



**The Assistant Director-General  
for External Relations and Public Information**

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**To Non-Governmental Organizations,  
Official partners of UNESCO**

Ref. : ERI/NCS/NGO/2014/5

24 January 2014

Dear Partners,

At the beginning of this New Year, let me express all my best wishes for success in all of your endeavors.

This year promises to be particularly rich and intense for our partnership, with many events planned throughout the year. First, within the framework of the activities undertaken by the NGO-UNESCO liaison Committee, on 6 March 2014, some forty NGOs will organize, in partnership with UNESCO, a day on the theme "Education, Sport and Cultural Diversity: new attitudes to promote Human rights worldwide". So, please, save the date!

Then, three NGO forums are being organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in consultation and close collaboration with the Secretariat: the first will be held in Asia on the theme "The role of women in the fight against poverty"; the second is foreseen to take place in Africa on the theme of water and, finally, the third will be held in Sozopol, Bulgaria on the theme "The role of youth in the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage".

Many NGOs are also mobilized around several International Days – as the ones on peace, migrants or literacy for example. But I am sure Patrick Gallaud, Chairperson of the Liaison Committee, will give you all the details of these events where many of you are already actively involved in and where many NGOs will be eager to participate.

Finally, the International NGO Conference, which will mark an important moment in our cooperation, will close this year 2014. Let us realize these dynamic and innovative projects together!

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### **2014 - International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

The United Nations General Assembly designated this year as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It aims to build a momentum towards the 2014 SIDS International Conference (Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014), to mobilize international interest and support for sustainable development in SIDS and to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of SIDS and their contributions to the global community. A series of events celebrating the International Year will be held in Papua New Guinea on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Melanesia Festival of Arts and Culture for which UNESCO is, of course, involved.

I invite you to visit the official website of this Year at: <http://www.sids2014.org/>.

### **2014 - International Year of Crystallography (AICr2014)**

2014 is also the International Year of Crystallography (AICr2014). Launched on 20 and 21 January at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, one of the main objectives of AICr2014 is to increase public awareness of the science of crystallography and how it underpins most technological developments in modern society.

For more information on the International Year, I invite you to browse the official website of the Year: <http://www.iycr2014.org/home>. I am sure scientific NGOs will be particularly interested in events organized throughout the year in this regard.

### **2014 - 20th anniversary of the Slave Route Project of UNESCO**

We will also mark the 20th anniversary of the "Slave Route Project" in 2014. This project has had a significant impact and contributed to the recognition of the slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity. On the occasion of this anniversary, several events (debates, exhibitions, film screenings, artistic events, inauguration of memorial sites, publishing of new research and teaching materials, etc.) will be organized in different regions of the world.

It is to this end that I invite civil society to intensify their efforts to convey this history and actively participate in this celebration taking place throughout 2014. UNESCO will establish a list of all activities and initiatives undertaken in the framework of this celebration. Please provide information to Ms Virginia Accatcha ([v.accatcha @ unesco.org](mailto:v.accatcha@unesco.org)).

Please visit the page dedicated to the Project at this address: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/dialogue/the-slave-route/>.  
Contact: Mr Ali Moussa Iye ([a.moussa-iy@unesco.org](mailto:a.moussa-iy@unesco.org))

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**17-21 February - Mobile Learning Week 2014 (MLW 2014), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France)**

This year's annual conference, whose aim is to study how affordable and widespread mobile technologies can advance Education for All, will be held on the theme of teachers. It aims to assist all stakeholders to explore how mobile technologies can help teachers work more effectively in different contexts. In light of the urgency of the global teacher crisis, UNESCO wants to better understand how mobile technology can help prepare new teachers and provide professional development to working teachers.

Teachers are the pillars of education systems and their involvement is crucial to the viability of ICT in education efforts. Without the support of teachers in their myriad iterations - including those who work with children, youth or adults - technology generally remains peripheral to teaching and learning.

I invite you to visit the dedicated website of the Week [under this link](#), and I very much hope many of you will participate.

Contact: Mr Mark West ([mlw@unesco.org](mailto:mlw@unesco.org))

**21 February – International Mother Language Day**

Since 2000, the celebration of International Mother Language Day is designed to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingual education, to highlight greater awareness of the importance of mother tongue education.

This year, the theme of the day will be “Local languages for global citizenship: Spotlight on science”. Experts will discuss the role of local languages in the promotion of traditional and indigenous knowledge, and their contribution to solving major issues of global citizenship.

I am sure that many of our NGO partners are engaged in the promotion of languages and can tell us about the activities they organize or that they will be associated to celebrate this day.

You will find soon more information on this day at the following address:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/strengthening-education-systems/languages-in-education/multilingual-education/>

Contact: Ms Noro Andriamisezana ([n.andriamisezana@unesco.org](mailto:n.andriamisezana@unesco.org))

**UNESCO Open Access**

As part of its policy of free access to its publications adopted in April 2013, UNESCO launched Open Access, last December, with 300 books, reports and articles available online for free. It allows free access and use anywhere in the world to a large number of resources and is available in 12 languages.

For UNESCO, adopting an Open Access Policy means making thousands of its publications freely available to the public. Furthermore, Open Access is also a way to provide the public with an insight into the work of the Organization so that everyone is able to discover and share what UNESCO is doing.

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### **UNESCO Participation Programme for 2014-2015**

As you know the UNESCO Participation Programme provides support to activities that are related to UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence. This Programme is intended for Member States, but also in a limited way to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, who may submit up to two requests under this Programme for projects with sub regional, regional or interregional impact, provided that their request is definitely supported by at least the Member State where the project is to be implemented and another Member State concerned by the request.

For 2014-2015, projects presented should relate to the two global priorities of the Organization - Africa and Gender Equality - as well as, to UNESCO's Major Programmes and interdisciplinary projects in favour of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), developing countries, Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster countries (PCPD), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Countries In Transition (CITs). Projects selection will be done taking into account the defined priorities by the governing bodies for the regular programme of UNESCO (please refer to the Director-General's [circular letter](#) of 20 December 2013). It should be underlined that, taking into account the reduction of the budget earmarked to the Participation Programme for 2014-2015 and in order to be in a position to respond favorably to a higher number of requests, the amounts which will be approved during this biennium will not exceed \$18 000.

For the current biennium, requests should be submitted to the Secretariat, as in the past years, through a formal letter addressed to the Director-General including the submission form which is annexed to the Director-General's circular letter. The deadline set for the submission of requests by [NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO](#) is 31 August 2014 and first approvals will not be granted before October 2014.

Contact: Mr Stoyan Bantchev ([ppe@unesco.org](mailto:ppe@unesco.org))

### **UNESCO Publications**

- The publication [A Journey through Digital Society – 25 innovations that are changing our lives](#) is published by UNESCO and Netexplo in English and French. The astonishing projects spotted by the Netexplo Observatory bring inspiring responses and shows that, despite the obstacles, people all over the world are rallying to find solutions for education, health or communication.

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- The report *Young People Today, Time to Act Now - Why adolescents and young people need comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services in Eastern and Southern Africa* is published in partnership with UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. It is the summary of an in-depth Regional Report into the education and sexual reproductive health status of adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa. Click on the title to access the summary report and [on this link](#) to consult the full report.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of two new organizations partners of UNESCO, namely

- the **International Academy of People's Diplomacy**, an NGO based in Russian Federation, admitted in official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status);
- the **Fondation Alberto et Annette Giacometti**, based in France, admitted to official relations with UNESCO as a foundation. By clicking on its name, you will be redirected to its website for more information.

I welcome them and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt