To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

21 March 2019

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Dear Secretary-General,

I am pleased to send you herewith a draft agenda of the traditional morning meeting of National Commissions to be held on the margins of the 206th session of the Executive Board on 10, 11 and 12 April 2019, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, in Room IV at UNESCO Headquarters.

We would like to propose the focus of the discussions to be on the Pillar 3 of the Strategic Transformation. The meetings on first two days will be devoted to presentations by DDG and ADGs on UNESCO global priorities, and how to foster consultations with National Commissions.

The Strategic Transformation process of UNESCO, which started in April 2018 and will last until the 40th General Conference, marked key progress under Pillars 1 and 2 in the development of innovative initiatives aimed at steering the Organization towards change of management culture and strengthening UNESCO’s means of action. We are now advancing towards Pillar 3, which will support the thinking on how to make UNESCO programmes more focused and inter-disciplinary, and it mainly consists of global consultations on strategic thinking.

We kindly ask delegates to reflect on the following points in the discussions:

- Whether UNESCO’s current programmatic work is meeting the demands of its key stakeholders and how we could improve our efforts in this regard.
- What are areas where UNESCO has or could develop relevant expertise and where it can bring value added?
- How UNESCO can best position itself to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda as well as other emerging issues.

The third day of the meeting will be an opportunity for National Commissions to present good practice examples and initiatives that could be useful and adaptable for the Network of National Commissions. Your proposals in this regard will be welcomed.

You are kindly invited to let us know your comments and suggestions, if any, on the draft agenda by 29 March 2019.

We should also be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at our upcoming meeting, by sending a mail to natcom@unesco.org, if not already done.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on that occasion, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Firmin Edouard Matoko