Sir/Madam,

As announced in our invitation letter dated 31 May, an open-ended consultation meeting with National Commissions will take place on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 June at the UNESCO Headquarters to discuss the new *Cooperation Framework regarding Clubs for UNESCO*, which we would like to submit to the general Conference at its forthcoming session this autumn.

The objective of this meeting is to consult you on a preliminary draft of the *Cooperation Framework*.

We would be most grateful if you could confirm your participation via the Network of National Commissions (natcom@unesco.org) as soon as possible, if not done already. Please be also informed that for those of you who cannot attend the meeting, we would share the results of the discussion after the meeting for any comments you may wish to make.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting.

**UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – June 2017**

A lot of events and projects are taking place in the Education Sector, such as the UNESCO literacy project, the new global campaign to address cyberbullying, and the “Better Education for Africa’s Rise” project. I am pleased to share with you this month’s Monthly Digest, under [this link](#). The Digest is also available in French and Spanish.

You are also invited to listen to the June Edition of the UNESCO Education Sector Podcast to find out more about this year’s International Literacy day, two NGO forums, UNESCO’s Symposium & Policy Forum on Girls’ Education in STEM, as well as an interview with UNESCO’s Steve Vosloo on the UNESCO-Pearson Initiative for Literacy. The Podcast is now available in English, French and Spanish.

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org
30 July 2017 - Deadline for nominations: Carlos J. Finlay UNESCO Prize for Microbiology

Funded by the Government of Cuba, the Prize aims to reward the efforts of an individual, or of an institution, non-governmental organization or other entity which, through research and development, has made an outstanding contribution to the field of microbiology (including immunology, molecular biology, genetics, etc.) and its applications.

The candidates shall be nominated by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO, science institutions and associations, and by non-governmental organizations in official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize. Nominations or applications from individuals will not be accepted.

Let me remind you that the nomination files should be filled in English or French only. They shall be submitted to the UNESCO Director-General no later than 30 July 2017.

For more information and the application form of this Prize, please visit this website.

Contact: carlosjfinlayprize@unesco.org

25 - 27 September 2017 – Second International Conference on Youth Volunteering and Dialogue, Paris, France

Themed “Preventing violent extremism and strengthening social inclusion”, the Conference will take place at UNESCO Headquarters from 25 to 27 September 2017. It will gather over 100 international participants from all regions.

Through four workshops, interactive discussions and side events, the young participants will present their experiences and best practices from their volunteering work related to the main domains of UNESCO’s competence, as well as submitting project proposals for international collaboration to foster the vital values of solidarity, empathy, critical thinking, social engagement and meaningful civic participation.

This second Conference builds on the first event held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in December 2013. This initiative is set within the framework of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue and the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2016-2017) which UNESCO spearheads for the United Nations. The Decade helps address major pressing global challenges through intercultural and interreligious dialogue for deepened understanding and cooperation for peace.

I invite you to find out more about this Conference via this webpage: http://en.unesco.org/conference-youth-volunteering

Contact: youth.conference@unesco.org

UNESCO Publications

- Compiled by UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the first status report on ocean sciences around the world, the Global Ocean Science Report: The Current Status of Ocean Science around the World was launched on 8 June, World Ocean Day at the
United Nations in New York. This Report offers a global record of who, how, and where ocean science is conducted: generating knowledge, helping to protect ocean health, and empowering society to support sustainable ocean management in the framework of the United Nations Agenda 2030. The Executive Summary of this Report is now available in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Chinese, and Arabic). The Russian version is coming soon.

- After three years of preparation, a benchmark study titled *Protecting Journalism Sources in the Digital Age* has been released by UNESCO recently. As the 9th in UNESCO’s Internet Freedom Series, the present research provides a comprehensive review of developments that can impact on the legal frameworks that support protection of journalistic sources. Interviews, panel discussions, thematic studies and a review panel ensured the input of legal and media experts, journalists and scholars. This in-depth study thus seeks to assess the evolution of protective legal frameworks over the eight years from 2007-2015, and provides recommendations for the future of journalistic source protection. This publication is available via this link.

- The newly launched publication *A guide for ensuring inclusion and equity in education* is intended to support countries in embedding inclusion and equity in educational policy. The ultimate objective is to create system-wide change for overcoming barriers to quality educational access, participation, learning processes and outcomes, and to ensure that all learners are valued and engaged equally. The guide is intended for use by key government education policy-makers, working with key stakeholders such as teachers and other educators, students, families, and community representatives. The guide could also assist development partners in facilitating a policy review process.

**Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (May/June 2017)**

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

In Cambodia, Ms Phoeurng Sackona has been appointed President, succeeding the late Mr Sok An.

In Gambia, Mr Ousmane Senghor has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding the late Mr Momodou Sanneh.

In Kiribati, Mr David Collins has been appointed Chair, succeeding Mr Alexander Teabo.

In Thailand, Ms Watanaporn Ra-Ngubtook has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Chaiyosh Imsuwan.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Falt