



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

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
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pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
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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**

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6 November 2014

Dear Partners,

The 195<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board ended a few days ago and was rich in discussions of direct interest to NGOs and our partnership.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) of the Executive Board, which met on 17 October, considered statutory issues relating to the admission of NGOs to official partnership, examined the results of the mapping exercise of the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO launched in 2013, and considered the NGOs' collective work coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

There was an overall appreciation of the progress made to strengthen cooperation with NGOs within the framework of the Directives and the Executive Board particularly welcomed the commitment of the Secretariat, together with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and all NGOs that have been engaged in this new dynamics. It highly appreciated the work accomplished, in particular the organization of International Forums of NGOs outside Paris, and the high-level celebrations of international days, which gathered hundreds of participants in Paris. Debates underlined the relevance of the themes addressed on these occasions, the diversity of participation and the active involvement of young people.

While reiterating the importance of NGOs as development partners, the Executive Board members insisted on the need to ensure a more balanced representation of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, both in terms of geographical diversity and in terms of the current status of their cooperation with UNESCO. The Secretariat together with National Commissions will work to this end in the coming months within the framework of the follow up to the mapping exercise of cooperation with NGOs

Finally, as you are aware, 31 October marked the official launch of the celebrations of UNESCO's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that a special web page devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is now accessible through [this link](#): you will find information on UNESCO's history and main achievements, the special logo designed for this occasion and information on how to contribute to our celebration.

**15-17 December 2014 - 2014 International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

As you are aware, the International Conference of NGOs brings together all of UNESCO's NGO partners every two years, and is an element of the collective cooperation expressly enshrined in the *Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations*. It is a key forum in which UNESCO's official NGO partners meet and hold discussions, its primary purpose being to "review the state of cooperation with UNESCO [...] and facilitate cooperation between organizations having common interests".

The 2014 International Conference will focus on the theme "***Re-enchanting the World with the Post-2015 Development Agenda – A collaboration between NGOs and UNESCO***". It will be organized around four subthemes, all priorities of UNESCO: "The Involvement of NGOs for the Promotion of Quality Education in the Post-2015 Agenda"; "Water and Sustainable Development: From Awareness-Raising to Decision-Making"; "Enhancing Cultural Heritage and Fostering the Diversity of Cultural Expression"; and, "Climate Change: Acting Now".

The Conference will provide a welcome opportunity to examine collective NGO action carried out in 2013 and 2014, and it will adopt the main lines of collective cooperation for 2015-2016, building on the lessons drawn from the two years of activity that led to the in-depth renewal of the cooperation of civil society with UNESCO.

Moreover, as is customary, participants will be called upon to elect a new Chairperson for the Conference, as well as a new NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee which, as you know, is now composed of ten NGO partners (four in associate status and six in consultative status) representing all regions of the world.

The 2014 International Conference will bring to a close two years of intense work and enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the NGOs. Your participation is therefore essential and I do hope that many of you will attend!

You will find the programme and other relevant information and documents at the following website (<http://en.unesco.org/partnerships/non-governmental-organizations>) and on the website of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee ([www.ong-unesco.org](http://www.ong-unesco.org)).

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo ([ngo@unesco.org](mailto:ngo@unesco.org)) and Mr Patrick Gallaud ([comite.liaison.ong@unesco.org](mailto:comite.liaison.ong@unesco.org))

**24 – 28 November 2014 - 9th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

The Committee, which meets once a year, will review periodic reports submitted by 27 States Parties on their implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and reports on the status of 8 elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. The Committee will also discuss draft amendments to the Operational Directives on periodic reporting, resulting from an expert meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, in September-October 2014, and will examine draft amendments to the Directives on periodic reporting.

The Committee will also examine 8 nominations for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List and 46 on the Representative List, 4 proposals to the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and 2 requests for financial assistance.

Some of you who are NGOs accredited to the Committee have already been informed of the holding of this session. However, please note that if other NGO representatives are interested in this meeting they can attend as observers. I invite you to refer to the website of the Committee at the following address: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/9COM/>

Contact: Ms Elena Constantinou ([e.constantinou@unesco.org](mailto:e.constantinou@unesco.org))

**9-11 December 2014 - Eighth ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

Composed of 24 State Party members, the Committee meets annually in ordinary session. On this occasion, it will have several items on its Agenda, including the examination of the report on the implementation and impact of Articles 16 and 21 of the 2005 Convention, the examination of the report on the implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and the use of its financial resources, as well as the implementation of the IFCD fundraising strategy. The Committee will also pursue its discussions on digital issues.

Civil society organizations wishing to participate in the sessions of the Convention's governing bodies are advised to submit one written request with the required documentation, mentioning the wish to participate in both the sessions of the Conference of Parties and the Intergovernmental Committee. More information can be found under [this link](#).

Contact: Ms Laurence Mayer-Robitaille ([l.mayer-robitaille@unesco.org](mailto:l.mayer-robitaille@unesco.org)) or Ms Rochelle Roca-Hachem ([r.roca-hachem@unesco.org](mailto:r.roca-hachem@unesco.org))

**11-13 December 2014 – Fifth Latin American and Caribbean Congress of RedBioética, Lima, Peru**

Organized by UNESCO's Regional Programme of Bioethics, the Ethics of Science in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO Office in Montevideo) and Redbioética UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Colegio Médico del Perú and the National Institute of Health of Peru, this Fifth Congress will focus on "Bioethics and vulnerability in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Addressed to investigators, professors, members of national bioethics committees and students of the region, it will offer conferences from international experts, round tables, oral communications and poster sessions on the ethics perspective of biomedical themes, research, and social, sanitary and environmental issues from a human rights approach.

A Symposium on "Health Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean" will also take place on 10 December. Several outstanding and renowned representatives from different countries in the region will participate and present their analysis of ethical aspects of health systems.

I have no doubt that organizations active in the field of science, health and bioethics will be interested in this event, and I encourage you to inform your national branches or national representatives in the region who could eventually participate.

More information can be found in Spanish under this link.

Contact: Ms Susana Vidal (s.vidal@unesco.org)

### **Forum dedicated to NGOs on unesco.int**

As you know, a space is devoted to NGOs on the homepage of the website dedicated to UNESCO Member States (www.unesco.int). This site allows you to share information about events you will organize, or have organized, to give them greater visibility.

I wish to invite you continuing sharing with us your news and the events you organize, to fuel this site and thus informed our Member States and other NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO.

Please kindly fill out the attached form so that your major activities are inserted on our website www.unesco.int.

### **30 November – Deadline for submission of request for admission to associate status**

I wish to remind you that, according to the *Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations*, "any international or regional partner organization with consultative status for at least two years may submit a request for admission to associate status, no later than 30 November of each year, for decision by the Executive Board at its first session of the following year" (see session IV, B, 1.4 of the [Directives](#)).

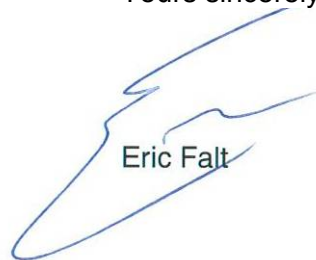
### **UNESCO Publications**

- UNESCO's report *Gender Equality: Heritage and Creativity* draws together for the first time existing research, policies, case studies and statistics on gender equality and women's empowerment in culture provided by the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, government representatives, international research groups and think-tanks, academia, artists and heritage professionals. It includes recommendations for governments, decision-makers and the international community, within the fields of creativity and heritage. The report is available on line in English and French following [this link](#).
- This new manual *Coastal Blue Carbon: methods for assessing carbon stocks and emissions factors in mangroves, tidal salt marshes, and seagrass meadows*, was produced by a team of 34 experts in the fields of coastal carbon measurement, remote sensing, and climate policy of the Blue Carbon Initiative co-lead by Conservation International (CI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. It aims at providing scientists and coastal managers with a practical tool for

measuring carbon stocks in coastal and marine ecosystems. It could inspire and enable natural resource professionals and other decision makers to take action to conserve coastal ecosystems, and their diverse ecosystem functions. The manual is available in English at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002298/229871E.pdf>.

- The *Philosophy Manual, a South-South Perspective* will be officially launched on the occasion of the World Philosophy Day 2014 on 20 November. The manual is an innovative and high-quality tool for young people in secondary and higher education, and in non-formal education. The manual not only facilitates the discovery of philosophical texts from Africa, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, but also promotes their full understanding through a critical apparatus which enables easily adapted educational use. The manual will be soon available in Arabic, English and French.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt