



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
للربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Director-General

To all Permanent Delegates
and Observers to UNESCO

Ref.: DG/24/17/4221

Subject: **39th session of the General Conference: Participation in the
General Policy Debate**

Sir/Madam,

As you know, at its 201st session, the Executive Board adopted 201 EX/Decision 20 (II) on the organization of the work of the 39th session of the General Conference, which will take place from **30 October to 14 November 2017**. In accordance with the above decision, the Executive Board proposes preserving a two-fold structure for the General Policy Debate: the Leaders' Forum and National Statements. The morning of Tuesday, 31 October will begin with the opening of the General Policy Debate in the form of the **Leaders' Forum**, with the participation of invited Heads of State and/or Government. The Forum will continue in the afternoon of 31 October and in the morning of Wednesday, 1 November. Subsequently, from the afternoon of Wednesday, 1 November to the morning of Monday, 6 November; the **National Statements** of the General Policy Debate will take place, followed by the Director-General's reply to the debate in the morning of Monday, 6 November.

In conformity with 165 EX/Decision 7.1 of the Executive Board, the list of speakers has, for several years, been drawn up following a procedure similar to the one used by the United Nations General Assembly. This system endeavours to strike a better balance in the scheduling of the participation of speakers throughout the debate on the one hand, and to take into account the protocol rank of speakers when processing the preferences expressed in requests for inclusion on the list of speakers on the other.

I should be grateful, therefore, if you would kindly convey to the General Conference Secretariat (e-mail: GPD39@unesco.org), **preferably by Monday, 31 July 2017, the name and title of the representative who will make the statement on behalf of your country at this debate, and proposing two optional dates**. The enclosed form may be used to submit your request. On the basis of the requests received, the Secretariat will draw up a provisional list of

speakers, which will be made available on the General Conference website at the earliest opportunity.

As and when necessary, updates will be made to the list thereafter, to accommodate requests that might be received late or changes indicated by some Member States with regard to the initial dates requested or the person designated to participate in the debate. It goes without saying that the Secretariat will endeavour to satisfy these requests within the options that remain open after the provisional list has been drawn up. Should the speaker included on the provisional list be replaced subsequently by a lower-ranking speaker, the latter might be assigned a date or time slot other than the one initially scheduled.

I wish also to draw your attention to the allocated speaking time for statements. At its 201st session, the Executive Board recommended to the General Conference that such time should be fixed, as at the 39th session, at a **maximum of six minutes**. The Board also recommended to the General Conference that it install, as it did at previous sessions, a visual and sound system to gauge speaking time, and that it empower the President of the General Conference to call to order any speaker exceeding this time limit.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova

Enclosure: 1

Registration Form

GENERAL POLICY DEBATE

(39th session of the General Conference)

Member State (or Associate Member):

1st date requested:

Morning

Afternoon

2nd date requested:

Morning

Afternoon

(N.B.: at least 48 hours between each date)

Intervention limited to 6 minutes (i.e. 3 standard-page document)

Speakers' surname and first name:

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Status:

Request submitted by:

(Name and status)

Date:

Signature:

To be returned to the Secretariat of the General Conference
(e-mail: GPD39@unesco.org)