



**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/NCS/NGO/2013/133

9 October 2013

Dear Partners,

As October unfolds, I would like to recall the events that took place a few days ago here at UNESCO Headquarters and where NGOs were the main actors and beneficiaries.

Let me say that I am very pleased with the serene and constructive atmosphere that governed our discussions and the new dynamism of our joint activities.

'Which Education Goals for Tomorrow's Citizens of the World: Is Quality Enough?': was the theme chosen by the Liaison Committee for the first Forum of NGOs in official partnership, organized in cooperation with the Secretariat at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 September last. 250 participants – representatives of NGOs, among them many young people, as well as representatives of Permanent Delegations and National Commissions for UNESCO – gathered to assess the current state of education and to imagine the future. Patrick Gallaud, Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, will inform you in further details of the results of the Forum, including the two documents that were drawn up therein. I am confident that the experience and the lessons learned during the preparation of this forum will be valuable tools for the preparation of the other forums that, if there are organized away from Paris - as we very much hope - will allow us to enrich further our common reflection on the post-2015 agenda and extend the scope of our work.

Furthermore, the **Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP)** of the Executive Board met on 26 September last and the results of its deliberations will be submitted for adoption at the plenary of the Executive Board later this week. For those who were present, this meeting was, once again, an opportunity to exchange views and share experiences. I am particularly pleased that we have had the opportunity to listen to the opinions and ideas of six young people from different parts of the world, on the role that youth NGOs and NGOs working for young people can play in the implementation of the programme of UNESCO. For those of you who would like to learn more about the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), I invite you to follow [this link](#).

I would now turn to ongoing projects and future UNESCO activities which, as you will see, are very broad, both in terms of topics covered and of geographical diversity. I have no doubt that many of you will be interested in these events.

## **Mapping of official partnerships with NGOs**

Last August, I sent you a questionnaire to be completed about your organization and its cooperation with UNESCO. To date, we have received 150 responses out of the 400 questionnaires sent out. This represents about 37%. However, your answer to this questionnaire is necessary to collect as much information as possible about the state of our cooperation, and the actual contribution of NGO partners to the Organization's action and programmes.

Many projects are carried out in cooperation with NGOs, and our partners provide an often essential contribution to the design and implementation of our programmes, without deserved visibility to them. The gathered information will be incorporated into our database on NGOs and foundations, which now requires an update.

This is why you will find attached once more the questionnaire previously sent. I should be grateful to **those who have not yet done so** to return it duly completed, preferably before 30 October 2013, to the following email address: ngo@unesco.org.

## **5-20 November 2013 – 37<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, France**

The 37<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference is just around the corner. We are working together with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to facilitate the participation of NGOs, and in particular the interaction with other participants, and in the first place with Delegations of Member States and Members of National Commissions for UNESCO.

I hope you were able to follow the orientation seminar held on 25 September at UNESCO Headquarters, whose aim was to ensure a better coordination of NGO's participation during this important moment that represents the General Conference.

As I have had the occasion to point out during this seminar, for the first time, a space will be dedicated to NGOs, jointly run by the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. This area, located in the heart of the public areas of the General Conference, on the ground floor of Fontenoy building, will be both an information point and a meeting place. We will send you more information about it in due time.

Two items on the agenda of the General Conference are, from my point of view, of interest for our partnership with NGOs. The first item is the statutory report of the Director-General on the contribution made to UNESCO's activities by Non-Governmental Organizations (document 37 C/29, soon available online). The second is the action plan to improve the cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO (document [37C/50](#)) to be submitted for adoption by the General Conference: among the recommendations contained therein, recommendation 6 concerns more specifically the interaction between National Commissions and civil society and NGOs based in their respective countries.

I hope that many NGO representatives will be among the some 4,000 participants expected to attend the General Conference. In this regard, I invite you to indicate in advance, the names of your representatives in order to facilitate their access to UNESCO's premises (email: ngo@unesco.org).

**6-8 November 2013 - Multilingual Education for All in Asia and the Pacific: Policies, Practices and Processes: Fourth International Conference on Language and Education, Bangkok, Thailand**

Organized by our Office in Bangkok among others, the conference brings together multilingual education partners to increase understanding of the importance of expanding access to effective multilingual education (MLE) in particular in Asia and the Pacific region. It will showcase promising practices so as to increase understanding of the importance of expanding access to effective multilingual education, to exchange experiences, to link MLE theory to practice. It will also serve as a platform for forward-looking debate and the shaping of effective education policies and programmes for the post-2015 agenda.

I hope that many NGOs from the Asia-Pacific region will be able to attend this conference.

You will find more information on the conference website:  
<http://www.lc.mahidol.ac.th/mleconf2013/about.htm>.  
Contact: Mrs Kyungah Kristy Bang (k.bang@unesco.org)

**19-20 November 2013 - Regional Forum “Dialogue as a Way to Understanding”, Moscow, Russian Federation**

Organized by the UNESCO Office in Moscow, this forum aims at creating a regional platform for a multi-stakeholder policy research dialogue. This event will be entirely devoted to the building of inclusive societies, in particular for foreign migrants and non-native ethnic groups, with a specific focus on young girls and women.

It will be articulated around two major roundtables: the first will address the theme of “Social Inclusion of the Children of Migrants”, while the second will explore the role of journalists and mass-media in social inclusion.

I invite NGOs with national branches or members in the region to join the Forum. You will find related information, in English and Russian, on the site of our UNESCO Office in Moscow [under this link](#).  
Contact: Mrs Alla Ampar (a.ampar@unesco.org)

**24-27 November 2013 – Sixth World Science Forum 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

The Forum, which meets every two years, is one of the world’s major science-focused event. The main theme of the 2013 World Science Forum will be “Science for Global Sustainable Development”. The objective is to provide major stakeholders with a global forum for dialogue on the new roles, responsibilities and challenges of science, and to discuss issues of common interest to the scientific community and to the general public.

This Forum is a meeting point and an occasion to exchange views for representatives of science, politics, international organizations, industrial and financial decision makers, international science fora and science academies.

[This link](#) to the website of the Forum:, will provide you with every useful information.  
Contact: Ms Lidia Brito (l.brito@unesco.org)

**2-7 December 2013 - Eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Baku, Azerbaijan**

This Committee, which meets once a year, will examine the periodic reports of the States Parties on the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as the current state of the elements inscribed into the Representative List. It will also consider the inscriptions on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It will further select programmes for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and grant financial assistance for safeguarding plans.

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 at the following address:  
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00473>  
Contact: Ms Oda Wolf Lehman (o.wolf@unesco.org)

**UNESCO Publications**

- In the framework of the *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, the publication *Education transforms lives* is available in English [under this link](#). This book provides a new analysis confirming that progress made in education is critical to the success of the priorities of the post-2015, including the elimination of poverty, health, women's empowerment.
- The book *Lumbini, Birthplace of Buddha* is now available. It showcases the uniqueness of the World Heritage property of Lumbini (Nepal) and its surroundings through 200 photographs taken by eight photographers. You will find more information about this book at: [http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code\\_Livre=4994&change=E](http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code_Livre=4994&change=E)
- You may already order the book *Free Flow - Reaching Water Security through Cooperation*. This book strives to project experiences into future actions and encourages further institutional commitments to better understanding of and more effective management of water cooperation in order to achieve sustainable development. You will find more information on this publication at the following address:  
[http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?=&Code\\_Livre=4999&change=E](http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?=&Code_Livre=4999&change=E).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt