



**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/2013/18

7 February 2013

Dear Partners,

The beginning of this year is already rich of major events for UNESCO and I am sure many of you will be enthusiastic and effective actors in some of them. In this regard, let me emphasize especially the support the Organization wishes to provide to Mali and the personal commitment of the Director-General. You will find more information on our website: www.unesco.org.

You know also that the members of the Liaison Committee elected by the 2012 International Conference of NGOs met last month. I have been able to appreciate their dynamism, but also noted the enrichment the new geographic diversity brings to our discussions. I also welcome the willingness of the Committee and its Chairperson, Mr Patrick Gallaud, to use all their resoluteness to the success of the collective cooperation of NGOs and to improve its impact and relevance. I am convinced that by strengthening communication between the Secretariat, Member States and NGOs, while combining our efforts, we shall increase the visibility of this collective cooperation among the general public.

10-25 April 2013 – 191st session of the Executive Board of UNESCO

In many respects, the 191st session of the Executive Board is of particular importance for our partnership.

Firstly, as requested by Member States, the collective contribution of NGOs to the preparation of documents 37 C/4 and 37 C/5 – adopted at the International Conference of NGOs - will officially be brought to the attention of members of the Executive Board. We are currently exploring the possibility of an intervention by the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee in a plenary session of the Board.

Furthermore, in accordance with its Terms of reference, the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) - the date of its next meeting will be soon communicated to you – will examine admissions and reclassifications concerning partnership with NGOs and Foundations, and will continue its interactive dialogue with NGOs and the Secretariat on specific issues relating to UNESCO's programmes and priorities. Thus, a session would be devoted to an open discussion on synergies between UNESCO and NGOs on water cooperation.

I shall give you more details on the session of the Board in my next monthly letter.

For more information on the Executive Board in general, please consult the dedicated section of our website at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/executive-board/>.

8 March 2013 – International Women’s Day, UNESCO Headquarters

On the occasion of this Day, UNESCO is launching the annual initiative entitled ‘Women Make the News’ (WMN), in order to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in and through media.

Activities will be organized in partnership with the African Broadcasting Union, Broadcasting Union of the Arab States, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the International Federation of Journalists and other stakeholders.

Within this framework, UNESCO has also invited editors-in-chief of newspapers, radio, television and press to assign women journalists and reporters with editorial responsibility for the newsroom on International Women’s Day or during the WMN campaign.

I encourage NGOs in the field of media to join in the events that will be organized within the framework of this Day and during the WMN campaign and then to report to us on their respective experiences. Your events will be posted in the section dedicated to NGOs in the web site of Member States: www.unesco.int.

Finally, within the framework of this Day, a symphony orchestra composed of female musicians from different countries, will perform a classical music concert, organized by Radio Sweden (Sveriges Radio) and Radio France, at UNESCO Headquarters. This concert will be broadcast live to all European countries from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m (Paris time).

For more information concerning the Day, please consult [this site](#).
Contact: Mr Alton Grizzle (a.grizzle@unesco.org)

16-28 March 2013 – Pan-African Forum on Culture of Peace in Africa, Luanda, Angola

This Pan-African Forum, to be held on the theme “Africa: sources and resources for a Culture of Peace” is an important step of the “UNESCO’s Intersectoral and Interdisciplinary Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence” and the African Union Campaign “Make Peace Happen” aiming to mobilize all stakeholders - political, civil and military.

This Forum will open local and/or regional avenues for action and will create a strong link between the ideas of the culture of peace and a campaign culminating in the International Day of Peace in September 2013.

Representatives from the 55 African countries participating in the Forum will both contribute to the proposal for action by bringing their national experience and take the lead in the follow-up of the recommendations made at the country level.

You will soon find more information on the UNESCO website.
Contact: Mr Enzo Fazzino (e.fazzino@unesco.org)

21 March 2013 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” This Day reminds us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal. We must all intensify our efforts to end racial discrimination and xenophobia, wherever they arise.

I appeal to all NGOs which intend to organize an event centered around this Day to send us all relevant information, as well as all the audiovisual material on this subject that we propose to post on a special page of our website dedicated to this Day.

Contact : Mme C. Bruno-Capvert (c.bruno-capvert@unesco.org)

22 March 2013 – World Water Day

Celebrations of this Day, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary, will take place all over the world on the theme of water cooperation. The main celebration will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, thanks to the generous offer of the Dutch Government to host that event.

The World Water Day is a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater. The aim of this Day is to raise awareness on the importance, benefits and challenges of water cooperation; enhancing knowledge and building capacity for water cooperation.

Moreover, as you know, the year 2013 has been proclaimed as the International Year on Water Cooperation by the United Nations.

The success of these celebrations is dependent upon the involvement and the commitment of a broad number of stakeholders, including NGOs. I hope that many NGOs foresee the organization of activities that would contribute to the achievement of the goals of this Day.

A dedicated website has been created where you will find all useful information following [this link](#).

Contact : Mme Lena Salame (wwd2013@unesco.org)

28 March 2013 - L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science, Paris, France

The 15th Annual Awards Ceremony of l'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science will take place on 28 March 2013, at the Sorbonne in Paris. Five women scientists will be honored for their exceptional groundbreaking research in the physical sciences, contributing to a better understanding of climate change, advancing research on neurodegenerative diseases and potentially uncovering new energy sources. The five laureates are nationals from Brazil, Japan, Nigeria, United Kingdom and the United States.

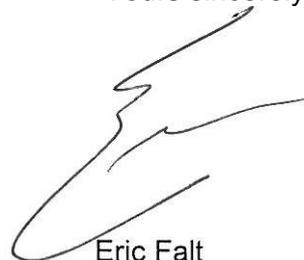
Furthermore, 15 talented young women scientists, from all over the world, pursuing research at the doctoral or post-doctoral level will receive the UNESCO-l'Oréal International Fellowship and will present their research at a ceremony to be held on 26 March 2013 at the Paris Observatory.

For more information, please consult the following website:
<http://www.loreal.com/en/ww/index.aspx>.

UNESCO Publications

- The publication *Freedom of expression Toolkit* is available at the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002186/218618e.pdf>.
- The publication *Recueil de cas sur la dignité humaine et les droits de l'homme* is available in French only at the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002192/219240f.pdf>
- A publication of our Regional Office of Santiago in Chile: *Análisis de Riesgos de Desastres en Chile* is available in Spanish only at the [following link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt