



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

18 April 2016

Ref.: CL/4152

Subject: Consultation of Member States and Associate Members, including their National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as of intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)

Sir/Madam,

At its 38th session, the General Conference adopted Resolution 104 related to the preparation of the Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) and set the stage for the Secretariat to launch the preparation of the Draft 39 C/5, through a series of consultations with Members States and all partners, culminating in the elaboration and submission of the Draft document to the Executive Board at its spring session in 2017.

In 38 C/Resolution 104, Member States have underscored the continued relevance of the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy, of its two Overarching Objectives of peace and sustainable development, of its two global priorities, Africa and gender equality, and of its priority target group of small island developing States (SIDS). The Medium-Term Strategy also had defined nine Strategic Objectives for the Organization to pursue in the period 2014-2021. These nine Strategic Objectives were translated in the first quadrennial Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5) into actionable results. In the next quadrennial period (2018-2021), the future Programme and Budget will build on the achievements and lessons learned in pursuance of the same Strategic Objectives set in the Medium-Term Strategy.

Furthermore, and in compliance with 38 C/Resolution 104, UNESCO's programmes will be designed so as to *"contribute to the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at appropriate levels, in particular by delivering assistance and technical support to Member States in its various fields of competence"*.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set 17 Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets for countries to reach by the end of 2030. Most thematic areas covered by the SDGs are interconnected, which calls for integrated thinking and policy-making.

For UNESCO, both in its normative and operational roles, the new Agenda constitutes an essential reference in future engagement with its Member States. UNESCO has an important role to play, as a specialized agency, in supporting its Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through providing upstream policy advice, building capacities, improving data collection and analysis, setting standards and leading normative work – all of which are critical factors for accountability and effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, and in the context of the present Approved Budget (38 C/5), UNESCO has already started to align its programmes, sharpen its programmatic focus, leverage partnerships and resources, and reform its systems, in order to respond more effectively to Member States' requests for support in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For that purpose, UNESCO launched the "Invest for Efficient Delivery" Plan aiming at: (i) achieving a better, clearer and more strategic global, regional and country-level positioning and leadership of UNESCO; and (ii) establishing operational modalities that are better suited to deliver UNESCO's programmes, both globally, regionally and locally (See also document 199 EX/5 Part II (D)).

The present questionnaire on the Programme and Budget 2018-2021 is circulated to Member States, including to their National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as to intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which have established official relations with UNESCO. It has been designed to solicit the views of Member States, IGOs and NGOs regarding the future programme orientations for UNESCO, building on the Organization's past achievements and taking into account the recent developments at the global level, in particular the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Allow me to draw your attention to the fact that each Member State is invited to submit a single reply on behalf of its government and its National Commission. Each IGO and NGO is also invited to submit a single reply. All responses should be submitted by **6 May 2016, midnight Paris time**, so as to enable the analysis and preparation of a synthetic summary which will feed into the next consultation round, planned in each region in May 2016. The completion of the questionnaires is expected to be done online via the following web address:

<https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/UNESCOquestionnaire39C5EN>

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Irina Bokova

Encs: 1

cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices