Sir/Madam,

The UNESCO Secretariat is in the midst of preparations for the 197th session of the Executive Board and the 38th session of the General Conference, which will be held at Headquarters respectively from 7 to 22 October and from 3 to 18 November.

7-22 October – 197th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO

As you are aware, several items on the agenda of the Executive Board are particularly important for our cooperation with National Commissions and are dealt with in specific documents. The first of these is Document 197 EX/5 Part IV A, on the organization of regional consultation meetings concerning the C/4 and C/5 documents: Roadmap for the 2016 consultations on the preparation of the draft programme and budget (39 C/5). The Executive Board will also examine the Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Participation Programme and the emergency assistance for 2014-2015 (Document 197 EX/5 Part IV C).

Please click here to consult these documents.

You may also wish to note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) will meet on Thursday 8 October 2015, in Room XI. This meeting of the 23 Member States of the NGP Committee will have the opportunity to take cognizance of the draft report that the Director-General will submit to the 38th session of the General Conference on NGOs’ contribution to UNESCO’s activities, together with an evaluation of the results. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on 8 October during the meeting so that we pursue this dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo (ngo@unesco.org)


First and foremost, I wish to provide you with further information about our forthcoming interregional meeting of National Commissions, to be held on Monday 2 November 2015, on the eve of the opening of the General Conference.

I am pleased to announce that the Korean National Commission for UNESCO will organize a special event the previous evening – 1st November, entitled “Poetry Reading Evening”, to which you are all invited. It will be followed immediately by a welcome dinner hosted by the Korean National Commission, at which the Director-General is expected to address National Commissions.
Moreover, I would like to thank those National Commissions who have sent us their suggestions for topics for our interregional meeting of 2 November, following my call launched in the April newsletter. We will soon share with you these results, so that we can proceed with the online voting of the topics you will consider.

The 38th session will then open on Tuesday 3 November, at 10 a.m., and the General Policy Debate will start in the morning of Wednesday, 4 November. As already mentioned in the previous newsletters, a Youth Forum will be held from 26 to 28 October 2015 preceding the opening of the session.

This session will also feature the Leaders’ Forum from 16 to 18 November. The overall theme for the Leaders’ Forum will be the celebration of UNESCO’s 70th anniversary. Heads of State and Government of Member States will share their views and vision for UNESCO and its place in the multilateral arena today and in the future, as it celebrates 70 years of action – and as the international community transitions to the post-2015 development agenda.

All documents of the General Conference-including the provisional agenda and the organization of the work of the session-as well as all other relevant information will be available online at the following Internet address: http://www.unesco.org/en/general-conference/.

Events organized within the framework of the 70th Anniversary of the Organization

In partnership with Mosaic of Change (MOC), a universal storytelling platform, UNESCO organizes on the occasion of the 38th session of the General Conference, a special exhibition which will be launched on 3 November to run until 11 December 2015. The MOC “Media Wall” installed in the Hall Ségur, will illustrate UNESCO’s achievements over 70 years in the service of humanity. Furthermore, the « Architectural projection », a live media projection with video animations onto the UNESCO external facades, will be organized from 16 to 18 November, with a viewing party and live broadcast to be held on 16 November 2015.

Contact: Ms Armelle Arrou (a.arrou@unesco.org)

A history conference entitled “Making a Difference: Seventy Years of UNESCO’s Actions”, will take place on 28 and 29 October 2015. During five panel sessions over two days, historians from different cultural and geographical backgrounds will present and discuss case studies on the impact of UNESCO’s activities in the main areas of the Organization’s competence, from the inception of UNESCO until today.

Contact: Mr Jens Boel (j.boel@unesco.org)

Another important event is the exhibition “70 years of UNESCO Publications” to be held from 26 October to 20 November at UNESCO Headquarters. This exhibition will feature a thematic and chronologic selection of UNESCO publications, from the very first titles produced between 1946 and 1947, until some of the latest trends towards mobile reading and Open Access. You may wish to visit this special exhibition and rediscover UNESCO’s achievements in publication, during your attendance at the 38th session of the General Conference.

Contact: Mr Ian Denison (i.denison@unesco.org)

On another topic, I am pleased to inform you that, following numerous discussions and many exchanges between the National Commissions and the Secretariat, a guideline document, for your information, on the use of UNESCO’s name and logo by Clubs, Centres and Associations, has been issued both in English and French. Its English version is available under this link.

Despite all of the Secretariat’s efforts, I expect that there will continue to be cases of incorrect use and their rectification may not be achieved immediately. However, I am encouraged by your continued determination to ensure that new entities will be established following UNESCO’s guidelines. I wish to thank, especially, the Spanish and the Estonian National Commissions for their support and suggestions.

Contact: Ms Jinchai Clarke (j.clarke@unesco.org)
As usual, let me also inform you of the following forthcoming events that I am sure will interest you:

5 October 2015 - World Teachers Day

“Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies” is the slogan for the 2015 celebration of this Day, which commemorates the anniversary of the signature of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers on 5 October 1966. Just a few weeks after the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York, this celebration is a unique opportunity to recall the key role that teachers should play in the new education agenda. Teachers are an investment for the future of countries.

Celebration at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris will be marked by a panel discussion on “Moving ahead towards 2030” where teachers will speak from their own experiences and will give an inspiring perspective of their profession, followed by a round table with a focused discussion on the theme “Strong foundation for learning begins with good ECE teachers”.

I encourage National Commissions to organize related activities, in collaboration with key partners. Please feel free to send us information on any activity you intend to coordinate and we shall publish it on our website.

For more information on the 2015 celebrations, I invite you to visit our website under this link.

Contact: Ms Florence Migeon (f.migeon@unesco.org)

22 October 2015 – Meeting of the Pacific National Commissions in Vanuatu

As a follow-up to a meeting held in Auckland in January 2015, the Pacific National Commissions will be meeting this time in Vanuatu on 22 October in the margins of the Pacific Heads of Education meeting. The purpose of this one-day meeting will be to look back at the recommendations adopted and see how they have been reflected in other UNESCO’s work to date and to prepare for the 38th session of the General Conference as a sub-region.

The meeting is being organized by the Cook Islands National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Apia and the Vanuatu National Commission.

Contact: Mr Gail Townsend, Executive Director, Cook Islands Ministry of Education (gail@education.gov.ck)

4-7 November 2015 - World Science Forum

Organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the International Council for Science (ICSU), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), this 7th edition of the World Science Forum will be under the theme “The enabling power of science”, and will examine and highlight the many ways in which science improves quality of life for the benefit and advancement of society.

Organized every 2 years, the forum is one of the world’s major science events. It brings together over 600 scientists and provides linkages between scientists, industry and policy-makers. A number of UNESCO side-events will also be organized on several topics, such as knowledge brokering, science and African development, as well as human genomics and middle income countries.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the WSF 2015 (http://www.sciforum.hu/) to get additional information.

Contact: Mr Maciej Nalecz (m.nalecz@unesco.org)
The bestselling guide to all 1,007 UNESCO World Heritage sites — *The World’s Heritage: The Definitive Guide to All 1007 World Heritage Sites* — is available in English only under [this link](#). It was fully updated to incorporate the 26 sites added to the World Heritage List in June 2014. These included the 1000th site, Okavango Delta in Botswana, and Myanmar’s first property, Pyu Ancient Cities. Other sites included are Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia), Grand Canal (China) and the Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont (Italy).

The *Philosophy Manual: a South-South perspective*, produced with the support of Saudi Arabia, is an innovative and high quality tool for young people in secondary and higher education and in non-formal education. This manual not only allows the discovery of philosophical texts from Africa, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, but also promotes their full understanding through a critical apparatus which enables easily adapted educational use. The Manual is available in English and French. You can find the English version under [this link](#).

*From Words to Action* – a portfolio on intercultural competences based on human rights – proposes a basic tool for capacity building in support of exchange, communication and cooperation beyond cultural, religious and national borders, allowing the emergence of a global citizenship in a safer world for all. This multilingual publication (English, French, Arabic), available under [this link](#), is primarily designed to be an Open Access tool, a flagship project of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), and its content will be enriched and developed in an e-learning format, throughout the Decade.

### Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (July/August 2015):

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

In Afghanistan, Mr Assadullah Hanif Balkhi has been appointed Chairperson and Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar, Acting Secretary-General.

In Algeria, Mr Mourad Mahmoudi has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mrs Nedjraoui Dalila.

In India, Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Satyanarayan Mohanty.

In Lithuania, Ms Asta Juneviciene has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Marija Dremaitė.

In the Netherlands, Ms Marielies Schelhaas has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Mr Robert J. Quarles van Ufford.

In Panama, Ms Licenciada Liza R. Pinzón has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Carlos Alvarado.

In Zimbabwe, Ms M. J. Chirapa has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Temba Petros Ndlovu.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

---

UNESCO Publications