Highlights

Today, Tuesday 3 November 2015, 10:00 a.m., Room I

- The 38th session of the General Conference will be opened in a formal ceremony by H.E. Mr HAO Ping, Vice-Minister of Education of the People’s Republic of China and President of the 37th session of the General Conference, in the presence of H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon of Norway.

- The Chairperson of the Executive Board, H.E. Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, and the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, will make statements.

- During the opening ceremony there will be two musical moments with the Finnish string quartet Caje’, who will play two pieces of the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, to celebrate its 150th anniversary, and then a choir, composed of members from four Confucius Institutes in France.

- The election to the Presidency of the 38th session of the General Conference will take place in the afternoon, during the second plenary meeting. The Executive Board, at its 197th session held last October 2015, unanimously recommended (197 EX/SR.7 and 8) the nomination of Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa as President of the 38th session of the General Conference. Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa is a Member of Parliament and Executive Branch, serving as Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia.

- Visit of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates.
The Mosaic of Change Exhibition will be inaugurated at 6 p.m. in the Ségur Hall. Mosaic of Change utilizes art and technology to educate and help people better understand our world and generate intercultural dialogue using photos, videos, data visualizations, quotes and music. This creative platform reflects what UNESCO has achieved to date and reminds us to focus our time and resources where change is still needed most. The inauguration will be followed by a reception.

Yesterday, Monday 2 November 2015


As part of the Paris event, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, Ms Alice Bah Kuhnke, Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy and Ms Bathsheba Nell Crocker, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs (USA) opened the ceremony, followed by a panel discussion on impunity moderated by Ms Christiane Amanpour, CNN journalist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety.

The events also served as an occasion to launch the forthcoming UNESCO report, World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development – Special Digital Focus 2015, which contains the Organization’s most recent information on the safety of journalists and impunity.

- The second Interregional Forum of National Commissions for UNESCO was attended by more than 200 participants from 120 National Commissions. The meeting was opened by Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information and appointed Ms Rita Brasil de Brito, Secretary General of Portugal, as Chair.

In the morning, the agenda comprised three subjects, namely “Assessing the Value of UNESCO: Methodology and Pilot Project” presented by Ms Louise Filiatrault, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO; “Public and Private partnerships” presented by Mr Dong-seok Min, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission and Mr Lutz Moeller, Deputy Secretary-General of the German National Commission and “UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme and National Commissions” presented by Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector.

In the afternoon, an Interface session between National Commissions and Field Offices was organized, for the first time, within the framework of Interregional meetings of National Commissions. The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of National Commissions” was the last topic and Mr Jean-Yves le Saux, Director, Division for Programme and Budget, Bureau of Strategic Planning, made an introduction.

These presentations were followed by a fruitful exchange of information and views among the participants.
In the evening, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO, H. E. Mr HAO Ping, President of the 37th Session of the general Conference of UNESCO and Vice-Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, had the pleasure to invite UNESCO Secretariat members to attend a performance of the Beijing Opera "Yi Mai Qian Qiu".

Tomorrow, Wednesday 4 November 2015

Alongside the 38th session of the General Conference, a high-level meeting is organized by UNESCO, jointly with the six Education 2030 co-convening agencies to formally adopt and launch the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA), the draft of which was agreed upon at the World Education Forum 2015 (Incheon, Republic of Korea) in May 2015. Ministers and other leaders of the education community will be invited to share through brief interventions their views on, and commitments to, the final FFA which will provide guidance for the implementation of Education 2030 at the national, regional and global level.
Welcome to the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference!

UNESCO celebrates this year its 70th anniversary. The mission of our cherished Organization, Building peace in the minds of men and women, appears more relevant than ever. The 38th Session of the General Conference provides a unique opportunity to reflect and take stock of UNESCO’s enduring achievements and highlight where our Organization needs to redouble its efforts to meet current and future challenges.

You can find an overview of the special meetings and side events which will take place throughout the session in the MAG which also includes a page dedicated to guided visits and cultural activities.

We kindly invite you to visit the website of the General Conference every day and get all the information related to its work: electronic access to meetings’ programmes, documents and statements; list of speakers, who is who, FAQs, etc.

This e-journal outlines the information on the daily agenda of the proceedings as well as the outcome of those of the previous day.

The agenda of the meetings will also appear on the screens located in the main Halls of Fontenoy and Bonvin buildings and next to the meeting rooms of the commissions and committees.

The team of the Delegates’ Information Bureau will be pleased to guide you during the course of the session with updates and changes. We are located in the Salle des Actes, Fontenoy building, opposite Room I. You can also reach us by phone on the following extensions: 82570 or 82567.

We wish you an inspiring session.

Rossella Salvia
Delegates’ Information Bureau
Special events

Special lunch to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Salle Ségur (by invitation only)

The Safe Schools Declaration is a joint initiative developed through state consultations led by Norway and Argentina in Geneva throughout the first half of 2015. It provides States the opportunity to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict. The Declaration was opened for endorsement at the Oslo Conference on Safe Schools convened on 29 May 2015, and so far a total of 49 states have endorsed the declaration. This event organized by the Norwegian, Nigerian and Argentinian Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and the event will provide an opportunity for more states to endorse the Declaration.

Special Announcement

The election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference will take place during the second Plenary meeting in Room I, at 3 p.m.

Programme of meetings
Today -Tuesday, 3 November 2015

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MORNING

Plenary Meeting
10:00 a.m. First Meeting I

1.1 Opening of the Session
1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee
1.4 Adoption of the agenda
1.7 Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon
8.2 Request for the admission of Montserrat as an Associate Member of UNESCO

Official visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway

**Credential Committee**

12:00 a.m. First Meeting  

1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee and report by the Committee to the General Conference

**Nominations Committee**

12:00 a.m. First Meeting  

1.5 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees

**AFTERNOON**

**Plenary Meeting**

3:00 p.m. Second Meeting  

1.5 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees  

1.2 First Report by the Credentials Committee  

2.1 Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2012-2013, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board  

2.2 Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation  

Official visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Provisional schedule of meetings
Wednesday, 4 November

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