



**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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27 September 2016

Dear Partners,

October will mark the start of a busy autumn, with important events for our partnership.

First of all, I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you on 6 October during the meeting of the **Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) of the Executive Board**, so that we continue strengthening the dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat. With a view to your participation in the meeting, I invite you to consult documents [200 EX/23](#) and [200 EX/23.INF](#) available online.

We are also focused on 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 Forum is attracting the interest of many of you and I am pleased to note a great mobilization of your national branches in the region. I hope to see you in Querétaro in November.

The **2016 International Conference of NGOs**, scheduled for 12 to 14 December 2016, will then bring the year to a close. I do hope to see a strong participation on this occasion. This is essential! It will be a high point for appraising collective NGO action and for adopting the main lines of collective cooperation in 2017-2018. You will be receiving the official letter of invitation together with the relevant documents in the coming days.

30 October - 1 November 2016 – Conference "Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting and Living together", Quebec, Canada

Organized by UNESCO and the Government of Quebec, this conference will bring together in Québec up to 400 researchers, experts, civil society representatives as well as government officials. The participants will gather for three days to identify innovative and collaborative projects at the national and international levels; not only to prevent but to curb youth radicalization leading to violence. As part of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), this event will also pay a special attention to the role the Internet and media play in the radicalization of youth.

As you may know, UNESCO is committed to the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, with a focus on priorities of direct relevance to UNESCO's work: (i) education, skills development and employment facilitation; (ii) empowerment of youth; (iii) strategic communications, the Internet and social media; and (iv) gender equality and empowering women.

I am sure a number of you will be interested in participating in this event, and if it is the case, I encourage you to register as soon as possible. You will find more information [here](#), including the concept note and draft agenda.

Contact: Mr Hara Padhy (h.padhy@unesco.org)

2 November 2016 – International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

On this Day governments, civil society, the media and all actors concerned are encouraged to join in the global efforts to promote a safe and free environment for journalists and to implement definite measures countering the persistent culture of impunity.

For the third consecutive year UNESCO is commemorating this Day and a range of activities will be organized around the world. In New York, UNESCO will organize a high-level meeting entitled "Safety of journalists and ending impunity in conflict zones" on 27 October at UN Headquarters. In Bogota, Colombia the Guillermo Cano Foundation, in partnership with several NGOs and universities, will commemorate the 30 years anniversary of the death of Guillermo Cano Isaza, the founder of the newspaper El Espectador murdered in 1986. Other events will also be organized in The Hague, Netherlands; Hanoi, Viet Nam; Kabul, Afghanistan; Astana, Kazakhstan, Sheffield, United Kingdom; and other cities.

Furthermore, on 17 November, the 39 Member States of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC) will receive the biennial report of the Director-General on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, which provides an overview of killings of journalists condemned by UNESCO's Director-General in 2014-2015 and the answers from Members States on the status of the investigations.

Please do not hesitate to inform us if you are planning an activity or event to celebrate this International Day. For more information, please visit the [devoted UNESCO website](#).

Contact: Mr Mehdi Benchelah (m.benchelah@unesco.org)

10 November 2016 – World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD)

The theme for this year's celebration is "Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums", recognizing their role in facilitating access to science. This year marks the beginning of a close collaboration between UNESCO and international networks of science centres and museums worldwide, including the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the Association of Science Technology Centers (ASTC) as well as regional networks such as ASPAC, Ecsite, NAMES, NCSM India, RedPOP and SAASTECH.

Thus, a conference will be organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on “The Promise of Science in a Rapidly Changing World; Working Together for Global Sustainability and Defining the Role of Science Centers and Science Museums”. The conference will be an opportunity to examine the future direction of science necessary to achieve real progress in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Students will also be invited to participate in a UNESCO campus, and the day will be celebrated all over the world, particularly in science centres and museums.

Engaging and empowering people through science is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That is why 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.

For more information on the Day, please visit the [devoted UNESCO website](#).

Contact: Ms Lucy Hoareau (l.hoareau@unesco.org), and for the conference Mr Yoslan Nur (y.nur@unesco.org)

17 November 2016 – World Philosophy Day 2016

A range of activities will be held around the world to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2016. At Headquarters in Paris, UNESCO organizes the 15th International Encounters on New Philosophical Practices, which provide a forum for everyone who is interested in the practice of philosophy in all its forms, including the least traditional. They enable reflection on how to make philosophy accessible to as many people as possible, outside its traditional spaces and modes of expression – through primary and secondary schools, hospitals, prisons, cafés, evening classes, public libraries, theatres, cinema, businesses and other organizations, etc.

In conjunction with the Encounters, other events will take place at UNESCO Headquarters and elsewhere in Paris: practical philosophy demonstrations with and for children, teenagers and adults; round tables; communication workshops; research workshops; a “ciné philo” and a book fair. A philosophical banquet will also take place at the Falstaff restaurant in Paris (Place de la Bastille).

This Day concerns everyone for whom philosophy matters. If your NGO organizes activities or events related to this Day, do not hesitate to inform us. For more details on this Day, you can consult the [devoted UNESCO website](#). You can also register to the 15th International Encounters following this [devoted link](#).

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

28 November - 2 December 2016 – 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Composed of 24 States elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Committee meets once every year.

During this session, the Committee will examine periodic reports of States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It will also consider the inscriptions on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in

Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and granting financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The Committee will further consider the renewal of a number of accredited non-governmental organizations and decide to recommend to the General Assembly the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

An Intangible Cultural Heritage NGO Forum meeting will take place on the eve of this session, on 27 November 2016. The Forum is a platform for communication, networking, exchange and cooperation for NGOs accredited to the Committee. Further information on the forum and the agenda for that meeting are available at <http://www.ichngoforum.org>.

Some of you who are NGOs accredited to the Committee have already been informed of the holding of this session. However, please note that if other NGO representatives are interested in this meeting they can attend as observers. I invite you to refer to the website of the Committee [under this link](#).

Contact: Ms Elena Constantinou (e.constantinou@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The 2016 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report – titled *Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all* – is the first of a new series of reports which will monitor the state of education in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It examines key financing and governance challenges for the post-2015 era, as well as the complex interrelationships and links between education and key development sectors. It also determines which education strategies, policies and programmes are most effectively linked to the economic, social, environmental and political priorities of the new sustainable development agenda. The report is available in English under [this link](#).
- Published by UNESCO and the International Social Science Council, the World Social Science Report 2016 - *Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World* - draws on the insights of over 100 social scientists and other thought leaders from all over the world, addressing inequality and social justice. The report emphasizes transformative responses to inequality at all levels, from the grass roots to global governance. Please consult [this link](#) for the English version.
- Drawn up by the Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary-General for which UNESCO serves as Secretariat, *The Future of Scientific Advice to the United Nations* calls for a greater place for science in international decision-making. The report claims that science can be a game changer in dealing with nearly all the most pressing global challenges. It notes that the United Nations and its agencies can facilitate the gathering of all types of data while overseeing both quality and access. It also calls for international collaborative projects in this area. You can download the report in English under [this link](#). French and Spanish versions are also available.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt