To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

3 July 2018

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2018/17

Sir/Madam,

I was very pleased to meet many of you at the Fifth Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, held from 19 to 21 June last, in Diani, Kenya. At the outset, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to the Kenya Government and its National Commission for their kind hospitality and excellent organization of this important meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your active participation in the meeting. I was pleased to note that over 120 participants, representing 95 National Commissions/Permanent Delegations, attended this meeting.

I believe that the stimulating debate on the agenda items, in the presence of representatives of UNESCO multisectorial and regional Offices, led to a fruitful reflection on the contribution of National Commissions, notably in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as on the ways of enhancing coordination and networking among them and with UNESCO.

You may find the final programme of this meeting as well as the list of participants via this link. The meeting report and the presentations will be shared with you in due course.

UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – June 2018

I am pleased to share with you UNESCO’s Education Monthly Digest of June, under this link, where you can find the abstract of the latest policy paper “Aid to education: a return to growth?” released by the Global Education Monitoring Report, and some other interesting events. The Digest is also available in French and Spanish.

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org

9 July - 10 July 2018 – Technical consultation meeting on the future of Education for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand

This consultation, organized in Thailand and generously funded by the Government of Japan, will gather all nominated participants of UNESCO Member States from Ministries of Education and other Ministries responsible for the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It aims at consulting with the Member States on the future of ESD, beyond the global action programme (GAP).
The GAP on ESD is coming to the end of its first five year phase in 2019. The goal of this session is therefore to prepare a post-GAP vision on Education for Sustainable Development.

During this session, the participants will discuss and review a UNESCO draft position paper in order to contribute to the UNESCO Governing Bodies’ and the United Nations’ eventual decision on the future of ESD. This meeting is thus a key opportunity for Member States to provide their inputs and to get involved on this major topic.

The programme of the meeting is available under this link.

Contact: Section of Education for Sustainable Development (future.esd@unesco.org)


For the first time, the 2019 L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards will designate five outstanding researchers in the Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, each working in one of the following regions: Africa and the Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & North America.

Scientists and scientific institutions around the world are invited to present and nominate the most qualified candidates for the 2019 Awards, until 13 July 2018.

The candidate must
- be recognized for her personal scientific excellence among the international scientific community;
- be actively involved in scientific research;
- be involved in any field of the Physical Sciences, Mathematics or Computer Science;
- not be directly or personally involved in the For Women in Science programme, as a jury member or otherwise, in any country.

Please follow the registration procedure on the For Women in Science platform accessible via http://www.forwomeninscience.com to submit the nomination. Only completed nominations received through the platform by the deadline will be considered.

You may find more information about this programme via this link.

23 - 28 July 2018 – 30th Session of the Man and the Biosphere Programme International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC), Palembang, Indonesia

Organized by the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Secretariat, the MAB National Committee of Indonesia and UNESCO Jakarta, this session will take place in Indonesian’s South Sumatra Province.

The MAB-ICC aims at guiding the Man and the Biosphere Programme, supervising the progress made in its implementation as well as assessing the priorities among the MAB activities. It also recommends research projects to countries and proposals on regional or international cooperation.

This session of the MAB-ICC will gather the Member States that are part of it as well as the experts and advisors each Member State deemed necessary to bring with. Members States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not part of the Council may attend the meetings as observers.
During this session, the council will decide upon the inclusion of new biosphere reserves into the World Biosphere Reserve Network. It will also take note of recommendations on periodic review reports of biosphere reserves.

Contact: Ms Marie Prchalova (m.prchalova@unesco.org)

12 August 2018 – International Youth Day

12 August has been International Youth Day since UN General Assembly’s resolution of 1999. This day contributes to the growing recognition of youth as a key agent of change, fostering young people’s inclusion and action in order to promote sustaining peace.

This day is the opportunity to focus on the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), adopted in 1995, which undertakes a range of activities to promote youth development and increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people, in order to allow for their full participation and integration in society.

The theme for International Youth Day this year is “Safe Spaces for Youth”. The goal is to ensure dignity and safety for young people, by enabling them to participate in leisure activities in their communities or to engage with governance issues. Inclusive safe spaces make it possible to accommodate the needs of diverse youth from different backgrounds, in particular those exposed to violence or marginalization.

Celebrations of this day will take place all over the world, as well as thematic discussions and information campaigns, in order to engage both Member States and the general public on this crucial subject. You can find an interactive map of all the events taking place around the world under this link.

National Commissions are encouraged to disseminate this information among relevant stakeholders and organize an event to celebrate this Day.

Contact: Ms Kristina Balalovska (k.balalovska@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The UNESCO-Routledge co-publication *Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century* presents the findings of the landmark study conducted through UNESCO’s 38 Futures Literacy Laboratories around the world. It explores how and why people, by imagining and anticipating what might happen and what they might do, are "using" the future to shape the present and improve their world. UNESCO calls ‘Future Literacy’ this capacity studied here of knowing how to use the future. The aim of this initial phase of research was to test key concepts and methods related to this idea, necessary to implement Futures Literacy and advance anticipation worldwide. This publication is available in English only under this link.

- Published by the UNESCO’s Institute for Statistics, the *Handbook on Measuring Equity in Education* intends to provide practical guidance and interpretation of indicators to monitor equity in education, in order to help educational systems not to leave anyone behind. Drawing on measurements from 75 education systems, it focuses on the themes of impartiality and equality of condition. It provides solid and positive examples, while giving guidance on how to allocate government spending to promote equity, eventually insisting on greater international cooperation. This publication is available in English under this link.
The second working paper on *Measuring Gender Equality in Science and Engineering: The SAGA Toolkit* aims at assisting policy-makers to strengthen national gender policy agendas in Science, Technology and Innovation (SIT), as well as evaluate gender-related SIT policies. It is one of a series of working papers by the STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) project, aiming to strengthen gender equality and reduce the gender gap within the scientific research and workforce, which, worldwide, is only 28% female. This toolkit is intended to help in the drafting of policies to change this situation. It is available in English under this link.

**Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (May / June 2018)**

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

In Armenia, Mr Zohrab Mnatsakanian has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Edward Nalbandian.

In Chile, Mr Enrique Laval Zaldívar has been appointed Executive Secretary, succeeding Ms Elizabeth Rubio Farias.

In Dominican Republic, Mr Eduardo Selman has been appointed President, succeeding Mr D. Pedro Vergés.

In Ecuador, Mr José Valencia has been appointed President, succeeding Ms María Fernanda Espinosa.

In Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mr Hojatollah Ayoubi has been appointed Acting Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Sadollah Nasiri Gheydari.

In Jordan, Mr Azmi Mahafzah has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Omar Al Razzaz.

In Lebanon, Ms Tala Zein has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Zahida Darwiche Jabbour.

In Peru, Ms Odette Germaine Herbozo Nory has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Raúl Begazo Pastor.

In Sint Marteen, Mr Wycliffe Smith has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Ms Silveria Jacobs.

In Uzbekistan, Mr Aziz Abdukhakimov has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Bakhodir Khodiyev.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Nicola Kassianides