



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information

To Non-Governmental Organizations,
official partners of UNESCO

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Dear partners,

To begin this monthly letter, I would like to invite all of you to join the **UNESCO #Unite4Heritage campaign**, launched by the Director-General in Baghdad, Iraq, on 28 March last.

#Unite4Heritage aims at building support for the protection of heritage where it is threatened by extreme violence. It will use the power of social networks to create a global movement with young people, in Iraq and elsewhere, providing a counter-narrative to sectarian propaganda.

The [campaign website](#) will be used to collect stories of UNESCO's work to protect heritage, such as rebuilding holy places in Timbuktu. These stories will be used to start a "photo wall" on the campaign website to which everyone can contribute.

On a separate note, I congratulate those of you actively involved in the preparation of the forums and initiatives promoted by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. A lot of work goes into the preparation of the forthcoming International Forum of NGOs on "The role of women in fighting poverty", for which you will soon receive the official letter of invitation.

9 April 2015 – Launching of the 2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR)

The 2015 Report Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR) - entitled "*Education for All 2000-2015: achievements and challenges*" - will be officially launched on line and on the occasion of three international events - in New Delhi, Paris and New York on 9 April. The international launch will be followed by a series of regional and launch events, on 9 April and during the weeks that follow.

The 2015 GMR - the 12th and final report of the current series - will take stock of progress made since world leaders agreed on six Education for All goals at the World Education Forum in Dakar 15 years ago. It will also look at the emerging

sustainable development agenda, providing recommendations on the definition, monitoring and funding of new education targets. This assessment will allow drawing conclusions that will guide the development of the post-2015 education goals and targets.

As every year, we hope to collaborate with civil society organizations and NGOs to ensure that the launch events are successful, and that the Report's important messages are carried forward to international and national decision makers.

You will find comprehensive information on the report, the launch events and presentations around the world under [this link](#).

Contact: (GMRevents@unesco.org)

3 May 2015 - World Press Freedom Day, Riga, Lettonie

UNESCO and the Government of Latvia will co-host the World Press Freedom Day's main event and the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony in 2015 which will take place in Riga, Latvia from 2-4 May. The 2015 celebration's theme is "Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Safety in the Digital Age".

Every year, this Day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession. In dozens of countries around the world, publications are censored, fined, suspended and closed down, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked, detained and even murdered.

On this occasion, you are encouraged to develop initiatives in favour of press freedom or to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, and inform us.

Please consult [our site](#) to get more information on this Day.

Contact: Mr Ming-Kuok Lim (mk.lim(@)unesco.org and pressfreedom(@)unesco.org)

19-22 May 2015 – World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Nearly a quarter century after the birth of the Education for All (EFA) movement in Jomtien, Thailand, and fifteen years after the World Education Forum of Dakar in 2000, the world education community will come together to agree on a joint position for finalising the education goals and targets in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Jointly organized by UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, UN-Women and the World Bank, the World Forum will review how countries have met their commitments towards EFA, will reach agreement on a new education agenda and will adopt a global framework for action for the years to come.

Since NGOs are crucial EFA partners along with governments, UN agencies and the private sector, an NGO Forum will provide a space for NGOs participating in the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA (CCNGO/EFA) to meet among

themselves and agree on a collective civil society vision for education post-2015 as well as reflect on strategies for civil society engagement in the post-2015 education agenda.

I know that many of you are active members of the CCNGO/EFA and that many of you participate in the Incheon Forum next May.

You will find pertinent information on the Forum on the following website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/world-education-forum-2015/>.

Contact: Mr Sang Eun Jung (se.jung@unesco.org)

25-29 May 2015 – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

The overall theme of the Forum – hosted by ITU and jointly organized by UNESCO, ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP – is “Innovating Together: Enabling ICTs for Sustainable Development”.

The Forum will build upon two tracks: the “High-Level” track, consisting of policy statements, WSIS prize ceremony and the ministerial round table; and the “Forum” track that will offer participants a series of dialogues, action line facilitation meetings, country workshops, thematic workshops and knowledge exchanges, as well as an exhibition addressing issues that are critical to WSIS implementation and follow-up.

Our NGO partners wishing to attend the Forum shall first request accreditation following the procedure available online on the devoted website: <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/>

Contact: Mr Cédric Wachholz (c.wachholz@unesco.org)

8 June 2015 -World Oceans Day 2015, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

This year, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) will organize, together with partners, a full day dedicated to the ocean’s crucial role in the climate system, leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21).

The programme includes scientific workshops, round tables, exhibitions and a UNESCO Open Campus for youth. The objective is to bring together scientists, political decision-makers, civil society and youth to define ocean sensitive recommendations to mitigate climate change and its socioeconomic impacts. These recommendations will be presented to heads of states, members of government, UN representatives and decisions makers attending the closing ceremony.

I encourage NGOs to join in the events that will be organized within the framework of this Day, and to report to us on their respective experiences.

Relevant information on the celebration of the Day will be available soon on UNESCO website (http://www.unesco.org/new/en/ocean_and_climate_event and http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/ocean_day).

Contact: Ms Réjane Hervé-Smadja (r.herve@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015, entitled *Water for a sustainable world* was presented on 20 March on the occasion of the World Water Day. This report stresses the need to devote a Millennium objective for sustainable development of water. It also calls for the focus to be on the overall management of the water cycle whereas the Millennium Development Goals focused on access to water and sanitation. The report is currently available [under this link](#).
- The book *Global Bioethics: What for?* is just one of the ways in which the UNESCO's Bioethics Programme is celebrating its twenty years of existence. Through the experiences of each of the authors, specialists from all over the world, men and women who have contributed to the Programme, here are thirty articles of four pages each providing us with many accessible definitions of bioethics and its use. The book is available in English under [this link](#).
- The 16th issue of the Series *Savoirs communs* has been published in English and French. *Digital Services for Education in Africa*, this publication is based on the conclusions of a study group on the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) for improving the quality of basic education in Africa. It can be downloaded [here](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt