



**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**

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13 March 2017

Dear Partners,

As you know, one of our most important upcoming events will be the **7th International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO**, which will be held in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) on 3 and 4 May 2017. It will focus on the theme "Youth and their Social Impact", a theme that echoes UNESCO's mandate and the focus on youth given by the 2016 International Conference of NGOs. It will be our very first Forum held in an Arab state, allowing us to better reach out to civil society and youth organizations in the region.

This Forum is attracting a lot of interest and we have extended the **registrations to 20 March 2017 at the latest**. I certainly count on your presence and an active participation of your members for a Forum that promises to be unique and engaging.

31 March 2017 – Deadline for UNESCO's global survey on the role of civil society in implementing the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

UNESCO is gathering information and data for the 2017 edition of the [UNESCO Global Report](#) on the role of civil society in the promotion and implementation of the 2005 Convention.

The survey is exploring the extent to which you, as a civil society actor, are aware of the 2005 Convention and the extent to which you are consulted in the process of its promotion and implementation. More broadly, we are interested in your thoughts and perspectives on how cultural policies are created and implemented in your country and your role in this process.

The survey is being conducted securely online. Your responses will be anonymous and confidential, and aggregate findings will only be presented at the country level.

In addition to our culture-specific NGOs, all our partners are strongly invited to complete the survey, accessible via [this link](#), and to share it with other organizations. Submissions will be accepted until the end of March.

If you have any questions or would like to submit your responses in an alternative format, please contact Yvonne Lo, project researcher yvonne@bop.co.uk.

Contact: Ms Yvonne Lo (yvonne@bop.co.uk)

12-14 April 2017 – “Second International Conference on Youth Volunteering and Dialogue: Preventing violent extremism and strengthening social inclusion”, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

The Conference will gather over 100 international participants, young volunteers coming from all regions, predominantly from the Arab countries but also Africa, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific.

Through four workshops, interactive discussions and side events, the young participants will present their experiences and best practices from their volunteering across the domains of UNESCO's competence. They will submit project proposals and formulate a joint declaration to illustrate their future commitment in volunteering to advance dialogue on the emerging issues raised within the conference.

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.

I am sure many of you will be interested in participating in this Conference in Paris, which represents a good opportunity to prepare for our 7th International Forum of NGOs in Saudi Arabia thanks to the proximity of both themes. For more information on the Conference, I invite you to consult the [Concept note](#) and the [UNESCO page on the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures](#).

Contact: Ms Amina Hamshari (a.hamshari@unesco.org)

23-24 April 2017 – World Book and Copyright Day 2017

UNESCO has celebrated this Day for 22 years now, providing an opportunity to reflect on ways to better disseminate the culture of the written word and to allow all individuals to access it, through literacy programmes, open educational resources, and support for careers in publishing, book shops, libraries, and schools.

This year, events will take place at UNESCO Headquarters on 24 April, and will focus on the need to make books more accessible to readers with handicaps. There will be a roundtable discussion organized by our partner Asford on this subject in the morning. And because this year the UNESCO World Book Capital will be Conakry, Guinea, there will also be activities at Headquarters celebrating African literature.

To give an international dimension to the celebration, an interactive map featuring events organised by librarians, booksellers, and publishers around the world will be produced online.

We welcome and encourage the support and cooperation of civil society organisations in this celebration. If you wish to propose ideas for activities and initiatives for the celebration, please contact Ms Caroline Bordoni (c.bordoni@unesco.org).

More information on this Day will be available soon at www.unesco.org/new/wbcd.

Contact: Mr Ian Denison (i.denison@unesco.org)

26-27 April 2017 – Netexplo Forum 2017, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Organized with UNESCO's support, the 10th edition of the Netexplo Forum will once again highlight some of today's most promising global innovators in digital technologies, who are inventing new forms of education, communication, information, solidarity and management around the globe. This edition will focus on emerging innovation themes, such as "artificial intelligence" and "Startup Nation" India.

The Forum will be an opportunity to discover new trends in the use of digital technology, and to meet the creators of these innovations. As is customary, Netexplo will emphasize the impact of innovation on development for both public and private sectors.

I am confident that many of you will participate in this event.

For more information, please consult the website of Netexplo [under this link](#) as well as the [dedicated UNESCO's relevant website](#).

Contact: Mr Davide Storti (d.storti@unesco.org)

1-4 May 2017 – World Press Freedom Day, Jakarta, Indonesia

UNESCO, the Government of Indonesia and the Press Council of Indonesia will co-host the World Press Freedom Day's main celebrations which will be held in Jakarta from 1 to 4 May, as well as the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony which will take place on 3 May. Under the theme "Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies", the 2017 Day will focus on why it is vital to strengthen free and quality journalism to enable the media to effectively contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions.

This year, the World Press Freedom Day will serve as a platform to remind us of the importance of preserving and protecting journalism at a time when it is facing increasing challenges. The main event, on 3 and 4 May, will encompass parallel sessions and plenaries focused on the themes of the Day, and will tackle current subjects such as impunity, media coverage of refugees and migrants, and fake news.

The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize, named in honour of an assassinated Colombian journalist, is intended to honour a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defense and promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when realized in the face of danger.

You are encouraged to mobilize your branches and representatives in the region to join the celebrations in Jakarta, or participate in the many celebrations around the world in favour of press freedom.

Please consult [our website](#) on the World Press Freedom Day and the [dedicated webpage](#) to the Prize to get more information.

Contact: Ms Sylvie Coudray (s.coudray@unesco.org) and Ms Flavie Romer (f.romer@unesco.org)

17-19 May 2017 – International Conference on Youth and Information and Communication Technologies: Preventing violent extremism in cyberspace, Byblos, Lebanon

Organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, this Conference will bring together researchers, NGOs, as well as government officials to explore ways of preventing youth extremism, violence, radicalization, discrimination and hatred on the Internet. It will focus on the importance of engaging youth in identifying the causes of the phenomenon, sharing good practices and in developing proposals to counter extremism in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2250/2015.

This Conference is part of an ongoing series of conferences organized by UNESCO. The first one was held in France in 2015, and the second one in Canada in 2016. Both focused on experiences on policy interventions and projects to reduce the use of Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalization, and sought to identify areas for UNESCO action as well as improve the conditions that drive young people towards violent extremism.

Contact: Mr Hara Prasad Padhy (h.padhy@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The publication *Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives* is designed as a guide for education professionals on the use of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in learning for the SDGs. The guide identifies indicative learning objectives and suggests topics and learning activities for each SDG and presents implementation methods at different levels, from course design to national strategies. You can download the publication under [this link](#). A French version is also available.
- The goal of the report *Counting (on) Women in Politics: Experiences from Morocco & Tunisia* is to provide a factual basis for policy reform in favour of women's political participation in the region. It focuses on the experience of women within political parties in Tunisia and Morocco, countries that have shown strong political will and reformed their legislation to increase women's political participation in recent years. The report is available in both English and French under [this link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt