



**The Assistant Director-General  
for External Relations and Public Information**

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

**To Non-Governmental Organizations,  
Official partners of UNESCO**

Ref. : ERI/MSP/INO/17/59

7 August 2017

Dear Partners,

In this month of August, which I hope you are able to enjoy, I wish to share with you some important events scheduled for the fall, so that you can plan accordingly.

**6 October 2017 – Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board (202<sup>nd</sup> session), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

As part of the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board (4-18 October 2017), the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) will meet on Friday 6 October 2017, in Room XI.

This meeting of the 23 Member States of the NGP Committee, which all NGOs are invited to attend, will examine statutory issues concerning admissions of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, as well as the Organization's relationship with foundations, and will also consider the NGOs' collective work coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, with particular regard to the organization of international NGO forums.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on 6 October during the meeting of the NGP Committee so that we pursue this dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

Please refer to documents 202 EX/37, 202 EX/37.INF and 202 EX/37.INF.2 available soon online, and consult the dedicated section of our website for more information on the Executive Board in general:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/executive-board/>.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo ([ngo@unesco.org](mailto:ngo@unesco.org))

**25-26 October 2017 – 10<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum will take place under the theme "Rethinking youth engagement with UNESCO". Now, more than ever, young women and men are leading change in their countries and communities all over the world. The Forum should thus be an opportunity to bring these change-makers to the global discussion table and inform UNESCO's work.

It will therefore be designed as a consultation with young women and men to define avenues for sustainable and meaningful engagement as per the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021). As such, it will bring together a limited number of select young change-makers and youth working on the frontlines of the issues addressed by UNESCO's mandate, who together with UNESCO staff will look at concrete ways in which the Organization can better engage with youth.

To identify those young women and men who are truly leading innovative change and are ready to engage with UNESCO in developing solutions, participants in the Forum are being selected by the UNESCO Secretariat along strict criteria, based on proposals that have been made by Member States, UN agencies, NGO partners and networks and UNESCO Field Offices.

The Forum output – to be presented to the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference – will consist of ideas and modalities for cooperation between youth and UNESCO in implementing the Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39C/5).

You will find more information following [this link](#).

Contact: Mr Alexander Schischlik ([10thUNESCOYouthForum@unesco.org](mailto:10thUNESCOYouthForum@unesco.org))

**30 October - 14 November 2017 – 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

The 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference will open at the Headquarters of the Organization in Paris on Monday, 30 October 2017, at 10 a.m. It is expected to conclude its work on Tuesday, 14 November 2017.

The morning of Tuesday, 31 October will begin with the opening of the General Policy Debate in the form of the **Leaders' Forum**, with the participation of Heads of State and/or Government, that will focus on the theme "SDGs and UNESCO's Role in the Multilateral System". The Forum will continue on the afternoon of 31 October and the morning of Wednesday 1 November. Afterwards, from Wednesday 1 November, afternoon, until Monday, 6 November morning, the **National Statements** of the General Policy Debate will take place, followed by the Director-General's reply to the debate in the morning of Monday, 6 November.

I am pleased to confirm that, as it is now customary, an **NGO-dedicated space**, jointly run by the Secretariat and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, will be located in the heart of the public areas of the General Conference, on the ground floor of Fontenoy building. It will be both an information point and a meeting place. We shall provide you with more information about it in due time.

NGOs in official partnership will receive soon the invitation to attend this 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference. I hope that many NGO representatives will be among the participants expected to attend. The Desk for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations is at your disposal to provide you with all relevant information regarding the functioning of the General Conference and for any further questions you may have concerning your participation therein.

All documents of the General Conference - including the provisional agenda and the organization of the work of the session – as well as all other relevant information will be available on line at the following Internet address: <http://www.unesco.org/en/general-conference/>.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo ([ngo@unesco.org](mailto:ngo@unesco.org))

**25 - 27 September 2017 – Second International Conference on Youth Volunteering and Dialogue, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

Themed “Preventing violent extremism and strengthening social inclusion”, this Conference will gather over 100 international participants from all regions.

Through four workshops, interactive discussions and side events, young participants will present their experiences and best practices from their volunteering work related to the main domains of UNESCO’s competence, as well as submit project proposals for international collaboration to foster the values of solidarity, empathy, critical thinking, social engagement and meaningful civic participation.

This second Conference builds on the first event held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in December 2013. This initiative is set within the framework of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue and the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2016-2017) which UNESCO spearheads for the United Nations. The Decade helps address major pressing global challenges through intercultural and interreligious dialogue for deepened understanding and cooperation for peace.

I invite you to find out more about this Conference via this webpage: <http://en.unesco.org/conference-youth-volunteering>.

Contact: [youth.conference@unesco.org](mailto:youth.conference@unesco.org)

**24 October 2017 – Launch of the 2017/8 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report “Accountability in Education: Meeting our commitments”**

On 24 October next, a series of launch events around the world will provide a platform to discuss findings of the 2017/8 GEM Report, second in the new series of GEM reports.

The Report continues its assessment of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG4) and its 10 targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda. It also examines different mechanisms that are currently used to hold governments, schools, teachers, parents, students, civil society, the international community and the private sector accountable for inclusive, equitable and quality education. By analyzing which policies make accountability more or less effective, and which external factors influence their success, the 2017/8 GEM Report concludes with concrete recommendations that will help build stronger and more impactful education systems.

As in previous years, we look forward to collaborating with NGOs to launch the Report and to bring the critical role of education into focus in the new development agenda. We encourage you to participate in events already being

prepared, to host an event of your own, or launch the report as part of an event you may already have planned.

To know more about the GEM report and the events surrounding the launch, please consult <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report>.

Contact: Mr Glen Hertelendy ([gemevents@unesco.org](mailto:gemevents@unesco.org))

### UNESCO Publications

- Published by UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), the report *An attack on one is an attack on all* looks at the innovative, successful ways in which media companies, individual journalists and civil society organizations are coming together to improve journalist safety and end impunity. The report recounts 22 good practices, including from civil society, and compiles stories of local people and organizations who are fighting to protect the safety of journalists at the local level. It is available in [English](#) only.
- The 84<sup>th</sup> issue of World Heritage magazine is a special issue about the *World Heritage in Poland*, published on the occasion of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee which took place in the Historic Centre of Kraków. It gives an overview of the architectural landscape of Poland, as well as the evolution of the protection of heritage in the country, from the early interest in preserving heritage to the rise of the community movement for protecting sites in the 19th century, and involvement of Polish experts in various international efforts such the drafting of the Venice Charter, and the formation of ICOMOS and of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). This publication is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

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Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of the following organizations:

- [Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrutik Sangh \(ABSS\)](#), an NGO based in India, to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status);
- [Linguapax International](#), an international NGO based in Spain, to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status);
- **Al Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research**, based in Kuwait, to official relations as a foundation.

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

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt