Sir/Madam,

As you know, at its 216th session, the Executive Board adopted 216 EX/Decision 20.II on the organization of the work of the 42nd session of the General Conference, which will take place from 7 to 22 November 2023. In accordance with the above decision, the Executive Board proposes that the General Policy Debate be held from Wednesday morning, 8 November, to Monday afternoon, 13 November 2023. It will be followed, at the end of the afternoon of Monday, 13 November, by the Director-General's reply.

In accordance with 165 EX/Decision 7.1 of the Executive Board, the list of speakers has, for several years, been drawn up following a procedure similar to the one used by the United Nations General Assembly. This system endeavours both to strike a better balance in the scheduling of speakers throughout the debate, and to take speakers' protocol rank into account when processing preferences for inclusion on the list of speakers.

Since the last session of the General Conference, UNESCO has put in place INDICO, a tool which is used by various other United Nations entities, in order to improve the management of participants in different events. The Secretariat has taken steps to align its practices with those of the United Nations and its agencies, to ensure greater efficiency.

The registration for the General Policy Debate at the 42nd session of the General Conference will be done with INDICO. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would kindly proceed to the registration at the following link: https://indico.un.org/event/1004083/

As it is customary, the name and title of the representative who will make the statement on behalf of your country during this debate, as well as two optional dates will have to be indicated in this registration.

7 August 2023

Ref.: GBS/DIR/2023/035

Subject: 42nd session of the General Conference: Participation in the General Policy Debate
Please kindly note that the deadline for registration is set for Friday 13 October 2023.

As and when necessary, this list may be updated thereafter, to accommodate late requests by Member States wishing to change their initial dates or the person designated to participate in the debate. It goes without saying that the Secretariat will endeavour to satisfy these requests within the remaining options after the provisional list has been drawn up. Should a speaker on the provisional list be replaced subsequently by a lower-ranking speaker, the latter might be assigned a date or time slot other than the one initially scheduled.

I also wish to draw your attention to the allocated speaking time for statements. During its 216th session, the Executive Board recommended that the time should be fixed, as at the 41st session, at a maximum of six minutes. The Board also recommended that the General Conference install, as it did in previous sessions, a visual and sound system to assess speaking time, and that it empower its President to call to order any speaker exceeding this time limit.

Should you need assistance, please contact the Secretariat e-mail: GPD42@unesco.org.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sachin Bhatt