

e-journal

Today, 23 November 2021

No.12

Highlights

- An event marking the **Official Opening of the Africa Week** will take place from 1:15 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room II. UNESCO Africa week is the annual flagship event of the Africa Group at UNESCO, a body that brings together Member States of the African continent. Africa week includes a kaleidoscope of cultural, scientific, artistic and epicurean events in honor of Africa Day (25 May), when the Organization of African Unity (OAU), known today as the African Union (AU), was founded in 1963. Following the first phase of the 2021 edition of the Africa Week, which took place in May, the second phase of celebrations taking place 23-26 November 2021, will include a presentation of the book *“Africa at UNESCO Art Collection”* on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of UNESCO. This publication is the result of a fruitful collaboration between the Priority Africa and Administration sectors, which are responsible for the conservation and management of the collection. Precisely for the immense and rich cultural heritage of Africa, which is often undervalued, UNESCO has decided to promote and celebrate 2021 as a year dedicated to the African Union to Arts, Culture and Heritage, reaffirming its commitment to Africa.

Tomorrow, Wednesday 24 November 2021

- The 23rd session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention will be notably called upon to replace the outgoing members of the World Heritage Committee and will also determine the amount of the contributions of States Parties to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention.

Yesterday, Monday 22 November 2021

On 9 November 2021 **Ms Audrey Azoulay, was appointed as Director-General of UNESCO** by the General Conference for a second mandate. The installation ceremony took place during a special plenary session on Monday 22 November 2021 and was followed by a celebratory ceremony featuring testimonies from participants and musical performances.

- The 2021 edition of the **UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes** was awarded to the Public Institute of Kozjansko Park in Podsreda, Slovenia, in the presence of the Director-General UNESCO, H.E. Ms Lina Mendoni, Greek Minister of Culture and Sport, H.E. Ms Marianna Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador of Greece and H.E. Ms Maria Diamantopoulou, Ambassador of Greece. This Prize, which is awarded every two years, was created in 1995 and is named after Melina Mercouri, a famous actress and former Greek Minister of Culture. It rewards outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's cultural landscapes that embody an enduring, intimate relationship between people and their environment. The laureate of the Prize, who may be an individual, an institution or a non-governmental organization, receives an award of USD 30,000. The Director-General selected the 2021 laureate on the recommendation of an international jury established for the Prize.

Friday 19 November 2021

- On 19 November 2021, 158 young people from all regions of the world came together online for the **12th UNESCO Youth Forum**. The Forum, entitled "**Co-creating with Youth the Post-COVID Period**", provided the opportunity for exchange and the formulation of recommendations and youth-led solutions that fed into a Plan of Action by and for Youth for the Post-COVID period. Such conclusions will be presented by two Forum participants at the 41st General Conference of UNESCO on **23 November 2021**.
- The second **UNESCO Conventions Ceremony** took place on Friday, intending to promote UNESCO's standard-setting activity and highlight Member States' commitments to cooperate in education, culture, science, and information. During this Ceremony, representatives of Botswana, Cuba, Tunisia and Zambia presented to the Director-General instruments of ratification to UNESCO conventions in the fields of education and culture, while Cuba also signed one of UNESCO's conventions. The Ceremony took place in the presence of the President of the General Conference, the President of the Executive Board, and numerous representatives of Member States and the Secretariat.
- During the in person and livestreamed **UNESCO-Japan ESD Prize Award Ceremony** the 2021 laureates from World Vision Ghana (Ghana), the Media Development Center of the Birzeit University (Palestine) and Kusi Kawsay School (Peru), a member of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) were awarded with the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for

Sustainable Development and each received USD 50,000 to expand their actions and further scale them up. Following the conferral of the award, H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Burkina Faso, Chair of the International Jury of the UNESCO-Japan Prize and Chair of the H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation, moderated a panel discussion with the 2021 laureates. The Prize and award winners recognize the role of education in connecting the social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The core selection criteria were the projects' potential for transformation, their innovative quality and ability to embrace all three dimensions of sustainability: the economy, society and the environment. For more information please visit the ESD Prize website [here](#). Videos of the award ceremony: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#) and [Japanese](#).

- In commemoration of UNESCO's 75th anniversary, a presentation of the publication titled **75th Anniversary, UNESCO Art Collection, Selected Works** was organized to celebrate the Organization's remarkable and diverse collection of artworks, including Picasso, Miró, Arp, Appel, Afro, Matta, Calder, Chillida, Giacometti, Moore, Tamayo, Soto, Vasarely, Cruz-Diez and many others. During this event, the DG was joined by more than 100 experts, gallerists, curators, artists and directors of art foundations from all over the world who have contributed to this work to share the history of their art and the reasons for their donation. The art currently on display in UNESCO's buildings bears witness to the richness of artistic diversity in the world over the past 6000 years. This publication features 75 selected artworks from UNESCO's collection, which correspond to 75 critical concepts from UNESCO's work, reflecting the cultural, geographical and temporal diversity of the heritage and symbolizing the power of the arts as a driver of the Organization's mandate.
- The presentation **Join UNESCO** attracted a number of audiences from diverse backgrounds including representatives of Member States, NATCOMS and NGOs. Officers of the Human Resources Management offered comprehensive information on different UNESCO functions, profiles of candidates that UNESCO is looking for, the recruitment process and tips on how to prepare for a competencies-based interview. It also introduced the different types of talent programmes that are implemented in partnership with Member States, academic, civil society and private sector entities (Loans and Secondments, Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, sponsored trainees, etc.)

Schedule of meetings

Today, Tuesday 23 November 2021

Time	Organ	Room
10:00 a.m.		
	Plenary	
	APX Report ED Report SHS Report Item 5.26 Conclusions of the Youth Forum	I
3:00 p.m.		
	Plenary	I
	SC Report CI Report CLT Report	

Tomorrow, Wednesday 24 November 2021

Time	Organ	Room
10:00 a.m.		
	Plenary	I
	Joint Meeting of Commissions	II
3:00 p.m.		
	Plenary	I