Sir/Madam,

With many important points on its agenda, the 200th session of the Executive Board has completed its work. Let me reiterate my thanks to those of you who took part in the traditional morning meeting of National Commissions held on 11 and 12 October last, on which a webnews has been published at UNESCO.int, under this link. I was pleased that the meeting resulted in a fruitful exchange of information and views, in particular on the management of UNESCO Prizes.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that the Executive Board at its last session decided to renew the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for a six-year term, and that Member States also agreed to include digital media in the candidatures. Furthermore, submissions for the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, are now open and the deadline is 15 February 2017. Not only UNESCO Member States, but also regional and international non-governmental organizations working for press freedom can submit candidates. Please see more details on this leading prize in recognition of dedication to freedom of expression and information, as well as the renewed call for applications for this prize under this link.

Contact : Ms Flavie Romer (f.romer@unesco.org)


As I mentioned during our meetings in the margins of the Executive Board, in line with Decision 5 III of the 196th session of the Executive Board, the Secretariat will present to the Executive Board at its 201st session (spring 2017), as appropriate, a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, notably in relation to its Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9. I would therefore be grateful if you could inform us, in due course, of the changes introduced in your respective National Commission, the evolution of its relations/cooperation with other National Commissions, partners and the UNESCO Secretariat, as well as other relevant developments since the adoption of the Action Plan in 2013.
We will soon begin the preparation of the fourth (2016 edition) Annual Report of National Commissions for UNESCO. Like in the past, I encourage you to actively participate in this exercise. As you know, the Annual Report aims at making our cooperation more visible and to facilitate the sharing of information amongst the National Commissions themselves as well as with interested stakeholders. The 2016 Report will thus provide a convincing snapshot of your work implemented during the course of the year 2016. You may also wish to share with us the perspectives of your future activities. In order to facilitate the collection of your contributions, you will find attached a form we have prepared to that effect. We would be grateful if you could kindly complete it and send it back to us (natcom@unesco.org) together with photographs, by 31 December 2016 at the latest.

**October edition of Education Podcast on Sound Cloud in three languages**

Following the launching of the Education Podcast on Sound Cloud last July, our Education Sector continues to use this tool to give you news, updates and highlights on the Organization’s key activities in the field of education. By clicking on the following links, you can enjoy the October edition of Education Podcast focused on the education events held during the 71st session of the UN General Assembly and the outcomes of the International Conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education, in English, French and Spanish versions!

English: https://soundcloud.com/user8258563/education-podcast-october
French: https://soundcloud.com/user8258563/podcast-education-octobre
Spanish: https://soundcloud.com/user8258563/educacion-podcast-octubre

**14 November 2016 – Thematic Day on Education at the Climate COP 22 (22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) – Marrakech, Morocco**

As you may be aware, the Kingdom of Morocco will host the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22), in Marrakech, from 7 to 18 November 2016. UNESCO will organize a series of side events during the thematic day on Education at the conference.

Together with UN partners, we will organize side events for negotiators including a High-level event entitled ‘Education - A key driver to scale-up climate action’ which will bring together environment and education ministers and international organizations to discuss how education can enhance the implementation of the climate agenda and INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions). UNESCO will also organize an event entitled ‘Leaving No One Behind in Climate Change Education’ to showcase and discuss steps in promoting both formal and non-formal climate change education and responding to specific needs of vulnerable groups, in particular those with disabilities, indigenous peoples and refugees.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the COP 22 host country (http://www.cop22.ma/en/) and the UNFCCC-COP22 page (http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop22marrakechinformationhub/) to get additional information.

Contact : Mr Philippe Maalouf (p.maalouf@unesco.org)

**17 November 2016 – World Philosophy Day 2016**
This year’s programme falls in line with the International Day for Tolerance celebrated on 16 November 2016. In this context, events for World Philosophy Day will highlight the need for new philosophy practices in today’s world, encourage dialogue on the connections with tolerance and explore new ways to increase accessibility of philosophical teaching and learning.

Key events throughout the 3-day celebration (16-18 November 2016) at UNESCO Headquarters include:
- 15th International Encounters on New Philosophical Practices (16-17 November);
- Roundtable on Tolerance (17 November);
- Launch of the UNESCO Chair on the Practice of Philosophy with Children (18 November);
- Roundtable on Teaching Aristotle (18 November);
- A Night of Philosophy (18-19 November).

By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

World Philosophy Day belongs to everyone, everywhere, who cares about philosophy. If your National Commission would like to have your WPD events mentioned on the UNESCO website, simply send brief details to: wpd@unesco.org.

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


Composed of 24 States elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Committee meets once every year.

During this session, which will be chaired by Mr Yonas Desta Tsegaye (Ethiopia), the Committee will examine periodic reports of States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It will also consider the inscriptions on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and granting financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The Committee will further consider the renewal of a number of accredited non-governmental organizations and decide to recommend to the General Assembly the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

Please consult the webpage devoted to the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/11com, which will give you detailed information on this session.

Knowing that many of you are actively involved in the implementation of the 2003 Convention, I wish you fruitful discussions and achievements at the forthcoming Committee’s session.

Contact: Ms Elena Constantinou (e.constantinou@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications
Co-edited by UNESCO and ARCEAU-IdF, and launched during the Habitat III (United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) in Quito, Ecuador (17-20 October 2016), a new publication entitled “Water, Megacities and Global Change”, draws portrait of 15 emblematic megacities (Beijing, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Ho Chi Minh City, İstanbul, Lagos, London, Los Angeles, Manila, Mexico City, Mumbai, New York, Paris, Seoul and Tokyo), their unique circumstances and how they are addressing shared water governance challenges. This publication is simultaneously the result of concrete scientific presentations and a call for general mobilization to devise the sustainable urban policies the world needs. You can download it in English under this link. French and Spanish versions are also available.

Released at an event at the Habitat III, on 18 October, UNESCO’s Global Report, “Culture: Urban Future” presents evidence on how development policies in line with UNESCO’s conventions on the protection and promotion of culture and heritage, can benefit cities. More than 100 case studies are cited in the Report detailing the impact of culture in cities, including those in conflict and post-conflict situations. The Report also identifies several innovative strategies for the preservation of housing in historic areas, essential to communities’ identity and wellbeing. The role of the creative industries in fostering long-term economic growth in cities is also highlighted. This publication has received financial support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Hangzhou Municipal People’s Government (China). Please consult this link for the English version.

In conjunction with Habitat III, the issue 81 of World Heritage will take a close look at urban heritage, particularly at World Heritage cities, and how its evolution and need for protection affect site management and conservation. There will be an overview of urban heritage and Habitat III; an article on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) and the World Heritage Convention; and case studies of World Heritage cities such as Kyoto (Japan), Cairo (Egypt), Tel Aviv (Israel) and St Louis (Senegal), among others. Please click on this link for the English version.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (September/October 2016)

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

In the Czech Republic, Ms Radka Bordes has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Karel Komarek.

In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ms Beth Taylor has been appointed Chair, succeeding Mr Tim Williams.

In the Philippines, Ms Lila Ramos Shahani, has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Dr. Virginia Miralao.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Falt