



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

The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Non-Governmental Organizations, Official partners of UNESCO

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28 October 2016

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to start this monthly letter by sharing with you the news of the rebirth of one of UNESCO's flagship publications, the **UNESCO Courier**, which has not been issued since 2011. Over more than six decades, the UNESCO Courier featured the signatures of leading intellectuals and became a beacon of UNESCO's message of cross cultural understanding and cooperation. Thanks to a generous contribution of the People's Republic of China, it is due to reappear as a quarterly print and online publication in early 2017 in the six official languages of the United Nations. I am sure that many of you will appreciate the restoration of one of our most acclaimed magazines.

The **Sixth International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO**, which will be held on 3 and 4 November, is now fast approaching. As you know, it will focus on the theme "From promoting to building peace with NGOs" in Querétaro, Mexico. I am very pleased with the announced turnout of more than 150 representatives of our official NGO partners and the active mobilization of your local and regional branches. The Forum will probably become one of our most successful to date with more than 200 participants expected.

I also want to highlight the very positive outcome of the **Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP)**, which met during the 200th session of the Executive Board on 6 October last. Those who were present witnessed very fruitful discussions under the new chairmanship of H.E. Mr Darko Tanaskovic, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Serbia. Based on the debate of the Committee and its conclusions, you can expect a series of initiatives to revitalize the dialogue between Member States and NGOs.

Separately, I remind you that you received two weeks ago the invitation letter for the **2016 International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations** which will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, from 12 to 14 December 2016. As you are no doubt aware, the Conference brings together all NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO every two years, and is a unique opportunity for NGOs to meet and discuss the state of cooperation with UNESCO. I strongly hope that many of you will join us on this occasion, and invite you to register the delegates who will represent your organization on [this devoted website](#).

30 November - 2 December 2016 – Roundtable “Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda: The Case for Space”, Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by UNESCO together with UNDP and partners from the civil society, this Roundtable will examine the necessary conditions for young people to become partners and leaders in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia and the Pacific region. The “Case for Space” initiative claims young people are not only beneficiaries but also actors of development, which role and space should be strengthened on the development scene.

The event will delve into different topics, including youth implementation of SDGs, legal and regulatory frameworks affecting youth, civic spaces in urban areas and their impact on youth, inclusion of marginalized youth, online freedom and safety in Asia and the Pacific, inclusive online spaces and the issue of hate speech and new and innovative tools to open civic spaces for youth.

Over 3 days, young leaders, experts, youth NGOs and civil society representatives will gather to look at youth’ participation in the region, share good practices and identify areas for action. Do not hesitate to visit the [Case4Space website](#) for additional information on the “Case for Space” initiative.

Contact: Ms Chantal Mairesse (c.mairesse@unesco.org)

2 December 2016 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The theme of this year’s celebration is “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want”. It notes the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of these goals in building a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities. One of the Day’s objectives is also to mark the 10 year anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In that context, in cooperation with the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Nippon Foundation, a wide range of activities will be organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, including:

- the award ceremony of the UNESCO/Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. You may remember that earlier in July we invited you to submit nominations for this Prize, which rewards the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations promoting inclusion and the enhancement of the lives of persons with disabilities in society through the effective, innovative and inclusive application of digital solutions;
- the launch, together with The Nippon Foundation, of new initiatives aiming to provide access to information and knowledge using ICTs for persons with disabilities;
- a high-level panel discussion with speakers and international experts that will examine how existing barriers could be removed and needs of persons with disabilities reflected in a sustainable and inclusive manner;
- the “We Care Film Fest 2016”, which will project a series of films about persons with disabilities.

Please do not hesitate to inform us if you are planning an activity or event to celebrate this International Day. I also encourage you to join us in Paris for the celebration and register on the website under [this link](#).

Contact: Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite (i.kasinskaite@unesco.org)

6-9 December 2016 – Internet Governance Forum meeting, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multistakeholder space for dialogue regarding public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. This year's edition is going to focus on "Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth".

Mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, the IGF seeks to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise. While there is no negotiated outcome, the IGF informs those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors. At their annual meeting delegates discuss, exchange information and share good practices with each other.

If you are interested in participating in this event, I encourage you to register before 24 November 2016 on the [IGF website](#). It is also possible to follow the debates online.

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

12-15 December 2016 - Tenth ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Composed of 24 State Party members, the Committee meets annually in ordinary session. On this occasion, it will have several items on its Agenda, including the Secretariat's report on its capacity-building and knowledge management activities; the Convention's contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and approval of new projects; the engagement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention; and the Preliminary draft Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in a digital environment.

A working session with civil society observers will also take place on Monday 12 December at 11:00 a.m.. Civil society organizations wishing to participate in the sessions of the Convention's governing bodies are advised to submit a written request with the required documentation, mentioning the wish to participate in both the sessions of the Conference of Parties and the Intergovernmental Committee. More information can be found under [this link](#).

Contact: Ms Danielle Cliche (d.cliche@unesco.org)

30 November 2016 – Deadline for submission of requests for admission to associate status

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](#)).

I wish to insist that a regular and productive cooperation has to be attested between UNESCO and the NGO in the last years based on several joint projects contributing to the implementation of UNESCO's programmes. The Desk for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations is at your disposal for any further information or guidance regarding this process.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo (s.colombo@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- UNESCO's Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Development - *Culture: Urban Future* - is the first report of its kind, intended as a policy framework document to support governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The report analyses the situation, trends, threats and existing opportunities in different regional contexts, and presents a global picture of urban heritage safeguarding, conservation and management, as well as the promotion of cultural and creative industries, as resources for sustainable urban development. The report is available in English on [this link](#), and will be published in French and Spanish shortly.
- The publication *Water, Megacities and Global Change. Portraits of 15 emblematic cities*, co-published by UNESCO and ARCEAU-IdF, present cities (Beijing, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Ho Chi Minh City, Istanbul, Lagos, London, Los Angeles, Manila, Mexico, Mumbai, New York, Paris, Seoul and Tokyo) that share a number of common characteristics: expansive size, disparities between rich and poor districts, environmental and industrial demand that strains the natural resources of an entire region and a wide range of cultural, scientific and educational resources. The publication is both the result of concrete scientific presentations and a call for general mobilization to devise the sustainable urban policies the world needs, and you can download it [here](#) in its English version. It is also available in French.
- Published by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Society for the Study of Harmful Algae, the book *Toxic and Harmful Microalgae of the World Ocean* is the first ever global compendium on harmful algal blooms. It provides data identifying 174 algal and 100 toxin-producing species grouped in 24 chemically different classes responsible for 11 different human health conditions. It also examines trends in the spread of these toxic marine microorganisms and evaluates policies to contain them. Written in both English and French, the compendium can be found on this [link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt