The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

31 August 2016

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2016/29

Sir/Madam,

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the 200th session of the Executive Board will take place from 4 to 18 October 2016. While the provisional agenda and timetable of work for this session will be available online soon, I would like to inform you that the traditional morning meeting of National Commissions will take place on 11 and 12 October from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., and I look forward to seeing many of you on that occasion. More details of the meeting will be communicated in due course.

You may also wish to note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) composed of 23 Member States, will meet during this session (scheduled on 6 October) to examine statutory issues concerning admissions of NGOs to official partnership with UNESCO, as well as the Organization’s relationship with foundations. The Committee will consider the NGOs’ collective work coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, with particular regard to the organization of international NGO forums and the International Conference of NGOs (Paris, 12-16 December 2016).

Please refer to documents 200 EX/23 and 200 EX/23.INF which are already available online, and consult the dedicated section of our website under this link for more information on the Executive Board in general.

I would also like to see many of you at this Committee meeting so that we pursue the dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

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

5 October 2016 – World Teachers’ Day

“Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status” is the theme for the 2016 celebration of this Day, which commemorates the anniversary of the signature of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers on 5 October 1966. 5 October also marks the adoption by the UNESCO General Conference in 1997 of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel.
Celebration at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris will include meetings on teacher motivation with experts from all regions scheduled on 3 and 4 October, an event on 5 October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers, and the award ceremony of the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers.

I encourage the National Commissions to take the opportunity of the day to organize relevant activities, in collaboration with key partners, with a view to generating awareness about teacher issues.

For more information on the 2016 celebrations, I invite you to visit the dedicated page on our website, which will be available soon.

Contact: Mr Edem Adubra (e.adubra@unesco.org)

**17 October 2016 – Presentation of the World Social Science Report 2016, UNESCO HQ, Paris**

UNESCO, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) will release the 3rd edition of the World Social Science Report in September 2016. This edition focuses on the theme “Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World”. Bringing together over 100 contributions on the theme of inequality from social scientists from multiple disciplines and from over 40 countries, the conclusion of the Report asks ‘what are the roles of social science in identifying and building transformative pathways towards greater equality?’

The report will be launched at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on 22 September 2016, followed by an event at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) the same day. A presentation at UNESCO Headquarters will take place on 17 October 2016, in conjunction with the International Day on the Eradication of Poverty.

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

**UNESCO Publications**

- Launched by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the eAtlas for Education 2030 brings together all available data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goal on Education (SDG 4). This groundbreaking initiative covers access to education, the quality of education on offer and the results for children and young people. Through a series of interactive maps, the eAtlas presents the global and thematic indicators for each SDG 4 target as well as ‘placeholders’ for indicators not yet available. You can consult the Atlas under [this link](#).

- Titled “World Heritage in the High Seas: An Idea Whose Time has Come”, the report presents five sites that illustrate different ecosystems, from biodiversity-rich areas to the natural phenomena that can only be found in the depths of the ocean. Each of these sites could be recognized as having outstanding universal value, a key principle of the World Heritage Convention, where spectacular qualities of certain sites are seen to transcend national boundaries.
For these sites to benefit from the recognition and protection of the World Heritage Convention, adjustments to the inscription process will be necessary, since only countries can propose sites for inscription, and these zones in the high seas do not fall under any national jurisdiction. The report explores three ways in which the protection of the Convention could be expanded to protect these zones in the high seas. Please click on this link for the English version.

**Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (July/August 2016)**

I am pleased to welcome to the National Commissions network the following new members:

In Albania, Ms Amanda Vrana has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Venera Domi.

In the Dominican Republic, Mr Pedro Vergés has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr José Antonio Rodríguez.

In India, Mr Shri Prakash Javadekar has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Ms Smriti Zubin Irani.

In Indonesia, Mr Muhadjir Effendy has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Anies Baswedan.

In Nepal, Mr Dhaniram Paudel has been appointed Chairperson and Mr Dilliram Rimal has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Girirajmani Pokharel and Mr Bishwa Prakash Pandit respectively.

In Niger, Mr Jibrin Malam Almajiri has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Namata Issa.

In the Philippines, Mr Perfecto R. Yasay Jr has been appointed Chairperson, and Ms Lindsay A. Barrientos has been appointed Acting Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Albert F. Del Rosario and Ms Virginia A. Miralao respectively.

In Romania, Mr Mircea Dumitru has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Sorin Cîmpeanu.

Yours sincerely,

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Eric Falt