



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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15 October 2015

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to start this monthly letter by recalling that the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, from 3 to 18 November 2015. I therefore invite those of you who intend to come to the General Conference to inform the Desk for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (ngo@unesco.org) of the delegates who will represent your organization.

10 November 2015 - World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD)

The theme for the 2015 celebration is “Science for a Sustainable Future”. This year’s celebration will therefore be an opportunity to highlight the growing recognition in countries at all stages of development of the pivotal role that science, technology and innovation will play in ensuring more inclusive growth and a sustainable future.

The celebration will include the launch of the UNESCO Science Report in Paris at the Organization’s Headquarters. The report will be analyzing which development path countries are choosing and how they are balancing support for public good science with the imperative of industrial development and international competitiveness. The UNESCO Science Report will first be published in English. Other language editions will follow in 2016.

Every year, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific research institutions, professional associations, universities, municipalities, the media, science teachers, schools and others are encouraged to organize their own celebration of World Science Day. Therefore, I call upon NGO partners to encourage and organize local and regional activities in keeping with this year’s theme in order to mobilize society and the scientific community.

For more information on the Day, please visit the devoted [UNESCO website](#).

Contact: Mr Maciej Nalecz (m.nalecz@unesco.org) and Ms Nicole Webley (n.webley@unesco.org) for the celebrations and Ms Susan Schneegans (s.schneegans@unesco.org) for the UNESCO Science Report.

19 November 2015 - World Philosophy Day

By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

A range of activities will be held around the world to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2015. In Paris, discussion will focus on the languages and spaces of philosophy, which cannot be purely academic if it is to contribute to managing social transformations and to intercultural dialogue. Other initiatives are foreseen, for instance, in Dakar, Senegal in partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), in Mexico City at the initiative of UNESCO Mexico Office, or online at the initiative of UNESCO Brasilia Office.

This Day concerns everyone for whom philosophy matters and if your NGO organizes activities or events related to this Day, do not hesitate to inform us.

For more details on this Day, you can consult the following website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/philosophy/philosophy-day-at-unesco/>.

Contact: Mr John Crowley (j.crowley@unesco.org)

30 November to 11 December 2015 – 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), Paris, France

Hosted by France in Paris-Le Bourget site, COP21 will bring together more than 40,000 participants, among delegates representing countries, observers and civil society representatives. It will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

Throughout 2015, UNESCO has worked in close collaboration with the French authorities and the overall UN system, including the UNFCCC Secretariat, to prepare a series of conferences, events and exhibits, including at the COP21 venue (Paris-Le Bourget). Please note that a civil society dedicated space will be organized in Paris-Le Bourget, conceived as a place for debates and knowledge.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the COP21 host country (<http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en>) and the UNESCO COP21 pages (<http://en.unesco.org/themes/cop21>) to get additional information.

Contact: Mr Peter Dogse (p.dogse@unesco.org) and Ms Marie-Ange Théobald (ma.theobald@unesco.org)

30 November to 4 December 2015 - Tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), Windhoek, Namibia

Composed of 24 States elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Committee meets once every year.

During this session, chaired by Ms Trudie Amulungu (Namibia), the Committee will examine periodic reports of States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It will also consider the inscriptions on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and granting financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The Committee will further consider the renewal of a number of accredited non-governmental organizations and decide to recommend to the General Assembly the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

An ICH NGO Forum meeting will take place on the eve of this session, on 29 November 2015. The Forum is the platform for communication, networking, exchange and cooperation for NGOs accredited to the Committee. Further information on the forum and the agenda for that meeting are available at <http://www.ichngoforum.org>.

Some of you who are NGOs accredited to the Committee have already been informed of the holding of this session. However, please note that if other NGO representatives are interested in this meeting they can attend as observers. I invite you to refer to the website of the Committee [under this link](#).

Contact: Mme Cécile Duvelle (c.duvelle@unesco.org)

30 November – Deadline for submission of requests for admission to associate status

I wish to remind you that, according to the *Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations*, "any international or regional partner organization with consultative status for at least two years may submit a request for admission to associate status, no later than 30 November of each year, for decision by the Executive Board at its first session of the following year" (see session IV, B, 1.4 of the [Directives](#)).

UNESCO Publications

- The new publication *Mobile Phones & Literacy: Empowerment in Women's Hands* was launched at the Asian Summit on Education and Skills (ASES) 2015 in Bangalore, India on 8 and 9 September and is available in English only under [this link](#). Based on a cross-analysis of nine mobile learning projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal and Somalia and targeted women in rural and slum areas, it sheds light on the extent to which mobile phones can enhance women's literacy and lead to their empowerment.
- The ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development '*State of Broadband 2015*' report is available in English only under [this link](#). It provides a global snapshot of where the telecommunications/ICT industry stands with regards to fixed and mobile broadband deployment, affordability and usage, as well as the use of broadband for achieving development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

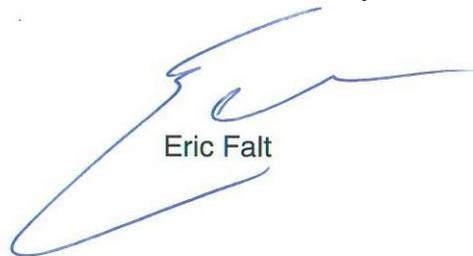
- Through the book “*Art for Peace*”, you will discover the UNESCO art collection. This UNESCO collection was neither planned nor curated by anyone. It came about through gifts from artists, representatives of Member States, visitors and personalities who wanted to support UNESCO’s aims in this way. The collection is global and, unencumbered by any thematic constraints, includes all kinds of styles and forms of expression. The publication will be multilingual, being available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and German [under this link](#).

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of four organizations, partners of UNESCO, namely:

- [ActionAid International \(AAI\)](#), an NGO based in South Africa, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status).
- [Clowns Without Borders International \(CWBI\)](#), an NGO based in Spain, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status).
- The [International Astronomical Union \(IAU\)](#), an NGO based in France, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status).
- The [Turkish Cultural Foundation \(TCF\)](#), a foundation based in the United States of America, admitted to official relations with UNESCO under the *Directives concerning UNESCO’s relations with foundations and similar institutions*.

By clicking on their name, you will be redirected to their website for more information. I welcome them and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt