



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

Executive Board
Conseil exécutif
Consejo Ejecutivo
Исполнительный совет
المجلس التنفيذي
执行局

The Chairperson

Representatives of the States
Members of the Executive Board
of UNESCO

Ref : GBS/SCX/2021/015

12 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to invite you to participate in the **211th session of the Executive Board**, which will take place from **Wednesday 7 to Wednesday 21 April 2021**. The provisional agenda of this session is attached herewith.

The Executive Board will be held as per the modalities that you have approved in the consultation that I undertook, taking into account the ongoing sanitary restrictions in place in the host country.

The technical platform (Zoom) links for connection to the meetings will be provided shortly.

The Plenary meeting is scheduled to begin in the morning of **Monday 12 April** when the Director-General will introduce the plenary debate on:

- Item 4 Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (Parts I and II),
- Item 5 Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (Parts I to III), and
- Item 18 Draft Medium-Term Strategy (41 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget (41 C/5)

Members' contributions to the Plenary debate will begin immediately after the Director-General's introduction and will continue throughout the morning of Tuesday 13 April.

I hereby invite you to add your name to the **list of speakers** as soon as possible, and in any case, **before 2 April 2021** (the enclosed registration form is to be completed and returned to the Secretariat of the Executive Board at explendebate@unesco.org). Please note that the list is drawn up according to the order in which registration forms are received from Member States on the Board and will be sent to Board members and Delegations prior to the Plenary debate. It will also be available on the Executive Board website.

During the Plenary debate, members are kindly invited to focus their contributions on the precise items of the agenda of the session.

The Director-General's reply and the usual question-and-answer session will follow the Plenary debate in the afternoon of 13 April, before the Executive Board considers item 3 entitled the "*Report by the Director-General on the application of Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*".

As foreseen by 210 EX/Decision 24, the interviews of candidates for the position of Director-General will take place during this session (item 19 on the provisional agenda). More information on this matter will be provided after the deadline for the submission of candidatures (15 March 2021).

As previously, I would like to remind Member States that they may hold informal consultations, as outlined in recommendations 44 to 47 of 39 C/Resolution 87, "*Governance procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO*". These informal consultations should ensure that the work of the Committees and Commissions relating to the agenda items that they will consider be efficient and cost effective.

Pursuant to 180 EX/Decision 22 (Part I), the PX and FA Commissions will continue to examine, in joint meetings, items with intertwined programme, administrative and financial aspects.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'G' followed by a large 'A' and the letters 'Mba' written below it.

Agapito Mba Mokuy