



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

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

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information a.i.

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions
for UNESCO

16 May 2018

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2018/11

Sir/Madam,

Let me first extend my sincere thanks to those of you who participated in the meeting of the National Commissions on 11 and 12 April last organized in the margins of the 204th session of the Executive Board. I was pleased to note that over 110 participants, representing 78 National Commissions/Permanent Delegations, attended this meeting. You may find a report of this meeting, as well as the newly launched Annual Report of National Commissions 2017 via [this link](#). Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all National Commissions who kindly contributed to this Report.

As you may recall, during that informal meeting, the preparation of the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions (19-21 June in Diani, Kenya), notably the provisional agenda and possible outcomes of the Kenya meeting, was one of the major items of discussion. A provisional programme which was drafted based on the discussions, has been sent to all National Commissions. We should be pleased to receive your feedback by **20 May** at the latest.

For those of you who have not yet confirmed your participation in the Kenya meeting, we invite you to send us at the following email addresses (natcom@unesco.org and sg@unesco.go.ke) your registration form as soon as possible.

UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – May 2018

I am pleased to share with you UNESCO's Education Monthly Digest of May, under [this link](#), where you can find out the report of the Pan-African High-level Conference on Education which was organized from 25 to 27 April 2018 in Nairobi, and some other interesting stories. The Digest is also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org

UNESCO Young Professionals Programme 2018 is now open

I am happy to inform you that UNESCO is launching a call for applications to the Young Professionals Programme 2018. The objectives of the programme are to improve the geographical representation of the Secretariat, promote gender parity at international professional level and create an enhanced pool of young civil servants, enriching and diversifying UNESCO.

As mentioned in the letter sent by the Bureau of Human Resources Management dated 27 April 2018 (Ref.: HRM/PPL/2018/06), we would like to invite National Commissions of Under and Non-Represented Member States to UNESCO to select and submit a maximum of 15 qualified candidatures.

National Commissions are invited to identify the most appropriate channels to circulate this information to nationals of your country and reach out the most qualified candidates.

You are invited to submit, **no later than 27 July 2018**, one copy of the CV of each candidate (in English or French using a freestyle template of maximum 2 pages), together with the Template List Candidates duly completed, to the following address:

Young Professional Programme 2018
Bureau of Human Resources Management
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07SP, France

You could also send an advance copy of the documentation by email to YPP2018@unesco.org.

Contact: Ms Rossella Salvia (r.salvia@unesco.org)

22 May 2018 – “Towards Access to Culture for All” Symposium, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Marking the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development and organized within the framework of the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the Symposium will bring together a panel of UN representatives, museum directors, artists, tech leaders, and experts to answer a simple question: How can we ensure that everyone has the right to access culture?

This discussion will aim to offer a way forward in light of the situation facing culture today – one where growing access to culture sits alongside increasing threats to cultural diversity. The event will be opened by the Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, and will consist of a series of short, TED Talks-style presentations, a video message and a moderated panel discussion.

I am sure that the seminar will interest many of those working in the field of culture, and I encourage you to disseminate this information in your respective countries.

Contact: Ms Lynne Patchett (l.patchett@unesco.org)

5 June 2018 – Deadline for submitting applications for nominations of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2018

UNESCO is calling for applications and nominations for the 2018 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes, which this year will award outstanding programmes and individuals who promote literacy around the world within the theme of “Literacy and Skills Development”.

Since 1967, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes have rewarded excellence and innovation in the field of literacy. Over 485 projects and programmes undertaken by governments, NGOs and individuals around the world have already received recognition and support for their excellent work.

Through two prestigious Prizes, UNESCO supports effective literacy practices and encourages the promotion of dynamic literate societies to close the literacy gap of approximately 750 millions of people.

The two Literacy Prizes are given to five laureates: the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize (2 awards) and the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (3 awards).

Governments, NGOs and individuals are kindly invited to apply. All applications should be submitted to nominating entities, such as the National Commission for UNESCO in the country of the programme, or an NGO that is in an official partnership with UNESCO. Applications can be submitted via the [online platform](#), detailed information about the application and nomination process is to be found on the [UNESCO Literacy Prizes' website](#).

The deadline for submitting applications for nominations: **5 June 2018** (midnight, Paris time). And the deadline for nominating entities to submit their nominations to UNESCO: **17 June 2018** (midnight, Paris time).

I encourage you to find out more information on the [Prizes' website](#).

Contact: literacyprizes@unesco.org

24 June - 4 July 2018 – 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, Manama, Bahrain

Organized by UNESCO with the Kingdom of Bahrain, the delegates and participants of the 42nd session of the Committee will meet in Manama, which is located at the northern coast of Bahrain.

During this session, the Committee reviews the state of conservation of World Heritage sites, inscribes new sites on the World Heritage List, and debates on other matters involved in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Please note that all requests to participate in the 42nd session of the Committee **must be submitted online** through the official website: <http://42whcbahrain2018.bh/registrationform/>. All delegates and those who wish to attend the 42nd session as observers are kindly requested to register as soon as possible and preferably **before 20 May 2018**. Should you require any assistance for the registration, please contact the organizer at registration@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

The Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee as well as all the working documents are accessible online on the [World Heritage Centre's website](#). You will also find information specific about this meeting via [this link](#).

UNESCO Publications

- The publication [*A lifeline to learning: Leveraging technology to support education for refugees*](#), presents the results of a collaborative study undertaken by subject matter experts and UNESCO specialists. This report considers existing evidence, scrutinizes ongoing projects and initiatives, and reflects on emerging practices, with the goal of helping people working with refugees leverage mobile solutions to ensure inclusive and equitable access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.

- Produced by the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems of UNESCO's Education Sector, the working paper *Re-orienting Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning* provides conceptual frameworks and strategies to help countries re-orient their EMIS to support inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with SDG 4. It emphasizes the potential of EMIS to support the implementation of SDG 4 at the national, state, local and classroom levels. This publication is available in English only under [this link](#).
- The report *UNESCO's soft power today: Fostering women's empowerment and leadership*, presents the findings and recommendations of UNESCO's high-level conference on the same theme organized at UNESCO Headquarters in June 2017. Each section of the report documents the keynote presentations, summarizes the key points made by the panellists during the panel discussion and outlines some recommendations for each topic in line with UNESCO's continued efforts towards Priority Gender Equality. This publication is available under [this link](#).

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (April / May 2018)

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

In China, Mr Qin Changwei has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Du Yue.

In Costa Rica, Mr Edgar Mora Altamirano has been appointed President, succeeding Ms Rocío Solís Gamboa.

In Grenada, Ms Emmalin Pierre has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Simon Stiell.

In Guinea-Bissau, Mr Camilo Simões Pereira has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Sandji Fati.

In Lithuania, Mr Jonas Ruškus has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Romas Pakalnis.

In Nepal, Mr Khaga Raj Baral has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Madhu Prasad Regmi.

In Pakistan, Mr Iftikhar Ahmed Babar has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Hafiz Sher Ali.

In Peru, Mr Daniel Alfaro Paredes has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Idel Vexler Talledo.

In Suriname, Ms Lilian Ferrier has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Robert Peneux.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Kassianides