Sir/Madam,

Allow me to reiterate my thanks to those of you who took part in the traditional morning meetings of National Commissions organized on 15 and 16 April in the margins of the 196th session of the Executive Board. A brief summary of the meetings is available under [this link](#).

As I briefly mentioned during the meeting, in conformity with 37C/Resolution 97, the 196th session of the Executive Board examined the progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO (196EX/5 Part III). I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Board approved on that occasion the “Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO” as reviewed and updated.

Let me take this opportunity to launch a call for topics for discussion during our second interregional meeting of National Commissions which will take place just before the 38th session of the General Conference, most probably on 2 November at UNESCO Headquarters. Please send your proposals to the following e-mail address: natcom@unesco.org, by 10 September 2015.

May I also reiterate my request for your kind support for the census of the clubs, centres and associations for UNESCO located in your respective countries? Since few replies were received to date, I should be very grateful if you would undertake a proper census of such entities and communicate to us the results as soon as possible. To this effect, a copy of the census questionnaire is attached again for your ease of reference.

I would also like to inform you that the second edition of the Annual Report of the National Commissions for UNESCO providing an overview of the main achievements of 137 National Commissions carried out in 2014 is now available under [this link](#).

**UNESCO’s 70th anniversary – Updates**

28 April 2015 - Special event “UNESCO: 70 years in the service of human dignity”

On the occasion of its 70th anniversary and of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), UNESCO presented an emblematic show combining singing, music, and monumental audiovisual screening as well as performing arts, in the presence of Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
The show retraced the origins of UNESCO and demonstrated how the ideas defended by the Organization, and its operational programmes contribute to construct the defenses of peace in the minds of men and women, through education, culture, sciences, information and communication. You can watch the show in its entirety at this link: http://lb.streamakaci.com/unesco/

**UNESCO Creative Cities Network – Call for 2015 applications**

As you are aware, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 69 cities from 32 countries that currently form this fast growing network, work together towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans at the local level and actively cooperating at the international level. The Network covers seven creative fields: Craft and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.

Candidate cities must submit their applications to UNESCO using the official form available on the website no later than 15 July 2015 (midnight CET). The application must include a formal letter of endorsement of the candidature from the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in which the city is located. More information on the 2015 call for applications, including the revised Designation Procedure and the Application Form, is available on the website: www.unesco.org/culture/creativecities. The role of the National Commissions is important to promote this network.

Contact : Ms Denise Bax (d.bax@unescio.org) or Ms Melika Medici (m.caucino-medici@unesco.org) for further information.

**16-17 June 2015 - Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism**

Organized within the framework of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), this conference will bring together researchers, policy-makers, youth NGOs, experts and practitioners from a range of institutional types and disciplines in this field. It aims at sharing experiences on policy interventions, projects and processes for reducing the use of the Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalism.

The focus of the conference will be on identifying specific areas where UNESCO through its existing youth-focused interventions, Sector Programmes and networks can contribute to reducing the conditions that encourage youth extremism. A network of conference participants will also be established to support post-conference advocacy and knowledge sharing.

I am sure that you will be numerous to mobilize youth in your respective countries. To this end, you will find more information by following this link.

Contact: Mr Paul Hector (p.hector@unesco.org)

**28 June-8 July 2015 - 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, Bonn, Germany**

The World Heritage Committee will meet for its 39th session in Bonn, Germany, from 28 June to 8 July 2015. During the session, the Committee which consists of representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, will consider, among others, requests for the inscription of new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List and examine the state of conservation of sites already inscribed on the List.
Prior to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, a Young Experts Forum will be held from 18 to 29 June 2015 in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage site and in Bonn. Young heritage experts from around the world from 20 to 30 years old will exchange ideas and provide input to the theme of this year’s Forum - “Towards a Sustainable Management of World Heritage Sites”.

I believe that you will be following closely the forthcoming session of the World Heritage Committee. You will find all necessary information on the site of the 39th session: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39com/

Contact: Ms Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel (i.anatole-gabriel@unesco.org)

National Commissions’ Community Board – Sharing Initiatives


The National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO is engaged in the preparation of several thematic panels within the Forum. As part of the “Baku process”, the Forum will bring together some 400 leaders, eminent personalities, policy-makers, experts and scholars to engage in dialogue and exchange on a wide variety of topics related to intercultural dialogue. For more information, you can also visit the official website of the Forum: www.bakuforum-icd.az

➢ The National Commission of Peru will host a Meeting of South American National Commissions for UNESCO which will be held in Lima on 25 and 26 June 2015. This meeting will gather representatives of all the National Commissions of the sub-region. The heads of UNESCO regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean will be invited to participate.

UNESCO Publications

➢ Describing the emerging and unresolved issues related to the oceans and the marine environment, the book Ocean Sustainability in the 21st Century presents the developments made in marine science and policy since the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and implications for the sustainable management of ocean areas and resources. Topics covered include the impacts of human-induced climate change on the oceans, the marine genetic resources debate, the current legal framework for the oceans, and a comparative study of the legal issues associated with outer space. The book is available in English under this link.

➢ The 2015 edition of the World Report of the United Nations on the development of water resources, entitled Water for a Sustainable World, is now available in English only under this link. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the major and emerging trends around the world, with examples of how some of the challenges have been addressed, the implications for policy makers, and other measures that can be taken by stakeholders and the international community.

➢ The Regional Report on Out-of-School Children in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is part of the Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI),
which was launched jointly by UNICEF and the UIS in 2010. The report builds on nine recent national studies on out-of-school children in MENA: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. It is available in English under [this link](#).

**Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (March- April 2015):**

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

In Costa Rica, Ms Rocio Solis Gamboa has been appointed as President (since January).

In Croatia, Mr Radoslav Tomić has been appointed President.

In Sao Tome and Principe, Ms Sonia Almeida de Ceita Carvalho has been appointed Secretary-General.

In Serbia, Mr Goran Milasinovic has been appointed President and Ms Jasmina Stankovic Tatarac has been appointed Secretary-General.

In Tunisia, Mr Naji Jalloul has been appointed President.

In Uruguay, Mr Fernando Filgueira has been appointed Chairperson and Mr Nicolás Pons has been appointed Secretary-General.
Cencus - Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO

Questionnaire

Name ........................................................................................................................................

Address .....................................................................................................................................

Telephone ..................................................................................................................................

Fax ............................................................................................................................................

E-Mail .......................................................................................................................................... 

Website ....................................................................................................................................... 

Contact person and title ..............................................................................................................

Date of Establishment ...................................................................................................................

Total number of members ............................................................................................................

Average age of members .............................................................................................................

Field of interest ...........................................................................................................................

Synthesis of activities for the years 2014-2015 ...........................................................................

(Please attached a separate sheet if necessary)

Form to be submitted by 1st March 2015 to the following address:

Division of Member States and Partners
Sector for External Relations and Public Information
Courriel: natcom@unesco.org