The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

13 December 2017

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2017/44

Sir/Madam,

As we are approaching the New Year, let me first extend to you my warmest wishes of health, happiness and success in 2018.

The coming year will be marked by important events, notably the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions, which will take place in Diani, Kenya on 26-28 June 2018. We call upon all National Commissions to reflect on new joint initiatives and approaches that could be discussed and adopted during this Meeting. In this connection, please be informed that the report of the 4th Interregional meeting of National Commissions held at HQ on 27 October has been posted at www.UNESCO.Int under this link.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank National Commissions for the effective implementation of the Regulatory Framework Regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO. It is useful to highlight in this regard that this document, adopted by the 39th session of the General conference, substitutes all the previous provisions related to the “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO”.

Participation Programme for 2018-2019

On 11 December 2017 the Director-General has signed the Circular Letter on the Participation Programme for 2018-2019.

In conformity with the resolution on the Participation Programme, the deadlines set for the submission of requests are:

- **28 February 2018** for African countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and
- **31 August 2018** for all other eligible countries and non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO.

The online form for the submission of requests is available here: www.unesco.org/pp.

As stipulated by the abovementioned resolution, no further financial contributions will be forthcoming in 2018-2019 until the Secretariat has received, by 30 March 2018 at the latest, all the financial and evaluation reports on requests and emergency assistance paid before 31 December 2017. Any entity that has not provided the financial report before 30 March 2018 will also not be eligible for any other contract with UNESCO. Projects approved in the form of financial
contributions for the 2018-2019 biennium must be implemented by 31 December 2019 at the latest.

Celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO will be associated in 2018-2019: follow-up

The 39th session of the General Conference approved the List of anniversaries to be celebrated in 2018-2019 in association with UNESCO. Member States who have anniversaries approved are kindly reminded that they are responsible for the implementation of the activities relating to the celebration of anniversaries and must submit to the Director-General, on completion of the project, a detailed activity report on the results achieved and their usefulness to the Member State(s) and UNESCO.

The online form for the submission of reports is available under the link: https://teams.unesco.org/ORG/eri/anniversaries.

You can find more details on UNESCO.int under this link.

Should your country intend to organize a related event (exhibition, concert or conference) at UNESCO Headquarters during this biennium, please make the necessary reservation of space or rooms directly with the Conference and Cultural Events Management Section (MSS/C, CLD/C e-mail: k.koch@unesco.org) well in advance and preferably one year before the date of the envisaged event, in order to ensure proper planning. You may also wish to contact the Public Relations and Partnerships Unit of ERI Sector (ERI/DPI/PRP, e-mail: f.kouadio@unesco.org), for public information purposes. For information/requests concerning the use of UNESCO’s name, acronym and logo, please contact the Publications, Branding and Merchandising Unit (ERI/DPI/PBM, e-mail: logo@unesco.org).

For general information concerning anniversaries, please contact: Ms Monica Crutescu (mo.crutescu@unesco.org).

UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – December 2017

As usual, I am pleased to share with you this month’s Education Monthly Digest where you can find interesting information such as the recommendations presented by Education Commission at the 39th General Conference and climate change education under this link. The Digest is also available in French and Spanish.

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org

12 January 2018 – Call for Applications for the 2017 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education

The call for applications for the 2017 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education has been extended to 12 January 2018.

Funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Prize was established in 2005 to recognize innovations in teaching and learning that leverage technology to improve outcomes. Themed “the Use of ICTs to increase access to quality education”, the 2017 edition of the Prize will reward the organizations and individuals that are carrying out innovative practices to leverage ICTs so that they can significantly increase access to quality education and lifelong learning
opportunities. The winning project should also promote the values that underpin Education 2030 and the broader Sustainable Development Agenda.

Member States through Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership are invited to nominate up to three candidates each, with the online application form available here: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize. The nomination letter should include (in English or French) the following elements: a description of the nominee’s background and achievements; a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration; and a succinct evaluation of the nominee’s contribution to the Prize’s objectives.

I would like to invite National Commissions to disseminate this information among relevant partners and NGOs, and consult the dedicated webpage under this link for more information.

Contact: Ms Milica Mitrovic (ictprize@unesco.org)

13 February 2018 – Celebration of World Radio Day

In 2018, the theme of the Day will be “Radio and Sports”, which is about their alliance for civic participation and development, as well as celebrating humanity and pluralism. It is in this spirit that we encourage National Commissions to partner with radio stations, journalist associations, regulators and media organizations in order to strengthen diversity, gender equality, peace and development in sports broadcasting.

You are kindly invited to celebrate the World Radio Day by organizing a special broadcast or event to mark the occasion, engaging your local and regional influencer networks, and sharing thematic-inspired content on www.worldradioday.org from early January 2018 onwards.

I should also be grateful if you would disseminate this information to relevant stakeholders and partners, and register your events on our worldwide map.

Contacts: Ms Belinda Gurd (b.gurd@unesco.org) and Ms Aditi Tyagi (a.tyagi@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The October-December 2017 issue of the UNESCO Courier, *Culture: the bedrock of peace* looks at the emergence of a new awareness of the role that culture plays in security and peace. For the first time in history, a United Nations Security Council resolution, Resolution 2347, adopted unanimously on 24 March 2017, deals with the various threats to cultural heritage. The International Criminal Court also convicted for the first time, on 27 September 2016, someone for a war crime involving the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage. The issue goes through these events, including various interviews, stories, news articles and editorials. It can be obtained in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

- As results of a study by UNESCO titled *Youth and Violent Extremism on Social Media: Mapping the Research*, this work provides a global mapping of research (mainly during 2012-16) about the assumed roles played by social media in violent radicalization processes, especially when they affect youth and women. The research responds to the belief that the Internet at large is an
active vector for violent radicalization that facilitates the proliferation of violent extremist ideologies. This publication is available via this link.

- Teacher Support and Motivation Framework for Africa: Emerging Patterns, a critical literature review and analytical framework, is part of the initial phase of the development of UNESCO-IICBA’s Teacher Support and Motivation Framework (TSMF) for Africa. Teachers are at the core of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, teachers are central to meeting Goal 4. This publication will serve as a resource for African countries and contribute to accelerating the development of sound teacher motivation policies across the continent.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (November / December 2017)

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

In Ghana, Ms Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Riche-Mike Wellington (since March 2017).

In Nepal, Mr Gopal Man Shrestha has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Dhaniram Paudel, and Mr Madhu Prasad Regmi has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Shanta Bahadur Shrestha.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Eric Ebit