



**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/MSP/2014/103

6 October 2014

Dear Partners,

Activities of our movement have been intense over the past three months. You have massively attended the forums of NGOs in partnership with UNESCO organized respectively in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, last July on "Access to water for all in Africa" and in Sozopol, Bulgaria, a few days ago on the theme "The role of youth in the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage".

The level and the quality of your participation in these forums, as well as the active involvement of many of you in the recent events organized at Headquarters for the celebration of the International Literacy Day (8 September 2014) and the International Day of Peace (19 September 2014) confirm the renewed mobilization of NGOs around the collective action coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

Thus, let me express my personal satisfaction for the new dynamism of our joint activities and the Organization's thanks for your commitment towards promoting UNESCO's values and priorities.

The 2014 International Conference of NGOs, scheduled for 15 to 17 December 2014, will bring the year to a close. I do hope to see a strong showing on this occasion: your participation is essential! It will be a high point for appraising collective NGO action and for adopting the main lines of collective cooperation in 2015-2016. You will be receiving the official letter of invitation together with the relevant documents in the coming weeks.

**17 October 2014 – Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the
Executive Board (195th session), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

As part of the 195th session of the Executive Board (15–31 October 2014), the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) will meet on Friday 17 October 2014, in Room XI.

This meeting of the 23 Member States of the NGP Committee, which all NGOs are invited to attend, will examine statutory issues concerning admissions of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, as well as the Organization's relationships with foundations.

It will also consider the results of the mapping exercise on official partnerships with NGOs launched in 2013, in preparation of the quadrennial report that the Director-General will submit to the General Conference at its 38th session on these partnerships' contribution to UNESCO's activities.

Lastly, it will give an opportunity to consider the NGOs' collective work coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, with particular regard to the organization of international forums and the celebration of international days.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on 17 October during the meeting of the NGP Committee so that we continue to strengthen this dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

I invite you to refer to documents [195 EX/24](#), [195 EX/24.INF](#) and [195 EX/NGP/2](#) available online, and to consult the dedicated section of our website for more information on the Executive Board in general: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/executive-board/>.

Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo (ngo@unesco.org)

31 October 2014 – Launch of the celebrations of UNESCO's 70th anniversary, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

The Director-General will officially launch the celebrations of UNESCO's 70th anniversary during an event paying tribute to Nelson Mandela at Headquarters on 31 October 2014.

The celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary in 2015 will offer a unique opportunity to revisit and rethink UNESCO's orientations and programmes for the next decade and beyond and to highlight the relevance of the Organization's mandate and priorities.

A proposed Action Plan on arrangements for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO is available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002294/229453e.pdf> and will be submitted for consideration at the forthcoming 195th session of the Executive Board.

Member States, National Commissions, non-governmental organizations and other partners together with UNESCO's field offices are encouraged to organize events throughout the year emphasizing the need to promote peace through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

A special website is also under construction and a special logo will be designed. I do hope our NGO, official partners, will be actively involved throughout this year of celebration.

Contact: Mr Marcello Scarone Azzi (m.scarone@unesco.org) (Calendar of Activities) and Ms Jinchai Clarke (j.clarke@unesco.org) (Logo and guidelines of use)

International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)

Proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures – with UNESCO as the lead agency for the United Nations system - will seek to illustrate the benefits of jointly promoting respect for human rights and cultural diversity, while acknowledging the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue to fight against new forms of racism, discrimination,

intolerance, extremism and radicalization, thus forging ties among peoples and nations.

The Action Plan for the decade adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board underline the importance of Member States and their National Commissions in making the Decade a success. This implies the development of national action plans for activities and special initiatives within the frame of the four thematic areas: (i) Promoting mutual understanding and reciprocal knowledge of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity as well as supporting reconciliation efforts; (ii) Building a framework for commonly shared values which fosters social cohesion; (iii) Disseminating the principles and tools of intercultural dialogue through quality education and the media; and (iv) Fostering dialogue for sustainable development and its ethical, social and cultural dimensions.

The Action Plan also proposes to use UNESCO's Participation Programme to support the effective involvement of Member States in the Decade. We thus hope to see a growing number of Member States engaging in this important endeavor, financially as well as through a number of targeted initiatives and actions. The Action Plan is available in the working languages at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002266/226664e.pdf>

Contact: Ms Ann-Belinda Preis (ab.preis@unesco.org)

1st November 2014 – Call for advice: Revision of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers

UNESCO calls for advice and comments regarding the revision of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers. Adopted in 1974, this instrument was created in order to help Member States to formulate and execute adequate policy frameworks for science and technology production, aiming, inter alia, to support researchers and encourage new entrants.

The General Conference of UNESCO, at its 37th session held in Paris in November 2013, has decided to begin a process that may result in the revision of the original text, in order to give account to changes in the last forty years. The intention is to enrich the still-valid existing text, so that it reflects better today's concerns about science in relation to society.

You will find the Recommendation text and more information on its revision following this link.

If your organization is willing to contribute to this open consultation, it can address advice and comments to recommendation.comment@unesco.org until **1 November 2014**.

Contact: Ms Dafna Feinholz (recommendation.comment@unesco.org).

10 November 2014 – World Science Day for Peace and Development

Established by UNESCO in 2001, this Day offers an opportunity to demonstrate to the wider public why science is relevant to their daily lives and to engage them in debate on related issues.

The theme for the 2014 celebration is “Quality science education - securing a sustainable future for all”. This year’s celebration will therefore be an opportunity to highlight that quality science education can offer a rich context for developing many skills such as critical thinking and problem solving; skills that are needed to address local and global challenges.

The celebration will include the launch at Headquarters of the UNESCO World Library of Science (WLoS), a free online resource for science learning. Developed through the joint efforts of UNESCO, Nature Education and Roche, WLoS contains hundreds of peer-reviewed articles that use text, pictures, illustrations, and videos to make scientific concepts easy-to-understand.

I call upon NGO partners to encourage and organize local and regional activities in keeping with this year’s theme in order to mobilize society and the scientific community.

All activities organized worldwide to celebrate the Day will be announced on the UNESCO website devoted to the Day (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/wls>), which will be available soon.

Contact: Mrs Diana Malpede (d.malpede@unesco.org) and Ms Nicole Webley (n.webley@unesco.org) for World Science Day events
Mr Julio Sa Rego, (j.sa-rego@unesco.org) for the WLoS

10-12 November 2014 – UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

Organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Government of Japan, this 2014 UNESCO World Conference will mark the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (2005-2014) and see the launch of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD.

Under the banner of “Learning Today for a Sustainable Future”, the Conference will celebrate the achievements of the Decade, identify lessons learnt while setting the stage for the future of ESD. It will also showcase initiatives, key players, networks and ideas that the Decade has stimulated. Such examples from all over the world will help to generate future action under the Global Action Programme.

Some 1,000 participants from all around the world are expected to attend. They will include representatives of Member States, NGOs, academia, the private sector, individual experts, youth and UN agencies. Participation in the Conference is by invitation only. UNESCO has invited Member States to nominate participants.

You will find more information on the Conference on the devoted site (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/>) and information on UNESCO’s action for ESD at the following address: <http://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development> or by writing to esddecade@unesco.org.

UNESCO Publications

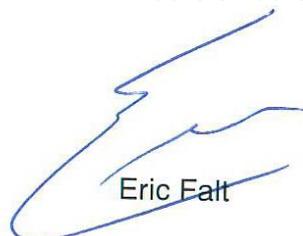
- The publication *Najaf: The Gate of Wisdom* is an introduction to one of the world's most sacred cities, illustrated with over 120 specially commissioned photographs and written by authors with first-hand experience of the city. This book traces the city's history to the present day, provides insight into Shi'i rituals from pilgrimages to passion plays and funerals in the cemetery of Wadi al-Salam, and explains Najaf's role as a centre of learning and religious authority. It is available in English at the following address:
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=5044.
- The regional synthesis report *Learning to Live Together: Education Policies and Realities in the Asia-Pacific* is the result of collaborative efforts in conducting a regional study on the concept of "Learning to Live Together" in ten countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. Through mapping practical examples, comparative analysis and suggesting new directions for education, this report sheds light on how 'Learning to Live Together' can be implemented and become a reality in the classroom. The report is available in English at:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002272/227208e.pdf>.
- *Inclusion from the Start – Guidelines on Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education for Roma Children* is available in English under the following [link](#). Co-published by UNESCO and the Council of Europe, these guidelines provide guidance on key themes in early childhood care and education (ECCE); it is hoped that they will support the work of policy makers, early childhood educators and their trainers, Roma organisations, NGOs and international organisations and contribute to making a real change in the lives of young Roma children.

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

- the **Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)**, an NGO based in Singapore, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status);
- the **International Eurasian Academy of Sciences (IEAS)**, an NGO based in China and the Russian Federation, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status).

By clicking on their names, you will be redirected to their websites for more information. I welcome them and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt