



**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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30 June 2016

Dear Partners,

As you are aware, two important events for the network of NGO partners are already scheduled in this second half of the year.

You will soon receive the invitation to the **Sixth International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO that will be held in Queretaro in Mexico on 3 and 4 November 2016**. For the first time taking place in Latin America, the theme of the Forum will be **"From promoting to building peace with NGOs"**. 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/](http://www.ong-unesco.org/en/)) to register for the event and get additional information.

I also wish to recall that the **2016 International Conference of NGOs** in official partnership will be held from **12 to 14 December 2016** at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Save the dates in your agendas! You will receive an official letter of invitation in due course.

### **UNESCO Green Citizens Project**

As the lead UN agency for Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO has developed, within the framework of the COP21 the UNESCO GREEN CITIZENS, a project consisting of a multimedia platform and a travelling exhibition which aim to highlight the remarkable work of men and women who work every day to transmit best practices to future generations.

The "UNESCO GREEN CITIZENS: Pathfinders for Change" exhibition showcases eight emblematic projects on education for sustainable development while the sharing platform allows educators from all around the world to share their best practices. More than 100 project holders have already shared their initiatives.

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I would like to invite you to join forces to raise awareness and mobilize the civil society and the young generations to the major matters related to sustainable development, by sharing your own projects related to education for sustainable development on our platform. You will find more information on how to share your project in the [following link](#).

Contacts : Ms Armelle Arrou ([a.arrou@unesco.org](mailto:a.arrou@unesco.org)) and Ms Pauline Vallette ([p.vallette@unesco.org](mailto:p.vallette@unesco.org))

## **12 August 2016 – International Youth Day**

The theme of the 2016 celebrations of the International Youth Day is “The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption”.

A variety of initiatives will be carried out throughout the globe to address the theme, with the involvement of youth, Member States, civil society and other partners. They will highlight youth who are already making considerable strides to address poverty and sustainable development within their communities and beyond, with a view to encouraging others to follow the example.

The UN General Assembly established the 12 August as International Youth Day in 1999. Since then, the Day has been the occasion to celebrate and focus on the vital role of young women and men in addressing some of the world’s most pressing issues.

We hope that you will join us in organizing activities to celebrate and promote young women and men as the leaders of today. Please feel free to send us any information on any activity you intend to coordinate **by 22 July 2016** and we shall publish it on the website [www.unesco.int](http://www.unesco.int).

For more information on the UNESCO Youth Programme, I invite you to visit [this link](#).

Contact: Mr Alexander Schischlik ([youth@unesco.org](mailto:youth@unesco.org))

## **6 September 2016 – Launch of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report “Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All”**

The 2016 GEM Report, the first in a new series, examines the monitoring challenges associated with the global goal on education (SDG4), and discusses the intersectoral and reciprocal links between education and key areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It builds compelling arguments on the types of education and lifelong learning that are vital for achieving the goals of poverty reduction, hunger eradication, improved health, gender equality and women’s empowerment, sustainable consumption, resilient cities, and more equal and inclusive societies. The Report’s findings will be discussed at launch events around the world on 6 September 2016. Information on dozens of events already planned will soon be available at <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report>.

As in previous years, we look forward to collaborating with civil society organizations and NGOs to launch the Report and to bring the critical role of education into focus in the new development agenda. We encourage you to participate in events already being prepared, to host an event of your own, or launch the report as part of an event you may already have planned.

Contact: [gemevents@unesco.org](mailto:gemevents@unesco.org)

### **8 September 2016 – International Literacy Day**

International Literacy Day celebrations are held at the global, regional and country levels to remind the international community about the centrality of literacy to lifelong learning and to the creation of sustainable and inclusive societies.

In 2016, UNESCO is organizing a global event celebrating the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day, 'Reading the past, writing the future', at its Headquarters in Paris on 8 and 9 September. The two-day global event will comprise a high-level component and a technical meeting, as well as the launch of the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) and UNESCO's Third Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE III). On this occasion, an Award Ceremony of the 2016 edition of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes will also take place on 8 September.

Within this framework, I encourage our NGO partners to organize related activities, in collaboration with key partners, including UNESCO Field Offices. Please feel free to send us information on any 50th anniversary activity you intend to coordinate, and we shall publish it on our website.

For more information on the International Literacy Day, I invite you to visit this dedicated UNESCO webpage:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/literacy-day/>

Contact: Mr Muhammad Bilal Aziz ([literacy@unesco.org](mailto:literacy@unesco.org))

### **19-20 September 2016 – UNESCO International Conference “Preventing Violent Extremism through Education: Taking Action”, New Delhi, India**

This international conference organized by UNESCO together with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development will bring together senior education policy makers from around the world and experts in the field. The aim is to build a common understanding and vision of the required educational interventions and approaches needed to ensure that education systems contribute appropriately and effectively to the prevention of violent extremism.

The event will also provide the opportunity to present preliminary elements of UNESCO's Guide for Policy-Makers on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education and discuss its implementation.

You will certainly be interested in this conference, which will address concerns of many NGO partners. You will find more information on the Conference [under this link](#).

Contact: Mr Alexander Leicht ([a.leicht@unesco.org](mailto:a.leicht@unesco.org))

### UNESCO Publications

- Entitled *Re/Shaping Cultural Policies*, UNESCO's first Global Report on the implementation and impact of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, analyzes global trends and challenges in four main areas of intervention covered by the Convention: sustainable systems of governance for culture; trade and flows of cultural goods and services, as well as mobility of artists and cultural professionals; culture in sustainable development frameworks; and human rights and fundamental freedoms. Published in English and French, it is available under [this link](#).
- UNESCO and DeAgostini Libri published the new edition of the *UNESCO World Heritage Atlas*. This atlas presents colour maps for each region of the world; beautiful fold-out maps with enlarged areas featuring detailed information and colour images of the sites; and an index of site names and descriptions. It is available in English, French and Spanish. Please consult the following link for the English version: [http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code\\_Livre=4941](http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=4941).
- The report *World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate* provides an overview of the increasing vulnerability of World Heritage sites to climate change impacts and the potential implications for and of global tourism. It also examines how climate change is likely to exacerbate problems caused by unplanned tourism development and uncontrolled or poorly managed visitor access, as well as other threats and stresses. It documents climate impacts at iconic tourism sites including Venice, Stonehenge and the Galapagos Islands and other World Heritage sites such as South Africa's Cape Floral Kingdom; the port city of Cartagena, Colombia; and Shiretoko National Park in Japan. It is available in English only [under this link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt