 people attended and the livestream drew thousands of views.

#### Education

In 2017 the Commission worked intensely with the schools in the Dutch ASP network. The network grew with 7 schools to a total of 47.

On International Teachers Day, the Commission organised the annual meeting for Dutch UNESCO schools. The central theme was freedom of expression. In a separate event the Global Education Monitoring Report was launched in the Netherlands

#### Science

In the field of the science, the Commission organised a consultation with key Dutch science organizations in order

to gather input for the revision of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers. The Commission produced a 10-point summary of the Recommendation that was integrated in a draft resolution and adopted at the General Conference.

Other activities included promoting women in science and the coordination of the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Man and Biosphere programme in the Netherlands.

#### Culture

The Flemish Commission (Belgium) and the Dutch Commission for UNESCO jointly organised a two-day capacity building training aimed at strengthening the management of World Heritage sites in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Together with the Prince Claus Fund, the Commission contributed to the exhibition on the ancient city of Nineveh (Iraq) in the National Museum of Antiquities.

#### Communication and Information

The Commission supported heritage institutions with items on the Memory of the World Register to share their digital collections with the use of Wikipedia and other Wiki-projects. Several institutions hosted a Wikipedian in residence to support these efforts.

In an attempt to make Wikipedia more inclusive, an event was organized focusing on writing about slavery, colonialism and the role of the Dutch in global history.



### A success story

**Contested heritage** – Over the past years, the Netherlands Commission has worked on a project that examines the role that heritage plays in social inclusion. In 2017 it published a position paper on contested heritage in society following a meeting with representatives of municipalities, policy makers and heritage specialists. Historical statues and symbols in the public domain are perceived and valued in different ways by various groups of people. For example: the statue of Jan Pietersz. Coen in the city of Hoorn. While Coen was a hero of the Dutch Golden Age, he was also responsible for the genocide of thousands of Indonesians. The aim of the project was to develop policy advice to help (local) governments to address contested heritage and to stimulate a dialogue.

The position paper is a fine example of how a small body like the Dutch UNESCO Commission is able to place issues that are considered sensitive or contested on the national agenda and strengthen the discourse.

An example of contested heritage: the statue of J.P. Coen in the city of Hoorn © Netherlands Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Netherlands Commission is working together with the Flemish Commission on a regular basis in the fields of world heritage and education and will continue to do so for the coming years.

The ASPnet schools in the Netherlands have indicated that they want to cooperate more intensely with ASPnet schools in other parts of the world, mainly on the topic of global citizenship education.

Traditionally, the Commission maintains close relations with the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten (Associate Members of UNESCO) as well as Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius. In 2017 the Commission visited the islands to identify avenues for collaboration with the concerned National Commissions for UNESCO and UNESCO focal points in the fields of education, intangible heritage and safeguarding documentary heritage.

# NORWAY

## The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Tora Aasland

**Secretary-General:** Ms Tanja Kristine Hegge

**Website:** [www.unesco.no](http://www.unesco.no)

### Update of activities in 2017

A new National Commission was appointed by the Minister for Education and Research. Ms. Tora Aasland, former Minister of Higher Education and Research, continues as President of the National Commission. She is joined by seven members nominated for a four-year term. The members represent high-level expertise in the fields of UNESCO's competence. The current National Commission's term will last until the end of 2020.

The National Commission had its first commission meeting in Paris, combining it with a study tour to UNESCO Headquarters in March, obtaining and exchanging useful information with representatives of the Secretariat and Permanent Delegations.

There is a continued increase in and appreciation for the work, values, reports and networks of UNESCO in Norway. The National Commission participates in the Norwegian GCE-network – Global Campaign for Education and the network of UN-agencies and organizations based in Norway.

The National Commission participated in several seminars. In 2017, the National Commission celebrated the tenth anniversary of Norway's ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. A new

open and digital platform was launched where everybody can register their local and national tradition and knowledge that exemplifies Norway's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In September, the national MOW-committee organized a seminar to discuss the importance and relevance of the national Memory of the World list for documentation and research, both nationally and internationally.

Lillehammer became the second city in Norway to join the Creative City network and the first Norwegian Creative City of literature. Lillehammer's application was supported by the Commission.

Together with relevant freshwater institutions, the Commission celebrated World Water day on 22 March and presented UN World Water Development Report.

Press freedom and journalist's safety continue to be priority themes for the Commission. The Commission participated in the national ceremony for World Press Freedom Day, supported a conference on Safety of Journalists Covering Conflict and Sensitive Issues. More than 80 speakers from 30 countries participated in the conference at the Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences that sought to raise awareness of the growing problem of journalist safety. The Commission also participated in the multi-stakeholder consultation on strengthening the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity in June in Geneva.

Members of the Commission participated in the annual Nordic UNESCO meeting hosted by Denmark. The meeting was an excellent preparation for the General Conference of UNESCO. Several members of the Commission participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, attending commissions, holding statements and writing reports during the session.



### A success story

The National Commission grant scheme for UNESCO activities in Norway continue to be a success. The Commission decided to support 22 projects in 2017. The grant scheme is very useful in increasing UNESCO activities in all regions of Norway, making UNESCO's name and values better known and supporting UNESCO-related activities. The Commission supported projects relating to press freedom and freedom of expression, sustainable development, intangible heritage, world heritage and democracy.

The Norwegian National Commission at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, March 2017.  
© Arne Fogt-Bergby, the secretariat for the Norwegian National Commission.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Commission will continue to prioritize close cooperation with other Commissions of Nordic countries and will participate in the annual Nordic meeting. Participation in the European network of National Commissions will also continue.

# 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 2017

In 2017, the advisory role of the National Commission was assumed mainly during the preparation and successful work of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2–12 July). The National Commission co-organized the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum preceding the session (see below).

The representatives of the Permanent Secretariat actively participated in the works of national bodies of UNESCO conventions and programmes: World Heritage Convention, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Memory of the World Programme, Man and the Biosphere Programme, UNESCO Geoparks.

The National Commission took an active part in the works of Programme Commissions of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO

General Conference, the SC Commission and CI Commission in particular, the Secretary-General was elected as a Rapporteur of the SC Commission.

The National Commission guided the submission of new applications in the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme. The establishment of the UNITWIN Network in adult education (Réseau international pour l'accompagnement à l'orientation des personnes tout au long de la vie vers le travail décent et le développement) at the Wrocław University and the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Property Law at the University of Opole were approved by UNESCO.

With support from the National Commission, the city of Lodz joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a City of Film.

The UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme coordinated by the Polish National Commission has been developed and since October 2017, a new programme designed for archeologists and conservators from post-conflict countries was launched. The number of fellowships for young scientists from Central and Eastern European countries and developing countries has considerably increased. A 6-months workshops for young Belarussian restorers were continued. The International School on Cultural Heritage in Lublin was devoted to the protection and management of historic cities.



Participants of the WH Young Professionals Forum in Wieliczka Salt Mine, June 30, 2017 © Michał Wiśniewski, International Cultural Centre, Krakow

### A success story

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO was co-organizer of the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum (Warsaw, Krakow, 25 June – 4 July 2017), event carried out in the framework of World Heritage Education Programme. In cooperation with the National Commissions of the invited countries, 32 young specialists of various educational and professional background were selected to attend the WH Young Professionals Forum on "Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage" and to contribute to a common document presented afterward to the World Heritage Committee. The Declaration referred, in particular, to the importance of memory sites and

social context of the recovery, reconstruction and further use of destroyed heritage. Accompanied by international and Polish experts, the participants visited World Heritage sites: Historic Centers of Warsaw and Krakow as well as Wieliczka Salt Mines. They could familiarize themselves with the issue of urban reconstruction after the WW II in Warsaw and the problems linked to the preservation of historic monuments in Krakow in order to share experiences of their countries and exchange opinions. The main organizer of the event supported by the Polish Ministry of Culture and Heritage was the International Cultural Centre in Krakow. Many other Polish institutions contributed to the meeting in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Its participants expressed the hope that the international cooperation could help to overcome difficulties to safeguard the cultural heritage of communities in the conflict areas.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO intends to be an active member of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO and is ready to share its experience as organizer of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Network in 2016.

We hope to host sub-regional consultations of Visegrád Group countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) on current UNESCO issues.

We are ready to organize, with the Secretariat of UNESCO and Polish partners, international consultations on implementation guidelines for the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form.

The cooperation with the National Commissions of other regions would be desirable.

# PORTUGAL

## Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura

**Secrétaire exécutive** : Mme Rita Brasil de Brito

**Site internet** : [www.unescoportugal.mne.pt](http://www.unescoportugal.mne.pt)

### Compte rendu des activités 2017

Les efforts déployés en 2016 au niveau de la diffusion des Objectifs de Développement Durable commencent à porter leurs fruits en 2017, et la Commission nationale, ses réseaux et partenaires, continuent de travailler à une vitesse de croisière, en route vers 2030.

Les réseaux UNESCO – écoles associées, clubs, chaires – évoluent et suscitent un grand intérêt auprès de la population en général. De véritables bras armés sur le terrain, ils ont promu de nombreux événements, notamment la première édition de l'Université d'été de la Chaire UNESCO « Géoparcs, développement régional durable et styles de vie sains » avec

le soutien de la Commission qui a, pour sa part, célébré les 25 ans du Programme des Chaires UNESCO au moyen d'une conférence. Les réunions annuelles des différents réseaux ont permis de prendre le pouls à leur dynamisme. La Commission portugaise a mis en avant son expérience en matière de Clubs et a contribué à la discussion du Cadre réglementaire proposé par le Secrétariat concernant ce réseau. Dans le cadre des écoles associées, la Commission a lancé le kit éducatif « Éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale – écoles associées et coopération avec la CPLP ». Les villes créatives et apprenantes ont également vu leur nombre grandir.

De nombreuses conférences ont eu lieu, dans la majorité des cas en coopération avec différents partenaires, par exemple, la 2<sup>ème</sup> Rencontre du Programme Mémoire du Monde, le 4<sup>ème</sup> Congrès Éducation, médias e citoyenneté, la 40<sup>ème</sup> Conférence du réseau européen de Géoparcs mondiaux, la Conférence « Villes créatives, Patrimoine mondial et Tourisme durable ».

Une exposition sur le Patrimoine mondial, patrimoine subaquatique, réserves de biosphère, géoparcs et chaires UNESCO au Portugal préparée par la Commission nationale a été lancée au siège de l'UNESCO dans le cadre de la candidature du Portugal au Conseil exécutif.



Participants du Workshop de renforcement des capacités des Commissions nationales des pays de langue portugaise (Afrique et Timor-Leste) © Mme Mairie de Sintra

participation plus active et informée, d'améliorer les connaissances techniques et de procédure dans le cadre des conventions de l'UNESCO, ainsi que de partager leurs expériences.

En complément des séances en salle, ce workshop a inclus des visites à Viana do Alentejo où les participants ont eu l'occasion d'échanger avec les autorités locales au sujet du patrimoine immatériel, notamment la fabrication des sonnailles et le Cante Alentejano, et au centre historique d'Évora, où ils ont pu apprécier ce site du Patrimoine mondial. Ils ont également visité une école associée et assisté à la signature du protocole de création d'un Club pour l'UNESCO.

### Une activité réussie

La coopération avec les pays de la CPLP – Communauté des pays de langue portugaise – est une priorité nationale et, a fortiori, de la Commission nationale. Ainsi, avec le soutien du Programme de participation, celle-ci a organisé un workshop de renforcement des capacités des Commissions nationales des pays de langue portugaise (Afrique et Timor-Leste), qui a eu lieu, du 11 au 15 décembre 2017, au Portugal.

Comptant sur la présence des Secrétaires généraux des Commissions nationales du Cabo Verde, de la Mozambique et de São Tomé-et-Principe, de la Secrétaire générale p.i. de la Commission de Timor-Leste, ainsi que des spécialistes de programme des Commissions d'Angola et de Guinée Bissau, ce workshop a contribué à renforcer les capacités des Commissions nationales afin de permettre une

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

Les ODD à l'horizon 2030 continueront d'être l'une des principales priorités de notre Commission. Les différents secteurs de programme, ainsi que les réseaux coordonnés par la Commission nationale, seront appelés à contribuer, au moyen de conférences, workshops, formations, concours et, notamment, le lancement d'un jeu pédagogique sur les ODD en partenariat avec l'UNRIC – Centre régional d'information des Nations Unies, ainsi que le développement de projets dans ce domaine avec les Scouts portugais ou encore la collaboration avec Global Compact Portugal concernant l'élaboration d'un kit éducatif sur les ODD. La coopération avec le Comité portugais de l'Unicef et des entreprises du secteur privé est également prévue.

Ainsi, étant donné les efforts déployés en vue d'une vaste diffusion des ODD, nous sommes prêts à collaborer avec d'autres Commissions nationales, comme c'est déjà le cas avec les pays de la CPLP, notamment au niveau du lancement du jeu pédagogique mentionné ci-dessus, d'un concours entre les réseaux des écoles associées sur les ODD, ou encore d'une rencontre entre les Commissions nationales sur les bonnes pratiques en cette matière.

La traduction en portugais de publications de l'UNESCO dans différents domaines, en particulier les directives opérationnelles de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles, la production de brochures sur les différents projets et programmes de l'UNESCO, ainsi que leur diffusion au niveau national et des pays de langue portugaise restera en 2018 une activité régulière.

# REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

## National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO (NCRM)

**President:** Ms Monica Babuc, Minister of Education,  
Culture and Research

**Secretary-General:** Mr Constantin Rusnac

### Update of activities in 2017

There are the following priorities in the activities of the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO in 2017: gender issues; education for children with special educational needs; bioethics in education (schools and lyceums); promotion achieving of the goals of sustainable development; natural sciences; education of youth in the universal cultural values; strengthening of peace and interethnic understanding and preservation of cultural diversity. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned priorities, the NCRM for UNESCO realized four

projects in the framework of the 2016-2017 Participation Programme: "Bioethics through Education (Promotion of Knowledge on Bioethics in the Republic of Moldova through Curriculum Development for Schools and Lyceums"; "Culture is source of peace, a source of inspiration. Promotion cultural diversity through Delphic Games"; "The 6th International Conference Ecological Chemistry 2017" and "Gender Equality through Education (An information and communication project in the Moldavian regions and Transnistria)".

Partners of these projects were the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova; Chisinau Department of Education, Youth and Sport; UNESCO Associated Schools; Institute of Pedagogical Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, Academy of sciences of Moldova, International Women's Club; Moldovan Association of Women Lawyers; Union of Theaters of Moldova; Union of Folk Masters of Moldova; Municipality of Chisinau; music schools and colleges; Academy of Arts of Moldova; local authorities; sectorial NGOs; International Delphic Committee; mass media, etc. The importance of UNESCO in these projects and in their outcomes was essential. All actions done in the framework of the projects were presented in mass media.



Presentation of the Curriculum of bioethical issues for Gymnasiums and Lyceums (National Teachers conference was organized in November 2017 in the Institute of Pedagogical Sciences). © National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO

Teachers' conference on bioethical issues was organized in November 2017 in the Institute of Pedagogical Sciences (with presentation of the edited materials); (4) The educational process on bioethical issues at schools, gymnasiums and lyceums was developed; (5) All actions undertaken in the framework of the project were presented in mass media.

### A success story

One of the most successful projects in 2017 was the project "Bioethics through Education (Promotion of Knowledge on Bioethics in the Republic of Moldova through Curriculum Development for Schools and Lyceums)". The goal of the project was to disseminate knowledge on ethics of science and technology with emphasis on bioethics in the Republic of Moldova through introduction of the elements of ethics of science and technology in the educational process.

Project activities included: (1) The Curriculum of bioethical issues for Gymnasiums and Lyceums was prepared for publication and approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova; (2) Six seminars for teachers on bioethics issues (on the basis of the publication of Curriculum of bioethical issues for Gymnasiums and Lyceums, "Bioethical Aspects in Educational Programmes. Additional Materials for the Form Masters, Pedagogical and Management Personnel in Primary and Gymnasium Education" and "Bioethics and Education. Additional Materials for the Form Masters, Pedagogical and Management Personnel in Lyceum Education" were organized; (3) A national

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The following areas remain priority in the activities of the NCRM for UNESCO in 2018-2019: gender issues; education for children with special educational needs, promotion bioethics knowledge in the Republic of Moldova through education process; natural sciences, education of youth in the universal cultural values; strengthening of peace and interethnic understanding; preservation of cultural diversity and cultural heritage and promotion the DELPHIC Games. The NCRM for UNESCO is ready to cooperate with other National Commissions on these issues.

# ROMANIA

## National Commission of Romania for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Valentin Popa, Minister of National Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Ani Matei

**Website:** [www.cnr-unesco.ro](http://www.cnr-unesco.ro)

## Update of activities in 2017

In July 2017, the Romania National Commission welcomed the extension of the "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" World Heritage transboundary property with the forests in Romania, covering a total of over 23.000 hectares, the largest surface area of the site.

Together with Alumnus Club for UNESCO and local partners, the National Commission organized in July the 9th edition of the international conference "Youth and Museums" at the Museum of Viticulture and Pomiculture Golești. The reference topics were "Preservation and restoration of museum heritage" and "Making the museum heritage worthwhile to educate the young generation".

In August, the National Commission organized "UNESCO's Academy of Young Women – the fight against xenophobia, extremism and aggression", a project aimed at promoting education as an essential tool for the creation of non-conflictual, inclusive societies, in which gender equality is respected. The event, dedicated to both women and men, brought together young people aged between 18 and 35, from Romania and other European countries, to discuss perspectives and solutions to combat discrimination and violence against women.

On World Teachers' Day in October, the National Commission organized a workshop presenting UNESCO non-formal projects and activities in the field of education. Professors and pupils from pre-university education participated. A group of high

school students from "Al.I.Cuza" National College in Ploiești proposed as a project the identification of heritage objectives, the promotion of the museum concept and informing the local community about their value. In a practical application, the workshop participants – pupils and teachers – teamed together and identified a site from their city that they would propose for the inscription on the World Heritage List.

Also in October, together with the Romanian Federation of Associations, Clubs and Centers for UNESCO and local partners, the National Commission organized in Târgoviște the 9th edition of the international symposium "Art and Civilization in the Romanian monastic spaces", with the theme "Icon, Fresco, Mosaic".

In November, the proposal for the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Engineering for Society at the University Politehnica of Bucharest was favorably evaluated by the Selection Committee.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity enriched in December by adding the element "Cultural practices associated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March", multinational inscription of Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Projects the National Commission partnered on include: the L'Oréal – UNESCO national scholarship programme "For Women in Science"; the educational and cultural project "Human Rights for Everyone" of "Freedom for Education, Culture and Sport" Association, which exhibited at the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York graphic and photographic works dealing with human rights issues and calligraphic works that translate in full or in part the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The National Commission offered its patronage to the Embassies Festival "One World", the National Concert Programme "Romance song unites us", the jubilee edition of the National Festival of the Romance Song "Golden Chrysanthemum", Art Safari – the biggest art event in Romania, the National Science and Technology Contest for Students RoSEF 2017, MAGISTER National Forum for teachers.



UNESCO's Academy of Young Women © National Commission of Romania for UNESCO

participants and our institutional partners, respectively representatives of ministries, local authorities, and state institutions with UNESCO related competencies, as well as collaborators, personalities from UNESCO's areas of competence. The guests were delighted with a photo exhibition, a cello concert and dinner. Find out more about these 2 projects from the magazines we published: [www.cnr-unesco.ro](http://www.cnr-unesco.ro)

## A success story

The two projects under the Participation Programme that the National Commission had last year are definitely the success story.

The first one was organized in August, "UNESCO's Academy of Young Women – the fight against xenophobia, extremism and aggression", was structured in 3 modules: "Attitudes against extremism and violence", "Intercultural dialogue", "PR and organizational communication". The works of the project were opened with discourses and a fashion exhibition at the Romanian Cultural Institute, gathering representatives of central public institutions, the diplomatic corps and personalities from the artistic environment.

"The role of mass media in treating the refugees and migrants topic" project, held in December, implied 5 training courses for 30 media representatives from 16 European countries, offered by foreign and local specialists, as well as complementary presentations on topics related to the project theme. As part of the project, the 2017 Gala of the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO was held, bringing together the project

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

For 2018-2019, the National Commission has interest to engage in sub regional, regional or interregional activities to mark the anniversary of the centenary of the Great Union of Romania and the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

# RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## 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 2017

2017 was rich for numerous activities and remarkable events implemented by the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO (hereunder Commission) that promoted priority directions of the Organization.

The cultural dimension of the Commission's work was highlighted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Epic Forum "Epics of the World's Nations in the Land of Olonkho" in Yakutia, attended by Mrs Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO and held under the auspices of UNESCO. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated at UNESCO Headquarters with the participation of UNESCO Artist for Peace Zara (Zarifa Mgoyan). Additionally, a special round table was convened that was accompanied by the theatrical performance "In Touch" under the aegis of the Commission, featuring deafblind and professional actors. Initiated by National Artist of Russia Evgeny Mironov, the performance was a collective work of actors and producers from the State Theatre of Nations (Russian Federation), the Graeae Theatre Company (United Kingdom), the National Theatre (United Kingdom) and the Inclusion Theatre Company (Russian Federation).

With reference to the Education Sector, Moscow International Education Fair was successfully organized in April 2017 under the auspices of UNESCO and with participation of

the Commission. The city of Khanty-Mansiysk hosted the X International Conference of the UNESCO Associated Schools "Ob-Irtysk Basin: the Youth Studies and Preserves Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Regions of the World's Great Rivers" in May 2017. In July, the city of Ufa was a key platform to conduct the II Eurasian Humanitarian Forum that was devoted to TVET and to the analysis of its contribution to the implementation of the SDG 4 and "Education 2030" Agenda. The celebration of the 25th anniversary of UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme in the Russian Federation was marked by the International Forum "Education 2030 – the new concept for development" held at the national UNESCO ASPNet coordination centre – the University of Management "TISBI" in Kazan.

The major event in the field of communication and information was the Global Expert meeting "Multilingualism in Cyberspace for Inclusive Sustainable Development" within the framework of the IX International IT Forum, organized with participation of BRICS and SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) countries, and within the UNESCO Intergovernmental "The Information for All Programme" (IFAP), successfully hosted by the city of Khanty-Mansiysk. This event gathered about 2700 participants from 46 countries including international experts, IT specialists, government officials, representatives of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE).

In the field of Sport, the Commission substantially assisted the preparatory and working processes of the 6th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) that was held in Kazan and gathered around 700 delegates from more than 100 UNESCO Member States. As an outcome of the Conference, the Kazan Action Plan was adopted as a voluntary overarching reference for fostering international convergence amongst policy-makers in physical education and sport, as well as a tool for aligning international and national policy in these fields with the key relevant international documents.



The Signing Ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding for the protection and restoration of cultural property in conflict areas, notably in the Middle East between UNESCO and the State Hermitage Museum (Russian Federation) © UNESCO / Christelle ALIX

Understanding between UNESCO and the Hermitage Museum for the protection and restoration of cultural property in conflict areas, notably in the Middle East. The signed agreement represents a landmark in Russia's cooperation with UNESCO and interested Middle East countries in protecting cultural heritage in emergencies. Russia is ready to use its expert capabilities to implement the goals of the Memorandum and the decisions of the 199<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board on the Organization's role in ensuring the protection and preservation of Palmyra and other Syrian landmarks of World Heritage.

### A success story

Taking an active part in reinforcement of UNESCO's role as a key universal organization for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of the armed conflicts, the Russian Federation is undertaking consistent and purposeful steps towards restoring cultural heritage sites in Syria. On 9 October, Ms Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO and Mr Mikhail Piotrovsky, General-Director of the State Hermitage Museum of St Petersburg signed a Memorandum of

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

On 30 April 2018, Saint Petersburg will host the greatest jazz music celebration – International Jazz Day 2018. Saint Petersburg was chosen as a Global Host City for its outstanding contribution to the development of jazz.

Another major event is devoted to the strengthening of partnerships between UNESCO and NGOs. This topic will be in focus of the upcoming 2018 International NGO Forum on priority issues of the Organization.

# SERBIA

## Serbian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Goran Milasinovic

**Secretary-General:** Mr Nemanja Grbic

## Update of activities in 2017

During the reporting period, the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO continued its work in promoting values, ideas and principles of UNESCO at the national level through implementation of programmes and projects associated with UNESCO's mandate. In its work, the Commission was supported by all the relevant national institutions in charge of activities in the fields of education, science, culture and information, but also collaborated with other relevant actors, including other National Commissions and the UNESCO Office for Science and Culture in Venice and its affiliated Antenna Office in Sarajevo.

### A success story

The promotion of the Third World Report on Adult Education and Learning (GRALE III) of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) for the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe was held on 26 January in Belgrade, Serbia. The event was organized by UIL, the International Council for Adult Education – ICAE (headquartered in Uruguay), the Association for Adult Education from Belgrade and the Department of Andragogy of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO.

The third World Report on Adult Learning and Education (<http://www.uil.unesco.org/system/files/grale-3.pdf>) was made on the basis of a report submitted by 139 UNESCO Member States, including Serbia.

Serbia also acknowledged UNESCO's recommendations to include civil society in the process of education improvement and had a remarkable role in all the aforementioned UNESCO activities, while the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO provided full support to overall efforts at the national level.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for 80 participants from 17 countries to exchange views, experiences and ideas on important issues such as regional cooperation in the field of adult education and its advancement through the CONFITEA VI (Sixth International Conferences on Adult Education) process, within three active working groups.



Meeting to promote the 3rd World Report on Adult Education and Learning (GRALE III) of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning for the countries of SEE region held in Belgrade, Serbia, on January 26th 2017 © 2017 Serbian National Commission for UNESCO, All Rights Reserved

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018-2019 biennium, the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO will continue its efforts in bringing UNESCO's mission closer to hearts and minds of people in Serbia.

As of the beginning of 2018, a new Secretary-General of the Commission was appointed. Thus on-line or on-site orientation course for newly appointed SGs provided by ERI/National Commissions Coordination team would be of great assistance. As the Serbian National Commission is small in staff (only two persons are working for the Secretariat) advisory help and support from UNESCO would be more than welcome.

In 2018, Serbia is taking up on the chairmanship of the Interstate Coordination Committee for the management of world heritage site Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards, serial property jointly nominated by Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia and inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2016. Several coordination meetings will be held in Belgrade in this regard during the year.

In May 2018, the Secretary-General of the Serbian National Commission will participate at the 2nd Annual Informal Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions of the SEE Region, hosted by the Slovenian National Commission aimed at further fostering regional cooperation. He will also participate at 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, due to take place in Diani, Kenya, in June 2018.

Further enhancement of the network of partners involved in UNESCO's mandate at the national level remains one of the utmost priorities for the Serbian National Commission for UNESCO.

# SLOVAKIA

## Slovak Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Mária Krasnohorská

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

## Update of activities in 2017

Before the end of 2016, the new Statute of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO was approved. The Commission is an advisory body of experts of the Government of Slovakia in the fields of competence of UNESCO. The Slovak Commission for UNESCO has a maximum of 21 members and is funded from the state budget through the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

In 2017, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO organized various conferences, competitions, congresses. It worked in organizing high-level visits within Slovakia, took the initiative of multiple publications and studies. Among others:

- The International Open Geological Congress of the Slovak and Czech Geological Societies in the High Tatras;
- The international conference "Benefits Beyond Inscription: Leveraging the UNESCO Brand for Sustainable Tourism Development in Central European Regions" in Bardejov;
- The 3-day workshop in the framework of implementation of UNESCO "World Heritage and sustainable tourism" programme in Slovakia in Stakčín and surrounding sites of the National Park of Poloniny;

- V4 Heritage Academy – a summer school dedicated to young professionals from the V4 region, focused on the improvement of their skills in the World Cultural Heritage sites' management;
- The Annual meeting of the Associated Schools in Slovakia, in Bratislava;
- The Human Rights Olympics – a national competition of secondary school students in the Slovak Republic in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights;
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night in Slovakia;
- The national conference "Ethic problems in the science and technologies" in Bratislava;
- The 16<sup>th</sup> international art contest for the creation of a book plate for children aged from 6 to 15 years – Biennial EX LIBRIS HLOHOVEC. The jury awarded 61 out of 1 292 participating children.

In 2017, Slovakia completed a long-term effort to nominate its sites belonging to the historic frontiers of the Roman Empire for inscription on the World Heritage List. In close cooperation with experts from the four involved countries, a thematic study and a nomination strategy were presented to the World Heritage Committee. The joint Austrian-German-Hungarian-Slovak nomination, entitled "Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes", was successfully finalised in December 2017.

Last year, Slovakia's item "Multipart Singing of Horehronie" was successfully inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Multipart Singing of Horehronie is characterized by a variable solo melody of pre-singing and more static choir answers, either by men or women.



Young girls are embroidering their name. Competition for The Queen of Poľana is one of the attractions during the Opening door day in the Poľana Biosphere Reserve © Vladimír Hruží

### A success story

In 2017, the Slovak Committee for MAB launched the development of its communication strategy. Local product branding has been implemented in the Poľana Biosphere Reserve, while other biosphere reserves have been exploring possibilities for BR specific local brand. The management of BR Poľana has begun the process of institutionalization with stakeholders' engagement.

Ms Vladimira Fabricusova, Director of the Poľana BR, was given a Michel Batisse Award for the Biosphere Reserve Management at a ceremonial event in the course of the ICC MAB.

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Geoparks Net of Slovakia associates geoparks that are located on the territory of the Slovak Republic and were awarded a degree of the Geopark of the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Commission for UNESCO will provide assistance for establishing cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports and UNESCO. The final document covering this cooperation should be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Education Sector of UNESCO.

The Slovak MAB Committee made a detailed analysis of the Lima Action Plan and started the preparation of the national implementation plan. The Slovak MAB Committee's future priorities are: developing capacities for implementation of the Lima Action Plan; strengthening support for MAB Program and biosphere reserves from all levels of administration and different stakeholders; introducing innovative income generation possibilities for biosphere reserves; employment of innovative communication tools and measures in the promotion of biosphere reserves.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night in Slovakia will be organized in 2018.

# SLOVENIA

## Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Radovan Stanislav Pejovnik

**Secretary General:** Ms Marjotka Hafner

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the President of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO (hereafter Slovenian UNESCO Commission) in his function as Representative of the Government of Slovenia actively participated in all regular and all intersessional sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

For the first time, Slovenia included a youth representative in its formal delegation to attend the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The youth delegate represented the Slovenian UNESCO Youth Platform, a Network under the umbrella of the Slovenian UNESCO Commission.

The Slovenian UNESCO Youth Platform organized a meeting of youth delegates from more than 20 European countries, which

resulted in a list of recommendations addressed to UNESCO in order to stronger include youth worldwide into UNESCO's programs and to enhance the role of UNESCO's Youth Forum.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> time in a row, the Slovenian UNESCO Commission was successful in receiving funds from UNESCO's Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.

Two Slovenian beech forests have been added to UNESCO World Heritage List as its World Heritage Committee added 63 new areas of primeval beech forests as an extension to the site of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forest of Germany, during its 41<sup>st</sup> session in Krakow, Poland.

The traditional "Door-to-Door Rounds of Kurenti" have been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Door-to-door rounds of Kurenti is a Shrovetide custom practiced from Candlemas to Ash Wednesday, especially in villages in the eastern part of Slovenia.

The Slovenian UNESCO Commission actively collaborated in the preparation process of both nominations.



The Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport organized together with UNESCO the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 18-20 September 2017 © Slovenian Press Agency

and five years since the inaugural World OER Congress took place at UNESCO Headquarters, resulting in the 2012 Paris OER Declaration.

The Congress was a huge success and gathered some 500 participants from more than 100 countries, among them 14 Ministers of Education or Higher Education. The Congress resulted in the "Ljubljana OER Action Plan" and adopted a special Ministerial Declaration on the future of OER.

### A success story

The Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport organized together with UNESCO the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 18 – 20 September 2017 ([www.oercongress.org](http://www.oercongress.org)). The Slovenian UNESCO Commission was an active partner in the preparation process and its Deputy Secretary General was Focal Point and Head of the Slovenian Steering Committee for the Congress.

The theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World OER Congress was "OER for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education: from Commitment to Action", reflecting the role that OER can play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education.

The Congress marked 15 years since the term "Open Educational Resources" was first coined at UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018 and 2019, the Slovenian UNESCO Commission will be actively involved in the support of the work of Slovenia's delegation to UNESCO's Executive Board during the second half of Slovenia's mandate (2015 – 2019).

As a priority, the Slovenian UNESCO Commission will actively support Slovenia's leading role in the process of the drafting and adoption of a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER) at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of its General Conference (November 2019).

In 2018, the Slovenian UNESCO Commission will further put its emphasis on the inclusion of youth in its work and programmes. Our aim is to develop and further strengthen the Slovenian UNESCO Youth Platform and its collaboration in the informal European UNESCO Youth Network.

Further, we wish to develop the cooperation among UNESCO National Commissions in the region of the Western Balkans. In May 2018, the Slovenian UNESCO Commission will organize and host the 2nd Informal Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions in the South Eastern European Region with the purpose to establish an informal regional network of UNESCO National Commissions.

The Slovenian UNESCO Commission will especially engage itself in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In October 2018, the UNESCO Office in Venice, in cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Culture, the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum and the Slovenian UNESCO Commission will organize the 12th annual regional meeting of experts from South-East Europe on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

# SPAIN

## Spanish National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Luis Ramallo Massanet (in 2017)

**Deputy Secretary-General:** Ms Carmen Pinar

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

### Update of activities in 2017

2017 was declared the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture attended the opening ceremony in Madrid. In this framework, "Cultural Itineraries of the Council of Europe" celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its creation with an international meeting in Cordoba organized by "Legado Andalusi", an Andalusian Public Foundation, which 20 years ago became part of this Programme. Throughout the year, the Spanish Institute for Responsible Tourism organized conferences in various cities of Spain dedicated to different aspects of tourism and its contribution to sustainable development.

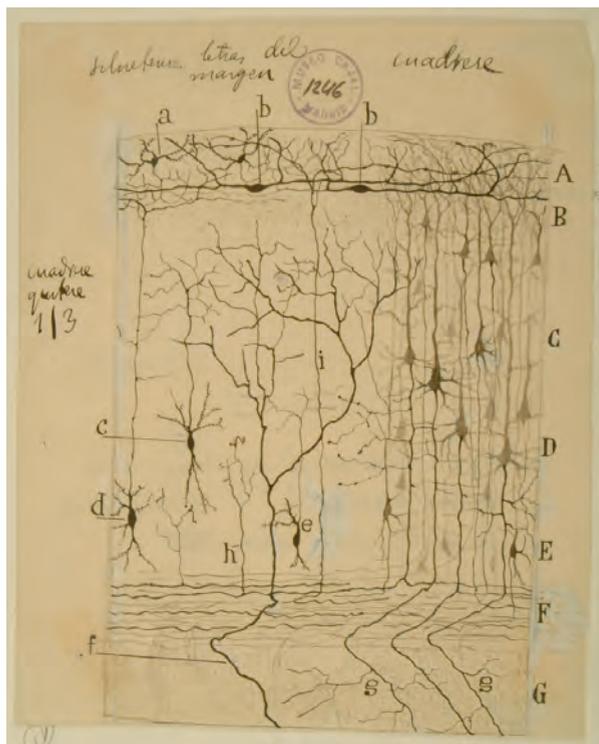
**Heritage:** The National Commission attended the opening ceremony of a UNITE 4 HERITAGE selected panels exhibit at the Bridge of Vizcaya in Bilbao. The Commission sponsored a workshop on ruins, its concept, treatment and conservation and a Seminar on Heritage Management in Salamanca organized by the group World Heritage Cities of Spain.

**Women and Africa:** UNESCO granted its patronage to the film *Eve's Apple* by the Spanish film director Mr. Colon. The film centers on female genital mutilation that affects the lives of millions of women and girls.

**Culture:** Spain added the city of Tarrasa to the Creative Cities Network in the film category.

**Sciences:** The second Spanish Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in September to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its declaration, its main goal being to adapt the Lima Action Plan to the Spanish Network.

The National Commission attended the third meeting of European National Commissions in Thessaloniki, hosted by the Hellenic National Commission. Spain also participated with an artist in Art Camp 2017 organized by the National Commission of Malta, and in a workshop for journalists organized by the National Commission of Romania under the theme "The Role of Mass Media in Treating Refugees and Migrant Topics".



### A success story

In 2017 UNESCO included the Archives of Santiago Ramón y Cajal and the Spanish Neurohistological School in the Memory of the Word Register, a candidacy that was promoted by the National Commission.

Santiago Ramón y Cajal was a Spanish neuroscientist and pathologist specialized in neuroanatomy and histology. He won the Nobel Prize in 1906 and his original investigations of the microscopic structure of the brain made him a pioneer in modern neuroscience.

The Archives consist of a collection of scientific manuscripts, histological preparations (mainly of the nervous tissue), drawings (scientific and artistic), paintings (anatomical and artistic), photographs (scientific, artistic and portraits), correspondence (letters from and to several national and international scientists, as well as politicians, writers and artists), books (his publications and books from his library), and the prizes he was awarded with. Some of the archives also concern his brother Pedro Ramón y Cajal, a well-known doctor and histologist as well.

The collection is essential to study the history of the discoveries and theories that conduct to the present understanding of the human brain in its double aspect, anatomical composition and physiological properties.

Original drawing from Santiago Ramón y Cajal. Cerebral cortex diagram of a small mammal showing various cell morphologies, as well as afferent and efferent fibers. © Legado Cajal. Instituto Cajal (CSIC). Madrid.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Spanish National Commission continues having very limited capacity due to the lack of human and financial resources. At the moment, there is no Secretary-General. The Commission operates under the aegis of the AECID (Spanish International Agency for Cooperation) and it is not [...] endowed with legal personality for the management of resources and budget. [...]

It is trying to collaborate with UNESCO ICM Center – Category II International Center of Martial Arts for Development and Engagement – to carry out the project: Martial Arts along the Silk Road, but is facing problems because it is unable to open an account in its name to receive the necessary funds.

This situation contrasts sharply with the large civil society's involvement in UNESCO's programmes.

During 2018, the National Commission will be working on the implementation of the new Regulatory Framework for Clubs and Associations for UNESCO and plans to organize a meeting with the stakeholders.

# SWEDEN

## Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

**Chair:** Mrs Inger Davidson

**Secretary-General:** Mr Mats Djurberg

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

### Update of activities in 2017

Our main tasks are to advise the government on UNESCO matters, e.g. drafting proposals for interventions and give input to decisions, in this we work closely with several Ministries. Our second task is to inform in Sweden about UNESCO matters through publications, public meetings, social media etc. During 2017 our activities on social media and through press articles in specialized and general press increased.

2017 was the last year for Sweden's four-year overall strategy for cooperation with UNESCO. A strategy for the coming period (coordinated with UNESCO's four-year programme period) will

be adopted by the Government, and the Commission works actively in the drafting process.

We have continued to build relations with UNESCO related organizations: authorities, government agencies and civil society through co-arrangements of public events and articles in the press: a series of articles in cooperation with Swedish World Heritage sites where we argued for a deeper understanding of World Heritage sites and a move from the concept that World Heritage only is relevant to the tourism industry.

At the end of 2017, the Swedish mandate period at the UNESCO Executive Board ended. The Commission has been instrumental in drafting instructions for the preparations and meetings of the Board, and for the General Conference. Membership in the Board has intensified cooperation between the Nordic National Commissions and the preparations before and work during UNESCO's General Conference.

A new system for the nomination of UNESCO Chairs has been introduced where the Swedish Research Council develops proposals, relating to a set of criteria elaborated by the National Commission based on UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. The aim is to link the Swedish UNESCO Chairs closer to national priorities and our areas of special competence as well as to UNESCO's priorities.



Reindeer herding in the MAB candidate Vindelälven © Ola Jennersten

### A success story

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program, MAB, aims to improve the relation between man and the global environment, to elaborate methods for sustainable living and preservation. There are five Swedish MAB biosphere reserves and two candidates, coordinated by a national committee led by a national coordinator, partly financed by the Commission.

The biosphere reserves test new methods and create knowledge and give good examples on how preservation of nature can be combined with sustainable economic activities. Sweden holds a seat in 2017 – 2021 at the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB programme.

Following an initiative by the Swedish National Commission, the report 'Swedish Biosphere Reserves as Arenas for Implementing the 2030 Agenda, Analysis and practice' was published in 2017 by the National Environmental Agency. <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Om-Naturvardsverket/Publikationer/>. It describes how the Swedish biosphere reserves contribute to the implementation of the Agenda 2030: as a platform for collaboration, connecting actors, integrating the SDGs, maintaining healthy ecosystems and promoting learning and awareness raising.

The report concludes that *"The biosphere reserves' thorough experience of integrated work with sustainable development in practice in a Swedish context make them strategic regions to learn from, support and invest in when implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Sweden"*.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Swedish National Commission for UNESCO has been working actively on making sure that various UNESCO activities in our country are framed in a national framework and that they aim at the same direction. The very wide mandate of UNESCO can result in a lack of cohesion and coordination. When we cooperate with various UNESCO experts and networks our prime tool has been the Swedish four-year overall strategy for Swedish cooperation with UNESCO.

The Swedish National Commission would be happy to share with colleagues its experiences on the MAB programme, ESD, sub-regional coordination with neighboring countries, the process for appointment of UNESCO Chairs, national work against illicit trafficking of cultural goods etc. We would be happy to do so, and invite colleagues who want to discuss these matters to contact us!

# 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 2017

En 2017, les thèmes sur lesquels la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO a décidé de travailler pour la législature actuelle 2016-2019 ont été confirmés. A titre d'exemples :

- La Commission entend soutenir le plaidoyer en faveur de l'ODD 4 au niveau national par la tenue annuelle d'une Plateforme suisse Éducation 2030 à laquelle tous les acteurs concernés sont invités.
- L'action menée en vue de positionner durablement l'éducation et l'accueil des jeunes enfants comme mission éducative en Suisse s'est poursuivie à l'appui d'un groupe stratégique composé notamment de représentants des

autorités fédérales et cantonales, des partis politiques, du monde académique et de fondations.

- La Commission a accompagné et soutenu l'inscription de deux nouvelles collections au Registre international « Mémoire du Monde ». Cet appui est mené de pair à une réflexion sur la mise en réseau des acteurs concernés par le patrimoine documentaire en Suisse.

Ces activités et d'autres sont à découvrir sur le nouveau site internet de la Commission lancé mi-2017, fruit d'un partenariat réussi avec la Chaire UNESCO en technologies de l'information et de la communication en faveur du développement et de la promotion des biens du patrimoine mondial à l'Université de la Suisse italienne, qui a été mandatée pour le renouvellement de cet outil. Nous vous invitons à le consulter : [www.unesco.ch](http://www.unesco.ch).

La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO entretient des relations ponctuelles mais fructueuses avec le Bureau de liaison de l'UNESCO auprès de l'ONU à Genève. Au-delà de la Conférence des Chaires UNESCO mentionnée ci-dessous, la Commission a soutenu la présentation d'une exposition de photos promue par l'UNESCO et Wikimedia dans le cadre de la campagne #Unite4Heritage sur les palissades du Palais des Nations (jusqu'au 20 mars 2018).



Conférence des Chaires UNESCO et des réseaux UNITWIN du secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles, Genève 5-7.07.2017  
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### Une activité réussie

Une conférence inédite des Chaires UNESCO et les réseaux UNITWIN du secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles s'est déroulée à Genève du 5 au 7 juillet 2017. La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO a été très impliquée dans la préparation et la tenue de cet événement organisé par le Siège à l'appui de la Suisse, en particulier par la participation de ses membres et par la mobilisation des Chaires UNESCO concernées en Suisse.

La conférence a non seulement permis de créer des synergies entre les Chaires, mais a aussi posé les bases d'une coopération plus étroites entre les Chaires et l'UNESCO, ainsi que plus largement avec le système onusien, l'objectif étant de mobiliser ce réseau pour la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030.

La conférence s'est terminée avec l'adoption du « Geneva Milestone » (« Le Jalon de Genève »), texte qui vise à orienter les efforts futurs des Chaires UNESCO en sciences naturelles dans des domaines concrets en étroite coopération avec la famille UNESCO et les Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO. Le document traduit également l'engagement des Chaires

UNESCO et des Réseaux UNITWIN à respecter les valeurs de l'UNESCO et à incorporer les dimensions de l'Agenda 2030 dans leurs activités, leurs recherches et leurs enseignements.

## Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO voit son engagement coopératif dans la continuité et pour le renforcement des réseaux existants informels tels que le groupe des Commissions nationales germanophones (Allemagne, Autriche, Luxembourg et Suisse), le réseau européen des Commissions nationales, ou les réunions dites « de Lugano ». Une des plus-values du réseau des Commissions nationales réside dans cette flexibilité des modalités de coopération, ouverte à des logiques diverses, à géométrie variable, autour de thèmes à mener sur la durée ou à considérer de manière ponctuelle.

Nonobstant, au-delà de limites rencontrées par le passé, l'abandon des réunions réunissant l'ensemble des Commissions nationales consacrées à la préparation des documents stratégiques de l'UNESCO, nous paraît avoir laissé un vide. Nous saluerions une réflexion sur la manière d'associer les Commissions nationales à la définition de la stratégie et du programme de l'UNESCO, pour espérer le développement de réseaux pertinents et de partenariats solides.

Car c'est justement dans le contexte des réseaux que les Commissions ont la tâche de fédérer, par l'échange de bonnes pratiques et de projets pilotes, que réside le potentiel d'une mise en commun des ressources. Pensons par exemple au nouvel élan marqué par le 25<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire du Programme UNITWIN/Chaires UNESCO, mais aussi à la redynamisation des écoles associées voulue par l'UNESCO qui reconnaît ce réseau comme étant un partenaire stratégique important pour la mise en œuvre des priorités de l'Organisation dans le contexte de l'Agenda 2030 du développement durable.

La Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO est prête à contribuer aux efforts qui pourraient permettre d'informer le Secrétariat sur le travail des Commissions et sur la plus-value de leur coopération avec elles et entre elles.

# THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

## National Commission for UNESCO of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**President:** Mr Robert Alagjovzovski, Minister of Culture

**Secretary-General:** Ms Lidija Topuzovska (until October 2017), Ms Biljana Prentoska

**Website:** [www.kultura.gov.mk](http://www.kultura.gov.mk)

## Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the National Commission focused its activities according to the priorities identified in the Culture Sector (tangible and intangible cultural heritage, synergy in implementation of the UNESCO Conventions in order to include culture into sustainable development strategies and policies) and in the Education Sector (Education 2030).

In 2017, the Commission continued active and constructive cooperation with Clubs for UNESCO, UNESCO Chairs, ASPnet schools and Creative City Bitola. All projects gave strong impetus to the recognition of UNESCO's universal values and

provided good opportunities to institutions, experts, civil society and young persons from the country to be actively involved.

The projects financially supported by UNESCO under the 2016-2017 Participation Programme, such as "Millennial emanation of St. Clement of Ohrid" (1100 years of the passing of St. Clement of Ohrid), "Kokino-Macedonian brand", "Creative industries as a driver for positive social changes" and the regional project "Balkan cultural heritage as a platform of cultural sustainable development", were successfully implemented.

Skopje, at the end of August 2016, was seriously affected by large scale flooding, which caused the deaths of several dozen people, as well as a great material damages. UNESCO, through its Participation Programme, allocated US\$ 50 000 as Emergency assistance, that were used in 2017 for urgent construction works of two primary schools.

Mr. Alagjovzovski, Minister of Culture and President of the National Commission, led the official Delegation and participated at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, the following two elements were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

- Cultural practices associated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March – Multinational nomination with Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania
- The Spring celebration, Hidrellez – joint nomination with Turkey



The regional meeting "Balkan cultural heritage as a platform of cultural sustainable development" was held in Skopje from 19 to 21 October 2017

© NGO "International Dialogs"

society; and 4) the need of strengthening cultural policies through the implementation of the UNESCO Conventions: Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

## A success story

The regional meeting "Balkan cultural heritage as a platform of cultural sustainable development" was held in Skopje from 19 to 21 October 2017. This event was organized by the NGO "International Dialogs" – Skopje, supported by the National Commission and UNESCO. By promoting the synergy between tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the SEE countries as part of the identity of people, communities and groups that live in this region, this event contributed to greater visibility of similar and mutual cultural expressions that are still very much alive in this region. Experts of tangible and intangible cultural heritage from SEE countries participated in the meeting.

With the exchange of experiences, the participants adopted a Declaration and reached the following conclusions: 1) culture is factor of peace, inter-cultural dialogue; 2) culture is driver for development;

3) importance of creation of regional networks among cultural professionals, institutions, and the civil

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

In 2018, the National Commission will focus its efforts on the following priorities:

Enhancement of regional cooperation through various regional activities in order to promote creativity, arts and heritage as a powerful tool for intercultural dialogue and sustainable development, and by fostering cooperation platforms and networks among cultural professionals, institutions, and the civil society.

Strengthening of its cultural policies through implementation of the UNESCO Conventions and projects.

Continued cooperation for the final phase of the project "Towards Enhanced Management of the Common, Trans boundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region" – UPSTREAM PROCESS, implemented by UNESCO and the EU, a cross-border cooperation with Albania for efficiency in the management of cultural and natural heritage in the Ohrid Lake Region.

Continued active participation at large scaled European and International Projects on citizen participation in education as one of the sustainable development goals, with a view to attaining SDG 4-UNESCO Education 2030.

Continuous strive for the improvement of education quality, evaluation and introduction of appropriate educational policies and normative legislation and formulation of strategies in the framework of the long-term program of UNESCO Education for All. One of our commitments is the greater integration of education with culture, raising awareness of the significance of cultural heritage and cultural diversity as a matrix for nation identification.

# TURKEY

## Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr M. Öcal Oğuz

**Secretary-General:** Ms Sema Akmeşe

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

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO has moved to its own new official building. It now has an infrastructural capacity allowing for increased number of experts and employees. The building disposes of a larger library, conference hall, exhibition hall, meeting rooms and offices.

SDGs remained a priority; different aspects of the 2030 Agenda were addressed throughout the year. Traditional Consultative Meeting of UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN in Turkey marked the best practices on SDG4. Regular meetings of NGOs were hosted by the Vice-Minister of National Education and highlighted civil society initiatives and best practices for the 2030 Agenda. The Extended Meeting of the Bioethics Committee on the 2030 Agenda discussed the ethical dimension of the SDGs.

Also, to mark SDG 11 and promote the involvement of local partners in UNESCO affiliated programmes and networks, the Commission continued to focus on capacity building and awareness raising activities for local partners including more than ten cities in Turkey, this year. The Commission supported

the periodic reporting of one Biosphere Reserve, the application process of three new members in the Creative Cities Network and one in the Global Network of Learning Cities.

Throughout 2017, the Commission cooperated with the Radio of Turkey's Voices for a UNESCO-specific broadcast on radio. Every week during the programme, recent news and core values of UNESCO have been shared with the audience.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Memory of the World Programme, the Commission organized a meeting with the aim to enhance international cooperation and to discuss possible joint nominations.

Among others, the following were translated into Turkish and published online for wider access: The Statutes of the MOST Intergovernmental Council, Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage in the Digital Era, Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change.

This year's publications by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO are as follows: Communication for All, Istanbul Conference 10 Years of the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Social Transformations and Ageing: The Case of Turkey, Audio-Visual Heritage Space and Its Protections "Its Your Story, Don't Lose It"

The Commission authorized the use of the Organization's logo for 42 events.

Seven interns successfully completed the 2017 Internship Programme and one PhD student was awarded with scholarship.



The "Round Table Meeting for Experience Sharing between Africa and Turkey: Natural, Cultural and Intangible Heritage"  
© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Experience-sharing with Arab States: the National Commission organized the "Roundtable Meeting for Experience Sharing between Arab States and Turkey in UNESCO Fields" with the aim of enhancing cooperation with Arab States and discussing possible areas for cooperation.

Experience-sharing with Latin American and Caribbean States: "Roundtable Meeting for Experience Sharing between Latin American-Caribbean States and Turkey in UNESCO Fields" was the first meeting between the Latin American and Caribbean states and Turkey.

Experience-sharing with Africa: in 2015 a meeting was organized to identify the current status of ICH in formal and informal education, with a focus on North and West Africa. The meeting paved the way towards cooperation between the participant states, similar meetings and collaboration initiatives on different themes and issues. As a result, in 2017 a second meeting was organized with the attendance of 37 African National Commissions. The "Round Table Meeting for Experience Sharing between Africa and Turkey: Natural, Cultural and Intangible Heritage" was chaired by the Minister of Culture.

### A success story

The Turkish National Commission highly values international and regional cooperation in order to discuss themes of UNESCO, share knowledge and experience and assess the opportunities for cooperation fields together. The vital step for cooperation is to know better colleagues from other National Commissions. With this aim, the Turkish National Commission has organized cooperation meetings with different regions throughout 2017.

Experience-sharing with South East European Countries: the National Commissions in the region organized meetings between 1964-1990 annually with the aim of exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and strengthening cooperation across all UNESCO spheres. To follow up and bolster this work the "Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the South East European Countries" was held in Turkey.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Sub-regional/regional/interregional collaboration, networking and experience sharing are of high importance for the Turkish National Commission. Therefore, it welcomes such initiatives in general and with all regions.

The Turkish National Commission endeavors to sustain the above mentioned cooperation meetings it initiated in 2017 and before.

For the topics of specific relevance for the National Commissions to be discussed in the Executive Board, the Turkish National Commission can share the views of colleagues from other National Commissions with its Permanent Delegation, with a view to promoting its possible reflection in the Executive Board.

# UKRAINE

## National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO

**Chair:** Mr Sergiy Kyslytsya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Executive Secretary:** Ms Oksana Kyzyma

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/](http://www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/)

## Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO continued its cooperation with UNESCO according to its mandate.

Following UNESCO's efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, including the safety of journalists and ending impunity as significant elements for SDG 16 target, the Conference "Safety of Journalists: an Imperative for Free Media" brought together media and civil society organizations, governmental institutions and international organizations in Kyiv. UNESCO manual "Freedom of Expression and Public Order" was presented at the event. It was agreed that trainings based on the UNESCO manual aiming at strengthening safety of journalists would be of great need in Ukraine. We work

closely with the UNESCO Secretariat on implementing these trainings for the Ukrainian law enforcers.

In the spirit driving UNESCO's International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, the project 'Social inclusion and integration of people with disabilities with the help of physical education, physical activity and sport' was held to promote physical well-being and social empowerment equality for everyone, especially the most disadvantaged. The project was funded by UNESCO under the 2016-2017 Participation Program.

During 2017, three Ukrainian cities – Nikopol, Pavlograd and Novoyavorivsk – joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. Melitopil, which is already a member of the Network, hosted the Learning Cities Forum this year with a view to promoting policy dialogue in line with the achievement of the SDG 4 and SDG 11 targets.

2017 marked the tenth anniversary since the inscription of the

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany into the World Heritage list. In July, this UNESCO World Heritage property was extended with 67 new components. The event was celebrated at the International Scientific Conference in Rakhiv with some 150 scientists and decision-makers from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Romania and Austria.



## A success story

The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO succeeded in further promotion of and deepening ties and cooperation between UNESCO and educational and scientific organizations of Ukraine.

By the decision of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference in November, a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO was established at the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The institution provides opportunities for brilliant students to develop their scientific skills and conduct scientific research through hands-on research activities. It aims at turning into a flagship platform of best practices in STEM education and research that can be replicated in other regions enhancing collaboration among young scientists from Eastern and Central Europe.

A Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO was established at the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine for students to develop their scientific skills and conduct scientific research through hands-on research activities © Junior Academy of Sciences

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO works closely with UNESCO on the project 'Promoting human rights and rule of law through freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in Ukraine'. The project aims at improving capacities of law enforcement agencies in Ukraine to advance freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in the context of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

The project envisages a series of trainings based on UNESCO manual "Freedom of Expression and Public Order". It offers a comprehensive programme for training of security forces on freedom of expression, through elaborating on the international framework regarding freedom of expression and offering other legal tools, in particular in the fields of promoting transparency, facilitating relations between security forces and the media and strengthening safety of journalists.

In the framework of the project in Ukraine, a short version of the training manual will be translated in Ukrainian for further distribution as key recommendations.

Following the decision of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of outstanding Ukrainian educator Vasyl Sukhomlynsky and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine are included into the list of anniversaries with which UNESCO will be associated in 2018. A range of events, including exhibitions and scientific conferences, will be organized in 2018 to celebrate these anniversaries. We welcome our partners from other National Commissions to join us in these celebrations.

# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

## UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC)

**Chair:** Ms Beth Taylor

**Secretary-General:** Mr James Bridge

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The UK National Commission for UNESCO has developed considerably in the past year.

The UKNC continues to provide advice to the UK government on UNESCO related matters and to support the UK Permanent Delegation. Focus areas this year included the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The UKNC also worked with its network of pro-bono experts and Directors to provide extensive briefings for key UNESCO meetings including inter-governmental councils, the Executive Board and General Conference. The UKNC also hosted a

round-table of experts on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and produced advice for UNESCO as a contribution to the Global MIL Week.

The UKNC continues to develop its relationship with the 160+ UNESCO sites and projects in the UK. In November 2017, it held a conference to exchange ideas with UNESCO sites and projects across the north of England at the world's first UNESCO Creative City of Film at Bradford. The event saw the launch of its new brochure, [UNESCO in England](#), showcasing how the UK's UNESCO sites and projects are contributing to UNESCO's aims, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and contribute £79 million annually to England's economy.

In 2017, the UKNC helped support some new UNESCO designations including the Lake District UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bristol (Film) and Manchester (Literature) as UNESCO Creative Cities, Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and Bristol UNESCO Learning City. It continues to promote these important UNESCO designations with critical stakeholders and across social media, with the latter seeing a 300% rise in people reached in 2017-18.

The UKNC was delighted that the Whole Earth? Exhibition was awarded the UNESCO Japan Prize for Education for Sustainable Development at UNESCO's General Conference in November 2017. It will continue to work with Whole Earth's founder, Mark Edwards, and the UNESCO Japan Prize team to make sure that the exhibition's essential messages regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals continue to have an impact at UNESCO and beyond.



'Stairway to Heaven' Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark  
© UK National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

Northern Ireland is home to the first cross-border UNESCO Global Geopark in the world at Marble Arch Caves.

With two new aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks in Northern Ireland (the Mourne Gullion & Strangford and the Causeway Coast) potentially joining the UNESCO Global Geoparks network in the next few years, the UKNC launched a new video and online resource in January 2018 demonstrating how local communities across the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark use the concept to support eco-tourism, provide educational resources, and celebrate the area's geological heritage.

The Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark contains some of the most extraordinary landscapes in Northern Ireland. Ranging from rugged uplands, lakes and forests through to gently rolling drumlins, the landscape of the Geopark represents a complicated Earth history dating back as far as 650 million years ago.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The global network of 201 National Commissions for UNESCO gathered in Paris in October 2017 to discuss key decisions affecting the future of the network in an event chaired by the United Kingdom. Chaired by the Secretary-General of the UKNC, James Bridge, the meeting focussed on the effective implementation of SDGs, strengthening the role of National Commissions, and promoting efficient interaction between National Commissions and UNESCO Field Offices. Mr Bridge called for a better exchange of best practice between the National Commissions of different parts of the world and asked how this could be achieved. Commissions from around the world agreed with the need for more engagement between members of UNESCO's six world regions. Sébastien Goupil and Marjutka Hafner, respectively Secretaries-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, began work on building an informal cooperation network between National Commissions. The UKNC looks forward to working with National Commissions to build on the suggestions made at the meeting.

The UK National Commission for UNESCO has entered a partnership with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to encourage young people to come up with new ideas to help tackle the most pressing problems facing cities including urbanisation, climate change and resource scarcity. The best 12 entries from around the world will be shortlisted for the global prize (\$70,000 approx) and receive support and advice from RICS qualified professionals, before an overall winner is announced in November 2018. The competition asks entrants to propose solutions to specific issues affecting 24 global cities. Cities selected include Mumbai, Lagos, and Beijing. The UKNC would like to hear from other National Commissions about promoting this important initiative among their networks. The Cities for our Future competition is open for entries from 17 January until 31 May 2018.

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## U.S. National Commission for UNESCO

**Acting Executive Director:** Mr Paul T. Mungai

### Update of activities in 2017

Having a diverse membership of over 50 individuals from across the United States with the majority representing civil society, the U.S. National Commission provides a strong network to educate members of the public on the important programmes of UNESCO. The Commission is partially comprised of representatives from NGOs focused on areas of work that mirror the pillars of UNESCO. Their vast experience serves as valuable resource. The Commission also serves in an advisory role to the U.S. Department of State with regard to U.S. policy on UNESCO-related issues. The Commission operates as a U.S. government board with a regulated role and is restricted in some activities such as interactions with the legislative branch. The Commission strongly supports participation of U.S.-

based companies, institutions, and individuals in UNESCO programmes and networks.

There is a large and diverse group of Americans involved in UNESCO programmes. The Commission is committed to engaging, strengthening and enlarging this community. Over the past year, the Commission has continued its efforts to highlight the outstanding work being accomplished, and to build public support for domestic UNESCO activities and programmes. The Commission continues to strengthen lines of communication with current networks such as MAB Biosphere Reserves, Category 2 Centers, UNESCO/UNITWIN University Chairs, Creative Cities, and ASPnet Schools. The Commission staff uses effective communication tools such as social media, and conducts in person meetings and conference calls.

This year's Annual Meeting highlighted the newly formed Alliance for Education, Science and Culture (ESC), an initiative of Americans for UNESCO, a non-profit organization established in 1984 to build public support for UNESCO programmes in the United States, and to encourage U.S. engagement with the organization. The Alliance, which includes several current and past Commissioners, aims to mobilize individuals, communities, business leaders, and leading institutions to support and advance ESC in the United States.



Representatives of Creative Cities from around the globe gathered in Paducah for the 2017 UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art Annual Meeting, September 24-27, 2017 © Paducah Visitors Bureau

### A success story

In 2017 the Commission continued to work with U.S. communities that engage with UNESCO at the sub-national level. For example, three Commissioners – including meeting organizer and Executive Director of the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau Mary Hammond – participated in the UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art annual meeting, hosted by creative city Paducah, Kentucky, from 24 to 27 September. This was the first UNESCO Creative Cities meeting in the United States, and the first formally designated meeting of the Crafts & Folk Art subnetwork. Representatives from Paducah and Santa Fe were joined by delegations from six overseas Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art (Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia; Fabriano, Italy; Hangzhou, China; Icheon, Republic of Korea; Nassau, Bahamas; and San Cristobal de las Casa, Mexico), two other U.S. Creative Cities (Iowa City and Austin), and guests from three Candidate Cities (Carrara, Italy; Kansas City; and Lexington) discussed best practices for incorporating arts and culture into strategic development. The four-day event included thematic plenary sessions with U.S. and international expert speakers, creative field workshops, hands-on study tours, and public engagement events.

In 2017 the Commission also supported the successful U.S. Creative City designations of Kansas City, San Antonio, and Seattle.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The United States has decided to withdraw from UNESCO effective December 31, 2018, and to seek to establish a permanent observer mission to the organization. However, the United States has indicated to the UNESCO Director-General its intent to remain engaged on many important issues undertaken by the organization, including the protection of world heritage, advocating for press freedoms, and promoting scientific collaboration and education.

With this in mind, the Commission is focusing on its role during the transition and post-withdrawal. Future priorities for the Commission include more effective outreach to civil society to translate public support for programmes such as Creative Cities and World Heritage into greater understanding of the breadth and scope of UNESCO's work. In light of decreasing U.S. diplomatic resources in Paris, the Commission sees a potential opportunity for its members to participate more actively in bodies and programmes where there is continued U.S. engagement. Remaining in close contact with UNESCO's New York Liaison Office and other Regional Offices, and continuing to broaden our engagement with other National Commissions are also priorities.



Representatives of filete porteño community talking about this intangible cultural heritage practice in the framework of the first regional meeting to seek mechanisms for cooperation between the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Higher education (Villa Ocampo, Argentina, November 2017)  
© Culture Sector – UNESCO MTD

# Latin America and the Caribbean

# ARUBA

## Aruba National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Luc Alofs

**Secretary-General:** Ms Zetsia Ponson

### Update of activities 2017

In the year 2017, the National Commission of Aruba has primarily focused on the realization of its goals as stipulated in the policy plan. At the same time, the Participation program 2016-2017 was well underway. Four programs have been realized by the end of 2017. In this short overview, it is worthwhile to mention the Commission's efforts in introducing UNESCO schools in Aruba, giving support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Aruba, and in the organization of a Media Pressure Cooker at the University of Aruba.

An important visit was paid to Aruba in the week of 19 to 23 June by Ms Katherine Muller, Director of the UNESCO regional

office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana, Cuba. Meetings were organized with local stakeholders to identify possibilities to implement UNESCO programs in Aruba. Also, visits of courtesy took place with H.E. Mr A. Boekhoudt, the Governor of Aruba, and PM Mr M. Eman, Minister in charge of UNESCO affairs. This visit resulted in a document that serves as the foundation of the UNESCO policy plan 2018-2023.

Unfortunately, Aruba was not able to attend the General Conference in Paris due to change of government. However, via the Cabinet of the minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba residing in the Netherlands, the National Commission of Aruba was able to give its input in the Framework Instruction of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

At the end of 2017, the National Commission of Aruba was informed that the new minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development, Mr A. Lampe, would be in charge of UNESCO affairs on behalf of the newly formed cabinet Wever-Croes. The first meetings with the new minister took place in the month of January 2018.

An important day in 2017 was 20 October, when Aruba marked 30 years as an Associated Member of UNESCO.



Workshop: A Rapid Assessment Framework of Co-Benefit and Trade-offs Among Sustainable Development Goals, held Sept 4 – Sept 15 2017 at Hotel Renaissance Ocean Suites. Oranjestad Aruba. © Aruba National Commission for UNESCO

The workshop included training of experts, facilitators, and civil servants, in order to enable them to conduct policy assessments for future policy planning for Aruba. The workshop participants consisted of civil servants and NGO experts in the field of meteorology, environment, economy, infrastructure, data archiving, and marine biology. Separately to the framework study conducted, the IOCARIBE Secretary came to Aruba, as an expert, to develop capacity on marine science, science awareness, and IOC awareness. From our preliminary analysis, it is shown that most SDG 14 targets would be seen as co-beneficial towards SDG nr 2.

### A success story

A Rapid Assessment Framework of Co-Benefit and Trade-offs Among Sustainable Development Goals. Workshop (4 – 15 September 2017 at Hotel Renaissance Ocean Suites. Oranjestad Aruba)

Funds were requested from UNESCO for this workshop in order that the main author of the article 'A rapid assessment of co-benefits and trade-off among Sustainable Development Goals' published in the journal Marine Policy, could use the published assessment framework from the Nereus Program to identify the dependencies (co-benefits) and hindrances (trade-offs) among directional relationships of SDGs 6, 13, 14, and 15 in a series of workshops for Aruba, a small island state. Based on results of the workshop, policy prioritization can be made based on anticipated co-benefits and policy design can be planned around proper implementation strategy.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

An inter-sectoral team, including representatives from the National Commission, the Meteorological Service, the Public Works Department, the Crisis Management Office, the Department of Education and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), gathered in order to discuss the development of a project proposal focusing on school safety assessments, disaster resilient construction and multi-hazard early warning systems in Aruba. The project is a result of the coordination and joint work between the UNESCO Regional Office and colleagues in the Natural Sciences Sector in Headquarters. Each institution provided inputs to the proposal itself as well as discussed possible mechanisms for enhancing the proposal's efficacy and ensuring relevant, sustainable results. All members present also expressed the importance of the proposal, especially given Aruba being greatly affected by disasters and climate change, and committed to working closely with UNESCO, through the National Commission, to continue developing the proposal in order to seek funding opportunities.

Also, the Aruba National IOC Focal Point proposed to host "the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (SC-IOCARIBE-XV) & Associated Conference" in Aruba by 2019.

# BELIZE

## Belize National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Patrick Faber, Deputy Prime Minister

**Secretary-General:** Mr Roosevelt Blades

### Update of activities in 2017

Due to the unforeseen resignation of previous Secretary-General, Rudolph Anthony, in January 2017, the National Commission for UNESCO in Belize has been inactive for the period from February to October 2017. Since the appointment of the current Secretary-General, Mr Roosevelt Blades, in October 2017, the Commission has managed to revive several initiatives. The first being removal of the Belize's Barrier Reef Reserve System off the World Heritage in Danger List and the establishment of the Anti-Doping Committee.

A consultation meeting was held to discuss the possibilities and necessary steps to take Belize's World Heritage Site, the Barrier Reef Reserve System, off the World Heritage in Danger List. The Commission, with the assistance of the World Heritage Center, made it possible for an advisory mission to visit Belize. During this visit, a meeting was held with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Environment and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, and the Environment, where there was consensus on the recommendations for the DSOCR (Desired State of Conservation for Removal). A meeting was also organized with the co-managers of the reef system to listen to their concerns and recommendations. The National Commission for UNESCO continues its efforts to make this vision into a reality.

Several meetings were held to strengthen the anti-doping committee and establish plans to sensitize the various sporting federations of the rules and regulations of the anti-doping convention.

### A success story

The National Commission for UNESCO in Belize is pleased to have been able to negotiate an advisory mission with World Heritage Center and IUCN. This is part of the final steps in an effort which the Commission hope will lead to the removal of Belize Barrier Reef System from the World Heritage in Danger List, with the support of the NGO community.



The Secretary-General and members of the advisory mission meet with the NGO community responsible for the management of the Belize Barrier Reef System.

© Mr Roosevelt Blades, Secretary-General of the National Commission

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

#### Needs for Capacity Building:

**Education:** During Continuous Professional Development Sessions held by the Ministry of Education in summer 2017, a survey was conducted among teachers to form conclusions of the needs for further capacity building and professional development of teachers. The data from these surveys concluded that needs exist in the following areas: education law and policy development, communication and public relations, data analysis and research, education planning and forecasting, leadership, conflict resolution and team building, information technology and the use of ICTs.

**Sports:** Through working with the National Sports Council of Belize, the National Commission for UNESCO has been made more aware of issues that affect sports in Belize. One of the major areas where capacity building is necessary is education of anti-doping on a national scale across all sporting disciplines. This would include but not be limited to training of persons who can test samples, training and education of athletes, sporting associations and federations.

**Media:** Assist local media personnel with training with regards to procedures and protocols for safety of our journalists especially our female journalists. Improving the standard of journalism in Belize through capacity building and professional development.

#### Plans for 2018-2019:

- Continuation of initiative to remove Belize's Barrier Reef System off the List of World Heritage in danger.
- Meeting with the media to plan and carry out capacity building initiatives.
- Strengthening of relationship with Restore Belize (a government agency, situated within the Office of the prime Minister, with the mission "to make Belize a safe, vibrant home for residents through inclusive, multi-sectoral and citizen-centred action") and continued partnership in their initiatives.
- Celebrating the First World Radio Day in Belize.
- Revival of the Micro-Science Project.
- Nationwide roll-out of anti-doping sensitization.
- Establishment of a first biosphere reserve in Belize.
- Restructuring and strengthening the National Commission.

# BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

## British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Myron V. Walywn, Minister of Education and Culture

**Secretary General:** Ms Allison Flax-Archer

**Website:** <http://bvi.gov.vg/>

### Update of activities in 2017

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) National Commission for UNESCO supports the mission statement as laid out by the Ministry of Education and Culture, as well as that of UNESCO which is to serve the BVI community by promoting international cooperation among the organizations locally and throughout the world and; by fostering partnerships through the UNESCO platform of education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

Some of the projects (but not limited to) that the National Commission continued to work on were:

*Developing Inclusive Practice: A Role for Teachers and Teacher Education.* This project aimed to help new teachers accept the responsibility for the learning of all pupils in their classrooms and know where to turn for help when required. The new approaches to train teachers ensured that the teachers have a greater awareness and understanding of the educational and social problems/issues that can affect children's learning; that they have developed strategies they can use to support and deal with such difficulties; and that national capacities will be continually strengthened with this dynamic and quality inclusive literacy programme for teachers.

*Promoting a Culture of Peace in the British Virgin Islands.* There were three expected results that people residing in the British Virgin Islands will gain from this program. They include: Outcome 1: Non-discrimination and respect for diversity; Outcome 2: Violence prevention, mitigation and response; and Outcome 3: Social inclusion, inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-generational dialogue.

*Sensitizing Advocating Family Education Empowerment.* The purpose of this successful project was to empower people living with HIV/AIDS to access available local health care services and reduce the local stigma associated with treatment, to sensitize the territory on the effects of HIV/AIDS at the family and in the community as a whole and to advocate for public and government support with regards to providing jobs for persons living with HIV/AIDS and other equal opportunities.



### A success story

The BVI National Commission for UNESCO officially highlighted UN International Days observed at UNESCO. For instance, the National Commission invited all schools throughout the Territory to participate in World Book and Copyright Day, on the occasion of our visits. World Book and Copyright Day aims to celebrate books as the embodiment of human creativity, to share ideas and knowledge, and to inspire understanding and tolerance. Students were invited in the classroom setting throughout the British Virgin Islands to share throughout the week excerpts from books that they enjoyed. Additionally, the BVI National Commission celebrated a week of sharing with students, and donated the most recent local publication which was launched during that week by local author, Dr Richard Georges. The name of the book is 'Make Us All Islands' where excerpts were shared with students. Additionally, students were asked to give their personal interpretation of the excerpt, and asked how they would apply it to everyday life, an exercise that they thoroughly enjoyed. Dr Georges encouraged students to also consider writing a book. After each visit, schools were presented on behalf of the BVI National Commission for UNESCO a copy of the book, 'Make Us All Islands', for their school library.

Secretary General, Dr Allison Flax-Archer and Principal of the Joyce Samuel Primary School, Mrs Orlandette Crabbe presenting student with the local book 'Make Us All Islands' by Dr Richard Georges and with BVI National Commission for UNESCO paraphernalia. © BVI National Commission for UNESCO – Full News Article available on <http://bvi.gov.vg/>

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The BVI National Commission for UNESCO could always utilize expertise in capacity building and resource-mobilization in the area of Education and inclusion. Additionally, with the impact of Hurricane Irma, the vigorous move toward technological mobilization in our schools has become a need to remain on the cutting edge. We live in a dynamic world surrounded by almost endless amounts of information. Riding the coattails of information is all of the technology we have at our fingertips. For as prevalent as technology is now, is it replacing real lasting education? Does technology have a place in our classrooms? Yes it does. The school of 10 years ago looks very different from schools today. Also, students are being inundated with technology at a very young age. The transition has already begun. Education of the future will be delivered with current information delivered through traditional teaching methods and fantastic technological tools the British Virgin Islands should not be left behind.

# CHILE

## National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO of Chile

**President:** Ms Adriana Delpiano Puelma, Minister of Education

**Executive Secretary:** Ms Elizabeth Rubio Farías

### Update of activities in 2017

During the year 2017 the National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO of Chile made, amongst different actions, a radio broadcast campaign regarding Agenda 2030, with special emphasis on the objective number 4. The activity was carried out in association with Radio Universidad de Chile. The National Commission also worked, in collaboration with Frutillar’s City Hall, for its application as the first Music Creative City of Chile with great success. The National Commission also worked and supported the application to the Geopark Programme.

Chile has UNESCO Chairs in different fields, and the National Commission has supported them financially in order to strengthen them for developing their activities. Examples of this

would be the International symposium of reading and writing, the ambassadors of peace course from the Inclusion Chair and an investigation about knowledge in Human Rights on university students from the Chair of Human Rights directed by the current National award of Education Abraham Magendzo. The National Commission has worked in conjunction with universities to apply three UNESCO chairs which belong to different Regional Universities.

The National Commission supported the launch and publication of the book “Lorenzo Aillapan Cayuleo Üñümche: Bird Man. Life and Poetry of a Mapuche, Kiñe mapuche wentxu ñi mogen ka ñi ülkan”, since it seeks to promote the immaterial heritage of Chile.

During 2017, the Commission developed an investigation about the documental and material architectural heritage, about the oral history of the CPEIP, national institution in charge of the educational politics of Chile in the last fifty years. This investigation puts in relationship the objectives of the Memoria del Mundo programs, Heritage, Material and education of the organization. The investigation allowed the support of protection of archive material, particularly the documents of the Education Reform of the 1960s. The publication about the investigation will be launched in February 2018. In 2017, the National Commission elaborated and launched a Human Rights Illustrated Declaration for early childhood education.



Children reading the Illustrated Human Rights Declaration for the First Childhood presentation. Bilingual edition Spanish-Mapudungun. September 2017 © Matías Zanni

### A success story

The promotion of Human Rights today is part of the Citizenship Development program of the Chilean Government, This is why UNESCO has found a fertile ground to develop their mission regarding this matter.

*The Illustrated Human Rights Declaration for the early childhood*, in Spanish-Mapudungun, was elaborated. This book is a tool for education and training in Human Rights since the early childhood, necessary for the development of women and men committed to a culture of peace. The illustrated feature of this Human Rights Declaration is fundamental in order to reach boys and girls; furthermore, the illustrations express an accessible content for all ages.

The creation of these illustrations included a work of dialogue and review of all the proposals with artist Karina Cocq and three invited illustrators. Special attention was payed to equality and non-discrimination principles between men and women, non-discrimination for reasons of nationality, sex, race, cultural identity, religion, disability, etc. Illustrations were worked under a positive vision of rights enforced in their majority, to help promote a horizon of the future based on respect and exercise of Human Rights. The book is bilingual and it uses Spanish and Mapudungun –native language of the Mapuche- in order to integrate diversity in education of Human Rights, a diversity which is part of our country’s reality. For this reason, it received the support of Mineduc’s Secretary of Indigenous Intercultural Education. It was distributed freely in kindergartens, public libraries and there is an online version for download in CERLALC’s website, UNESCO’s Category Center II, and MINEDUC’s Program of Citizen Development. A second version (Spanish-English) was edited for the Inglés Abre Puertas Program of MINEDUC.

<http://bit.ly/2AYgwYl> ; <https://formacionciudadana.mineduc.cl/2017/12/05/ministra-adriana-delpiano-lanza-declaracion-universal-los-derechos-humanos-espanol-mapudungun/>

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission hopes to keep active the work that was developed in 2017. Giving continually special support to different UNESCO chairs, to the work in conjunction with applications for different UNESCO programmes and the work with different national institutions, especially archives and Immaterial Heritage. Additionally the Commission hopes to contribute to the reviewing of Frutillar, creative city of music and its musical agenda. Also during February 2018, the Commission will keep the diffusion campaign of Sustainable Development Goals in schools through the distribution of an informative poster.

The Chilean National Commission is open to the realization of joint ventures and the association with other National Commissions.

# COLOMBIA

## Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Ms María Ángela Holguín Cuellar, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Executive Secretary:** Mr Santiago Jara Ramirez

**Website:** <http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/content/comisi%C3%B3n-nacional-de-cooperaci%C3%B3n-con-la-unesco>

### Update of activities in 2017

The visit of Madam Bokova, then the Director-General of UNESCO, took place in February 2017. During this visit, she met 5 Ministers, as well as the Colombian President and 2016 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr Juan Manuel Santos.

Colombia and UNESCO agreed to develop three major cooperation projects to be funded by international donors, contributing to post-conflict phase in Colombia. Prioritized areas include TVET, memory of the conflict and Citizens' education for peace. On 6 November 2017, the "Colombia – UNESCO acknowledgement" was delivered to the best practices in the field of citizenship education for peace.

On 23 June, President Santos officially visited UNESCO, delivering a peace message to the Organization and Member States representatives. Similarly, Ms Flavia Schlegel, ADG/SC, and Ms Lidia Brito, DIR/UNESCO Montevideo, visited

Colombia last June. They met the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, and representatives of Colciencias, Colombian Oceanic Commission, Colombian Geological Service, Environmental Studies Institute, and Risk Management Unit. Colombia left a good impression in ADG Schlegel who considered the experiences she learned about during her visit as good practices that could be shared with Member States.

The National Commission coordinated the implementation of 4 Participation Projects (sport, peace building and gender equality that prioritized youth and children).

In September, the National Commission participated in the visit by UNESCO experts and international guests regarding the nomination of a biosphere reserve in the Pacific region (BRESEP project).

The National Commission prepared Colombia's participation in several Intergovernmental Committees, such as 2003 and 2005 Conventions, IOC Executive Board, IGBC, MAB ICC and IGCPES.

The Colombian National Commission organized the launching of Colombia's 2005 Convention Statutory Report with the support of the SIDA. The process that led to this event and the event itself were organized in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture.

The National Commission wishes to highlight the inclusion of "*Cantos de trabajo del Llano*" on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List, during 2003 Convention Intergovernmental Committee in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

The National Commission also coordinated the evaluation mission of ICOMOS and IUCN experts to "*Chiribiquete National Natural Park*", nominated to the World Heritage List.



Colombia and UNESCO delivered the "acknowledgement" to the best practices in the field of citizenships' education for peace © the Ministry of Education of Colombia

### A success story

Colombia and UNESCO delivered the "acknowledgement" to the best practices in the field of citizenships' education for peace. This experience demonstrated the crucial importance of peacebuilding in Colombia, and the great contribution International Organizations can offer to Colombia for the Post-conflict.

Besides, the four projects developed under the Participation Programme 2016-2017 were extremely remarkable because they impacted positively vulnerable communities, such as girls and teenagers, indigenous people and inhabitants from locations that were affected by the armed conflict that are now becoming spaces for hope and reconciliation.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

For the Participation Programme 2018-2019, the Colombian National Commission plans to prioritize projects based on the consolidation of peace, reconciliation, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and gender equality, to be identified and accompanied by Ministries and National Institutions.

A great priority for the National Commission in 2018 is the organization of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MAB Committees Network in Iberoamerica – IberoMAB, led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as focal point of the MAB Programme in Colombia. Venue and date: Santa Marta, 7 to 9 May.

We highlight that the concerned institutions like Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Universities, etc., are working committedly towards the creation of the IHP Colombian National Committee supported by the UNESCO Office in Montevideo.

Colombia will also carry out the project entitled "Appropriation, Reinforcement and Promotion of the Latin American Film Industry through the Regional Digital Cinema Platform Retina Latina" that was chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity. Led by the Ministry of Culture in Colombia, this project has a regional scope benefiting Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

Furthermore, two international assistance projects, approved in 2017, are currently in progress: one is the safeguarding of the Traditional Knowledge of the Jaguar Shamans of Yuruparí, and the other one is related to the reconstruction of cultural heritage in the Colombian Cultural Coffee Landscape.

# COSTA RICA

## Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** 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 2017

The designation of the Savegre Biosphere Reserve, the inclusion of the issued documents of the Abolition of the Army in 1948 and the Resolutions of the Court of Central American Justice to the Memory of the World Registry of UNESCO, the choice of Costa Rican schools to participate in a global pilot plan on climate change, are just some of the actions that confirm the work of the Costa Rican National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, to show to the world Costa Rica as a country that opts for peace and is concerned by the environment and education.

Also, through our Education Committee, we trained 22 teachers in the online course, "Science by Inquiry, evaluating in daily work", in coordination with the Foundation of the University of Costa Rica.

The National Commission also participated in the creation of the National Bioethics Committee, in the consultation workshop for the creation of this organ, in which national and international experts participated. The purpose of the activity carried out by UNESCO Office in San José, was to discuss the conditions and necessary characteristics for its foundation.

As part of our contribution in the prevention of the consumption of drugs by children and adolescents, the National Commission brought Mr Mario Chirinos, the President of the Foundation "Say no to drugs, say yes to life", to train our police officers and teachers, who are facing day to day this big problem.

The Secretary-General a.i., Mr José Rafael Alvarado, participated as a jury at the end of the International Competition of Oratory Flowers of the African Diaspora and other cultures, opened to students between 15 and 18 years. The competition was organized by the Foundation Art and Culture for Development, with the objective of promoting knowledge and recognition of the patrimonial legacy of Afro-descendants in Central America isthmian and insular people, and strengthening the respect to the interculturality and healthy coexistence in the Region. The final was held at the House of the Culture Omar Dengo in Heredia, on 8 September 2017.

The Costa Rica National Commission participated and collaborated as special guest of the Presidential Social Council I of the Costa Rican government, in the First "Encuentro y Foro Mundial Zonas Azules, Envejecimiento Positivo y Longevidad" celebrated in the city of Nicoya, Guanacaste, one of the five areas existing in the world with the most longevity people.



### A success story

Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO honors the sculptor of Zarcero Park

For 52 years, Mr Evangelista Blanco was responsible for beautifying the Park of Zarcero, Alajuela, with sculptures in trees. This work represents a valuable contribution to the art, the culture and the history of Costa Rica. For this reason, on 3 August 2017, the President and the Secretary-General a.i. of the Costa Rican National Commission, Ms Rocio Solís and Mr José Rafael Alvarado, paid tribute to Mr Blanco and handed him a plaque in recognition of his labour.

Mr Evangelista Blanco proudly displays the certificate he received. Accompany by Ms Rocio Solís, President and Mr José Rafael Alvarado, Secretary General a.i. of the Costa Rican National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO  
© Comisión Costarricense de Cooperación con la UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Another programme that the Costa Rica National Commission for UNESCO works at the international level is with the Hispanic Foundation of Quality, which seeks to rescue and disseminate stories of hispanics who emigrated to other countries to undertake projects of great benefit for the land that welcomed them.

# CUBA

## Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Oscar León González

### Update of activities in 2017

For the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO, the year 2017 was marked by the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation and the entry of Cuba into UNESCO. The most important event was the election of Cuba to the Executive Board of UNESCO.

In Education sector, the 2017 Pedagogy Congress was organized, in which Mr Jordan Naidoo, Director of the Support and Coordination Division of the 2030 Agenda, participated. The Ministerial Regional Meeting "E2030" took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Cuba was represented at the highest level. Another relevant event was Cuba's participation in the Regional Forum on Educational Policies.

In Social and Human Sciences sector, the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Scientific Committee of the General History of

Africa was held in Havana. Cubagua 2017 also took place, in which Ms Blanca Jiménez Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences, participated. The XI Convention on the Environment and Sustainable Development was also developed in mid-year. This year also highlighted the participation of Cuba in the negotiation of the Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change.

In Culture sector, Cuba participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee held in Krakow, Poland, in July 2017. Cuba also attended the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage, where "El Punto Cubano" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In Communication sector, the highlight was the inscription of the Collection of the "Cuban Film Posters" and the "Literacy Campaign" in the Regional Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.

Also in 2017, Casa de las Américas received the UNESCO UNAM- "Jaime Torres Bodet" Award 2017 in Social Sciences, Humanities and Art. For its part, Cuba presented the UNESCO "Carlos J. Finlay" Prize for Microbiology in the framework of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.

### A success story

During the week of 24 to 30 April 2017, the sixth edition of UNESCO's International Jazz Day was held in Havana, the capital being the first in the Latin American and Caribbean region to host this venue.

The event consisted of an educational programme throughout the week, which included visits to art schools and conservatories, concerts and workshops, and academic exchanges between international students and artists and young Cuban musicians.

The main concert took place on 30 April at the Gran Teatro de la Habana Alicia Alonso and was broadcast live nationally and internationally.

The gala brought together acclaimed Cuban musicians with famous international artists from 14 countries. The celebration had a positive media impact and contributed to the promotion of cultural pluralism and the diffusion of music as a factor of unity among peoples.

On the occasion of the aforementioned celebration, Madam Irina Bokova, then Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr Eric Falt, then Assistant Director General for External Relations and Public Information of UNESCO, visited our country.



Global Concert of the International Jazz Day 2017, Havana, Cuba © Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

For 2018, the Cuban National Commission of UNESCO, with the support of the Cuban Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme National Committee and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) of the Republic of Cuba, will organize the sub-regional MOST School.

The sub-regional MOST School will provide a space for collective learning in relation to environmental adaptation in Caribbean SIDS. This capacity-building event is conceived as a knowledge brokering exercise that will bring together academics, public officials and representatives from civil society, prioritizing young participants and women.

The school will focus in the identification of capacity gaps that might exist at the sub-national, national and sub-regional levels in relation to connecting scientific research with agendas for environmental adaptation, and the participants will address possible alternatives for the solution of those gaps.

MOST will invite all other UNESCO international science programmes to participate in the design and implementation of this MOST school, something that will represent a distinctive contribution of the Organization with Member States from the Caribbean in relation to the attainment of key SDGs for the sub-region, in the context of the 2030 International Development Agenda.

# CURAÇAO

## Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Mr Hensley F. Koeiman, Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sport a.i (December 2016 – March 2017); Ms Rinnah M. M., EdD, MPE, BRE, Brain-Based Ed., Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sport (March 2017 – May 2017); Ms Marilyn M. Alcalá-Wallé, Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sport (May 2017-present)

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marva C. Browne M.A.

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

### Update of activities in 2017

The project “Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean Islands for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)”, with funds received from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (earmarked contribution from the Kingdom of the Netherlands), came to an end in 2017. Best Practice that came forth is the establishment of a Dutch Caribbean ICH Platform. NGOs continued to dedicate attention to International days such as International Jazz Day, World Press Freedom Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and

International Day for Tolerance. Other International Days coordinated by UNESCO were combined with local days such as the Commemoration of Emancipation Day, the revolt of slavery and International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition.

Willemstad of Curaçao celebrated 20 years on the World Heritage List with various activities.

Collaboration with several ministries, such as the Ministry for Economic Development, continued. A one-and-a-half day workshop was organized on “Cultural Entrepreneurship in Curaçao”, in collaboration with the National Anthropological Archaeological Memory Management, Foundation Museo Tula and the Culture expert of the Kingston Cluster Office. A joint nomination between Curaçao, St. Maarten and Suriname on The Documentary Heritage of the Enslaved People of the Dutch Caribbean and their descendants (1830-1869) was inscribed in the Memory of the World Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean. The documentary consists of slave, manumission and emancipation registers. Civil registry documents of freed slaves and Plantation. Furthermore the state of compensation received by plantation owners in 1863 (abolition of slavery in the Dutch Caribbean).

Presentations were made for the Council of Ministers and Parliament on UNESCO and its role and responsibilities. Relations were strengthened with the visit of the Secretary-General of the Netherlands National Commission. Four Participation Programmes were implemented.



Exhibition of 13 informative posters related to Slavery, the Slave trade and Decade © Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

with the overall intent of contributing to, and inspiring the fight against all forms of racism, prejudice, racial discrimination and social injustice inherited from slavery. Highlight of the celebration was an exhibition of 13 informative posters related to the International Decade for People of African Descent, which tell the story of slavery and the slave trade and the Decade. This material was made available by the UNESCO Office in New York, through the intervention of the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean.

### A success story

On 23 August, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, Curaçao reflected on the atrocities of this historical trade and the need to remain vigilant so that structural instances of human trafficking, and related exploitative economic systems like the transatlantic slavery do not occur again in our human history. The National Archaeological and Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM), co-organized the event with support from the Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO, the Platform for Slavery and the Slavery Heritage, and the National Platform for the Decade for People of African Descent. The Secretary-General, Ms Marva Browne, placed the remembrance in the context of UNESCO's mission to promote peace and the Organization's establishing this date

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission is very much interested in organizing a sub-regional activity related to the Arts and Crafts promotion within the region and instituting a Caribbean UNESCO Award of Excellence in Arts and Crafts. There is a great necessity to stimulate local artisans in producing more locally made art. It is also our desire that a regional activity of National Commissions could be co-organized with UNESCO on capacity building and functioning of National Commissions. It is imperative that members of the National Commission understand the work and mandate of UNESCO so that they can properly implement the programmes of the Organization countrywide.

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Dominican Republican National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Pedro Vergés Cimán

**Secretary-General:** Mr Luis O. Brea Franco

**Website:** [www.cndu.gob.do](http://www.cndu.gob.do)

### Update of activities 2017

In the course of 2017, the Dominican Republic National Commission completed several tasks.

The National Commission implemented one project with the Fund from UNESCO's Participation Programme: Strengthening the capacities of teachers and young people in the creation of informational materials and teaching resources based on ICT for the prevention of violence against women, the promotion of comprehensive sexuality education and gender equality.

The National Commission presented a school guide on the impacts of climate change on rivers and lakes in cooperation with the National Council for climate change and the clean development mechanism, as well as a report on the legal situation of the protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in the Dominican Republic, within the framework of the National workshop on the protection of underwater culture heritage.

The National Commission also participated as jury and co-sponsor in "Solutions for the future" contest sponsored by Samsung Latin America.

In 2017, the National Commission signed an inter-institutional agreement with the Social Policy Cabinet, through the Direction of Community Technology Centers.

Two workshop were organized during 2017. A Workshop for the formulation of candidacies to the Memory of the World Register was organized, in coordination with the General Archive of the Nation. Another Workshop was titled "ODS 4: challenges of education in Dominican Republic and the Agenda 2030". During this Workshop, the participants discussed the concepts sustainable development and quality education, based on the perspective of UNESCO.

The National Commission also worked to create audiovisual material about "Climate change", "Cultural Heritage", "Diversity and not discrimination", "Domestic violence", "Peaceful resolution of conflicts" and "Objectives of sustainable development", with the cooperation of the Dominican Institute for Telecommunications and the Corripio Communications Group, which disseminated materials by its different channels and radio stations.

The National Commission participated in a training "Guardarenas Methodology – An introduction to the Sandwatch Database", organized in collaboration with the Honduras Commission for cooperation with UNESCO.



The group of participants during the event © Comosion Nacional RD-UNESCO 2017

### A success story

The Ministry of Education through the Department of International Relations, the sub-Commission of Education of the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO, and the National Institute of Education and Training of the Magisterium, coordinated a meeting to define the ideal profile of the Dominican teachers.

It held the meeting "Towards a concerted vision of the necessary capacitation for teachers in the framework of the Agenda 2030" in order to create a space for discussion where representatives of government agencies and civil society ponder what kind of teacher that we need, taking into consideration the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the public policies applied in the country related to education.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were the "Education for teachers in the Dominican Republic: realities and perspectives", exposed by the Director of the Dominican Institute of Evaluation and Research of Educational Quality, and, "the reflexivity in education for teachers: historical view of four education systems", delivered by the Secretary-General of the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Future priorities of the Dominican Republic National Commission include: organize projects in cooperation with the Community Technology Centres as part of the agreement signed between both parties; follow-up the sub commissions' working to boost them in the period 2018-2019; reactivate the UNESCO Youth Club (June); discuss on the status of press freedom in the Internet Age organized in collaboration with the Dominican Institute for Telecommunications; prepare diverse activities with the theme "Non-violence against women" through the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network; provide support to projects that develop UNESCO regional offices; continue with the dissemination in the country of the programmes and regulations of UNESCO; and create the Sustainable Tourism Committee.

# ECUADOR

## Ecuadorian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Ms María Fernanda Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

**Secretary-General:** Ms Carola Íñiguez

## Update of activities in 2017

On 3 August 2017, the President of Ecuador passed the Executive Decree 110, for which the Presidency of the National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; thus, replacing the extinct Coordinating Ministry of Knowledge and Human Talent. The funds for its functioning are now provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The principal members of the National Commission are the relevant national institutions. At the moment, the National Commission is composed of 8 members.



## A success story

On 29 November 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the technical file of the Geo Park Imbabura, to become part of the List of UNESCO Global Geoparks. The file had originally been presented in the year 2014, and it is hoped that the Geo Park Imbabura will soon be included in the List of UNESCO Global Geoparks, as the technical file is considered a successful work of Ecuadorian national institutions with the support of the National Commission and of the UNESCO Office in Quito. It is also relevant because it shows the importance of achieving a coordinated work among many institutions.

Official presentation of the Project Imbabura Geopark on 28 November 2017 by Ms Carola Íñiguez, Secretary-General of the Ecuadorian National Commission of UNESCO © Jonathan Carvajal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Within the framework of the Project "Geopark Napo-Sumaco" and in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Quito, a regional meeting will be held in Tena-Ecuador in October 2018.

Among the future priorities of the National Commission of Ecuador are the support and follow-up of ongoing files and future projects for the biennium 2018-2019, such as the Project "Geopark Napo-Sumaco".

Likewise, the National Commission will focus its efforts on the creation of a Forum of geoparks with the support of the UNESCO Office in Quito; and the proposal of a UNESCO chair programme in the context of the International Hydrologic Program (IHP), which will help to enrich the Water Family of the region in the frame of the Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

# EL SALVADOR

## Salvadoran National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Carlos Mauricio Canjura Linares, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Francisco Humberto Castaneda

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Salvadoran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO carried out important activities aimed at promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, the Commission organized the workshop on "Teaching respect for all" for school managers, with a view to promoting the teaching of respect in the educational system, and the culture of peace in schools.

The Commission also organized the Forum "Education and Afro-descendance", whose purpose was to promote a scientific study on the issues of the origin of Humans in the education system, which may clarify the roots and origins of the Salvadoran culture and develop national identity.

Within the framework of the project "Building Resilient Communities and Integrated Tsunami Warning Systems in Central America", the seminar "Tsunami threat" was developed on the Salvadorian coast, with the aim of providing basic knowledge about tsunami threats, study planning, response and preparation for emergency and disaster situations.



Inauguration of the Seminar «Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust and Related Matters» © the Communications Office of the Ministry of Education

International Alliance for the Memory of the Holocaust (IHRA) under the Presidency of Romania, Mr Ionut Valcu, and the representative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Ms Jennifer Ciardelli.

"Educating about the Holocaust and related issues involve overcoming the traditional approach to education and promoting the development of skills, critical thinking, moral judgment and articulate a series of knowledge, among which history is of great importance", said Minister Canjura, on that occasion.

"One of the main challenges is to teach not to forget, that is, to include in the curriculum issues of the Second World War and the Holocaust", said the president of the commission of historical events of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ricardo Morán Ferracuti.

Likewise, it seeks to exchange methodological strategies and educational tools that strengthen the competencies to face conflict situations in a peaceful manner, with the aim of strengthening citizen capacities, in association with the implementation of the new moral, urbanity and civic subject, that the Ministry of Education launched in 2017.

### A success story

In line with the objectives proposed by the UNESCO Latin American Network for the Holocaust and the need to train teachers on how to manage and teach this subject, El Salvador took important steps, in 2017, to consider the inclusion of education on the Holocaust, genocide and other atrocious crimes in the national school curriculum. Thus, in coordination with the International Alliance for the Memory of the Holocaust, the Ministry of Education held a seminar on Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust, within the framework of the anniversary of the Peace Accords.

Specialists on the subjects of social studies, language and literature, participated in the seminar "Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust and Related Issues", which was inaugurated by the Minister of Education, Mr Carlos Canjura, together with the representative of the

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

El Salvador concluded in 2017, the agreement on phase 2 of the GGRETA (Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers) -Ocotepeque-Citalá Transboundary Aquifer System project, which has been carried out with the support of the UNESCO International Hydrological Program (IHP) with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). This project, implemented jointly with Honduras, aims to improve local capacities and promote dialogues, with the purpose of facilitating the creation of a consultation mechanism for the joint management of groundwater resources, between the countries that share transboundary aquifers. In the case of El Salvador and Honduras, the GGRETA project focuses on the transboundary aquifer Ocotepeque-Citalá, located in the Trifinio region.

In 2018, in El Salvador in particular, activities will be carried out within the framework of Phase 2 (2016-2018) of "GGRETA Project", relating to three components: knowledge technical assistance, facilitation of dialogues and strengthening of local capacities, through the formation of a "management committee", with technical assistance and support from the Ministries of Environment of both countries.

In February 2018, the National Workshop for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage was held within the framework of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, with the aim of strengthening the capacities on care and protection measures against looting, illicit trafficking, and commercial exploitation of underwater heritage, as well as international scientific research standards for activities directed at underwater archaeological remains.

It is expected that El Salvador capitalizes on this experience and can become a multiplying and collaborating agent in this issue not only within the country, but also in the region, always in search of the implementation of the 2001 Convention on Underwater Heritage.

# GUYANA

## Guyana National Commission for UNESCO

**Secretary General:** Ms Patrice La Fleur

### Update of activities in 2017

The Secretary General participated in the Meeting of Secretaries-General hosted by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, the 4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Meeting of National Commissions, and the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference. The meetings provided the SG with excellent opportunities to understand the mandate and expectations of the National Commissions for UNESCO.

The Guyana National Commission received funding for four projects under the Participation Programme for the 2016/2017 Biennium: (1) Hosting the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education; (2) The Enhancement of Health and Family Life Education in selected Primary Schools; (3) Youth Engagement for Community – Based Disaster Risk Management, and (4) Music for Disadvantaged Children.

Of the four projects, three were completed. These projects facilitated institutional strengthening of organizations and capacity building for beneficiaries in the education sector as well as at the community level.

The National Commission collaborated with the Community Development Council to convene two workshops.

The first Workshop was held to observe the “16 Days of activism against gender based violence against women and girls”. The objective was to raise awareness of communities on the negative impact of violence on families in particular women and girls and to ensure that the participants from eleven rural communities play an active role in educating their families and the population. The workshop focused on Gender, Gender Equality, Gender Construct and Gender Based Violence.

The Second Workshop focused on “Sandwatch” and targeted Community Development Officers from six of Guyana’s ten regions. The objective was to enhance awareness among Community Development Officers about the importance of Sandwatch in the context of Climate Change as well as the government’s proposed “Green State Development Strategy”. The Presentations addressed “Methodologies for implementing Sandwatch” with an emphasis on monitoring, analyzing results, sharing the findings with the community and taking action. The importance of protecting the environment, especially the rivers and beaches, was also emphasized.

In observance of World Literacy Day, the National Commission collaborated with the National Centre for Educational Resource Development (NCERD) and the Data Management Authority – E Governance Department and hosted a forum for students, teachers and parents on the theme “Literacy in a Digital World”. Presentations were made by the Minister of Education, the Chief Education Officer, the Secretary-General of the National Commission, and the Director of E Governance. There were also side events, which focused on parenting techniques, roles and responsibilities, musical renditions and poetry reading by students.



The former Secretary-General of the National Commission, Ms Inge Nathoo, presenting her Speech on 5 October 2016 with Mr Vincent Alexander, the Chairman of the National Accreditation Council, seated at the Head table  
© Ms Deborah Jack, Executive Director of the National Accreditation Council

Accreditation Council is working with educational institutions to ensure they operate in accordance with the Law and the Quality Assurance Standards.

### A success story

Guyana and Caribbean countries are experiencing increased attention as favourable locations for the establishment of private educational institutions, which is now seen as a viable economic activity. However, the education offered to the population must meet the required standards. Hence, the National Accreditation Council of Guyana hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE). The objectives of the Conference were to create awareness of quality assurance in Guyana and enhance the capacity of the National Accreditation Council; to create the consciousness for sustainability in quality assurance in Guyana; and to enhance collaboration and harmonization across Quality Assurance entities in the Caribbean.

The Conference was a success with participation from eleven CARICOM States. Despite the challenges of Hurricane Matthew and costs for travel, accommodation and conference fees, 67 overseas participants joined 66 local participants at the Conference. The Universities of Guyana and from the Caribbean were fully involved in the Conference.

The concept of quality assurance is now a ‘buzz word’ for educators and students as well as public and private sector agencies. The National

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Secretary-General is working with the Minister of Education to reestablish the National Commission. The names have been submitted and awaiting Cabinet approval. In addition, before the end of March, it is anticipated that several committees will be reestablished to address UNESCO’s Mandate, in areas of Man and the Biosphere, World Heritage, UNESCO Club, and Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

The Secretary-General has been discussing with Trinidad and Tobago regarding ASPnet and with the Secretary-General of Canada on opportunities for collaboration.

Based on discussions with stakeholders, there is need for technical and financial support for the following: Interventions with Indigenous Peoples; Decade for the People of African Descent; and World Heritage Sites.

# HAÏTI

## Commission nationale haïtienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO

**Président** : M. Pierre Josué Agénor CADET, Ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle

**Secrétaire général** : M. Jean COULANGES

### Compte rendu des activités en 2017

La Commission nationale haïtienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO (CNHCU) s'est démultipliée en 2017. En biodiversité, elle a contribué à la déclaration de la réserve de biosphère transfrontière de La Selle et Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo (Haïti et République Dominicaine). Les Délégations permanentes des deux pays auprès de l'UNESCO ont facilité ce dossier. Parallèlement, le Comité national haïtien du MAB a sensibilisé 800 élus locaux, notables et enseignants des deux réserves de biosphère d'Haïti aux thématiques et objectifs du développement durable. En plus, la CNHCU a lancé le Jardin botanique national d'Haïti (JBNH) dans la réserve de biosphère La Selle.

En éducation, les formations à la résolution non-violente de conflits et à l'utilisation des technologies d'information et de communication en enseignement/apprentissage ont continué. Le Réseau des écoles haïtiennes associées de l'UNESCO a aussi réalisé le forum national de jeunes (rallye jeunesse) sur l'éducation pour le développement durable.

Dans son programme Culture, la CNHCU a renforcé les capacités d'une cinquantaine de jeunes femmes et filles dans les métiers de l'artisanat et de la couture. Elle a également initié les travaux préparatoires de sauvegarde et de valorisation du patrimoine culturel et naturel de la commune de Saint-Louis du Sud (réserve de biosphère La Hotte), en vue de son inscription à la Liste du Patrimoine mondial. Par ailleurs, la Commission nationale a organisé des ateliers de formation des opérateurs culturels pour répondre aux appels à propositions du Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle (FIDC).

En outre, le *Komite nasyonan* du Programme Mémoire du monde (KAMEM) a réussi l'inscription de deux éléments du patrimoine documentaire haïtien au Registre international Mémoire du monde.

Certaines activités ont été supportées par le Programme de participation de l'UNESCO, le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Port-au-Prince, la coopération espagnole (AECID et OAPN) et l'ONG allemande Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (ASB).



Rallye jeunesse de l'EDD : jeunes et accompagnateurs en conférence/atelier sur le développement durable © CNHCU, 2017

Le ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle (MENFP), la Direction de la Protection civile (DPC), le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), le Bureau de l'UNESCO en Haïti et l'ONG allemande Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (ASB) ont appuyé cette activité.

### Une activité réussie

En 2017, la Commission nationale et le Réseau des écoles haïtiennes associées de l'UNESCO ont organisé le « Rallye jeunesse de l'Éducation pour le développement durable (EDD) » dans la réserve de biosphère La Selle, à Ganthier. Les travaux de terrain de ce forum national ont porté 200 jeunes filles et garçons à identifier des risques environnementaux liés aux changements climatiques et à proposer des solutions à la vulnérabilité des communautés. Au Jardin botanique national d'Haïti, les participants ont exploré la naissance de rivières et mis en terre, avec la communauté, 400 plantules de mapou (*Ceiba pentandra*), arbre à haute valeur culturelle, connu pour protéger le sol et les ressources en eau.

Les jeunes, venus de partout d'Haïti, ont également suivi des conférences/ateliers pratiques sur plusieurs thématiques : biodiversité, contes et légendes d'Haïti, agriculture durable, exploitation forestière et consommation durables, lutte contre la pauvreté et entrepreneuriat, expressions culturelles locales (*rara*) et modernité, innovations et industries durables, gestion non-violente de conflits, égalité et équité entre les sexes.

### Priorités futures et possibilités de travail conjoint

La Commission nationale haïtienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO voudrait organiser une activité binationale avec la République Dominicaine sur la réserve de biosphère transfrontalière ou avec les deux Réseaux nationaux d'écoles associées de l'UNESCO. Il pourrait s'agir d'actions d'éducation, d'information et de sensibilisation des autorités locales des communes frontalières de la réserve de biosphère La Selle (Haïti) et de la réserve de biosphère Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo (République Dominicaine) ou des écoles des mêmes communes. Les deux commissions nationales pourraient considérer l'une ou l'autre action comme activité sous régionale et inviter la Commission nationale cubaine. La coopération allemande, l'Union européenne, l'AECID et le GRULAC pourraient être parties prenantes de cette initiative.

La commission nationale haïtienne et la Commission nationale jamaïcaine envisagent d'organiser un atelier de renforcement de capacités autour du Programme Mémoire du monde à l'intention des institutions publiques et privées du patrimoine documentaire.

Des domaines comme la conservation et la mise en valeur du patrimoine et de la biodiversité, la reforestation, la lutte contre le changement climatique, l'éducation, l'information et la sensibilisation, la formation professionnelle, la recherche, la mobilisation de ressources et de partenariats sont d'intérêt pour la Commission nationale haïtienne.

# HONDURAS

## Honduras Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Ms Rutilia del Socorro Calderón Padilla

**Secretary-General:** Ms Hilda Muñoz Tabora

### Update of activities in 2017

Despite some limitations, the Honduras National Commission managed to carry out a series of activities to cover some of the requirements of the various areas of competence of our organization.

One of the biggest challenges solved was the lack of personnel. Since September 2016, 4 professionals from the different Associated Schools that work in the Capital were assigned to attend the different areas of competence as well as a multilingual professional.

In the areas of Social and Human Sciences, Natural and Exact Sciences, Culture and ASPnet, the National Commission started to work to catch up with the latest provisions of our organization.

In 2017, the National Commission was trained in the fields of Culture Events, Climate Change, Human Rights, Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods, Sustainable Development Goals, Learning Cities.

In 2017, the National Commission sent to UNESCO Headquarters an application of 5 new partner schools, located in strategic areas of our country; of which 4 were approved and the pending 1 located in the central area of Siguatepeque city, which is one of the strongest environmental lungs in the country.

With the financial support of the UNESCO Office in San José through the coordinator of the area of culture, Ms Monserrat Martell, the Secretary-General, was able to attend a training on the emblematic project "Vigías del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural in Colombia", which was replicated in this country throughout the year 2017 in 10 departments.

In May 2017, the National Commission had the opportunity to train 40 teachers from the Atlantic coast in the "Sandwatch" project, thanks to the technical support provided by the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO to facilitate the Coordinator of the ASP Network in that country who travelled up to our nation. The partner schools of this sector were responsible for the lodging food and internal logistics of said official.



The Cultural and Natural Heritage Watch Project © Comisión Nacional, Licenciado Nery Fernando Cerrato, Licda. Dulce María Guifarro, Tania Carolina Sánchez

### A success story

The Cultural and Natural Heritage Watch Project "Project Vigías of the Cultural and Natural Heritage" was developed under the guidelines established by the participation programme of the UNESCO Biennium 2016-2017.

Through the execution of this project, the participants such as teachers, students, selected parents and members of the civil society invited, showed support and interest. The training methodology used allowed the intensity of social interaction within the group, generating proposals and conservation measures for the Cultural and Natural Heritage; by holding successful exhibitions and plenary sessions at thematic tables, thus strengthening the perception of relevance to the project, with the aim of knowing, and encouraging community participation in the social appropriation of heritage and respect for diversity, becoming the actors, in lookouts of it.

The conformation of 15 groups of Heritage Watchers at the national level allowed over 100% of the target set, thus strengthening the safeguarding of heritage sites.

The success obtained in this project was due to the support and projection of the educational authorities of the selected centers and to the coordination of the staff of the Honduras Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Honduras Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO has a specific plan to co-organize regional activities in 2018-2019, based on the "Trifinio Fraternidad" transboundary biosphere reserve, which is a tri-national biosphere reserve located ared between El Salvador and Guatemala and Honduras. It is the first Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in Latin America, and the second worldwide. Trifinio Fraternidad is part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which is dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity, to scientific research and permanent observation, as well as to the definition of models of sustainable development at the service of humanity. Currently, our water resources that belong to this biosphere, such as the binational basin of the Motagua, Ulúa, and rivers that are affecting the beaches of Omoa and Roatán and the trilateral basin of Lempa, which is the dividing line between Honduras and Guatemala, sail thousands of dead fish and present large amounts of garbage. This contamination negatively affects the preservation of the Reserve of Man and the Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere.

This is a challenge. We need to work with teachers and children from the areas surrounding this transboundary biosphere located in the three countries, in order to prepare them on the issues of conservation and protection of this natural heritage, by forming a group of Natural Heritage Watchers of the Reserve of the Man and the Biosphere Trifinio Fraternidad by country, and to empower the future generations of these countries so that they can know how to protect and conserve this natural wonder.

# JAMAICA

## Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Ms Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

**Secretary-General:** Mr Everton Hannam

**Website:** <http://jncunesco.gov.jm>

### Update of activities in 2017

Jamaica hosted a number of international and regional meetings along with the UNESCO Caribbean Office. The Sub-Regional Meeting for the Follow-up of CONFINTEA VI was attended by Education Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and senior education professionals from about 13 countries in the region. The Sixth Annual Global Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) International Conference was held for the first time in Jamaica. The regional workshop *Protection of Culture and Heritage in SIDS under a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century climate change program*, funded under the UNESCO Participation Programme, included a case study visit to the Blue and John Crow Mountains, Jamaica's first heritage site with participants from 9 Caribbean countries.

Three Jamaican representatives participated in the World Humanities Conference, the World Heritage Young Professional Forum 2017, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar of National Bioethics, two of them were youth participants.

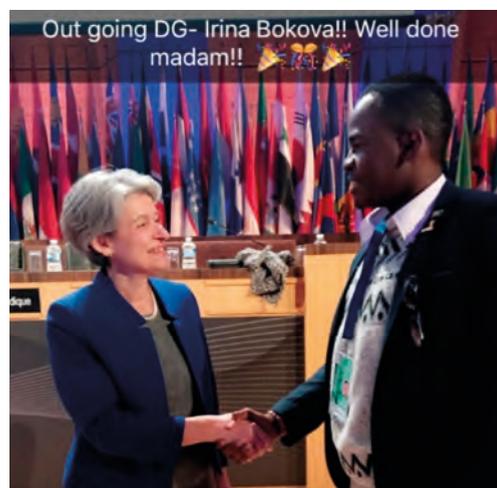
Jamaica representatives attended the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) Board Meeting, and the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Secretary-General represented at the 2017 Consultative Natcom Meeting in the Caribbean, Roundtable meeting for experience sharing between LAC states and Turkey, and was one of Jamaica's delegation to the UNESCO General Conference.

Activities were carried out with funds received under the UNESCO Participation Programme, including 2 regional activities, which are the Football Against Crime and Violence initiative and the Caribbean Humanities Symposium. The outcomes from the Participation Programmes include a number of new Mento Bands in schools, a number of UNESCO Clubs established in communities, and a dissemination report from a pilot study on manhood and masculinities in Jamaica in relation to crime and violence. This report will inform gender-sensitive policy and programmes geared at enhancing the lives of Jamaican males and will become part of a Caribbean wide study.

Together with UWI, the National Commission celebrated World Philosophy Day whilst some of our UNESCO Clubs students participated in the UN Remember Slavery Global Student Video Conference and the International Coastal Clean-up Day.

Ms Aisha Thompson attained the UNESCO/People's Republic of China Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme 2017-2018 to study Project Management.



### A success story

Jamaica was successfully elected to the UNESCO Executive Board and the Information for All Council. Jamaica will be represented by Minister Olivia Grange, and Cordel Green, Chair of our Information Advisory Committee and Executive Director of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica.

Mr Odayne Haughton, a student leader and a member of the Jamaican delegation at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, was invited to attend the Integrated Partners Forum of the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Fiji from 19 to 22 February 2018. In addition to contributing to the discussions on the subthemes, student delegates will also convene the general assembly of the Commonwealth Students Association (CSA) and contribute to the strategic priorities for CSA for the next three years.

Delegate Odayne Haughton met outgoing DG, Irina Bokova, at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference © Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Jamaica will continue efforts at the following areas: increase the number of World Heritage sites and among those to be considered are the Port Royal and Seville Heritage sites; increase the engagement of youths in UNESCO programmes; ratification of the 1970 Convention; engage the Civil Society and private sector in the implementation of UNESCO programme areas, starting by expanding the UNESCO Clubs; and increase collaboration with the UNESCO Cluster Office of the Caribbean.

As a new member of the Executive Board, Jamaica will provide effective representation in support of matters relating to National Commissions, especially those in the SIDS countries.

The National Commission will also make efforts to establish UNESCO Clubs in schools, in a programme which encompasses Culture Clubs and Heritage Clubs. This effort will create a more formidable and impactful cultural experience for Jamaican youth. The outcome would be an increase of clubs within the group whilst promoting the ideals of UNESCO through the UNESCO Clubs partnership. The National Commission will further increase youth participation in its advisory committees.

Towards increasing the number of biosphere reserves in the region, a regional Participation Programme is to be completed in conjunction with the UNESCO Cluster Office of the Caribbean. This will seek to educate the participants on the writing of dossiers and presentation of nominations.

For its work in 2018, the National Commission will require capacity building and resource mobilization for support for the ratification of the 1970 Convention; world heritage education of young persons; and support in mathematics and science technology education.

# MEXICO

## Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (CONALMEX)

**President:** Mr Otto Granados Roldán

**Secretary-General :** Mr Benito Mirón López

**Website:** <http://www.dgri.sep.gob.mx/>

### Update of activities in 2017

The Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO participated in the International Conference of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), held from 8 to 10 April, in Sanya, China. National Coordinators of 35 countries made proposals to update the study topics of the network and to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Education Agenda.

The National Commission organized the National Meeting of Coordinators of the ASPnet in Mexico (28 and 29 September in Guadalajara, Jalisco. Chaired by the Governor of the State of Jalisco, the 25 State Coordinators who participated agreed the guidelines to follow up the activities of the partner schools.

CONALMEX supported and managed the successful nomination of three new cities as members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network: Guadalajara, under the category of "Digital Arts", Mexico City in "Design" and Morelia in "Music". It also supported with success the nomination of the two first Mexican Geoparks in the Global Geoparks Network: Comarca Minera (Hidalgo) and Mixteca Alta (Oaxaca).

The Deputy Secretary General of the CONALMEX participated in the *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNITWIN Program and UNESCO Chairs* (31 October, UNESCO HQ), where he shared the activities and the experience that Mexico's National Commission has developed with the 24 Mexican UNESCO Chairs during the last ten years.

Jointly with the German Commission for UNESCO, CONALMEX implemented the second year of the *Program for Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP)*, training 12 teachers and 200 Mexican students on entrepreneurship issues and business administration.

Mr Aurelio Nuño Mayer, then Minister of Public Education and President of the Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, participated in the General Policy Debate of the General Conference at its 39<sup>th</sup> Session. He reaffirmed Mexico's commitment with UNESCO to strengthen multilateral cooperation for development, and thanked the support of the Organization in the implementation of the Educational Reform.



Unveiling of the Mural "Soy Campechano" at the "Niños Héroes" primary school in Campeche, redPEA © Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

and their sense of community using their plastic creativity, including what they had learned about the phenomenon of light. Children were able to develop different skills such as listening, touching, observing, planning and working in team. Their murals are now a cultural heritage at their schools.

### A success story

CONALMEX, in partnership with the Museum of Light of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Association of Plastic Artists of Mexico (ARTAC), implemented the project "*Enlightened: dialogue of knowledge between art and science*" in six elementary schools of the UNESCO ASPnet, funded by the UNESCO Participation Programme 2016-2017.

Science disseminators from the Museum of Light carried out workshops to awaken among students interest in science and raise awareness on the importance of light on our lives. Then, guided by visual artists, students incorporated their knowledge of light phenomena in the design of a collective artistic work (mural).

To highlight the plurality of identities and cultural expressions in the country, 6 schools belonging to different regions of the country and to diverse sociocultural contexts, were selected. They are located in the States of Campeche, Jalisco, Nuevo León, Tabasco, Veracruz and Zacatecas.

Through the painting of these murals, girls and boys expressed their identities

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, jointly with L'ORÉAL Mexico, is preparing the implementation of the "For Girls in Science" programme in 2018. Scientists previously awarded with the "Scholarships for Women in Science UNESCO-CONALMEX-CONACYT-AMC" will visit schools to share their work with students and act as role models. It is intended to begin at schools in the State of Mexico and Mexico City, from low and upper secondary levels, which belong to the UNESCO ASPnet, with the aim of promoting among all students their interest and vocation in the scientific field, fight against gender stereotypes and inspire girls to choose a career related to science.

Likewise, CONALMEX will celebrate the National Meeting of Coordinators of the ASPnet on 15 and 16 March, in the city of Monterrey. The Minister of Education of Nuevo León and the Secretary General of CONALMEX will chair this Meeting, which will allow exchanging successful experiences, providing a workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SGD) and evaluating the progress of the commitments adopted in the previous Meeting.

Regarding the field of culture, CONALMEX will assess, jointly with the governmental institutions involved, the possibility of nominating *La Romería* (The Pilgrimage): ritual cycle of "*La Llevada*" (the Carrying) of the Virgin of Zapopan, Jalisco to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; and the *Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley: originary habitat of Mesoamerica* to the World Heritage List.

# PARAGUAY

## Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Raúl Aguilera Mendez,  
Minister of Education and Science

**General Secretary:** Mr Anibal Zapattini

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Comisi%C3%B3n-Nacional-Paraguaya-de-Cooperaci%C3%B3n-con-la-Unesco/804199026256956?sk=info&tab=page\\_info&section=web\\_address&view](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Comisi%C3%B3n-Nacional-Paraguaya-de-Cooperaci%C3%B3n-con-la-Unesco/804199026256956?sk=info&tab=page_info&section=web_address&view)

### Update of activities in 2017

The Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO developed a large number of actions within the framework of UNESCO's major programmes, among which we can mention:

Literary Safari – Historic I read 2017, targeting at students of the third cycle of the Basic School Education and the High School. It was promoted by the Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO through the Network of Associated Schools, in joint action with the General Directorate of Initial and Basic School Education, the General Directorate of High School, and the General Directorate of Strengthening the Educational Process. The proposed activity was carried out within the framework of the National Reading Plan and commemorating the Centennial Year of Augusto Roa Bastos, and was carried out during the Asuncion International Book Fair 2017.

Itinerant Samples Ana Frank "Let me be myself" and "Violence that marks". This exhibition was supported by the Anne Frank Center of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in joint action with the Ministry of Education and Science through the Network of Associated Schools in Paraguay. The traveling exhibitions of the Anne Frank House were presented in more than 2000 cities in 40 countries, where they were visited by more than 12,000,000 people. The objective of the exhibition presented was to mobilize the visitors

to reflect on the values and concepts that make Human Rights, tolerance and respect for others and democracy in today's world, using as a thread the narrative of the story of Anne Frank and her family. The sample consists of different elements that stimulate the visitor to establish a chain of events and similarities between the past and the present. The exhibition was composed of two parts: the first part "Let me be myself", runs through 25 graphic panels, the story of Anne Frank and the historical context, through the concepts of identity, prejudice and discrimination. The second part of this exhibition, "Violence that marks" focuses on today, works on violence against women. The following results were obtained: a total of 70 young people were trained to guide the traveling exhibition; youth were empowered with methodology and content; young people committed to being multipliers of the strategy; and more than 3,500 people visited the exhibition.

GLOBE Programme: Training for students. Intensive training of the World Programme of Learning and Global Observations for the benefit of the Environment, addressed to 80 teachers of educational institutions members of the Network of Associated Schools in Paraguay, whose main objective was to contribute to the development of scientific learning of students of basic and High School education, from the observation and permanent measurement of the different environmental factors that surround them. It was developed within the framework of the GLOBE Programme with the support of NASA, and in Paraguay by the Ministry of Education and Science- the Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, the US Embassy, the Scientific Society of Paraguay and the Benjamin Franklin Science Corner. The activities had been carried out with the budget of the Ministry of Education and Sciences and working alliances with public and private institutions members of the Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

The Paraguayan National Commission, in coordinated with the Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to UNESCO, the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean (in Montevideo), the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (in Santiago), and the member institutions of this National Commission, developed countless actions framed in the Great Programmes in the academic year 2017.



World Press Freedom Day © Delia Ramírez, Communication and Information Sector – Paraguay National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

### A success story

The Regional Celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2017 "Freedom of Expression, plurality of media and security of journalists: essential factors for democracy" was organized from 3 to 5 May 2017 in Asunción, Paraguay.

It was organized by the Inter-Institutional Board for the Safety of Journalists of the Paraguay National Commission, and was attended by public entities and organizations of workers of the Press, with the support of the UNESCO Montevideo Regional Office, and the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

There is a great interest in retaking the Regional Meetings of National Commissions from the Paraguay National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO, whose main objective is to share experiences, aimed at strengthening their actions, for which it would be more than important to mobilize resources that will allow the realization of them.

# PERU

## Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Idel Vexler Talledo, Minister of Education

**Secretary-General:** Mr Raúl Begazo Pastor

### Update of activities in 2017

In the course of 2017, the Peruvian National Commission spread information on various UNESCO calls as well as advised educational institutions.

The most important activity of the National Commission was the technical assistance provided to UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) for project management in accordance with

UNESCO's objectives. Moreover, several events were held in the regions of Moquegua, Arequipa, Lambayeque and Lima. As the result of these activities, seven new schools were added to the ASPnet.

Sixteen working documents, articles, and technical reports, were prepared and submitted to ASPnet, in order to strengthen their project management capacities, as well as promote more commitment to UNESCO's ideals and values.

The National Commission also provided technical assistance for the "Rally Continental 2017 and the official launch of the 2018 World Rally", held in Lima on August 29, 2017. The event attracted 90 delegates of different schools from Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica and Chile.

The National Commission coordinated and carried out training and promotion activities of the ASPnet with the participation of the UNESCO Office in Lima.

### A success story

The most significant activity was the technical assistance provided to ASPnet Peru, in particular for supporting projects aimed to Peace, Human Rights, Sustainable Development, World Citizenship, Interculturality and Cultural Heritage. 41 schools were visited by the coordinator of the ASPnet Peru.



A meeting of the ASPnet of Arequipa, formulating strategies aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) © Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The National Commission would like to establish and maintain links with the global ASPnet, especially with Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, among others countries.

In the second instance, the National Commission would like to receive training and advice courses to support the ASPnet and obtain more information about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Finally, it would be desirable for the National Commission to update the directory of ASPnet and create a virtual space for publishing activities related to school's network.

# SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

## St. Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Shawn K. Richards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Culture & Sports

**Secretary-General:** Mr Antonio Maynard

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

### Update of activities in 2017

Among four projects approved in 2017 under the Participation Programme, figured *Single Mother's Advancement and Resilience Training Project* (SMART). This project was envisaged to educate young mothers and to empower them to model good parenting skills and to provide some basic academic and computer related skills to better equip them for the job market so that they can improve their standard of living and promote healthy lifestyles for their families.

The National Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, conducted a workshop to facilitate the review of the first draft of our National Cultural Policy Document and to garner recommendations on the way forward for national authorities and other key stakeholders to assist in the finalization and eventual publication of this important document.

The St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve (2011) comprises terrestrial and marine core areas, a buffer zone and transition areas including a wide range of ecosystems arising from the volcanic ridgeline to the outlying coral reef and is home to the Historic Sugar Plantation Estate Ruins & Spooner's Cotton Ginney. The National Commission coordinated and funded a number of field trip to the Reserve for secondary school students. The purpose of the field trip involved helping students to learn more of the terrestrial and marine zones of the SMBR and to gain practical knowledge of concepts that are taught in the school curriculum across the various subject areas.

The National Commission, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Common Wealth Technical Assistance Unit and the Ministry of Youth, conducted workshops, conferences, seminars, meetings and consultations to review the draft Youth Policy and to provide recommendation for the establishment of a new National Youth Policy Document. With the help of Ms. Giselle Burbanao UNESCO's Programme Specialist for the Social and Human Sciences Sector, the new National Youth Policy Document was finalized in September and was tabled for submission to the Federal Cabinet.

Mr. Antonio Maynard, Secretary-General of the SKN National Commission for UNESCO, attended the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board that was held in Paris in April 2017. He discussed inter alia the need for the SKN National to focus its resource allocation on further development of national youth frameworks, the identification and preservation of tangible and intangible cultural sites for sustainable development.



Photo at the Development and Sustainability of Community Based Steel Pan Workshop in Nevis © St. Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

### A success story

The St. Kitts and Nevis National Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture on the Island of Nevis, initiated the implementation of the Development and Sustainability of Community Based Steel Pan Groups Project in February. The project was geared towards the training of two local tutors in the tuning and blending of steel pans with the assistance of Pan Instructors from Trinidad and Tobago and then bringing all Steel Pan Instructors together in one place, on the Island of Nevis for the conducting of a Steel Pan Workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to provide the knowledge and skills to critically analyse and evaluate music, to provide opportunities for the development of personal values about music, to provide opportunities through which students can develop creativity, manage their own learning, work together as a team and engage in activities that reflect real-world practise of performers, composers, and audiences with a view to enhancing our tourism product by providing quality musicians to play quality music on the steel pan and to ensure that the culture and heritage of Steel Pan music is kept alive in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

At the end of the training workshop, a number of new community steel pan groups were formed. The workshop was indeed a success.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

To determine the feasibility of Charlestown to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site, ICOMOS is to deploy heritage experts/university researchers. Additionally, ICOMOS-accredited experts are to undertake mission to Nevis to assess the currently proposed dossier for nomination.

SKN requested technical assistance to facilitate SKN's evolution towards fully implementing the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and funds are being sought by SKN via the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

SKN is to submit a request for technical assistance to facilitate SKN's evolution towards fully implementing the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Convention.

SKI is seeking additional funding to enable St. Mary's biosphere reserve to further the branding and marketing of the area, thereby transforming the vicinity into a compelling tourism, entrepreneurial and bio-diversity preservation hub (the first in the English-speaking Caribbean).

It is planned to elaborate a Slave Route Project and to erect a Monument in commemoration of the ending of slavery, under the guidance of the Slave Route Committee. Discussions are being held to organize a Pan-Africanism Conference in 2019.

# SAINT LUCIA

## Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Gale T. C. Rigobert

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marcia Symphorien

### Update of activities in 2017

The Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO maintained an exciting work programme, remaining actively involved in a number of projects and events from January through to December 2017.

The year began with the hosting of a two-day National Symposium on Mathematics under the theme "Learnin Loving Nurturing Mathematics". The Symposium brought together a number of Mathematicians including Math Teachers, in consultation aimed at establishing guidelines for the teaching and learning of Mathematics. It also set the groundwork for the development of a "Policy Handbook on the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics in Schools in Saint Lucia"; officially launched in December 2017.

In February, the National Commission and the Curriculum and Materials Development Unit of the Ministry of Education officially launched the Full Implementation of the "UNESCO Global Micro-Science Experiment Project". The project, aimed at introducing Science Teachers and Schools to a new hands-on

approach to the teaching and learning of science, included the presentation of Micro-Science Kits to ALL schools within the 8 Education Districts island-wide.

From March through to December, the Piton Management Area Office undertook a project aimed at "Building local capacity in the use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI): Demarcation and Sustainable Management of Projected Areas (PA) assets, improvement and development of PA monitoring and livelihood tools". Funding for this project was secured, through the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO, under the UNESCO Participation Programme.

In October, the National Commission, in collaboration with the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Director and Representative of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, hosted a three-day "Orientation and Capacity Building Workshop on Education Sector Responses to School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) in the Caribbean Region".

The workshop brought together high-level representatives of Ministries of Education with responsibilities in areas related to design and implementation of preventive measures against SRGBV, including technical staff in charge of promoting safe school environments, curriculum development or teacher training.

During the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference, Saint Lucia was elected to serve on the UNESCO Executive Board.



Dame Pearllette Louisy (longest serving Governor General of Saint Lucia: 1997 – 2017) makes a presentation to one of the women featured in "Running in Heels", Dame Lawrence Laurent (longest serving Secretary General of the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO: 1984-1995) © Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO

It is hoped that this publication (by highlighting the contributions of notable Saint Lucia women – their qualities of determination, discipline, motivation, fearlessness, hard work and tenacity) may serve as a "beacon of hope" for other young Saint Lucian women.

"Running in Heels" was launched on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017, under the patronage of HE Excellency Dame Pearllette Louisy, Governor General of Saint Lucia (September 1997 – December 2017), to coincide with the international observance of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

"Running in Heels: Women and Politics in Saint Lucia 1961 to 2016" was written by Yasmin Solitahe Odlum and Barbara Jacobs Small and published by the Division of Gender Relations, with funding support from UNESCO and technical support from the InterAmerican Commission on Women (CIM) at the Organization of American States (OAS).

The FORWARD to "Running in Heels" was written by Saint Lucia's first female and longest serving Governor General, Dame Pearllette Louisy.

### A success story

The Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO considers its 2017 Success Story to be the Publication and Launch of "Running in Heels: Women and Politics in Saint Lucia 1961-2016".

This exciting publication documents the untold stories of women who have been involved at various stages and at several levels in the political decision making process in Saint Lucia. It is dedicated to women who "beat the odds" and challenged their male counterparts to go on to serve their constituents and their country; mindful that "Women in politics and decision-making positions in Government and legislative bodies contribute to redefining political priorities, placing new items on the political agenda that reflect and address...gender-specific concerns, values and experiences, and provide new perspectives on mainstream political issues".

# SINT MAARTEN

## Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO

**Chairperson:** Ms Silveria Jacobs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

**Secretary-General:** Ms Marcellia Henry

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.sx> ; <https://www.facebook.com/UNESCOSintMaarten/>

### Update of activities in 2017

St. Maarten's first nomination for the Memory of the World (MOW) Register was approved and inscribed on 30 October 2017. The inscription entitled "Route/Root to Freedom: A case study of how the enslaved Africans gained their freedom on the dual national island of St. Maarten/Saint Martin" was submitted by the Department of Records and Information Management of Sint Maarten.

A joint nomination submitted by Suriname, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten to the Memory of the World Latin America and the Caribbean Committee (MOWLAC) entitled "the Documentary

heritage of the enslaved people of the Dutch Caribbean and their descendants 1839-1969" was accepted and inscribed on 27 October 2017.

St. Maarten's application for membership in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), submitted by the Department of Education was approved on 22 March 2017.

St. Maarten became the 182<sup>nd</sup> country to join UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). The Methodist Agogic Center Comprehensive Secondary Education, which officially received its membership status on 19 October 2017, will uphold the ideals of UNESCO, and promote Education for Sustainable Development and a culture of peace and tolerance at the school.

In collaboration with the Department of Culture, the second National Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Consultation was held on 4 September 2017. More information about St. Maarten's ICH was gathered, and the island's draft ICH inventory was reviewed and updated.

Another ICH field inventory exercise in collaboration with the National Institute of the Arts targeting high school students was organized to help stimulate a sense of pride in the island's cultural heritage and to encourage the documenting and safeguarding of our cultural heritage by St. Maarten's youth.



The Secretary-General of the National Commission, Ms Marcellia Henry, and Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Ms Silveria Jacobs (in center), with the participants of the competition  
© the Department of Communication

create stories, poems or some form of narration using S'Maatin English. Students could also read/recite literature by local authors written using the S'Maatin language. The general public was also given the opportunity to utilize the open mic session to recite poems and stories using S'Maatin English.

The National Commission would like to thank the House of Nehesi Publishers for donating books to the participants of the competition and all the open-mic reciters. The S'Maatin English Poetry/Storytelling/Narration Competition will be an annual event.

### A success story

The first annual S'Maatin International Mother's Language Day competition was a successful project organized by the National Commission in collaboration with the Department of Culture. The objective of the event was to highlight St. Maarten's mother tongue language, *S'Maatin English*, in order to increase awareness and inspire pride in St. Maarten's oral traditions, history and cultural expressions. Knowing, writing and speaking in one's mother language is an essential tool for the transmission and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Therefore, organizing such activities is important for ensuring S'Maatin English lives on.

The competition required high school students to

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

With St. Maarten joining ASPnet, capacity building for the ASPnet National Coordinator is essential. Training for the school coordinators and teachers based on the ASPnet theme selected by the school, which is Education for Sustainable Development, and how to use the programmes and curricula developed by UNESCO, is necessary. Therefore, a sub-regional/regional/interregional activity on ASPnet for capacity building and resource-mobilization in 2018-2019 is vital.

Capacity building and resource-mobilization for the UNESCO Global Microscience project in the Caribbean region is also necessary. Given the need to stimulate and increase interest and performance in science in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Member States of UNESCO need to strengthen science education at the primary and secondary level. A sub-regional capacity building and resource-mobilization for the UNESCO Global Microscience project in 2018-2019 is essential. Assistance with the development of a science policy to guide the National science curriculum is also needed.

Climate change related disasters signal the importance of organizing additional capacity building workshops for education planners, education infrastructure planners and curriculum developers and others that focus on the development of education sector policies and plans that address disaster risks, based on the Comprehensive School Safety framework. Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Education through supporting Caribbean States to incorporate DRR and Climate Change into the curricula, and focusing on Disaster Risk Management at the School level is important and necessary for the Caribbean region.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mr Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education

### Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the launch, training and implementation of Phase IV of the ongoing flagship project: "Leading for Literacy Now!" took place with another 40 primary schools participating, increasing the total to over 150 primary schools impacted so far by the project. This project aims at improving the literacy skills of children (5-7 years old) in primary schools. It has allowed selected principals to return to school in September armed with the specific goal of improving the reading standards among the infant pupils in their schools.

Following a successful Second World Heritage Workshop in 2016, it was agreed by the Tobago House of Assembly that the Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve, the oldest forest reserve in the Western Hemisphere, will be submitted as a nomination to be Trinidad and Tobago's first World Heritage Site. The Tobago House of Assembly formed a management committee and contracted technical assistance to prepare the nomination dossier.

The National ASPnet coordinator represented T&T at the International Symposium on School Violence and Bullying: From Evidence to Action, held Seoul, Republic of Korea, in January 2017. Under the ASPnet, anti-bullying work has also been prioritized through the commissioning and completion of a National School Violence and Bullying Survey, and the development of the first national anti-bullying resource website in the ASPnet Caribbean.

Also in January, the Student Support Services Division in the Ministry of Education and the School of Education in

the University of the West Indies held a Special Education Symposium titled "Dialogues in Special and Inclusive Education", where a presentation was made on UNESCO's Participation Programme 2016-2017 project "Exploring the Gender Disparity in the Identification and Support of Students with Special Needs in Primary Schools in Trinidad and Tobago".

Early in February, the T&T Memory of the World Committee held a MOW Stakeholders Consultation on "Caring for your Collections". The purpose was to sensitize the public about the need to preserve collections and submit them for nomination on the MOW Register.

Later in February, the National Commission partnered with CARISCIENCE to hold a Regional Workshop on "Science, Technology & Innovation Policy and Indicators for the Caribbean". CARISCIENCE is a sub-regional network of scientists committed to upgrading the academic excellence of graduate, postgraduate and R&D programmes in the Caribbean. The Workshop was part of a CARICOM Plan of Action, led by Mr Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, to strengthen and utilize science and technology in the Caribbean.

In March, the National Commission, through the ASPnet, partnered with the Rotary Club of Port of Spain to host its Model United Nations Conference, in celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, under the theme LGBT rights. The global citizenship theme was also explored through the launch of the ASPnet webinar series, where Trinidad and Tobago and countries within the Caribbean and the wider Network came together virtually to discuss topics of global importance.

Later in the year, the UNESCO Global Microscience Experiments Project TT – a Participation Programme project in collaboration with NIHERST (National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology), the MOE Curriculum Division and the National Commission for UNESCO, got underway with training of teachers in selected schools. In November, the ASPnet School Coordinator from a high school in Trinidad with two students, attended the Danish ASPnet's Sustainable Development Youth Forum in Copenhagen, as specially invited guests.



Launch of St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando's SDG Whole School Initiative  
© UN RCO Trinidad and Tobago 2017

### A success story

The National Commission, through the ASPnet, has spearheaded the development of a whole school model approach to integrating the SDGs. This model was being piloted by St. Joseph's Convent in San Fernando, an all-girls Catholic denominational school in south Trinidad. The whole school approach to the SDGs is innovative in the LAC region, and within the ASPnet, by finding pathways to increase students' (as well as staff and community) understanding of the SDGs through curricula, extra-curricular activities, and the overall built and cultural school environment. This is significant for the goals of the National Commission and the ASPnet, as it is expected to create a replicable model for whole school integration of the SDGs, as well as other thematic issues. The approach has been personally recognized by the T&T Attorney General and the UN Resident Coordinator for being a leading example of innovative education.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

It is hoped that the National Commission will facilitate the hosting of a LAC ASPnet Coordinators meeting in late 2018 through this biennia's Participation Programme. Teacher training in socio-emotional competencies has also been identified as a major area for capacity building, as well as a coordinated sub-regional approach to anti-bullying and safer schools.

# URUGUAY

## National Commission of Uruguay for UNESCO

**President:** 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 2017

Hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Commission of Uruguay for UNESCO fulfills its mandate with the active support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Cooperation Agency of the Presidency, the Administration of Public Education, and the University of the Republic and referents of civil society in the areas of competence of UNESCO.

Committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the National Commission was fostered of the "Declaration of Buenos Aires", adopted at the meeting E2030 – Education and Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", where the Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean agreed on the principles and strategies for the achievement of SDG 4 throughout the region.

Prioritizing the education of girls and young women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, we promote UNESCO's global project "SAGA" (STEM and Gender Advancement), to contribute to the reduction of gender gaps in the mentioned areas.

A meeting of UNESCO Chairs of Uruguay was organized, with the presence of the Head of the Regional Office for Sciences, to inform about the functioning of each Chair and facilitate future coordinated activities.



UNESCO Routes, Uruguay © National Commission of Uruguay for UNESCO

In 2017, UNESCO was requested to create two chairs and one network: Chair in Education for Young People and Adults, Chair in Geosciences and the UNITWIN Network on Climate Change and Decision Making.

Within the framework of the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), the Commission led the work of the National Geopark Committee and assisted the revalidation process of Gruta del Palacio Global Geopark that finally obtained a GREEN Card. At the regional meeting of geoparks (May 2017, Arequipa, Peru), Uruguay promoted the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network.

The National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property was created (1970 Convention) with a sustained operation throughout the year and participated in the regional training on the subject, organized by the Ministry of Education of Argentina and the UNESCO Office in Montevideo.

As for the ASPnet Uruguay, the main tool for working throughout the national territory (150 educational institutions), we highlight the Contest of Good Teaching Practices, the photography competition Photographic Experience – Identity and Heritage, which resulted in the publication of a catalogue of 300 pages and a new edition of the Rural Schools Programme to the Auditorium, in which 1,500 children from all over the country participated.

The annual national meeting of the ASPnet Uruguay in 2017 focused on heritage, with a didactic training for teachers on the candidacy of the "Work of Engineer Eladio Dieste" to the World Heritage List.

Within the 2016-2017 Participation Programme, four projects were implemented with a great variety of themes related to the UNESCO Programme such as heritage, citizen mediation, art web tool for children, and "Ajedreteca" didactic bags.

### A success story

It is a patrimonial cultural route designed to favour the integral knowledge of the sites and heritage manifestations of Uruguay, through the active participation of civil society, especially educational communities and youth groups.

The National Commission led in 2017 the project "UNESCO Routes, Uruguay: Littoral West" developed as a pilot plan with the support of the Participation Programme. Along a tangible route in the national territory, five cultural elements are linked with the recognition of UNESCO: the Historic District of Colonia del Sacramento, the Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape, the UNESCO Global Geopark Gruta del Palacio, and the two elements included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: Tango and Candombe.

Along the Route, signposts were installed on national roads, training and awareness workshops were held for three audiences: teachers, youth and local actors of civil society.

An inter-sectoral management experience (Committee) was developed with the participation of three ministries, the four departmental governments where the route takes place and the National Administration of Public Education. The Management Committee will continue to function in 2018 with the same objective of coordinating actions linked to UNESCO.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Within the planning of joint work, the National Commission intends to organize in 2018 a training meeting for the Latin American Geoparks Network to strengthen future candidates, and to develop a pilot project among the ASPnet of Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay, which involves an exchange between students from the four countries on heritage topics.

It is in the interest of this National Commission to take part in the co-organization of a regional or sub-regional meeting of the National Commissions for Cooperation with UNESCO as the highest instance of exchange and coordination.

# VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

## Venezuelan National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

**President:** Mr Rubén Molina, Vice-minister for Multilateral Issues of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

**General Secretariat:** Ms Gabriela Vásquez

### Update of activities in 2017

The National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO supported an important activity held by PDVSA La Estancia, with the aim of exalting the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. A sample of the collections of videos, photographs and objects of the Foundation Center for Cultural Diversity linked to events with recognition by UNESCO was exhibited, since November, at La Estancia Cultural Center. The representatives of the Parranda of San Pedro de Guarenas and Guatire, which is included in the List of Intangible Heritage

of Humanity participated in the manifestation, together with performers of work songs and milking songs of the Llano, which is also in the List of Intangible Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

The Foundation Center for Cultural Diversity attached to the Ministry of People's Power for Culture, acts as a focal point to the most recent UNESCO conventions and has driven successively, year after year, the entry of our country to the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage: "The Dancing Devils of Corpus Christi of Venezuela" (2012); "The Parranda of San Pedro de Guarenas and Guatire" (2013); "The Mapoyo oral tradition and its symbolic references in the ancestral territory" (2014); "The knowledge and technologies associated with the farming and processing of the Curagua" (2015) and "The Carnival of El Callao: festive representation of memory and cultural identity" (2016).

The international honours of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Venezuela were only possible after assessment of its vitality and the efforts made permanently by their bearers for its transmission to future generations. This legacy represents invaluable contributions to the cultural diversity of the world, as well as fostering dialogue and mutual respect, in a scenario that seeks the sustainable development of peoples based on their cultural wealth.



Mr Omar Vielma, President of the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC), and the Venezuelan Technical Committee to Combat the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, coordinated the repatriation of archaeological pieces belonging to a large Pre-Columbian from Costa Rica  
© Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC).

### A success story

The Venezuelan Technical Committee to Combat the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, coordinated by the Institute of Cultural Heritage (IPC), repatriated 196 archaeological pieces belonging to a large Pre-Columbian Art Collection in 2010, after the seizure process carried out by the Venezuelan State, because the pieces were under the possession of individuals.

Part of the pieces were seized in a warehouse of a packing company, going into direct custody of the Venezuelan State, obtaining in a first seizure the recovery of fifty-six (56) archaeological pieces. Then, it was performed a search procedure in the house where the family lived (holding the Collection) and sixty-two (62) pieces were found. For year 2016 a third and last seizure was made where seventy-nine (79) archaeological pieces were recovered.

After carrying out the respective analysis of the pieces through the information provided by the Embassy of Costa Rica, by electronic and documentary means, it was concluded that the repatriated pieces correspond to the Nicoya and Choroteca Tradition of the Costa Rican people, which were elaborated with volcanic stones material, ceramics and clay, between 800 to 1300 AC.

### Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Venezuela, as a member of the Executive Board (2017-2021), represents a great commitment of the Venezuelan Government and its Foreign Policy of Peace, with the mandate of the Organization, with inclusive multilateralism and with the achievement of the Objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Venezuela is committed to the construction of a truly humanistic multilateralism, which contributes to achieving a fair balance of the international system in the face of a multifactorial crisis in which social and economic inequalities, violence, armed conflicts and the risks derived from the climatic phenomenon increase dangerously. Venezuela will promote in UNESCO a multilateralism for the peoples, that promotes the equality of rights before the enormous challenges arisen by the economic, cultural and environmental global crises. For this, the participation of governments and social movements should be combined.

Venezuela is committed to ensure the interests of the most vulnerable countries, and to promote South-South cooperation and the consolidation of a multipolar international system that contributes to encourage development on a just basis.

Venezuela has requested from the UNESCO Office in Quito and Representation for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, technical cooperation for the preparation of reports on our Biosphere Reserves: Alto Orinoco Casiquiare, and Delta del Orinoco within the framework of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).



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4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Meeting of the National Commissions that took place on 27 October 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.



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4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Meeting of the National Commissions that took place on 27 October 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.





4<sup>th</sup> Interregional Meeting of the National Commissions that took place on 27 October 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.





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# ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO<sup>1</sup>

## 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

<sup>1</sup> This Action Plan was adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session in 2013 (37 C/Resolution 97).

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.**

**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

<sup>1</sup> Ce Plan d'action a été adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 37e session en 2013 (37C/Résolution 97).

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 196<sup>e</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>

## 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 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.

<sup>1</sup> These Guidelines were approved by the Executive Board at its 196th session in 2015 (196 EX/Decisions 5 III).

## 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;
- Accredite, 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**

- The National Commission.
- All governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at country level and UNESCO field office covering the country in question.
- Ideally, one meeting before the subregional/cluster and regional consultations.
- The countries' input to the consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents.

#### **Subregional/Cluster-level consultations**

- UNESCO cluster and regional offices, and in Africa, the Multisectoral Regional Offices.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### 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.

## USE OF UNESCO NAME AND LOGO

### 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<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> Ces Directives ont été approuvées par le Conseil exécutif à sa 196<sup>e</sup> session en 2015 (196 EX/Décisions 5 III)

## 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

- La commission nationale.
- Tous les partenaires, gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux, au niveau national, et le bureau hors Siège de l'UNESCO desservant le pays concerné.
- Idéalement, il se tient une réunion avant les consultations sous-régionale/multipays et régionales.
- La contribution des pays aux consultations sur les documents C/4 et C/5.

## Consultations au niveau sous-régional/multipays

- Les bureaux multipays et régionaux de l'UNESCO et, en Afrique, les bureaux régionaux multisectoriels.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS FOR UNESCO<sup>1</sup>

### OUTLINE

**Source:** [37 C/Resolution 97](#), [37C/Resolution 93](#), [192 EX/5.INF Part F](#), [196 EX/Decision 5 III](#) and [201 EX/Decision 5 II](#).

**Background:** At its 37<sup>th</sup> session, the General Conference adopted 37 C/Resolution 97, comprising an Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions, developed by an open-ended Tripartite Working Group composed of representatives of the Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and UNESCO Secretariat. In accordance with this Resolution, the Director-General submitted two progress reports at 196<sup>th</sup> and 201<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Board on the implementation of various Recommendations in the Action Plan. The present document is a follow-up to the Recommendation 6 of the Action Plan (Engaging more closely with the larger UNESCO family, including associations, centres and clubs, and NGOs) and responds to 201 EX/Decision 5 II "inviting Member States [...] and the Director-General to continue to implement the Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions".

**Purpose:** To strengthen the Regulatory Framework regarding the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in order to revitalize and reinforce the movement and to better codify the relationship between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO. This Regulatory Framework is aimed at substituting the previous provisions related to the "Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO".

**Decision required:** Paragraph 8

1. At the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, by its [Resolution 97](#), an Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions was adopted containing 14 Recommendations to enhance cooperation between UNESCO Secretariat and National Commissions for UNESCO.
2. Recommendation 6 of the adopted document [37 C/50](#), states that:  
"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 [...] 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.  
[...]  
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'."
3. In accordance with the 37 C/Resolution 97, the Director-General submitted two progress reports at 196<sup>th</sup> and 201<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Board on the implementation of various Recommendations in the Action Plan. Both sessions focused also on Recommendation 6 in particular on the relationship between the National Commissions and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO.
4. Over the last 70 years, the "Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO" have made an important contribution to advancing UNESCO's mandate and goals and increasing the Organization's visibility. However, in line with Recommendation 6, the need has emerged to establish a clear regulatory framework codifying the relationship between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, by creating an appropriate Regulatory Cooper-

<sup>1</sup> This Regulatory Framework was adopted by the General Conference at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in 2017 (39 C/Resolution 90)

ation Framework regarding the movement of Clubs for UNESCO.

5. A number of documents were approved by UNESCO's Governing Bodies regarding the roles of the National Commissions vis-à-vis their national partners such as Clubs for UNESCO, namely: the Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO's Secretariat with National Commissions, 2013; the Global Strategy for Partnerships, 2013; Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide, 2009. However, the existing texts do not clearly define the roles of all stakeholders involved, notably the National Commissions, the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), the National/Regional Federations, as well as the individual Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO.
6. With a view to implement Recommendation 6 of the Action Plan and address these challenges, two Consultation Meetings were organized in May and June 2017 respectively, with the Executive Board Members of WFUCA and some 40 Member States represented by participants from the National Commissions and Permanent Delegations, to work on a draft Regulatory Framework.
7. The present document aims to codify the relations between the UNESCO Secretariat, the National Commissions for UNESCO, and the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO. It reflects the consolidated results of the in-depth discussions during the meetings and online consultation. The purpose of these new provisions is to better align the activities of Associations, Centres and Clubs to those of UNESCO and of other partners of UNESCO, including Category 1 and 2 institutes and centers of UNESCO, which are each governed by specific provisions approved by the General Conference.
8. In the light of the foregoing, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following resolution:  
The General Conference,  
*Recalling* 37 C/Resolution 97 and 37 C/Resolution 93;  
*Also recalling* 192 EX/Decision 5 III E, 196 EX/Decision 5 III and 201 EX/Decision 5 II;  
*Having examined* document 39 C/54 and its Annex containing the draft Regulatory Framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;  
*Highlighting* the efforts and contributions made by the Clubs, Centres and Associations for UNESCO in advancing UNESCO's mandate and goals and increasing the Organization's visibility in the past 70 years;  
*Reconfirming* the crucial role of National Commissions for UNESCO in enhancing UNESCO's cooperation with various partners, in particular Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
  1. *Adopts* the Regulatory Framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO as set out in the Annex to this resolution;
  2. *Confirms* the National Commissions' power to authorize the use of the name, acronym and/or logo of UNESCO with the specific format proposed by the Regulatory Framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO and according to the Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34<sup>th</sup> session (34 C/Resolution 86);
  3. *Invites* the National Commissions to follow this Regulatory Framework in their future collaboration with Associations and Clubs in their countries;
  4. *Requests* the Director-General to ensure that the Regulatory Cooperation Framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO be applied so that the partnership of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO be enhanced in accordance with the strategic objectives of the Organization, and to report to the Executive Board at its 207<sup>th</sup> session on the progress of the application of the Regulatory Framework in her general activity report.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS FOR UNESCO

### 1. Background and rationale

1.1 Over the last 70 years, the “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” have made an important contribution to advancing UNESCO’s mandate and goals and increasing the Organization’s visibility. However, there is a need to better codify the relationship between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, by strengthening an appropriate Regulatory Framework regarding the movement of Clubs for UNESCO.

1.2 In this context, a number of strategic documents were approved by UNESCO’s Governing Bodies, namely:

- Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session ([document 37 C/Resolution 97](#));
- “Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide” (last published by the Organization in 2009); and
- the provisions outlined in Part F “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” of the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, contained in document [192 EX/5.INF](#) (2013).

1.3 All these strategic documents were aimed at clarifying the provisions related to the cooperation between UNESCO and National Commissions, Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO. The Consultation Meeting with National Commissions that was held in June 2017 called for the need to simplify the structure of the movement and clarify the role of “Centres for UNESCO” so as to avoid any confusion with the status of category 1 and category 2 centres under UNESCO’s auspices.

1.4 By 37 C/Resolution 93 (November 2013), the General Conference approved “the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres” (which supersedes all relevant prior resolutions by the General Conference on this subject). These institutes/centres serve in their fields of specialization as international or regional centres and poles of expertise/experience to provide services and technical assistance to Member States and cooperation partners. On the other hand, there is no definition legally agreed by the General Conference for the “Centres for UNESCO”.

1.5 It was agreed at the Consultation Meeting that the use of “Centres” as being part of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO movement should be seriously reconsidered and it was suggested that the “Centres for UNESCO” could continue to exist under this name for a transitional period of two years following the adoption of this Regulatory Framework by the General Conference at its 39th session, until such time as they either become a category 2 centre, or change their designation to become either a “Club” or “Association” for UNESCO.

### 2. Definition and purpose

2.1 Definition of “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO”: They consist of groups of people from all ages, from all walks of life and every background who share a firm belief in UNESCO’s ideals as set out in its Constitution and who decide to realize them in their daily life (cf. Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide of UNESCO).

2.2 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are non-profit bodies. They operate on a voluntary basis and are legally and financially independent from UNESCO. They have close links to the general public and other professional and local authorities. “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO” can operate in any sphere of UNESCO’s competence (ref. major programmes of UNESCO).

2.3 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are all different in size and financial and operational capacities.

2.4 The main purpose of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO is to promote understanding of and support for UNESCO’s mission, priorities and programmes at the grassroots level. They thus contribute to the promotion of UNESCO’s values, messages and actions and are instrumental for the realization of its objectives and goals.

2.5 With a view to strengthening this Regulatory Framework, it is decided that after a transitional period of two years only Associations and Clubs for UNESCO will be considered as the two categories of partners

within the “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO” movement.

2.6 During that transitional period of two years, the provisions of this Regulatory Framework shall apply to Centres for UNESCO.

### **3. Strategic objectives of the partnership of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO with the Organization**

- foster the interest of the broader public in UNESCO’s mission, programmes and activities;
- contribute to developing and promoting an understanding of UNESCO’s goals and advocacy, including at grassroots level;
- contribute to the implementation of the Organization’s programme at national and local levels, in coordination with the National Commission for UNESCO;
- promote the values of solidarity, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, as well as the values of global citizenship education, human rights and sustainable development among peoples;
- promote the International days, weeks, years and decades proclaimed by UNESCO; and
- contribute to promoting UNESCO’s messages by translating UNESCO Secretariat-generated documents and information into national and local languages, through all means of communication, including social media.

### **4. Role of National Commissions for UNESCO**

4.1 The direct oversight of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO by their respective National Commissions is a prerequisite for ensuring the supervision of quality of these entities and their adherence to the provisions of the present Regulatory Framework.

4.2 National Commissions are responsible, among others, for:

- accrediting, supervising, assessing, and if necessary, removing accreditation from Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- keeping an updated directory of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- providing supervision for the work of the National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, if it exists;
- ensuring that Associations’ and Clubs’ goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO’s current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- ensuring the proper use of UNESCO’s name, acronym and logo;
- encouraging cooperation with Associations and Clubs for UNESCO at the national, regional and international level;
- encouraging exploring avenues for cooperation with other UNESCO’s networks in the country, such as UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Associated Schools, UNESCO category 2 centres and institutes, and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO; and
- National Commissions could be allowed to take any initiative, which might help Associations and Clubs for UNESCO to fulfil their mission.

### **5. Rules of engagement**

5.1 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO share UNESCO’s ideals, and must commit to compliance with the following basic rules:

- operate under the oversight of the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in which they are located;

- submit to the National Commission an action plan at the beginning of each year, as well as an activity report at the end of the year;
- ensure that their goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO's current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- not to use the Association or Club for political purposes;
- not to make statements in the name of UNESCO or of their National Commission;
- not to use the Association or Club for any profit-making enterprise;
- not to take upon themselves to undertake the rights and prerogatives of UNESCO (for example, appointments of Goodwill Ambassadors, or awarding any other titles; awarding prizes, diplomas or any awards or certificates awarded by UNESCO);
- respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/Resolution 86), in order to prevent any misuse;
- use the UNESCO name, acronym and logo only upon obtaining an authorisation from the National Commission for UNESCO, solely in the following form, which may be displayed in the languages of the country:



- to not use or no longer use the acronym “UNESCO” in the website address, email address or name of social network accounts of the association or club, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.

## 6. Provisions related to National Federations of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO

6.1 If there are several Associations/Clubs for UNESCO in a Member State, these Associations and/or Clubs may gather together to create a National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO under the aegis and with the authorization of their National Commission, which could fulfil the following main functions:

- guiding and advising individual Associations and Clubs on how to achieve the strategic objectives of the partnership outlined above;
- if needed, supporting their National Commission in its Clubs-related and coordination work, (including by collecting and compiling individual annual reports of Associations and Clubs and helping to train them);
- alerting their National Commission in case of individual Associations/Clubs non-compliance with the rules of engagement outlined above;
- encouraging contacts, common activities and collaboration between Associations/Clubs in the Member State; and
- organizing their activities based on an action plan validated by their National Commission.

6.2 There must be only one national federation for each Member State or Associate Member. The National Commission guarantees the legitimacy of the concerned National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO.

6.3 In implementing its activities, a national federation may be supported financially by its national authorities or partners, under the supervision of its National Commission for UNESCO. It can submit projects within the participation programme framework.

6.4 Each national federation undertakes to respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34<sup>th</sup> session (34 C/Resolution 86); and use the UNESCO logo only upon obtaining an authorization from their National Commission for UNESCO, and only in the following form, which may be displayed in appropriate translation in the languages of the country:



6.5 National federations do not have the authority to grant the right to use UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and Internet domain to any other entity.

6.6 They also undertake to not use or no longer use the acronym "UNESCO" in their website address, email address or name of social network accounts, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.

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## CADRE RÉGLEMENTAIRE RELATIF AUX ASSOCIATIONS ET CLUBS POUR L'UNESCO<sup>1</sup>

### PRÉSENTATION

**Source :** Résolutions 37 C/97 et 37 C/93, 192 EX/5.INF Partie F, décisions 196 EX/5.III et 201 EX/5.II.

**Contexte :** À sa 37<sup>e</sup> session, la Conférence générale a adopté la résolution 37 C/97, qui contient un Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales, élaboré par un groupe de travail tripartite à participation non limitée composé de représentants des délégations permanentes, des commissions nationales et du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO. Conformément à cette résolution, la Directrice générale a soumis deux rapports d'étape au Conseil exécutif, à ses 196<sup>e</sup> et 201<sup>e</sup> sessions, sur la mise en œuvre des différentes recommandations figurant dans le Plan d'action. Le présent document rend compte des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de la recommandation 6 du Plan d'action (Collaborer plus étroitement avec la famille élargie de l'UNESCO, y compris les associations, centres, clubs et ONG) et fait suite à la décision 201 EX/5.II invitant « les États membres [et] la Directrice générale [à] poursuivre la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales ».

**Objet :** Renforcer le Cadre réglementaire relatif aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO pour revitaliser et consolider le mouvement et mieux codifier les relations entre le Secrétariat de l'Organisation, les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO. Ce Cadre réglementaire vise à se substituer aux dispositions précédentes relatives aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO.

**Décision requise :** Paragraphe 8.

1. À sa 37<sup>ème</sup> session, la Conférence générale a adopté, par sa résolution 37 C/97, un Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, qui contient 14 recommandations à cet effet.
2. La recommandation 6 du document 37 C/50 adopté est la suivante :  
« 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 [...] 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.  
[...]  
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 ». »
3. Conformément à la résolution 37 C/97, la Directrice générale a soumis deux rapports d'étape au Conseil exécutif, à ses 196<sup>e</sup> et 201<sup>e</sup> sessions, sur la mise en œuvre des différentes recommandations figurant dans le Plan d'action. Les deux sessions ont également mis l'accent

<sup>1</sup> Ce Cadre réglementaire a été adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 39<sup>e</sup> session en 2017 (39 C/Résolution 90)

sur la recommandation 6, et en particulier sur la relation entre les commissions nationales et les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO.

4. Depuis 70 ans, les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO apportent une importante contribution à la réalisation du mandat et des objectifs de l'Organisation ainsi qu'à l'amélioration de sa visibilité. Cependant, conformément à la recommandation 6, il est devenu urgent d'établir un cadre réglementaire clair codifiant la relation entre le Secrétariat de l'Organisation, les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO, en créant un Cadre réglementaire de coopération approprié relatif au mouvement des clubs pour l'UNESCO.
5. Un certain nombre de documents ont été approuvés par les organes directeurs de l'UNESCO concernant le rôle des commissions nationales vis-à-vis de leurs partenaires nationaux tels que les clubs pour l'UNESCO, à savoir : le Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, 2013 ; la Stratégie globale pour les partenariats, 2013 ; Clubs pour l'UNESCO : guide pratique, 2009. Toutefois, les textes existants ne définissent pas clairement les rôles de tous les acteurs impliqués, notamment les commissions nationales, la Fédération mondiale des associations, centres et clubs UNESCO (FMACU), les fédérations nationales/régionales, ainsi que les différentes associations et les différents centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO.
6. Afin de mettre en œuvre la recommandation 6 du Plan d'action et de remédier à ces problèmes, deux réunions de consultation ont été organisées en mai et juin 2017, respectivement avec les membres du Conseil exécutif de la FMACU et une quarantaine d'États membres représentés par des participants des commissions nationales et des délégations permanentes, pour travailler sur un projet de Cadre réglementaire.
7. Le présent document a pour objet de codifier les relations entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO. Il tient compte de l'ensemble des résultats des discussions approfondies tenues lors des réunions et de la consultation en ligne. Ces nouvelles dispositions visent à mieux aligner les activités des associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO sur celles de l'UNESCO et des autres partenaires de l'Organisation, notamment ses instituts et centres de catégories 1 et 2, qui sont chacun régis par des dispositions spécifiques approuvées par la Conférence générale.
8. Compte tenu de ce qui précède, la Conférence générale souhaitera peut-être adopter une résolution libellée comme suit :

*La Conférence générale,*

*Rappelant ses résolutions [37 C/97](#) et [37 C/93](#),*

*Rappelant également les décisions [192 EX/5.III.E](#), [196 EX/5.III](#) et [201 EX/5.II](#),*

*Ayant examiné le document [39 C/54](#) et son annexe contenant le projet de Cadre réglementaire relatif aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO,*

*Soulignant les efforts déployés et les contributions apportées depuis 70 ans par les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO pour réaliser le mandat et les objectifs de l'Organisation et améliorer sa visibilité,*

*Réaffirmant le rôle crucial des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO pour améliorer la coopération de l'Organisation avec les différents partenaires, en particulier les associations, centres et clubs pour UNESCO,*

1. *Adopte* le Cadre réglementaire relatif aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO figurant à l'annexe du document [39 C/54](#) ;

2. *Confirme* le droit des commissions nationales d'autoriser l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme et/ou de l'emblème de l'UNESCO selon le modèle spécifique proposé par le Cadre réglementaire relatif aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO et conformément aux Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 34<sup>e</sup> session ([résolution 34 C/86](#)) ;

3. *Invite* les commissions nationales à suivre les dispositions du Cadre réglementaire dans leur future collaboration avec les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO dans leurs pays ;

4. *Prie* le Directeur général de veiller à ce que le Cadre réglementaire de coopération relatif aux associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO soit appliqué de manière à renforcer le partenariat des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO conformément aux objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation, et de rendre compte comme il convient au Conseil exécutif, à sa 205<sup>ème</sup> session, de l'état d'avancement de l'application du Cadre réglementaire dans son rapport général d'activité.

## CADRE RÉGLEMENTAIRE RELATIF AUX ASSOCIATIONS, CENTRES ET CLUBS POUR L'UNESCO

### 1. Contexte et justification

1.1 Depuis 70 ans, les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO apportent une importante contribution à la réalisation du mandat et des objectifs de l'Organisation ainsi qu'à l'amélioration de sa visibilité. Cependant, il est nécessaire de mieux codifier les relations entre le Secrétariat de l'Organisation, les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO, en renforçant un Cadre réglementaire approprié relatif au mouvement des clubs pour l'UNESCO.

1.2 Dans ce contexte, un certain nombre de documents stratégiques ont été approuvés par les organes directeurs de l'UNESCO, à savoir :

- Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 37<sup>e</sup> session (résolution 37 C/97) ;
- « Clubs pour l'UNESCO : guide pratique » (dernier ouvrage publié par l'UNESCO en 2009) ; et
- les dispositions de la partie F – « Associations, Centres et Clubs pour l'UNESCO » de la Stratégie globale pour les partenariats, contenue dans le document [192 EX/5.INF](#) (2013).

1.3. Tous ces documents stratégiques avaient pour but de clarifier les dispositions relatives à la coopération entre l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales, les associations, les centres et les clubs pour l'UNESCO. La réunion de consultation avec les commissions nationales qui s'est tenue en juin 2017 a souligné la nécessité de simplifier la structure du mouvement et de préciser le rôle des « centres pour l'UNESCO » afin d'éviter toute confusion avec le statut des centres de catégories 1 et 2 placés sous l'égide de l'UNESCO.

1.4 Par sa résolution 37 C/93 (novembre 2013), la Conférence générale a approuvé « la Stratégie globale intégrée concernant les instituts et centres de catégorie 2 » (qui remplace toutes les résolutions précédemment adoptées par la Conférence générale à ce sujet). Dans leurs domaines de spécialisation, ces instituts/centres servent de pôles d'expertise internationaux ou régionaux qui offrent des services et une assistance technique aux États membres et aux partenaires de coopération. D'un autre côté, il n'existe aucune définition des « centres pour l'UNESCO » légalement admise par la Conférence générale.

1.5 À la réunion de consultation, il a été convenu que l'utilisation des « centres » dans le cadre du mouvement des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO devrait être sérieusement réexaminée. Il a été suggéré que les « centres pour l'UNESCO » continueraient d'exister sous ce nom pour une période transitoire de deux ans suivant l'adoption du présent Cadre réglementaire par la Conférence générale à sa 39<sup>e</sup> session, jusqu'à ce qu'ils deviennent un centre de catégorie 2 ou qu'ils changent de statut pour devenir soit un « club », soit une « association » pour l'UNESCO.

### 2. Définition et objet

2.1 Définition des « associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO » : Il s'agit de groupes de personnes de tous âges, de tous horizons et de toutes conditions qui croient fermement aux idéaux de l'UNESCO tels qu'ils sont énoncés dans son Acte constitutif et qui décident de les réaliser dans leur vie quotidienne (voir « Clubs pour l'UNESCO : guide pratique »).

2.2 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO sont des organes à but non lucratif. Ils travaillent bénévolement et sont indépendants de l'Organisation sur les plans juridique et financier. Ils entretiennent des liens étroits avec le grand public et d'autres autorités professionnelles et locales. Les « associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO » peuvent **œuvrer** dans n'importe quel domaine de compétence de l'Organisation (voir les grands programmes de l'UNESCO).

2.3 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO diffèrent par leur taille et leurs capacités financières et opérationnelles.

2.4 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO ont pour objectif principal de faire mieux connaître la mission, les priorités et les programmes de l'Organisation au niveau local. Ils contribuent ainsi à promouvoir les valeurs, les messages et les actions de l'UNESCO, et jouent un rôle important pour la réalisation de ses buts et objectifs.

2.5 Afin de renforcer le présent Cadre réglementaire, il est proposé qu'à l'issue d'une période transitoire de deux ans, les associations et les clubs pour l'UNESCO seront considérés comme les deux seules catégories de partenaires au sein du mouvement des « Associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO ».

### **3. Objectifs stratégiques du partenariat des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO avec l'Organisation**

- Susciter l'intérêt du grand public pour la mission, les programmes et les activités de l'UNESCO ;
- faire mieux connaître et comprendre les buts de l'UNESCO et son action de sensibilisation, notamment au niveau local ;
- contribuer à la mise en oeuvre des programmes de l'Organisation aux niveaux local et national, en coordination avec la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée ;
- promouvoir auprès des individus les valeurs de solidarité, de tolérance et de respect de la diversité culturelle, ainsi que les valeurs de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, des droits de l'homme et du développement durable ;
- promouvoir les journées, semaines, années et décennies internationales proclamées par l'UNESCO ; et
- contribuer à la diffusion des messages de l'UNESCO en traduisant les documents et informations produits par le Secrétariat de l'Organisation dans les langues nationales et locales, à l'aide de tous les moyens de communication, notamment des réseaux sociaux.

### **4. Rôle des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO**

4.1 La supervision directe des associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO par la commission nationale dont ils relèvent est une condition indispensable pour assurer le contrôle de la qualité de ces entités et le respect des dispositions du présent Cadre réglementaire par ces dernières.

4.2 Les commissions nationales sont chargées, entre autres, des tâches suivantes :

- accréditer, surveiller, évaluer les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO et, le cas échéant, retirer leur accréditation ;
- tenir à jour un répertoire des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO ;
- assurer la supervision des travaux de la Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO, le cas échéant ;
- veiller à la conformité des objectifs et des activités des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO avec les actuels objectifs stratégiques et priorités de programme de l'Organisation ;
- veiller à la bonne utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO ;
- promouvoir la coopération avec les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO au niveau national, régional et international ;
- encourager la recherche de pistes de coopération avec d'autres réseaux de l'UNESCO au niveau national (chaires UNESCO, écoles associées, instituts et centres de catégorie 2, ONG partenaires officiels de l'UNESCO) ; et
- les commissions nationales pourraient être autorisées à prendre toute initiative susceptible d'aider les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO à remplir leur mission.

### **5. Règles d'engagement**

5.1 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO partagent les idéaux de l'UNESCO et doivent s'engager à respecter les règles fondamentales suivantes :

- exercer leurs activités sous la supervision de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du pays dans lequel ils se situent ;

- présenter un plan d'action à la commission nationale au début de chaque année, ainsi qu'un rapport d'activité à la fin de l'année ;
- veiller à la conformité de leurs objectifs et activités avec les actuels objectifs stratégiques et priorités de programme de l'UNESCO ;
- ne pas utiliser l'association, le centre ou le club pour l'UNESCO à des fins politiques ;
- ne pas faire de déclaration au nom de l'UNESCO ou de leur commission nationale ;
- ne pas utiliser l'association, le centre ou le club pour l'UNESCO à des fins lucratives ;
- ne pas se permettre d'exercer les droits et prérogatives de l'UNESCO (par exemple, la désignation des ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, ou l'attribution d'autres titres ; la remise de prix, diplômes ou autres récompenses ou certificats délivrés par l'Organisation) ;
- respecter strictement les Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine internet de l'UNESCO, adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 34e session (résolution 34 C/86) ;
- utiliser le nom, l'acronyme et l'emblème de l'UNESCO sur autorisation de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et seulement sous la forme présentée ci-dessous, le texte pouvant apparaître dans la langue du pays :



- ne pas utiliser l'acronyme « UNESCO » dans l'adresse du site Web ou l'adresse électronique de l'association ou du club, ni aucune autre mention pouvant suggérer à tort qu'ils font partie de l'UNESCO.

## 6. Dispositions relatives aux fédérations nationales des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO

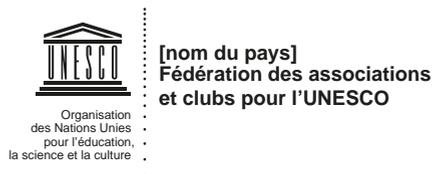
6.1 S'il existe plusieurs associations/clubs pour l'UNESCO dans un État membre, ces associations et/ou clubs peuvent se regrouper pour créer une Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO sous l'égide et avec l'autorisation de leur commission nationale, qui remplirait les principales fonctions suivantes :

- fournir aux associations et aux clubs des orientations et des conseils sur la manière d'atteindre les objectifs stratégiques du partenariat exposés plus haut ;
- si nécessaire, aider la commission nationale concernée à s'acquitter de ses tâches relatives aux clubs et de coordination (notamment en recueillant et regroupant les rapports annuels des différentes associations et des différents clubs et en les aidant à se former) ;
- alerter la commission nationale concernée en cas de non-respect par les associations/clubs des règles d'engagement énoncées plus haut ;
- encourager les contacts, les activités communes et la collaboration entre les associations/clubs dans l'État membre ; et
- organiser leurs activités sur la base d'un plan d'action validé par leur commission nationale.

6.2 Il ne doit y avoir qu'une seule fédération nationale pour chaque État membre ou Membre associé. La commission nationale garantit la légitimité de la Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO concernée.

6.3 Pour mener leurs activités, les fédérations nationales peuvent recevoir un appui financier de la part des autorités nationales ou de leurs partenaires, sous la supervision de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO. Elles peuvent présenter des projets dans le cadre du Programme de participation.

6.4 Les fédérations nationales s'engagent à respecter strictement les Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine internet de l'UNESCO, adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 34e session ([résolution 34 C/86](#)), ainsi qu'à utiliser l'emblème de l'UNESCO sur autorisation de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée et seulement sous la forme présentée ci-dessous, le texte pouvant apparaître dans les termes appropriés dans la langue du pays :



6.5 Les fédérations nationales ne peuvent pas donner le droit d'utiliser le nom, l'acronyme, l'emblème et les noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO à des tiers.

6.6 Elles s'engagent également à ne pas utiliser l'acronyme « UNESCO » dans l'adresse de leur site Web ou dans leur adresse électronique, ni aucune autre mention pouvant suggérer à tort qu'elles font partie de l'UNESCO.

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