



**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**

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28 July 2016

Dear Partners,

You will soon receive the invitation for the **Sixth International Forum of NGOs in official partnership** with UNESCO that will be held in Querétaro, Mexico on 3 and 4 November 2016 on the theme “**From promoting to building peace with the NGOs**”. This will be the first time we organize an NGO forum in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. I strongly count on your presence on this occasion and on your willingness to mobilize your national branches and partners in the region.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (www.ong-unesco.org/en/) to get additional information on this event.

4-18 October 2016 – 200th session of the Executive Board, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

The provisional agenda and timetable of work for this session will be available online soon. The plenary sessions will start on Monday 10 October in the morning, with the introduction by the Director-General followed by the interventions of the Board members. On this occasion, the Executive Board will examine the preliminary proposals for the Draft Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5).

As part of the session, the **Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP)** would meet on Thursday 8 October 2016, 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 relationship with foundations.

The Committee will consider the NGOs' collective work coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, with particular regard to the organization of international NGO forums and the International Conference of NGOs (Paris, 12-16 December 2016).

I am looking forward to seeing you on 8 October during the meeting of the NGP Committee so that we pursue this dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

Please refer to documents 200 EX/23 and 200 EX/23.INF which will be available online soon [under this link](#), 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 August 2016 - UNESCO Participation Programme for 2016-2017

As you know the UNESCO Participation Programme provides support to activities that are related to UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence.

I wish to remind you that the deadline set for the submission of requests by NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO is **31 August 2016** and first approvals will be granted in October 2016.

It should be underlined that, for this biennium, 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).

Feel free to send your requests to the UNESCO Secretariat, together with all necessary documents.

More information is available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/member-states/mscontent/participation-programme/>.

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

14-15 September 2016 – 23rd Session of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC), the Joint Session of IBC and the Intergovernmental Committee for Bioethics (IGBC), and the 9th Extraordinary Session of the World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

For the first time, the public meetings of these bodies will be held in conjunction with each other. The main topics to be discussed by the IBC and the IGBC during these sessions are the bioethical response to the situation of refugees, and big data and health. The two main topics to be discussed by COMEST are water ethics and robotics ethics.

The IBC was created in 1993. It is a body of 36 independent experts appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO and follows progress in the life sciences and its applications in order to ensure respect for human dignity and freedom. The IBC represents the only global forum for in-depth reflection on bioethics. The IGBC was created in 1998, comprising 36 Member States elected by the General Conference of UNESCO, whose representatives meet at least once every two years to examine the advice and recommendations of the IBC.

COMEST was established in 1998. It is a body of 18 independent experts appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, along with 11 ex-officio members representing UNESCO's international science programmes and global science communities. It is mandated to formulate ethical principles that could provide decision-makers with criteria that extend beyond purely economic considerations, and has in the past worked on environmental ethics, ethics of nanotechnologies, science ethics, etc.

I know many of you follow the work of these committees. You will find more information about the these sessions at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/bioethics/international-bioethics-committee/ibc-sessions/ibc-igbc-comest-sessions-paris-2016/>.

Contact: Mr Tee Wee Ang (ibc@unesco.org or comest@unesco.org)

15 September 2016 – Nominations for the UNESCO/Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The call for nominations for the 2016/2017 edition of the UNESCO/Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is now open. The aim of the Prize is to reward the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations that promote inclusion and the enhancement of the lives of persons with disabilities in society through the effective, innovative and inclusive application of digital solutions.

Candidates (individuals and institutions) must have distinguished themselves through outstanding activities that have contributed to the digital empowerment, as the processes whereby people are able to have more power and control over their lives, particularly in terms of greater inclusion, participation and contribution to societal development as well as enhanced life experiences.

The total amount available for the Prize biennially is USD \$ 40,000, which will be distributed equally between the individual and the organizational winners. No later than on **15 September 2016**, all applicants must complete the application form, either in English or French, available separately for [individuals](#) and [institutions](#) online at: <http://en.unesco.org/prizes/digital-empowerment>.

Nominations can be endorsed and proposed by Ministries in charge of relations with UNESCO, National Commissions for UNESCO or NGOs in official partnership with the Organization.

Contact: Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite (i.kasinskaite@unesco.org)

22 September 2016 – Launch of the World Social Science Report, Stockholm, Sweden

UNESCO, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) will release the 3rd edition of the World Social Science Report in September 2016. This edition focuses on the theme "Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World". Bringing together over 100 contributions on the theme of inequality from social scientists from multiple disciplines and from over 40 countries, the conclusion of the Report asks 'what are the roles of social science in identifying and building transformative pathways towards greater equality?'

The report will be launched at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on 22 September 2016, followed by an event at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) the same day. A launch at UNESCO Headquarters will take place on 17 October 2016, in conjuncture with the International Day on the Eradication of Poverty.

Contact: Mr John Crowley (j.crowley@unesco.org)

5 October 2016 - World Teachers Day

“Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status” is the theme for the 2016 celebration of this Day, which commemorates the anniversary of the signature of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers on 5 October 1966. 5 October also celebrates the adoption by the UNESCO General Conference in 1997 of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel.

Celebration at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris will include meetings on teacher motivation with experts from all regions scheduled on 3 and 4 October, a event on 5 October to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of 1966 ILO/UNESCO *Recommendations Concerning the Status of Teachers* and the ceremony of the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers.

If you cannot participate in the event in Paris, there are plenty of other events organized yearly around the world. You can contact the Secretariat (wtd@unesco.org) to find out who may be organizing an event near you or organize your own local event.

Everyone can help by celebrating the profession, by generating awareness about teacher issues, by ensuring that teacher respect is part of the natural order of things. Take the opportunity of the day to discuss, compare, learn, argue, share and improve.

For more information on the 2016 celebrations, I invite you to visit the dedicated page on our website (available soon).

Contact: Mr Edem Adubra (e.adubra@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- Launched by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the *eAtlas for Education 2030* brings together all available data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4). This ground-breaking initiative covers access to education, the quality of education on offer and the results for children and young people. Through a series of interactive maps, the eAtlas presents the global and thematic indicators for each SDG 4 target as well as ‘placeholders’ for indicators not yet available. You can consult the Atlas [under this link](#).

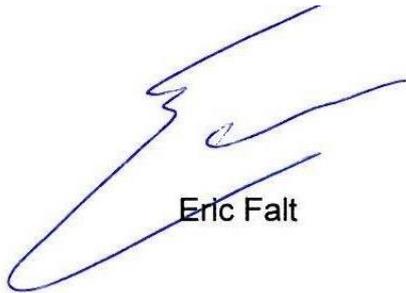
- The multilingual English/French/Portuguese anniversary publication - *From ideas to actions: 70 years of UNESCO* - shows how UNESCO has taken its mission forward over the past 70 years. It highlights, through stories and pictures, decade by decade, the ideas and actions developed and put in place, to translate into practice the noble words in the Organization's Constitution: building the defenses of peace in the minds of women and men, through cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Please consult [this link](#) for the English version.

- Published on the occasion of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul, Turkey, July 2016), Issue n°80 of the *World Heritage Magazine* is dedicated to the country's fifteen fascinating World Heritage sites, from the Historic Areas of Istanbul to Pergamon with its acropolis. Other sites include the Archaeological Site of Troy and the mausoleum of Nemrut Dağ, but also mixed sites in spectacular landscapes such as Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, with its rock-hewn sanctuaries, and Hierapolis-Pamukkale with its ruins of baths, temples and Hellenistic monuments. Published in English, French and Spanish, this issue can be found [under this link](#).

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Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of the [Australian Council for Educational Research \(ACER\)](#), an NGO based in Australia, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status). By clicking on its name, you will be redirected to its website for more information. I welcome it and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt