The Assistant Director-General
for Priority Africa and External Relations

To the Chairpersons of UNESCO’s Electoral Groups
Cc: All Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

20 February 2020

Ref.: SC/PCB/20/1051

Subject: Selection of Member State representatives for the Open Science Advisory Committee

Dear Chairperson,

At the 40th session of UNESCO’s General Conference, Member States decided that UNESCO would lead a global dialogue on Open Science with a view to developing a standard-setting instrument in the form of a Recommendation, to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021. This Resolution is contained in Annex 1.

This Recommendation will be prepared through a regionally balanced, multistakeholder, inclusive and transparent consultation process, which will be facilitated by an internal multisectoral UNESCO Open Science Team, supported by a broad Open Science Partnership and steered by an Open Science Advisory Committee (AOC).

To ensure that this process is driven by Member States, the Director-General would like to ask you to submit, for her consideration, by 10 March 2020, the names of four representatives of Member States from your Regional Group to be members of the Advisory Committee.

To guide your selection of nominees, please kindly keep in mind the terms of reference adopted by the General Conference (see Annex 2), particularly concerning the role of committee members, and the principles of geographical balance, gender balance and expertise or competence in the field of open science. Nominations from youth and indigenous and local knowledge holders engaged in open science practices or policies should also be encouraged.

I am convinced that, as the Chairperson of your Electoral Group, you are best placed to solicit nominations from the Member States of your region and ensure that the selection process is transparent and inclusive.

Please note that the first meeting of the Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for 2 and 3 April 2020 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. As per the
terms of reference, the participation of Advisory Committee members will mostly be self-funded.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, and her team (openscience@unesco.org).

Thanking you in advance for your collaboration in developing a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Firmin Edouard Matoko

Attachments:
- Annex 1: Resolution 24 adopted by the General Conference at its 40th session
- Annex 2: Terms of Reference of the Open Science Advisory Committee