



**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/INO/2016/5

28 January 2016

Dear Partners,

At the beginning of this New Year, let me express all my best wishes for success in all of your endeavors.

This year promises to be once again rich and intense for our partnership, in particular with two forums organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in close collaboration with the Secretariat. Previous forums enabled the mobilization of a larger number of NGOs as well as new audiences. They have proven to be crucial in the development of new networks. Let us, therefore, continue realizing these dynamic projects together!

In addition, as mentioned to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, we will reflect on the need to create new platforms of information and exchanges enabling a renewed and reinforced interaction with Member States.

The 2016 International Conference of NGOs will then mark an important moment in our cooperation and will close this year.

Our website <http://www.unesco.int>

I would like to remind you that, in order to increase the visibility of our cooperation, a space especially devoted to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO is available on our web site www.unesco.int dedicated to UNESCO Member States. Please refer to the heading *NGOs News* of its home page. Under this section, NGOs can send information concerning their activities, publications or any other event.

Your continued contribution is essential to fuel this site. You will find herewith, once again, the 'Events' form allowing you to give us information you would like to share. Please send this form, once completed, to the Desk for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (email: ngo@unesco.org).

5 February 2016 – International Conference “News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals”, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Organized under the auspices of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), the Conference aims to provide news organizations with a platform to discuss existing and new measures aimed to strengthen journalists’ safety worldwide and engage with Member States on these issues.

It also aims to raise awareness about the issue of journalists’ safety as well as to promote and share industry good practices to improve safety of journalists, to promote dialogue on the issue between media and Member States, and identify gaps for possible follow up.

I am sure that numerous NGO partners will be interested in learning more about journalists’ safety or share their experience with other participants from civil society and professional organizations as well as representatives of Member States. Please refer to the [official website](#) for more information about this event. You will also find therein the online registration form.

Contact: Mr Marius Lukosiunas (m.lukosiunas@unesco.org) and Mr Josu Icaza (j.icaza@unesco.org)

15 February 2016 - Nominations for UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016

UNESCO invites the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as international and regional professional and non-governmental organizations active in the fields of journalism and freedom of expression to nominate candidates for this year’s UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. Nominations for the Prize should be submitted by filling out the [form](#) in English or French and sending it before 15 February 2016.

This Prize was established in 1997 in honour of Guillermo Cano, a Colombian journalist who died in the exercise of his profession. Its purpose is to reward each year a person, organization or institution that has made a notable contribution to the defense and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially if risks have been involved.

If you are interested in learning more about the Prize, you can consult the [devoted webpage](#).

Contact: Ms Sylvie Coudray (s.coudray@unesco.org)

21 February 2016 – International Mother Language Day

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education of the Agenda 2030, and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, the theme of Mother Language Day (IMLD) 2016 is “Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes”.

On the occasion of the Day, UNESCO reiterates its position on the importance of appropriate languages of instruction, usually mother tongues, in early years of schooling: formal and non-formal education must deliver quality education for all learners by taking a multilingual approach.

Several activities will be organized on this day at UNESCO Headquarters and around the world. More information on the celebration of this day will be available soon [under this link](#).

I am sure that many of our NGO partners are engaged in the promotion of languages and can tell us about the activities they organize or that they will be associated in to celebrate this day.

Contact: Ms Noro Andriamiseza (n.andriamiseza@unesco.org)

8 March 2016 – International Women’s Day

The official UN system’s theme for this Day in 2016 is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality”.

Events organized at UNESCO Headquarters on this occasion will include a Round Table on “Violent Extremism and Radicalization: Women as Perpetrators, Victims and Agents of Change” on 8 March, and a panel discussion on “Critical Global Conversation on Gender Equality and the Law”, organized on 10 March in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania Law School (PennLaw). An exhibition on “Women’s Role in Sustainable Development” will be on display from 7 to 18 March 2016, with the opening ceremony to be held on Monday 7 March or Tuesday 8 March 2016.

Celebrated for over 100 years and proclaimed by the United Nations in 1977, International Women’s Day is an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

I encourage NGOs to mark this day through their own initiatives and to share with us their respective events. Your events will be posted in the section dedicated to NGOs on the web site of Member States: www.unesco.int.

Relevant information on the celebration of the Day will be available soon on UNESCO website.

Contact: Ms S. Gülser Corat (director.ge@unesco.org).

7-11 March 2016 - Mobile Learning Week 2016 (MLW 2016), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Mobile Learning Week 2016 will shed light on the ways technology can be leveraged — in different contexts and for different groups — to improve the quality of education now and in the future. It will explore how mobile technology can help fill the education gap. The event will advance international understandings about the ways in which newly affordable information and communication technologies can prompt innovation within the education sector to better ensure high-quality learning opportunities for all, in line with the new Sustainable Development Agenda and 2030 targets for education.

The theme of Mobile Learning Week is “Innovating for quality”. The event has four core tracks: the WEBINAR, which will allow online participants to debate; a series of knowledge-building workshops; a symposium and a policy forum, when participants will join high-level government representatives to understand how policies and cross-sectoral collaboration between ministries of education and ministries of technology can foster innovation to improve the quality, equity and accessibility of education.

I invite you to visit the dedicated website of the Week [under this link](#), and I very much hope many of you will participate.

Contact: Mr Mark West (mlw@unesco.org)

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. This Programme is intended for Member States, but also in a limited way to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, who may submit up to two requests under this Programme for projects with sub-regional, regional or interregional impact, provided that their request is definitely supported by at least the Member State where the project is to be implemented and another Member State concerned by the request.

For 2016-2017, 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). Project selection will be done taking into account the defined priorities by the governing bodies for the regular programme of UNESCO (please refer to the [Director-General’s Circular Letter](#) of 11 December 2015). It should be underlined that, taking into account the restricted budget earmarked to the Participation Programme for 2016-2017 and in order to be in a position to respond favorably to a higher number of requests, the amounts which will be approved during this biennium should not exceed US\$16 000.

The deadline set for the submission of requests by [NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO](#) is 31 August 2016, and first approvals will not be granted before October 2016.

Contact: Mr Stoyan Bantchev (s.bantchev@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The new study by UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) titled “*Every Child Should Have a Textbook*” proposes an economic model that would help reduce the cost of textbooks and increase their availability to students in schools around the world. This policy paper is available online in English only under [this link](#).

- The book “*Futurs africains : vers une émergence durable ?* » offers to all stakeholders active in the African continent tools for a prospective analysis as well as a common language for broad and open thinking and action. This publication, which aims to present a prospective vision of Africa and promote the debate on the future of Africa, is available in French only at the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002430/243004F.pdf>.

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

- The **Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)**, an NGO based in Switzerland, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status); and
- The **V.I. Vernadsky Nongovernmental Ecological Foundation**, an NGO based in 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