



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

National Commissions for UNESCO

Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2020

National Commissions for UNESCO
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pour l'UNESCO*

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Headquarters of UNESCO
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FOREWORD

The 2020 Annual Report of National Commissions for UNESCO reflects the exemplary ways in which the National Commissions of Member States and Associate Members responded to an exceptional situation, throughout the year.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented, all-encompassing crisis that disrupted all of our societies. In each and every one of the Organization's fields of action, there was an urgent need to act, so that decades of efforts by the international community would not come to naught.

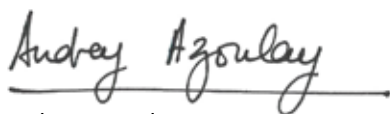
Indeed, the crisis exacerbated divisions and deepened economic and social inequalities, as well as inequalities in health, education, culture and access to information.

Global responses needed to be rolled out in record time: to support scientific cooperation by moving towards open science; to disseminate quality health information and support journalists; to ensure educational continuity and accompany the return to school with the Global Education Coalition; and to reflect on the future of a cultural sector in crisis with the ResiliArt debates.

Throughout the year, our National Commissions, the traditional relays of our action, showed exceptional involvement and responsiveness. In the face of the emergency, their presence in the field, their relations with partners and their long experience with UNESCO have been more valuable than ever in empowering us and enriching our vision. We were also given first-hand evidence of their creativity: while many National Commissions joined the major movements initiated by UNESCO, they were just as creative in launching their own initiatives.

In the following pages, you will discover the resources, energy and efficiency with which National Commissions responded to these exceptional circumstances, as well as their determination to stay the course on UNESCO's major missions and initiatives. Each of the actions reported illustrates this common desire to build a fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable world.

The National Commissions embody on a daily basis UNESCO's ambition to achieve a multilateralism of the tangible, a multilateralism of difference. For 75 years now, they have guaranteed that we will always act as closely as possible to the people, so that the history we write for the world is truly a history for humanity.



Audrey Azoulay,
Director-General of UNESCO
Directrice générale de l'UNESCO

AVANT-PROPOS

Cette édition 2020 du Rapport annuel des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO témoigne de la réaction exemplaire des Commissions nationales des États membres et des membres associés, tout au long de l'année, face à une situation exceptionnelle.

En 2020, la pandémie de Covid-19 a en effet entraîné une crise inédite, une crise totale, qui est venue ébranler l'ensemble de nos sociétés. Dans tous les domaines d'action de notre Organisation, nous avons mesuré l'urgence d'agir, pour ne pas voir réduits à néant des décennies d'efforts de la communauté internationale.

Car cette crise est venue exacerber toutes les fractures de nos sociétés, en creusant les inégalités qu'elles soient sanitaires, économiques et sociales, éducatives, culturelles, ou encore d'accès à l'information.

Il a donc fallu déployer dans un temps record des réponses à l'échelle mondiale : pour soutenir la coopération scientifique en avançant vers la science ouverte ; pour diffuser une information sanitaire de qualité et soutenir les journalistes ; pour assurer la continuité pédagogique et accompagner le retour à l'école avec la Coalition mondiale pour l'éducation ; pour penser l'avenir d'un secteur culturel en crise avec les débats RésiliArt.

Tout au long de l'année, les Commissions nationales, relais traditionnels de notre action, ont fait preuve d'une implication et d'une réactivité exceptionnelles. Face à l'urgence, leur ancrage sur le terrain, leurs relations avec les partenaires et leur longue expérience de l'UNESCO ont été plus précieuses que jamais pour nous donner les moyens d'agir et enrichir notre vision. Nous avons enfin pu mesurer leur créativité : car si les Commissions nationales ont été nombreuses à rejoindre les grands mouvements initiés par l'UNESCO, elles l'ont été tout autant à lancer leurs propres initiatives.

Vous découvrirez dans les pages qui suivent les ressources, l'énergie et l'efficacité avec lesquelles les Commissions nationales ont su réagir aux circonstances. Mais également leur détermination à garder le cap des grandes missions et initiatives de l'UNESCO. Chacune des actions rapportées illustre ainsi cette volonté commune : celle de construire un monde plus juste, plus inclusif et plus durable.

Les Commissions nationales incarnent au quotidien cette ambition de l'UNESCO pour multilatéralisme du tangible, un multilatéralisme de la différence. Depuis maintenant 75 ans, elles nous garantissent d'agir toujours au plus près des populations, pour que l'histoire que nous écrivons pour le monde soit véritablement une histoire pour l'humanité.



Table of contents

Africa	9	Asia and the Pacific	47
ANGOLA	10	AUSTRALIA	48
BOTSWANA	11	BANGLADESH	49
CABO VERDE	12	CAMBODIA	50
CAMEROUN	13	CHINA	51
GABON	14	FIJI	52
GHANA	15	INDIA	53
GUINÉE	16	IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	54
GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE	17	JAPAN	55
KENYA	18	KAZAKHSTAN	56
LESOTHO	19	KYRGYZSTAN	57
MADAGASCAR	20	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	58
MAURITIUS	21	MALAYSIA	59
NAMIBIA	22	MALDIVES	60
NIGERIA	23	MONGOLIA	61
RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE	24	NEPAL	62
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO	25	NEW ZEALAND	63
RWANDA	26	PHILIPPINES	64
SEYCHELLES	27	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	65
SOUTH AFRICA	28	SINGAPORE	66
SUDAN	29	SRI LANKA	67
TOGO	30	THAILAND	68
UGANDA	31	VIET NAM	69
ZAMBIA	32		
Arab States	33	Europe and North America	71
ALGÉRIE	34	ALBANIA	72
EGYPT	35	ANDORRE	73
JORDAN	36	ARMENIA	74
LIBAN	37	AUSTRIA	75
MAROC	38	AZERBAIJAN	76
OMAN	39	BELGIUM/BELGIQUE	77/78
PALESTINE	40	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	79
QATAR	41	BULGARIA	80
SAUDI ARABIA	42	CANADA	81
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	43	CROATIA	82
TUNISIE	44	CYPRUS	83
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	45	CZECH REPUBLIC	84
YEMEN	46	DENMARK	85
		ESTONIA	86

FAROEES	87	Latin America and the Caribbean	115
FINLAND	88	BAHAMAS	116
FRANCE	89	BRAZIL	117
GEORGIA	90	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	118
GERMANY	91	COLOMBIA	119
GREECE	92	CUBA	120
HUNGARY	93	CURAÇAO	121
ICELAND	94	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	122
ITALY	95	HAÏTI	123
LATVIA	96	HONDURAS	124
LITHUANIA	97	JAMAICA	125
LUXEMBOURG	98	MEXICO	126
NORTH MACEDONIA	99	PERU	127
NORWAY	100	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	128
POLAND	101	SAINT LUCIA	129
PORTUGAL	102	SINT MAARTEN	130
ROMANIA	103	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	131
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	104	URUGUAY	132
SERBIA	105		
SLOVAKIA	106	UNESCO Field Network	133
SLOVENIA	107		
SPAIN	108	Abbreviations list	
SUISSE	109	Liste des abréviations	135
SWEDEN	110		
TURKEY	111	Annexes	139
UKRAINE	112		
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	113		

Disclaimer

Please note that the contents of this Annual Report were provided by the National Commissions and were only edited to fit a common format. In so doing, every effort was made to retain the essence of the information provided. The Secretariat wishes to apologize for any possible oversight or misunderstanding.

Avertissement

Veillez noter que le contenu du présent Rapport annuel a été remanié pour obéir à un format commun. A cet égard, tout a été mis en oeuvre pour conserver l'essence des informations fournies. Le Secrétariat tient à présenter ses excuses pour tout oubli ou malentendu éventuel.



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Africa

ANGOLA

Angola National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Luísa Maria Alves Grilo

Permanent Secretary: Mr Alexandre de Sousa Costa

Email: sp_angola@cnu.gov.ao

Website: www.cnu.gov.ao

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

At a troubled time when the world is experiencing one of the greatest challenges of survival and resilience caused by COVID-19, which forces everyone to adapt or reinvent in the face of the new context, ASPnet schools from Angola also adapted to the new reality.

5 October was consecrated in 2019 as the “National Day of the PEA-Angola Network”. In 2020, the PEA-Angola Network held the 2nd National Meeting of the UNESCO Associated Schools Program Network under the motto “Education and Its Adaptation to the New Context”. The event aimed to celebrate

the National Day of the PEA-Angola Network with a view to strengthening the ASPnet of Angola and spreading the ideals established by UNESCO, through reflection on topics related to education and its adaptation to the COVID-19 context, which has affected the whole world in the most different areas, with emphasis on the educational sector.



© Angola National Commission for UNESCO — H.E. Minister of Education and President of the National Commission Luísa Alves Grilo is planting a tree at the 2nd ASPnet-Angola

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, the Angola National Commission for UNESCO developed the following activities:

- a workshop about “The Challenges of Women in Science” co-organized with the partner SGAR-Promoter of the Angola Youth Card, in allusion to the Day of the Girl and Women in Science;
- a colloquium on “The Mother Tongue and Its Sociocultural Impact” co-organized in partnership with the National Commission of Angola for the International Institute of Portuguese Language, alluding to International Mother Language Day;
- the Portuguese language week under the slogan “One language, several realities” co-organized in a virtual format with the Angola National Commission and the International Portuguese Language Institute, in reference to World Portuguese Language Day;
- a webinar under the motto “Educating to Transform the Environment organized in reference to World Environment Day (5 June);
- coordination of the working group of the National Commissions for UNESCO of Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Cabo Verde, in the framework of the preparation of the Draft Medium Term Strategy (4TC/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget (4TC/5);
- a webinar on the theme “Mbanza Kongo, Perspectives and Challenges in the Preservation of Heritage and Promotion of Tourism” co-organized with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment, in celebration of the 3rd anniversary of Elevating the Historic Center of Mbanza Kongo to World Heritage;
- the 5th Edition of the International Theatre Circuit “CIT-LIVE under the motto “Angola 45 years with Theater in the Promotion of the Culture of Peace” co-organized with the partner Culture for All;
- celebration of ephemeris, with highlight for August 12, with the realization of a webinar on the theme “Emotional Management in Social Distancing Phase: Youth vs Depression”;
- a webinar under the motto “Cunene, from Droughts to Floods: A National Scientific Program” co-organized with the Faculty of Sciences of the Agostinho Neto University (FCUAN), the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) and Water Group of Faculty of Science, Agostinho Neto University;
- a webinar “The Promotion of Women in Angola: Achievements and Challenges” co-organized with the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women;
- 3 cycles of debates involving directors, coordinators of out-of-school activities, students and parents, held under the UNESCO Initiative called “Futures of Education”;
- a campaign of afforestation and awareness about Environmental Education carried out with the company So Green in the ASPnet schools;
- signature of four Cooperation Protocols with the following partners: SGAR-Promoter of the Angola Youth Card, Social Media Agency, SOPHUS Company - Human Development and with the Art and Culture Foundation;
- synergies have been developed with partners to present project proposals for funding that UNESCO makes available to Member States.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Working meeting of the National Commissions of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, in the second quarter of 2021 to exchange experiences and good practices for the definition of an action strategy;
- Working meeting of the National Commissions of the Central Africa region, in the third quarter of 2021, to exchange experiences and good practices for defining an action strategy;
- 3rd Meeting of the UNESCO ASPnet schools on 5 October 2021.

BOTSWANA

Botswana National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Kgosi Puso Gaborone

Secretary-General: Ms Dineo B. Modimakwane

Email: dbmodimakwane@gov.bw / bwnatcom@gov.bw

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, most countries including Botswana were forced to temporarily close schools, to contain the spread of the virus. This temporary closure negatively affected teaching and learning, thus forcing policymakers to come up with measures to ensure that learners are not denied of their right to education. This involved strengthening implementation of home schooling, developing and sharing content and assessment tools online as well as developing policies for maintaining social distancing in schools.

With guidance from UNESCO, the Botswana education system had to put in place strategies to adjust to the new norm of virtual as opposed to face-to-face interactions. Critical in the

response measures was the implementation of a plan of action to ensure that school infrastructure is COVID-19 compliant. The plan covers measures for prevention and elimination of the virus in the event of exposure as well as enforcing personal protective measures to be adhered to by the school community. As a result of these measures, few COVID-19 cases were reported in schools, thus enabling schools to run with very little disruptions following their re-opening. Similarly, national and institutional examinations at all levels, were administered without COVID-19 disruptions.



© Botswana National Commission for UNESCO — Education officials conducting school COVID-19 compliance checks

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

On 13 February 2020, Botswana commemorated the 9th edition of the World Radio Day in Sojwe, under the theme “*Pluralism, Representation and Diversity towards an Inclusive Radio Environment*”, as a domestic version of the international theme “*Radio and Diversity*”. Different radio stations, journalists, regulatory bodies and media organisations took part in the commemoration. They focused on a specific component of the theme, such as advocating for pluralism in radio, including a mix of public, private and community broadcasters; encouraging representation of diverse society groups in the newsroom and promoting a diversity of editorial content and programmes that reflect a variety of audience. As a result, public broadcast transmission infrastructure at Sojwe was upgraded to accommodate private radio station.

After winning the 2019 UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Botswana also won the 2020 United Nations Public Service Award through her e-Thuto digital learning platform. The platform enables web-based interaction between teachers, learners and parents in an effort to monitor and facilitate teaching and learning. e-Thuto was recognized together with six other initiatives across the world for their innovative response strategies to COVID-19.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in collaboration with the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO co-organized the national award ceremony of

the 2019 UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD on 11 March 2020. The ceremony was held back-to-back with the inter-institutional Peer Review of Sustainability Starts with Teachers-Change Projects, a capacity building programme for teacher educators on ESD. On 3 March 2020, Botswana launched the Out of School Education for Children programme under the theme “*Every Child is a winner*”. Under the spirit of leaving no one behind, the main purpose of the programme was to provide out of school children with an alternative form of education.

Botswana held a Biodiversity Symposium from 9 to 11 March 2020 to promote information dissemination and enhance collaboration amongst conservation experts.

Two Botswana women won the 2020 L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award aimed to recognize the outstanding contribution of women to the development of science.

In a meeting held from 8-10 September 2020, Botswana was elected a member of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) for Intangible Cultural Heritage. Following the elections, the National ICH Committee commissioned a Task Team to carry out IGC assignments at national level. In the main, the Task Team is responsible for preparing for IGC meetings (reviewing working documents, drafting responses for Botswana, and reviewing nomination files submitted for possible inscription in the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the activities that were planned for 2020 could not be implemented. As such, the Bridge Africa Programme Sustainability Conference was rescheduled to be held in 2021. The conference will be a joint collaboration between the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO as well as the Bridge Botswana, Eswatini and Zambia National Committees.

Similarly, the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO will continue to implement strategies to strengthen its capacity to coordinate implementation of the UNESCO mandate in Botswana. One such initiative planned for the year 2021 is the Orientation of the UNESCO Programme Committees, which will be a joint collaboration between the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.

CABO VERDE

Commission nationale du Cabo Verde pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Abraão Vicente

Secrétaire exécutive : Mme Carla Palavra

Courrier électronique : carla.palavra@cnu.gov.cv

Site web : www.unescocv.org

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Par le biais d'un partenariat entre le ministère de l'éducation du Cabo Verde, la Commission nationale du Cabo Verde pour l'UNESCO, l'UNESCO et l'UNICEF/GPE, une série de cinq webinaires a été organisée du 1er au 29 septembre, sur les thèmes suivants:

- « Désinformation et COVID-19 pour les professionnels de l'éducation » — ce webinaire avait pour but de traiter de la désinformation et des fausses nouvelles en référence à la crise actuelle de la COVID-19 ;
- « Préparation et gestion de la réouverture des écoles » — l'objectif de ce webinaire était de partager les connaissances, les expériences et l'apprentissage sur la préparation à l'école et la gestion de la réouverture des écoles afin de garantir des environnements d'apprentissage sains qui

minimisent le risque de propagation de la pandémie et qui envisagent l'utilisation d'approches pédagogiques mixtes et innovantes qui conduisent à des systèmes éducatifs plus résilients et plus équitables ;

- « Stratégies d'apprentissage à distance à envisager dans le cadre de la réouverture des écoles » — ce webinaire visait à partager les connaissances, les expériences et l'apprentissage entre les enseignants, les directeurs d'école, les fonctionnaires et autres personnes intéressées par l'éducation sur les stratégies d'apprentissage à distance à envisager dans le contexte de la réouverture des écoles ;
- « Réouverture des écoles dans le cadre de la COVID-19 : répondre aux défis par le biais des piliers de la santé et du bien-être » — dans ce webinaire, l'accent a été mis sur les défis en matière de santé et de bien-être dans le contexte des fermetures et réouvertures d'écoles, les stratégies de l'UNESCO qui incluent la prévention de la propagation des plus de 19 ans ainsi que les leçons tirées des crises précédentes et de la crise actuelle ;
- « La dimension de genre dans les fermetures et réouvertures d'écoles » ce dernier webinaire a souligné l'impact de la COVID-19 sur les fermetures d'écoles, et a discuté des risques liés à l'éducation, à la santé et au bien-être auxquels les filles et les garçons sont exposés lors des fermetures et des réouvertures d'écoles.
- Enregistrements de webinaires: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hE-kZmUUjws&list=PLsp2czyGgJl-3tE2vinrprmuYVRB2p7P>



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AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Une émission spéciale « Diversité » s'est tenue le 13 février pour marquer la Journée mondiale de la radio et le thème de cette année où la diversité des communautés d'écoute a été mise en évidence. Le thème de cette édition a également servi à réfléchir sur la diversité au sein des équipes de la radio capverdienne afin de comprendre si cette composition reflète le pays et englobe la diversité du public cible.

Pour célébrer la Journée internationale de l'accès universel à l'information 2020, la Commission nationale du Cabo Verde, avec le soutien du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Dakar et en partenariat avec le Comité national capverdien de la Mémoire du monde et les Archives nationales du Cabo Verde a organisé la Présentation publique du Comité national capverdien « Mémoire du monde et une conversation ouverte », sous le slogan « Accès à l'information - Sauver des vies, instaurer une confiance, apporter de l'espoir ».

Dans le domaine de la culture, avec la collaboration des Ministères de la Culture et des états membres de la CEDEAO, les activités se concentrent sur la création, la production et la diffusion de messages visant à prévenir et à limiter la propagation du

virus, contribuant ainsi aux efforts des gouvernements pour endiguer l'épidémie. Au Cabo Verde, la campagne #ArteCVKontraCovid19 a été organisée et mise en œuvre par le biais d'un partenariat entre la Commission nationale du Cabo Verde et le Ministère de la culture du Cabo Verde qui a rassemblé 8 artistes nationaux autour de la musique, de la danse, de l'écriture, de l'audiovisuel, des beaux-arts et de l'art urbain, pour partager une série de messages de prévention contre la COVID-19.

La Commission nationale du Cabo Verde a lancé en juillet 2020 un concours sur le thème « Sensibilisation et promotion de l'égalité des genres au Cabo Verde », destiné aux étudiants en licence et en master des établissements d'enseignement supérieur du Cabo Verde, qui visait à présenter un projet de construction d'une installation artistique sous forme de labyrinthe. Cette initiative visait à contribuer à la sensibilisation aux questions de genre, ainsi qu'à stimuler le débat dans la communauté au sens large et à attirer l'attention des décideurs publics sur les dimensions de genre qui sont présentes et qui pourraient être encore exacerbées par la pandémie et renforcer les inégalités. Ce projet itinérant aura un plan d'exposition à travers les différentes îles et municipalités du Cabo Verde afin de lui faire atteindre toutes les municipalités du pays et de n'oublier personne.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Les futures priorités seront portées sur les Espaces Ouverts, le projet Sandwatch 2.0, le Salon de la diversité culturelle, les Campings « Objectif de Développement Durable », et le Coin de l'UNESCO.

CAMEROUN

Commission nationale du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO

Président : Prof Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa, Ministre de l'Éducation de Base

Secrétaire Général : Dr Abdoul-Aziz Yaouba

Courrier électronique : cnu cameroun@yahoo.fr

Site web : www.comnat-unesco.cm

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

L'année 2020 a été particulière du fait de l'apparition de la pandémie de la COVID-19 qui a impacté profondément l'évolution des activités par le monde. La Commission nationale du Cameroun, comme ses consœurs d'ailleurs, a aussi vu les siennes amoindries du fait du respect des mesures de sûreté. Les diverses célébrations des journées Internationales ont été durement marquées par les restrictions sanitaires. Mais, malgré ce frein, maints événements méritent d'être retenus comme saillants.

La Section des Sciences Exactes et Naturelles, en accord avec le Réseau Campus Virtuel Avicenne, a conduit du 17 au 20 Novembre, l'Atelier de formation UNESCO sur l'Ingénierie Pédagogique de mise en ligne des cours dont l'objectif principal était de renforcer les capacités des Inspecteurs du Centre d'Excellence de Microsciences de Yaoundé sur l'Ingénierie pédagogique de mise en ligne des cours. Ce regroupement de travail, il faut le noter, a été tenu après la visite du Centre d'Excellence de Microsciences de l'UNESCO par la Commission nationale du Cameroun toute entière ; son rôle par ces temps de COVID-19 est crucial.



© Commission nationale du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Du 29 au 31 janvier, la Commission camerounaise a organisé l'Atelier sur Le renforcement des capacités des personnels des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO de la Sous-Région Afrique Centrale. Il avait pour objectif d'enrichir les pratiques des personnels des Commissions nationales concernées afin de leur permettre de jouer efficacement leur rôle.

La coopération de la Commission du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO a été renforcée par la dotation d'une salle de visioconférence et d'un package pour l'Assistance aux malades de la COVID-19. Ainsi, l'on a pu suivre, entre autres, le lancement du Rapport Mondial de l'éducation 2020, la Conférence internationale sur la lutte contre le harcèlement entre élèves, le Lancement régional de l'EDD pour 2030, le séminaire « Éducation au développement durable, jeunesse et résilience : des jeunes responsabilisés se mobilisant au-delà de la crise » et le Premier Atelier régional sur l'importance du pilotage de la qualité de l'éducation en Afrique.

La Section Éducation et Formation, en plus du fait qu'elle s'emploie actuellement à générer des solutions résilientes pour une éducation de qualité dans cette ère de la COVID-19 dans tous les ordres d'enseignement (primaire, secondaire, universitaire, professionnel), a travaillé ardemment pour l'introduction des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD), et notamment l'ODD 4 dans les programmes d'enseignements du pays.

La Section Sciences Humaines et Sociales, a tenu, lors de la célébration de la Journée internationale de la femme, une table-ronde centrée sur la scolarisation des jeunes

filles et les violences faites aux femmes. L'objectif de cette rencontre était de rappeler que l'éducation des filles est au cœur de tout développement durable, tout en mettant en exergue le principe de l'égalité des genres.

La Section Culture et Communication a pris part à l'organisation et la célébration de l'Édition 2020 du Nguon, festival culturel du peuple Bamoun. Couru par les camerounais de tout horizon, la cérémonie d'ouverture a permis de comprendre combien la paix contenue et entretenue dans les cœurs des hommes peut générer des liens solides au sein d'une nation.

Le Centre de Documentation, comme par le passé, s'est attelé à l'orientation et l'accompagnement des étudiants et des chercheurs des universités et grandes écoles du Cameroun intéressés par les domaines prioritaires de l'organisation.

Le Service des Affaires Générale a organisé, le 14 août, la cérémonie d'installation des personnels récemment nommés dans les différentes sections, les chargés d'études et leurs assistants. Conduite dans le respect strict des mesures barrières, elle a été suivie, le 17 novembre, par la prise de fonction officielle du nouveau Secrétaire Général de la Commission nationale, le Dr Abdoul-Aziz Yaouba. Par ces deux événements, notre institution s'est enrichie de capacités humaines lui permettant de mener avec plus d'efficacité ses missions statutaires.

Dans le souci de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs stratégiques de l'organisation, une évaluation a été faite afin d'ériger le Centre International de Recherche Chantal Biya (CIRCB) comme Centre de catégorie 2 de l'UNESCO.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission nationale du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO souhaite en 2021 améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement, la qualité de la recherche (par la collecte des données probantes) et préserver les œuvres culturelles en lien avec le patrimoine matériel et immatériel de l'UNESCO.

L'accentuation de l'Éducation au développement durable et l'équité dans l'éducation seront quelques-unes de ses priorités majeures. Le Cameroun a candidaté au programme de pilotage de la qualité de l'éducation en Afrique dont le suivi du deuxième groupe débutera en janvier 2021.

GABON

Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : Prof Dr Patrick Mougouama Daouda

Secrétaire Général : Dr Fred-Paulin Abessolo Mewono

Courrier électronique : comnatunesco gabon@yahoo.fr

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

La Commission nationale Gabonaise pour l'UNESCO a, en 2020, évolué dans un contexte assez particulier avec la survenue de la pandémie de COVID-19. En effet, comme dans toute la région Afrique-centrale, la pandémie du COVID-19 a eu des conséquences sur tous les maillons de la chaîne sociale.

Dans ce contexte de crise sanitaire mondiale, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, en sa qualité d'organe national de liaison, de coordination et de consultation, a tenu à répondre à sa mission qui est de promouvoir les buts, les programmes et l'œuvre de l'UNESCO au plan national en organisant le projet d'appui urgent aux personnes vivant avec un handicap en période de COVID-19 au Gabon en partenariat avec le Réseau Panafricain des Jeunes pour la Culture de la Paix (PAYNCoP-Gabon). Ce projet, à l'initiative de la Commission Nationale et du Réseau Panafricain des Jeunes pour la Culture de la Paix, plateforme associative qui regroupe les jeunes engagés dans le vaste champs d'activités qui concourent à la promotion de la culture de la paix au Gabon, a consisté à appuyer les efforts du gouvernement, notamment dans la sensibilisation sur les gestes barrières et la mise à disposition de bavettes certifiées, gels hydro alcooliques ainsi que des denrées alimentaires à l'endroit des personnes handicapées moteurs et visuelles, vivant hors des sites dédiés.



© Commission nationale gabonaise - Initiative de la Commission nationale et du Réseau Panafricain des Jeunes pour la Culture de la Paix (PAYNCoP-Gabon)

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

En décembre 2020, s'est tenu l'atelier de redynamisation du Programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental (PHI). En effet, depuis la constitution et la mise en place, en 2013, des Comités nationaux des programmes scientifiques internationaux et intergouvernementaux de l'UNESCO, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et le Bureau UNESCO de Libreville ont jugé nécessaire de relancer l'effectivité du comité national programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental en procédant au renouvellement de son effectif en vue de veiller aux contributions nationales dans ce domaine auprès de l'Organisation.

Fruit du partenariat affirmé entre la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et le Bureau UNESCO de Libreville, cet Atelier a aussi été l'occasion de convoquer l'ensemble des comités nationaux des programmes scientifiques internationaux et intergouvernementaux de l'UNESCO qui depuis leur constitution et leur mise en place, en 2013, nécessitaient de relancer leur effectivité dans le cadre d'une consultation inclusive de toutes les parties intéressées (Ministères, ONGs et universitaires), afin de mieux envisager les contributions à venir du Gabon aux programmes scientifiques internationaux et intergouvernementaux de l'UNESCO.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Outre les priorités de l'UNESCO définies à travers les 17 objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et auxquelles est déjà astreinte la Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO, cette dernière souhaiterait, dans le cadre des priorités futures, initier des manifestations dans le cadre des violences faites aux femmes, accroître le partenariat avec le mouvement culturel de l'UNESCO, ResiliArt, en vue de promouvoir les industries créatives en temps de crise et d'initier les discussions nationales sur l'Intelligence Artificielle au Gabon avec l'appui de l'UNESCO.

GHANA

Ghana Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh

Secretary-General: Ms Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh

Email: info@unescoghana.org

Website: www.unescoghana.org

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a toll on the roll-out of work of the Commission. However, the proactive measures put in place by H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana

ensured the execution of most of the programmes drawn up for the year.

In the year under review, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO contributed immensely to the 'clearing house' function of the Organization by signposting and disseminating information on coping with the pandemic and other virtual activities the Organization organized. The information was shared with sister public agencies, ministries as well as civil society organizations.

The Commission participated in various webinars organized by UNESCO, including UNESCO ResiliArt online dialogue.

The Commission further mobilized its intergovernmental committees to utilize UNESCO's resources in the fight against COVID-19 and its effect. The Commission contributed to the development of Ghana's COVID-19 response in education document as well as to the online campaign against disinformation and misinformation.



© Ghana Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Canada Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, jointly organized a webinar on Open Science and the Decolonization of Knowledge. The webinar aimed at complementing UNESCO's consultations on the creation of a Recommendation on Open Science, which is envisaged to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November of 2021. The webinar called for the diversification of knowledge by going beyond the orthodox way of acquiring and managing knowledge to knowledge decolonisation, with

emphasis on exploring the contribution of indigenous knowledge systems to solving the world's problems. The facilitators of the programme were Prof Budd Hall from the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education in Canada, Dr George Openjuru from Uganda and Dr Obadele Kambo from the University of Ghana.

The Commission further held a virtual panel discussion to observe the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 18 August 2020. The discussion engaged over eighty participants with speakers from both academia and chieftaincy institutions.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO looks forward to further contributing to the roll-out of UNESCO programmes to increase the visibility of the Organization. The Commission has and will continue to progress in its bid to contribute to the achievement of the Organization's mandate through its designated Category II Centres of Excellence and its revamped and newly established National Committees.

Due to the global health crisis, the Commission could not undertake its planned staff exchange with the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO and therefore, looks forward to accomplishing that in 2021. We further open our doors to other sister National Commissions for UNESCO for staff exchanges as well as other joint activities, especially in the area of AI and Open Science.

GUINÉE

Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO

Président : Prof Dr Patrick Mouguiama Daouda

Secrétaire Général : Dr Fred-Paulin Abessolo Mewono

Courrier électronique : comnatuneskogabon@yahoo.fr

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

En 2020, la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO a réalisé des activités de grand intérêt pour notre pays. Elles ont aidé l'UNESCO à atteindre la société civile et à accroître sa visibilité sur le plan national. Les différentes sessions de formation ci-dessous ont l'occasion de faire passer des messages sur le respect des mesures barrières du COVID-19.

Une activité réussie en 2020 : Session de formation par l'ONG — AMG, thème « Atelier de Formation des jeunes forgerons-fabricants et joueurs — balafonistes du Sosso Bala et des Ensembles Instrumentaux Badéngna de Kankan et Konkoba Djéli de Siguiri », organisée à Niagassola, Siguiri, du 4 au 10 octobre 2020, par l'ONG Association Maden Gnaga (AMG) en collaboration avec la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO et avec l'appui de l'UNESCO — Paris. 50 participant(e)s ont bénéficié de cette session de formation axée sur la fabrication et la préservation du balafon qui, à travers ses airs musicaux et la littérature orale qu'il génère, diffuse des valeurs socioculturelles d'une nation.



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AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

- Session de formation par l'ONG — ADL (Association pour le Développement du Littoral), thème : « Formation en Leadership des Femmes et des jeunes de l'Association pour le Développement du Littoral ». Tenue à Bintimodia, Préfecture de Boké, du 16 au 22 Septembre 2020, cette formation a permis aux 40 participant(e)s provenant des structures des niveaux central et déconcentré de Bintimodia de se former sur les AGR (Activités Génératrices de Revenus), afin de contribuer à la prospérité et au bien-être des populations du littoral guinéen en général et des populations du littoral de la préfecture de Boké en particulier;
- Session de formation par l'ONG — AMG (Association Manden GNAGA), thème « Atelier de Formation des jeunes forgerons-fabricants et joueurs — balafonistes du Sosso Bala et des Ensembles Instrumentaux Badéngna de Kankan et Konkoba Djéli de Siguiri », tenue à Niagassola, Préfecture de Siguiri du 4 au 10 octobre 2020. 50 participant(e)s ont bénéficié de cette session de formation axée sur

la fabrication et la préservation du balafon qui, à travers ses airs musicaux et la littérature orale qu'il génère, diffuse des valeurs socioculturelles d'une nation;

- Session de Formation par l'ONG — AGUIFEDU (Association Guinéenne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités), thème : « Formation des filles des lycées et collèges sur la thématique orientation et cheminement dans les Sciences, les Technologies de l'Ingénierie et les Mathématiques ». Tenue à Conakry du 21 au 26 décembre 2020, cette formation a permis aux 30 participant(e)s provenant des cinq communes de Conakry et de l'intérieur du pays, d'améliorer l'équité et l'accès des filles aux Institutions d'Enseignements Supérieurs publiques et encourager leur cheminement dans les filières scientifiques et techniques;
- En 2020, la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO a soumis auprès de l'UNESCO une requête d'aide d'urgence intitulée : « Sensibilisation sur la pandémie de COVID-19 dans les quatre régions naturelles de la République de Guinée ».

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des ODD et du PNDES, notre Commission nationale poursuivra la formation des enseignants dans les écoles membres du réseau pour une éducation au service du développement durable afin que les élèves du réseau sachent :

- Gérer les ordures afin de rendre leur école propre et éradiquer toutes éventuelles pandémies y compris la COVID-19 ;
- Fabriquer des fournitures d'écoliers connaissant les difficultés des parents pour les dépenses liées à l'achat de ces outils (règle en bois, sac d'écolier en fibres de raphia) et petits jouets grâce à la récupération d'objets du quotidien (boite de sardine vide en guise de voiture, sac vide de ciment en guise d'avion, etc.) ;
- La sensibilisation des populations pour une éducation inclusive, l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour tous pour un emploi rémunérateur à chacun et à tous.

Aussi, le Gouvernement est en train d'élaborer un programme décennal de l'éducation 2019-2028, incluant une politique nationale d'alphabétisation, de référentiel de compétences en alphabétisation, en éducation non formelle et en promotion des langues nationales.

GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE

Commission nationale de coopération de la Guinée équatoriale avec l'UNESCO

Président : M. Clément Engonga Nguema Onguene, Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement universitaire et des Sports

Secrétaire Général : M. Santiago Bivini Mangué

Courrier électronique : nculu2015@gmail.com

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

La Commission nationale, en collaboration avec l'Antenne de l'UNESCO à Malabo, participe activement à la Réunion

régionale V : Examen des initiatives contre le CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) en mai 2020.

La Commission nationale a coordonné la Réunion virtuelle des pays de la Communauté Economique des Etats d'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC) sur l'éducation numérique adressée aux professeurs de l'Université nationale de Guinée équatoriale (UNGE) du 17 au 18 avril 2020.

La Commission nationale avec la Conférence générale sur l'enseignement secondaire a organisé au niveau national le projet appelé « Réplique dans la région insulaire du projet de formation pour les étudiants ayant une sélectivité exceptionnelle ».

Le 30 juin 2020, la Commission nationale a coordonné activement avec la Direction générale de l'enseignement universitaire les travaux de l'Enquête de l'UNESCO sur l'enseignement supérieur et sa conformité avec les ODD, qui vise à « ne laisser personne de côté ».



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AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Le 10 février 2020, la Commission nationale a participé activement à l'organisation de la cérémonie de remise du Prix international-UNESCO de Guinée équatoriale en sciences de la vie, dans la salle Magna Nelson Mandela du siège de l'Union africaine, à Addis-Abeba (Ethiopie). La cérémonie de l'événement a été présidée par S.E. M. Theodore Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Président de la République, avec le Président de Djibouti, S.E. M. Ismaël Omar Guelleh, et l'ancien Président du Mali, S.E. M. Ibrahim Boubakar Keita. Les lauréats à cette occasion ont été : Cato T. Laurencin, professeur à l'Université du Connecticut (États-Unis) et ingénieur biomédical et chirurgien orthopédiste à l'Institut d'ingénierie régénérative, Kevin McGuigan, chirurgien chercheur au Royal College of Surgeons en Irlande, et le scientifique Tu Youyou, de l'Académie des sciences médicales et prix Nobel de médecine en 2015.

La Commission nationale a participé à la coordination des événements sur le processus de sélection et de recrutement du futur recteur de l'Université afro-américaine d'Afrique centrale (AAUCA), une action qui revient au professeur Dr Said Irandoost, selon le jury indépendant organisé par l'UNESCO et ratifié par le Gouvernement équato-guinéen.

Le Ministre de l'éducation, de l'enseignement universitaire et des sports, président de la Commission nationale de coopération avec l'UNESCO par résolution n° 05 datée du 25 septembre 2020, a nommé les membres nationaux du Comité national de suivi pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de coopération UNESCO/Guinée équatoriale. Du

29 au 31 octobre 2020, les membres nationaux de ce Comité se sont réunis dans la ville de Luba, dans la province de Bioko-Sud, afin de rédiger le Rapport national sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention et la Recommandation sur la lutte contre la non-discrimination dans le domaine de l'enseignement (1960).

La Commission nationale a coordonné le Forum virtuel des ministres chargés du développement social des pays d'Afrique centrale, auquel participe activement la ministre des Affaires Sociales et de l'égalité des genres de Guinée Équatoriale le 30 septembre 2020.

La Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a présidé à Malabo les travaux d'organisation des activités préparatoires à la deuxième réunion du Comité de Pilotage (COPIL) de l'Accord de coopération UNESCO/Guinée équatoriale du 3 au 7 décembre 2020. M. Salah Khaled, le Directeur du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique centrale, s'est réuni à Malabo du 9 au 11 décembre 2020 pour faire les premiers pas face à la prochaine réunion du COPIL. S.E. M. Clément Engonga Nguema Onguene, le Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement universitaire et des Sports, a reçu en audience le 10 décembre 2020, M. Salah Khaled pour analyser et étudier la faisabilité des projets approuvés et en attente de mise en œuvre dans le cadre de l'Accord de coopération UNESCO/Guinée équatoriale. Le Ministre des affaires étrangères et de la coopération, S.E. M. Simeon Oyono Esono, a également accordé une audience au Directeur du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique centrale lors de sa visite à Malabo le 10 décembre 2020.

KENYA

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Misigo Amatsimbi

Secretary-General: Dr Evangeline Njoka

Email: sg@unesco.go.ke

Website: www.unesco.go.ke

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Following the first reported case of COVID-19 in Kenya, the government announced the closure of all learning institutions from March 2020 as part of measures to curb the spread of the disease in the country. Consequently, about 18 million learners nationwide were affected by the closure and only learners who could access the online learning platforms were able to continue learning.

As a measure to address the challenges, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) together with World Vision Kenya (WVK) with support from UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) implemented a project on promoting child safety and non-violence. The initiative aimed at promoting safety and providing remote learning experiences for learners during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in Lamu County located in the Northern Coast of Kenya. The project targeted vulnerable children and was informed by a report on the region which indicated increased cases of child abuse in the area since schools closed due to the pandemic. The initiative directly reached over 600 children and key achievements of the project included enhanced literacy, numeracy and life skills, enhanced care and protection of self and others against COVID-19 and improved safety and protection of children by the community member.

The Commission organized a workshop for Kaya elders, who are custodians of the Kaya sacred forests of the Mijikenda, which is a World Heritage site. The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform to enable the elders to share their experience in safeguarding and conserving the heritage of the Mijikenda during the COVID-19 pandemic.



© KNATCOM – Kaya elders with KNATCOM Secretary General, Dr Evangeline Njoka and Chairperson, Dr Misigo Amatsimbi during a workshop for Kaya elders.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

KNATCOM undertook the following activities:

- conducted a capacity building workshop for the stakeholders of the newly renominated Malindi Watamu Arabuko Sokoke Biosphere Reserve on sustainable utilization of natural resources and branding of goods and services sustainably produced in the biosphere reserves;
- designed publicity publications for Malindi Watamu Arabuko Sokoke and Amboseli Biosphere Reserves and the Baringo Great Rift Valley, aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark;
- developed a management plan for the Baringo Great Rift Valley, aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark;
- identified potential sites of a new Biosphere Reserve in the Lake Victoria Basin Ecosystem;
- supported a virtual STEM mentorship for students on national and community radio stations, reaching an estimated listenership of 10 million for the 3 months, it ran and impressive reviews from learners, teachers and parents;
- hosted the 1st Africa Regional Conference for National Bioethics Committees which brought together participants from National Bioethics Committees representing twenty-two sub-Saharan African countries;
- organized a virtual Futures Literacy Laboratory (FLL) with support from UNESCO and the proposed UNESCO Chair on Futures Literacy at Dedan Kimathi University, which brought together policy makers, members of the academia, civil society organizations and the youth, to popularize the importance of future literacy, a skill considered important in the 21st century;
- organized a workshop on content development targeting representatives of community radios from the county governments of Migori and Homabay, who co-designed radio adverts and podcasts on prevention measures against COVID-19. The workshop set to enhance participants' knowledge of the basic principles of health communication and the role of community radio in health communication during the pandemic.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO over the last few years has been spearheading the nomination of Baringo Great Rift Valley Geopark, a process that is at an advanced stage. KNATCOM calls upon partners including those with existing Geoparks to share best practices and offer support through technical expertise while striving towards establishing Kenya's 1st UNESCO Global Geopark, second in Sub-Saharan Africa and first in the world renowned Great Rift Valley. Geoparks are sites and landscapes of international geological significance and are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. They also serve as sources of economic development and contribute towards geo-tourism.

LESOTHO

Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Nthoi Motsamai, Minister of Education and Training

Secretary-General: Mr Teboho Tsilane

Email: tsilane68@gmail.com

Website: www.unesco.org.ls

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The National Commission organized a session in celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week.

From the MIL conversations, a number of very important issues came to light which demand an immediate response from the government, including:

- the need to fully professionalize the Sector and media practitioners in particular, across the board, print and broadcasting;
- the need to have an autonomous regulatory body which is free from the state's influence;
- the need for clear policies and legal frameworks (as Lesotho does not have a standing media policy);
- the need to provide capacity building and training on information care and management for all the government ministries, so as to strengthen and professionalize their registry departments.

Some of these pointers proved to be challenges with regard to the information flow and dissemination during COVID-19 pandemic.



© Lesotho National Commission – Celebration of Media and Information Literacy

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In Education and Sciences, the National Commission held a virtual celebration of the International Girls in ICT Day with 10 teachers and 5 girls from each Technology Clubs from 5 schools in 4 districts of Lesotho. It also commemorated virtually with local partners the Internet Day as well as the International Youth Day organized by World Vision Lesotho.

In Communication and Information, the Commission held a virtual celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information and the Press Freedom Day in partnership with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Lesotho,

independent media houses and volunteers. During Global MIL Week a two-day activity was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, MISA Lesotho, independent media houses and other interested parties.

In Culture, the Commission joined ResiliArt conversations on the relief and resuscitation of creative industry during and post COVID-19, by engaging in the discussions together with the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture, Gender Entrepreneurship Empowerment Institute (GEMINSTITUTE), small businesses, events management companies and independent creative associations.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- To provide capacity building on ESD for teachers in ASPnet schools;
- To establish more collaboration with relevant Tech institutions to make education provision more inclusive and gender conscious by empowering more girls in STEM subjects;
- To develop programmes and activities geared towards addressing issues of climate change in partnership with relevant stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally;
- To enhance capacity building of 3 existing community radio stations in the country in collaboration with MISA Lesotho and establish at least 2 new ones;
- To execute a more profound implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.

MADAGASCAR

Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Marie Michelle Sahondrarimalala,
Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale

Secrétaire général : M. Manda Herilaza Ravelojaona

Courrier électronique : sgcomnatmada2@gmail.com

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Pour s'approprier de nouvelles méthodes d'enseignement et d'apprentissage avec l'utilisation des TICE, le noyau dur STEM Madagascar a envisagé les activités suivantes permettant la continuité à distance de l'Éducation aux STEM pour la promotion de l'orientation des filles vers les filières scientifiques

et la valorisation de la place des filles et femmes dans les sciences pour l'équité et la promotion du genre :

- sensibilisation sur les filières STEM par la production de vidéos de sensibilisation/témoignages des marraines des clubs STEM ;
- organisation d'un concours national télévisé pour la production de vidéos sur des thématiques STEM destiné aux élèves du collège, lycée et université ;
- organisation d'un concours national de « Scénarisation caricaturale » (dessin animé) ayant pour thématiques les 13 projets « gagnants » des clubs STEM de la journée scientifique de 2019 ;
- organisation d'un concours national de dessins sur des thématiques STEM destiné aux enfants.

Afin d'assurer le maximum de sensibilisation, ces concours ont été diffusés sur des chaînes de radios et télévision locales et sur le réseau social Facebook.



© Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO – Concours vidéo pour les enseignants/éducateurs/encadreurs

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Malgré la crise sanitaire due à la pandémie de la COVID-19, la Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO a pu réaliser diverses activités, toujours relatives aux domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO. En partenariat avec l'Antenne de l'UNESCO à Madagascar, sous l'égide du Ministère de la Communication et de la Culture (MCC), et en étroite collaboration avec la Radio Nationale Malagasy (RNM) et la Commission nationale malgache pour l'UNESCO, Madagascar a honoré la neuvième édition de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de la radio (JMR), le 13 février 2020, à travers la production d'émissions spéciales sur le thème « Nous sommes la radio, nous sommes la diversité ». Le discours de la Ministre de la Communication ainsi que le message de la Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO à l'occasion de la Journée, ce dernier prononcé par le Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale, ont été diffusés sur l'émission « Miaramanona », sans oublier le débat des lycéens issus des établissements membres du RéSEAU de l'UNESCO à Madagascar sur le thème « Les jeunes et la radio ».

Dans le cadre de l'organisation des rencontres prévues pour la préparation de l'Etat partie de Madagascar pour son rapport périodique quadriennal (RPQ) sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 2005 de l'UNESCO sur la protection et la promotion de

la diversité des expressions culturelles, l'UNESCO a conclu un accord de partenariat avec la Commission nationale. La qualité de la coordination et de dialogue entre les principaux responsables (Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Nairobi, Antenne de l'UNESCO à Madagascar, MCC, la Commission nationale) a facilité la réalisation des différentes tâches et activités du processus. L'atelier de consultation nationale a permis d'inventorier plus d'une cinquantaine de politiques ou mesures.

En outre, la célébration de la Journée Mondiale de la Philosophie, organisée en étroite collaboration avec la Mention Philosophie de l'Université d'Antananarivo, a été marquée par l'ouverture officielle du laboratoire de philosophie.

De plus, à travers l'initiative « Les Futurs de l'éducation », le réSEAU à Madagascar a organisé une discussion de groupe nationale en ligne avec la participation de 20 établissements membres du réSEAU situés dans différentes régions afin de contribuer à la préparation du prochain rapport mondial. Grâce aux efforts déployés par les membres de l'équipe de la Commission nationale et du réSEAU, la réunion virtuelle a été un succès malgré le manque de matériels et compétence en informatique au niveau des établissements, ainsi que le faible débit de connexion.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Pour l'année 2021, la Commission nationale prévoit la mise en œuvre à l'échelle régionale et nationale de projets et activités liés au mandat de l'UNESCO, à savoir :

- l'extension des nombres des clubs STEM et renforcement de la sensibilisation sur la promotion de l'Éducation aux Sciences, Technologies, Ingénieries et Mathématiques dans les Établissements Publics et privés des 6 ex-provinces de Madagascar, à travers les œuvres des concours susmentionnés ;
- la création d'une plateforme parentale pour les parents au sein des établissements scolaires pilotes de Madagascar afin d'assurer la promotion de l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté et l'Éducation pour le Développement Durable ;
- la mise en place d'un Comité national du Programme Mémoire du Monde dans le but de préserver et protéger le patrimoine documentaire pour le bénéfice de tout un chacun et étant accessible à tous, de manière permanente et sans aucun obstacle ;
- la poursuite de la mise en œuvre du projet en cours « #Décarboniser #Décoloniser » avec tous les autres membres du réSEAU à Madagascar sous le thème « Changement climatique », avec une rencontre entre tous les participants prévue en 2021.

MAURITIUS

Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

Assistant Secretary-General: Ms Aneeta Ghoorah

Email: unescodesk@govmu.org / anghoorah@govmu.org

Web site: <http://ministry-education.govmu.org>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

With the setting up of the Intercontinental Slavery Museum, the Government of Mauritius is demonstrating its commitment to raising awareness of the legacies of slavery and the slave trade and is also showing how museums can play an active role in education, outreach and the promotion of human rights in line with UNESCO 2015 Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections. The Museum will be set up in two phases as below:

Phase 1 will consist of:

- soft launching of the Museum;
- creation of a scientific committee to assist in the setting up of the Museum;
- cleaning, uplifting and reinstatement works of the ground floor and first floor of the Ex-Labourdonnais Military Hospital; and
- a consultative exercise to gather the views and contributions of stakeholders and members of the public in general, with

a view to finalizing the concept, orientation and vision of the Museum.

Phase 2 will consist of the full restoration of the building and actual conceptualization and setting up of the Museum, after the conduct of an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment exercise for the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay participated in the soft launching of the Museum on 20 October via a video message to express her wishes and support and to highlight how this new museum fills a void in the Mauritian history.



© Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO – Soft launching of the Intercontinental Slavery Museum by the Hon. Prime Minister on 20 October

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Hon. Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology was among the 24 Ministers of Education who participated in UNESCO's online platform to set up the emergency response and share strategies to minimize learning disruption worldwide. Directors of the home Ministry and Officers of parastatal organisations joined this online platform to give support to the Ministry's education response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to enable the education stakeholders in Mauritius to continue providing quality and equitable education during and post-COVID period in online mode and broadcast on National TV.

The Acting Chief Technical Officer from the Ministry participated in a virtual knowledge-sharing workshop on distance education programmes using radio and television, aimed to facilitate knowledge sharing on good practices in the development of educational audio-visuals and in doing so, to strengthen collaboration between educational content developers and audio-visual specialists.

The Director of the Tertiary section of the Ministry took part in the COVID-19 Education Roundtable meeting aimed at the implication for the global Higher Education Campus.

In 2020, four new Clubs for UNESCO were registered.

Panda & Wolf Holding launched the "Eco-Warriors" sustainable Mobile App Game developed in Mauritius for children of 6-11 years old. It is the first ever mobile game developed in Mauritius which received the official patronage of UNESCO.

A national NGO organisation called ABAIM (Association pour le Bien-être des Aveugles de l'Île Maurice) has been accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In February 2020, the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR) recommended that the Black River Gorges-Bel Ombre Biosphere Reserve be approved by the International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC). Two well-known international experts, Dr Thomas Schaff and Prof Dai Yeun Jeong, were invited to assist Mauritius in the preparation of the nomination dossier as well as raising awareness on the importance of the Biosphere Reserve among stakeholders. Mauritius submitted extension and renaming of the former Bel Ombre Biosphere Reserve in an endeavour to provide international recognition and increased protection of the natural hub of endemic biodiversity in the Black River Gorges National Park. IACBR's recommendations for the Black River Gorges-Bel Ombre Biosphere Reserve were endorsed by MAB-ICC at its 32nd session in October 2020.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Assistance of UNESCO will be solicited by Mauritius authorities in the future for the preservation of the country's cultural and natural wealth.

NAMIBIA

Namibia National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation

Secretary-General: Mr Roderick Graham April

Email: Roderick.April@mheti.gov.na

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The National Commission, under the leadership of its Youth Commissioner and in collaboration with the Namibia National Student Organization and other partners, hosted a series of activities to celebrate *International Youth Day (IYD)* on 12 August 2020, under the theme "*Youth Engagement for Global Action*". The first activity 'Take Action Tuesday' took place on 11 August in Windhoek. Health officials provided HIV testing to the community, family planning counselling, and

guidance on COVID-19 safety protocols. Youth distributed masks and 60-litres water containers to be used for sanitation. On the following day youth organized an open dialogue and panel discussion on the theme '*The role of young people in the law-making process*'.



© Namibia National Commission for UNESCO - Youth distributing 60-litres water containers and masks in an informal, impoverished settlement

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Namibia appreciated the various webinars and virtual fora organized by UNESCO. The President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, made remarks during the '2020 Global Education Meeting Declaration', where Namibia also made commitments to protect education finance during and post COVID-19. The Chairperson of the National Commission delivered remarks at the UNESCO-Africa-China High-level online Dialogue for supporting Priority Africa in the COVID-19 and post-COVID context. Input was provided towards the UNESCO national and regional consultation process on the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029) (41 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5). The Commission took part in the Online meeting on COVID-19 for National Commissions.

Collaboration and joint planning aimed at programme coordination to support the Government were strengthened between the Commission and the UNESCO Office in Windhoek. These regular meetings led, inter alia, to the design of a Draft UNESCO Country Strategy.

In terms of governance, three new staff members joined the Commission. During the General Assembly of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, which focused on the theme "Youth and Food Security: towards peace, sustainable development and poverty eradication", the Secretary-General of the German Commission for UNESCO shared information in a video recording on collaboration between the two Commissions, and also provided context on the theme and future activities.

The Commission ensured in the Education Sector that Namibia embraces the "ESD for 2030" framework. Thus, Namibia launched an ESD/Environmental Education

Policy, the first stand-alone ESD policy in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

In Communication and Information, the Commission hosted the celebration of the 2020 World Press Freedom Day (WPF) at the COVID-19 Communication Centre in Windhoek, where the discussions were streamed live. Various virtual consultation meetings took place to plan WPF, which Namibia will host in 2021. A major highlight was the hosting of the WPF 2021 Kick-Off event which coincided with the 'Ceremonial Hand over event' between the Netherlands (WPF 2020 host) and Namibia (WPF 2021 host).

In Science, the Commission supported the celebration of the 2020 International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. UNESCO Chair on Gender and Digital Technologies at the Namibia University of Science and Technology was approved.

In Culture, the Commission was involved in developing a national strategy on Sustainable Heritage Tourism Development and Employment Creation Opportunities at Community level. The German Commission for UNESCO accepted the proposal by the National Heritage Council of Namibia to produce two documentaries on Namibia's two World Heritage sites. The element of the Namibian intangible cultural heritage 'the Aixan /Gana /Ob #ANS TSI //Khasigu, ancestral musical sound, knowledge and skills' (Namibia) was inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2021 will focus on the hosting of World Press Freedom Day 2021, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Artificial Intelligence Conference, and on the participation in the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference.

New members of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO will be appointed and will thus receive orientation to assume their oversight function and to provide strategic direction to the Commission for the next five years. In this regard, the Commission hopes to liaise with the Field Offices to provide capacity development.

One major activity in 2021 includes the planning and preparation to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO in 2022. For this, cooperation with various partners and stakeholders will be sought.

The Commission hopes that the staff exchange programme with the Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO, and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO will resume and be strengthened post COVID-19. The Namibia National Commission remains committed to partner with the German Commission for UNESCO, not only on the "youth volunteering in designated sites programme", but also on innovative approaches in ICT to implement UNESCO's programmes.

NIGERIA

Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Mallam Adamu Adamu

Secretary-General: Mr Olagunju Idowu Lateef

Email: natcom.unesco@education.gov.ng

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with UNESCO line ministries and agencies, UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, and civil society organizations to promote the ideas and programmes of UNESCO in Nigeria.

To create more awareness on the emerging ICT trends globally, the Commission organized a sensitization workshop tagged STEM “Laying the Way for Artificial Intelligence” held on 28 July 2020. It was aimed at training Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teachers on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and application of micro science to secondary education across STEM fields, integrating micro science and AI into the school curriculum and enlightening participants on how AI can reduce human contact in the

pandemic era and open the country’s economy to the global society.

Cultural Creativity for Youths Skills Development programme was organized by the Commission on 13-14 August 2020, to re-awaken and re-orientate youths on how to meet the challenges of nation building, as well as to equip them to regain their economic viability and relevance after the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the country’s economy.



© Ajanas Digital Photo Lab — Skill Acquisition process during the Cultural Creativity for Youths Skills Development programme

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

With the support of the UNESCO Participation Programme, the Nigerian National Commission organized a workshop on strengthening the capacity of ASPnet Schools Coordinators and Principals on ESD and GCE “Whole-School Approaches in Achieving Education 2030 agenda”. Held in Owerri, Imo State, the workshop was aimed at integrating Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into teaching and learning processes of ASPnet schools, experimenting innovative approaches on GCE and ESD through ASPnet schools and strengthening the sharing of information, experiences and good practices among ASPnet schools.

A one-day workshop “Prevention of Violent Extremism among Youth in Nigeria in the Pandemic Era” was held on 28 August 2020 to address the causes and preventive measures in curbing violent acts among Nigerian youth, especially in the COVID-19 era.

The Commission organized a one-day workshop to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28 September 2020 with focus on acquainting individuals with methods of spotting, identifying and countering fake news and enlightening the public on the impact of proactive disclosure of information for

decision-making in times of crisis. During the programme, particular emphasis was laid on the impact of the spread of fake news during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ways to mitigate the effects were thoroughly discussed.

The International Day of Light was marked on 23 November 2020 with a one-day workshop tagged “Light is Life”. The workshop created greater awareness on the potentials of light-based technologies for solving many of the challenges facing the country; promoted interaction and dialogue among academics, industries and professionals in using optics and photonics concepts in tapping developmental strategies for communities and encouraged careers in science and engineering.

Also, a two-day National Stakeholders Consultation for the West and Central Africa Commitment for Educated, Healthy and thriving Adolescents and Young people was held in Abuja on 25-26 November 2020. The main objective of the two-day event was to collate substantive recommendations from stakeholders to strengthen Family Life and HIV Education, Reproductive Health Services, and other strategies to prevent and protect adolescents and young people from Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event had over 100 stakeholders participating physically and over 450 participating virtually.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, the Commission, with UNESCO line ministries and agencies, hopes to commemorate the International Water Day (Water Education) on 19-22 March, through advocacy and rally targeted at students and the general public.

It also plans to empower the 215 youths already trained for the purpose of wealth creation by a follow-up to the Cultural Creativity for Skills Development programme organized by the Commission on 13-14 August 2020.

The Commission intends to organize a project to provide adolescent girls, who are forced to drop out of school due to poverty, early marriages or pregnancies, alternative learning opportunities and to empower them through a sustainable income generation and life skills.

In 2021, the Commission also hopes to hold a three-day capacity building workshop for basic education teachers in ICT on the provision of remote learning in the pandemic era.

RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO

Président : Dr Aboubakar Moukadas-Noure

Secrétaire générale : Dr Georgette Florence Koyt-Deballe

Courrier électronique : comnatrca@gmail.com / gfdkoyt@gmail.com

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

En dehors des échanges par courriel, peu d'activités ont eu lieu sur le terrain. Elles ont toutes été financées par le Bureau Régional Multisectoriel pour l'Afrique Centrale de Yaoundé. Il s'agit de :

- mission de consultations publiques, de collecte de données biophysiques et socioéconomiques, de co-construction multi-acteurs dans le cadre de la préparation du dossier de proposition des réserves de biosphère du Complexe des Aires protégées du Nord de la RCA (CAPN-PF) ;
- journée de consultation nationale des parties prenantes vers un engagement de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre pour des adolescents et des jeunes, en bonne santé et épanouis.



© Aroun Faimindi Beregnon Ange Turelle Leslie - Tribune à l'ouverture

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Les activités sur le terrain ont été bloquées faute de financement. Les échanges ont eu lieu par SMS ou par courriel. La participation aux webinaires a souvent été

difficile car parfois la connexion ne fonctionnait pas ou elle a été coupée en cours de communication. Pour toutes les activités en présentiel, un kit de lavage des mains, du gel hydro-alcoolique et des masques ont été mis à la disposition de chaque participant.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Enfin, afin de renforcer les capacités des commissions nationales dans le cadre des efforts de modernisation de l'Organisation, la Commission française a établi un inventaire du rôle et des différentes responsabilités incombant à une commission nationale, afin de mieux cerner sa valeur ajoutée dans son action de soutien à l'UNESCO. Ce recensement permettra par ailleurs de lancer une série de brochures sur des aspects plus spécifiques du travail des commissions nationales, en partenariat avec la Commission allemande pour l'UNESCO et le Secrétariat, puis toute autre Commissions souhaitant s'associer à ce projet.

RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Willy Bakonga Wilima, Ministre de l'Enseignement primaire, secondaire et technique

Secrétaire Permanent : M. Lazare Liema Ibongo Botie

Courrier électronique : comnat.rdc@gmail.com

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

La Commission nationale s'est appuyée sur ses partenaires, notamment les Ecoles associées et l'ASBL INVESTING IN PEOPLE, afin de contribuer à l'atténuation de l'impact du COVID-19 dans les secteurs de l'éducation et des sciences. De fait, quelques écoles associées ont assuré un encadrement aux élèves des classes terminales grâce à des tablettes mobiles. Lors de la 7ème édition de la science et des technologies 20.000 visières 3D ont été distribuées au personnel soignant et aux enseignants dans les écoles et universités du pays.

Un autre fait marquant est celui du rôle majeur joué par la Commission nationale dans les préparatifs de la visite de la Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO afin de faire un état des lieux du secteur éducationnel à la veille de la rentrée scolaire perturbée par la pandémie de la COVID-19. Face aux élèves, la Directrice Générale a martelé que la fermeture des écoles, suite à la pandémie, ne devrait pas être une occasion de déperdition. « L'UNESCO se tient aux côtés du gouvernement pour appuyer la planification des efforts et assurer la soutenabilité de réformes qui vont exiger l'accompagnement des bailleurs de fonds internationaux », a-t-elle indiqué lors de son tête-à-tête avec le Président de la République.



© Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO – Lycée KABAMBARE

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Les activités clés de la Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo pour l'UNESCO pour l'année 2020 étaient centrées sur l'exécution des requêtes financées par l'UNESCO dans le cadre des Programmes d'Aide d'urgence et de Participation. Dans ce contexte, en septembre 2020 la remise des équipements et fournitures scolaires à quelques écoles affectées par des pluies diluviennes à Uvira dans la Province du Nord Kivu a été effective.

Dans la même veine, la Commission nationale a, en collaboration avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Kinshasa, organisé, du 25 au 26 novembre 2020, un atelier de renforcement des capacités en direction du nouveau personnel du Secrétariat Permanent de la Commission nationale afin de lui permettre de s'adapter aux nouveaux enjeux de l'UNESCO. Cette formation était axée sur : l'Acte constitutif, Stratégie à Moyen Terme, Transformation Stratégique de l'UNESCO ; les textes relatifs à la création, l'organisation ainsi qu'au fonctionnement ; la Charte des Commissions Nationales ; les Programmes et Budget de l'UNESCO ; le Statut et Règlement du Personnel de carrière des Services Publics de l'État, la déontologie et l'éthique professionnelle ; les Partenaires de l'UNESCO.

Il convient de souligner la participation de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO aux consultations pour la préparation du Projet de stratégie à moyen terme pour 2022-2029 (41 C/4), et du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2022-2025 (41 C/5). A ce sujet notre pays a pris part active, du 22 au 24 juin 2020, aux consultations des Etats membres de l'Afrique du Centre et de l'Ouest, autour du Programme et Budget de l'UNESCO pour 2022-2025.

Du 29 au 30 juillet 2020, la République démocratique du Congo a eu, à travers sa Commission nationale, l'immense privilège de mobiliser les Etats membres de l'Afrique Centrale et quelques Etats insulaires francophones dont le Madagascar et le Comores, afin d'enrichir l'instrument normatif mondial sur l'éthique de l'Intelligence Artificielle, au regard du fait qu'un ressortissant Congolais, Prof Evariste Likinda Bofonda, siège au sein du Comité International de Bioéthique, en qualité du Vice-Président.

Enfin la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a joué un rôle important dans la mobilisation des chercheurs en Sciences Sociales et Humaines, ainsi que les membres des organisations de la société civile dans le cadre du Programme MOST.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

De la rencontre de deux Institutions, la Commission nationale et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Kinshasa, à l'École régionale postuniversitaire d'aménagement et de gestion intégrés des forêts et territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT), il s'est dégagé la nécessité pour l'année 2021 de développer les activités conjointes pour soutenir les ODD.

RWANDA

Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO

Vice-Chairperson: Ms Marie Christine Gasingirwa

Secretary-General: Mr Albert Mutesa

Email: comnat.rwanda@unesco.rw / albert.mutesa@unesco.rw

Website: www.unesco.rw

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

On 14 March 2020, the Ministry of Health reported the first case of COVID-19 in the country. Stay-at-home and lockdown were employed as top prevention measures to fight against the pandemic. Most of businesses, public services and schools closed. After one month, some public and private services reopened and resumed work, but the schools remained closed until September 2020. The Ministry of Education recommended distance learning through Rwanda TV, radios and other social media.

In regards to these prevention measures, on 9 June the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO organized and hosted an

e-meeting with UNESCO Clubs Coordinators and UNESCO Associated Schools all around the country. Four different topics were developed: *The way the spread of COVID-19 can be prevented or slowed down; Prevention of COVID-19 after reopening of schools in September, when schools are overclouded; The role of media in pandemic prevention and mitigation; The effects of COVID-19 on tourism industry, cultural and creative sector.*



© Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO — At St Joseph Primary School in Kicukiro, students and teachers wearing masks and washing their hands before a temperature measurement and accessing the school facilities

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

During 2020, the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO organized various activities and contributed to the celebration of different International and World Days dedicated to science, philosophy, education/teachers, water, biodiversity, etc.

In Education, the National Commission mobilized principals, teachers, and students from UNESCO ASPnet schools to participate in the UNESCO global consultation on the Futures of Education initiative devoted to two topics: Global Citizen Education and Education for Sustainable Development. The aim of the event was to involve the ASPnet community in a debate to rethink education and shape the future in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty and precarity. The discussions brought together 15 school leaders, 15 teachers and 15 students in Kigali on 26 October, 29 October and 5 November.

In Culture, Social and Human Sciences, the National Commission sustained its efforts to promote UNESCO's Culture Conventions. In line with the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the Commission invested in the promotion of cultural tourism on King Ruganzu historical sites, particularly by the inauguration of Rubingo Camp site on the

top of Mt Jari. The King Ruganzu II Ndoli who reigned over Rwanda in the early 1500s is the most renowned king of Rwanda.

In Sciences, the Commission organized a six-day workshop to strengthen capacities of 40 Rwandan youths (16 females and 24 males) with digital and coding skills for entrepreneurship and job creation. This workshop was organized in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa to empower the next generation and to strengthen capacities of young innovators with the new digital and coding skills during the Africa code week 2020 in Rwanda.

In Communication, a successful one-day campaign was initiated to celebrate the 2020 World Radio Day under the theme "The role of community radios in the fight against malnutrition and stunting". The campaign attracted about 3000 people at Bugabo playground in Ruhango sector, Rutsiro District. The data shows that the district has a huge problem of children stunting counting 49% of malnourished children as part of the 38% recorded countrywide. The campaign was organized through a live soap opera with the most acclaimed actors of the Rwandan scene.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

For almost 50 years, the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) has been facilitating global scientific cooperation in protecting biodiversity as well as providing opportunities to local communities around biosphere reserves (BRs). Rwanda has two Biosphere Reserves: the Gishwati — Mukura Landscape Biosphere Reserve (GMLBR) and the Volcanoes Biosphere Reserve (VBR) included into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in 2020 and 1983 respectively.

Through regional cooperation, the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO joined the National Commissions of Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania to conduct a baseline study on the Lake Victoria Basin Ecosystem (LVBE) to facilitate the promotion of its designation by UNESCO as a multi-state Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR).

In 2021, the process of preparing the nomination dossier will continue at country level through national consultations with key stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin.

SEYCHELLES

Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Justin Valentin, Minister for Education and Human Resource Development

Secretary-General: Dr Marie-Reine Hoareau

Website: www.edu.gov.sc

Email: mrhoareau@gov.sc

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

A symposium was organized on 4 November 2020 by the United Nations in collaboration with the James Mancham Peace and Diplomacy Research Institute from the University

of Seychelles to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN entitled "Shaping our Future together". The symposium allowed key national stakeholders to network and forge partnerships vital for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ms Christine Umutoni, UN Resident Coordinator in Mauritius and Seychelles, made introductory remarks followed by presentations from UN affiliated agencies. "UNESCO Action in Seychelles" was the title of the presentation made by Ms Vicky Michel, Assistant Secretary General of the Seychelles National Commission. Ms Nichole Tirant-Gherardi, Ombudsman, made a presentation on the Ombudsman's role in human rights violation cases. Ms Angeliqne Poupponeau, Chief Executive Officer of Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Grant (SEYCCAT), highlighted the role of youth in promoting the SDGs and finding solutions to today's challenges. Ms Annarose Clarisse, President/Founder of UN Youth Seychelles, introduced her NGO's work in promoting the SDGs through activities for youth peer learning.



© Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO - Ms Nichole Tirant-Gherardi (Ombudsman), Ms Annarose Clarisse (President of UN Youth Seychelles) and Ms Vicky Michel (Assistant Secretary General of the National Commission)

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Seychelles National Commission could not organize activities as planned. Meetings with UNESCO were conducted online. When Seychelles recorded its 6th case in March 2020, the Department of Health ordered nationwide school closure for two months (16 March to 18 May 2020). In order to ensure the continuity of learning, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) aired a few recorded lessons on one of the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) channels for learners from early childhood onwards. Additional educational resources were put on the Ministry's website for parents and students to access. For lower primary students, printed lessons were made available and parents were asked to come and collect them from schools. Calendars of Operations for educational institutions were adjusted to make up for the loss in curriculum time.

The Seychelles National Commission (SeyNatCom) encouraged MEHRD high-level officials to attend UNESCO webinars and share their experiences with regards to ensuring the continuity of learning through two main webinars: 'COVID-19 UNESCO Global Coalition for Education - Partners meeting/Seychelles' (23 June 2020) and 'COVID-19 Education Response Webinar - Ensuring Quality of Learning and Well-being for Young Children in the context of the COVID-19' (15 July 2020). SeyNatCom

collaborated with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa to organize webinars to inform MEHRD officials of international partners willing to work with Seychelles to ensure that learning continues such as the Commonwealth of Learning, Microsoft, Curious Learning and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE). SeyNatCom facilitated a webinar organized by the Teacher Management Development Section of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to share Seychelles' experience with East African countries with the view of finalizing the Teacher Management Policy in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA).

SeyNatCom coordinated the country's participation in the following webinars organized by UNESCO to support the culture sector in COVID-19 crisis response: Meeting of Ministers of Culture on the Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Cultural Sector and the Public Policy Response (22 April 2020); ResiliArt |Africa: Status of the Artist in the Africa Region (28 July 2020); Culture, Tourism and COVID-19: Recovery, Resiliency and Rejuvenation (28 September 2020). These events allowed government officials to learn about the consequences brought about by COVID-19 as well as solutions adopted by other countries in accessing culture online and developing national legislation to support artists.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- To set up a statistical matrix for the collection of cultural statistics in Seychelles and to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise;
- To strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education at all levels of the education system to promote STEM related jobs;
- To provide capacity building and support for the development and implementation of CBA curriculum in schools;
- To develop a new Education Policy "Learning, innovation and sustainable development" to include TVET policy;
- To facilitate networking in line with data management and big data systems in ECCE for the monitoring and evaluation of holistic Early Childhood Development, storing and retrieval of data on ECCE services.

SOUTH AFRICA

South African National Commission for UNESCO

President: Ms AM Motshekga, MP, Minister of Basic Education

Chairperson: Prof Ihron Rensburg

Secretary-General: Mr Carlton Lufuno Mukwevho

Email: Mukwevho.C@dbe.gov.za

Website: www.education.gov.za/natcom

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The South African National Commission for UNESCO continued supporting the fourteen UNESCO Chairs established at the different South African universities. UNESCO approved two new chairs, the UNESCO Chair on Open Education and Social Justice at the University of Cape Town, and the UNESCO Chair in African Integration and Innovation at the Tshwane University of Technology.

From the research being done on blended learning and distance education within the UNESCO Chair on Multimodal Learning, hosted by the North-West University, a book was published online, which aims to provide an overview of theoretical and practical considerations in terms of self-directed multimodal learning within the university context. Multimodal learning is approached in terms of the levels of multimodality

and specifically blended learning and the mixing of modes of delivery (contact and distance education). The book covers issues such as what self-directed multimodal learning entails, mapping of specific publications on multimodal learning, blended learning in mathematics, geography, natural science and computer literacy, comparative experiences in distance education, and situated and culturally appropriate learning.

The country observed the celebration of international days, with the Communication and Information Sector spearheading the country's celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information. Ms AM Motshekga, President of the South African National Commission for UNESCO and Minister of Basic Education, actively led the country's events celebrating the 2020 World Teachers' Day.



© Ms AM Motshekga, MP, President of the South African National Commission for UNESCO, and Minister of Basic Education

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

South Africa continued serving at the following UNESCO subsidiary bodies and committees: the International Bureau of Education (IBE), Man and Biosphere (MAB), Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), Information For All Programme (IFAP), UNESCO's Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) entrusted with the preparation of a preliminary text of a Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Advisory Committee on Open Science, UNESCO Creative Cities Network, UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, Teacher Task Force (TTF), the UNESCO Dynamic Coalition process on OER, and the IOC.

South Africa was elected to serve on the UNESCO Open Science Advisory Committee, tasked with the development of an international standard-setting instrument on Open Science, a recommendation that will define shared values and principles for Open Science, and identify concrete measures on Open Access and Open Data, with proposals to bring citizens closer to science, and commitments for a better distribution and production of science in the world. It is anticipated that the Recommendation will be adopted by the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference. Also, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) partnered with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in organizing a virtual African regional workshop on Open Science.

Besides being a State Party to the Addis Convention on Higher Education in African States, South Africa actively participated in the preparation process of the Global

Convention as a Member of the Editing Group in the final phase of the negotiations which led to the adoption of the text.

The South African National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with ROSA, the Ethics and Bioethics Section in UNESCO Headquarters, and UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (ROEA), in hosting the online regional consultation on preparing the draft text of UNESCO's standard-setting instrument on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, in the form of a recommendation, in line with the resolution of the 40th session of the General Conference (40 C/Resolution 37).

In contribution to the implementation of culture in the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a dynamic cultural sector, South Africa supported several creative arts incubators across the country as well as projects aligned to digital solutions. The South African Local Government Association (SALGA), in partnership with the South African National Commission for UNESCO, the Tshwane University of Technology, the UNESCO Chair on Culture and Development, the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, hosted a series of webinars in September 2020 on Arts, Culture and Heritage for Sustainable Local Government Development. In relation to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 2005 Convention booklet was translated into the country's three official languages (Zulu, Sotho and isiXhosa), with the aim of raising awareness about, and promoting the 2005 Convention.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will continue coordinating the implementation of UNESCO's activities and programmes and providing support for the establishment and management of biosphere reserves in neighboring countries.

SUDAN

Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

Chairperson: Prof Mohamed Elamin Ahmed Eltom

Secretary-General: Mr Wafaa Sidahmed Mohamed Noureldin

Email: sudannatcom@hotmail.com

Website: sudannatcom.gov.sd

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The UNESCO Chair on Women in Science and Technology in collaboration with Sudan University for Science and Technology led a voluntary initiative in response to the coronavirus, by producing hygienic product and awareness

materials. A Diaspora Debate on Coronavirus and Agenda 2030 was conducted by the Chair and a conference on “E-learning: Challenges and Future Prospects” was held. The UNESCO Chair on School Health Education organized an awareness campaign about the disease in basic and secondary schools in Khartoum state.

Other activities in response to the pandemic included:

- Participation of three teachers from UNESCO ASPnet in the introductory virtual consultation to enhance awareness of the importance of the role of water in the fight against COVID-19, co-organized with the UNESCO Cairo Office;
- Participation of eight UNESCO Associated Schools' students in the training course to raise awareness about bullying in schools after the period of closure due to COVID-19, co-organized with the UNESCO Cairo Office;
- Participation of one student in the UNESCO climate change adaptation competition, “The Visual Art of Climate Change Adaptation under COVID-19”, and participation of 3 students in writing case study on climate adaptation under COVID-19.



© UNESCO Chair on School Health Education, Sudan

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Sudanese National Council for Literacy and Adult Education and UNESCO signed the Agreement to support the project “Strengthening ILO TREE with Sheep & Goat Breeding Skills and Community Learning Centers.”

The Sudanese Ministry of Education and UNESCO signed an agreement to support the 2nd phase of the project “Making Schools Inclusive”, funded by the UN Partnership for Promoting Rights of People with Disabilities.

56 students from UNESCO ASPnet participated in the United Nations competition, “How do you see the future?” by drawing and writing an essay. A student from a UNESCO Associated School participated in a video about bullying among students with the UNESCO HQs, Associated Schools of UNESCO.

Among other key activities implemented were:

- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Water and COVID-19 between the Sudanese National Commission, the UNESCO Khartoum Office and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research;
- Signing of a MoU between the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO, the Sudanese National Commission, the UNESCO Khartoum Office and the National

Council for Cultural Heritage and National Languages Promotion, for strengthening Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) capacities in Sudan via establishing and ensuring the run of the ICH Inventory tool for the Sudanese ICH elements;

- Development of Media Reform Roadmap based on the Sudanese Media Landscape Assessment;
- Video design and implementation of the celebration of the World Teacher's Day;
- Preparation of Assessment of Water Resources in the Transitional Zone of Jebel Al Dair Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO Category II Regional Center for Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting;
- Organization of a national workshop on water resources planning and management for peace by the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources;
- Preparation of tentative list of Natural Heritage Sites for submission to World Heritage Center;
- Developing a Strategy for Safeguarding, Management and Promotion of the ICH in Sudan (2020-2029);
- Participation in virtual meetings organized by UNESCO, ALECSO and ICESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Enhancing cooperation with other National Commissions, further communication with the German Commission, implementation of the MoU signed with the Austrian Commission;
- Organization of a Training workshop for master trainers in Inquiry Based Science Education, with ISTIC and UNESCO;
- Designing a guide for teachers on Museum Education in cooperation with the British Council and ICCROM;
- Implementation of the Educational Museum project for students in cooperation with the British Council and UNESCO Khartoum Office;
- Organization of seminars on harassment and bullying in media in 24 primary and secondary schools and those with special needs in cooperation with the UNESCO Khartoum Office and MTN Communications Company;
- Distributing school aids to 4 schools in the rural area around Khartoum state, in cooperation with UNICEF;
- Strengthening community and local capacities for the production of hygienic products and protective equipment to fight against COVID-19 in Africa, through partnership between ICESCO and ALWALEED PHILANTHROPIES;
- Establishment of an art club that includes students from primary and secondary levels. A monthly event will be held such as drawing, debates, and awareness seminars covering issues that affect students in cooperation with the UNESCO Khartoum office and UNICEF.

TOGO

Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : Prof Majesté Ihou N. Wateba

Secrétaire général : M. Michel Koffi Agboh

Courrier électronique : unesco_tg@yahoo.fr

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

La Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO n'a pas réalisé d'activités importantes au cours de l'année 2020 en raison de la crise sanitaire de la COVID-19. Au temps fort de la pandémie, les établissements scolaires ont été fermés et l'Administration publique fonctionnait au ralenti. Seule une activité en présentiel a été organisée en janvier avant le début de la crise, ensuite la Commission nationale a participé à

des réunions en ligne organisées soit par le siège soit par les bureaux hors siège de l'UNESCO.

La Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a coordonné des réunions en ligne organisées par les bureaux régionaux de l'UNESCO à Dakar ou à Abuja ou encore le Siège avec les ministères compétents. Ces réunions ont, pour la plupart, pour objet d'apporter les réponses de l'UNESCO à la pandémie de la COVID-19. C'est le cas, le 22 avril 2020, de la réunion des ministres de la culture sur l'impact de la pandémie de COVID-19 sur le secteur culturel et réponses des politiques publiques. L'UNESCO a également organisé des webinaires en faveur des ministres (ou leurs représentants) en charge de l'éducation et autres acteurs en vue de partager des informations sur les efforts mis en œuvre dans les pays pour assurer la continuité d'une éducation inclusive dans différents contextes. La Commission nationale a diffusé les informations sur l'assistance de l'UNESCO aux pays dans ses domaines de compétence.

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

La Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO a, elle-même, participé à des réunions en ligne organisées par l'UNESCO, par exemple, sur la consultation régionale du projet de Stratégie à moyen terme de l'UNESCO (41 C/4) qui doit couvrir la période 2022-2029 et du projet de Programme et de budget (41 C/5) de la période 2022-2025.

Un atelier de formation des enseignants du primaire et du secondaire s'est organisé les 3 et 4, puis du 6 au 8 janvier 2020 dans deux zones cibles du Togo (Bassar-Dankpen et Tsévié-Agbélouvé). Il porte sur la "Promotion de l'égalité fille-garçons et la santé

sexuelle et reproductive pour les adolescents scolarisés et non-scolarisés". L'objectif général est de contribuer à un environnement favorable à la santé de la reproduction pour les adolescents scolarisés et non-scolarisés. La phase formation a pour but de doter les enseignants des connaissances nécessaires et de les sensibiliser sur la thématique. Au total 200 enseignants du primaire et 194 professeurs du secondaire, chefs d'établissement y compris, ont suivi la formation. Elle a été mise en œuvre par le Ministère des enseignements primaire et secondaire avec l'appui financier du fonds de solidarité prioritaire de la France et en partenariat avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Dakar et la Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission nationale n'a pas de projets ou activités spécifiques prévus à l'échelle sous-régionale, régionale ou interrégionale en 2021 liées au mandat de l'UNESCO.

UGANDA

Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Janet K. Museveni, Minister of Education and Sports

Secretary-General: Ms Rosie Agoi

Email: ragoi@unesco-uganda.ug

Website: www.unesco-uganda.ug

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM) conducted two projects for coping with the COVID-19 pandemic in education.

- An online debate on “Bioethics and the challenges of COVID-19 in Uganda” was held to share the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (UDBHR) and reflect on the ethical issues surrounding the COVID-19 management measures in Uganda. There were papers presented on UDBHR related instruments and various topics

discussed including the major challenges and lessons learnt from COVID-19 management in Uganda and lessons for the future. The meeting was attended by 39 participants including representatives of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi.

- Six sets of EDUCATIONAL CONTENT CREATION TOOL KITS funded by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) were distributed by the Ministry of Education to six key hubs for the respective categories of learning institutions to support virtual learning in educational institutions. The Tool Kit comprises computers, mobile video equipment, still cameras and external microphone system for teaching and learning during the COVID-19 and the post-COVID-19 period.



© Uganda National Commission for UNESCO - Handover ceremony of the kits to the Minister of Education and Sports

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Under Government of Uganda funding, UNATCOM:

- developed 400 sets of training materials for improving capacity of pilot 200 secondary school teachers to deliver inclusive education;
- conducted GAP/ESD awareness and dissemination to the Ministry of Science Technology, Innovation (MoSTI) staff and top management to lobby for partnership and support for the Cabinet approval and implementation of the National ESD policy;
- reactivated the nomination process for Mt. Elgon as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve with the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO;
- conducted awareness on UDBHR and related normative instruments to 39 stakeholders from ministries, departments and agencies;
- created awareness for 52 participants in International Charter on Physical Education, Physical Activities and Sports;
- developed the UNATCOM Client Charter and Communication strategy;
- held webinar on UNESCO Clubs, Associations and Focal Points attended by 34 participants from various universities and other higher institutions of learning, youth groups and civil society organizations and facilitated by representatives from the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi;

- hosted a debate by 37 participants on the improvement of natural sciences education in secondary schools in Uganda;
- built capacity of 20 local governments and supported them with some 300 copies of manuals on the mainstreaming of culture in the local governments printed for distribution to 20 educational and 30 local government institutions;
- trained 88 media and educational institutions personnel in the West Nile and Rwenzori regions in the development of local content.

Under UNESCO funding, UNATCOM implemented the following Participation Programme projects:

- Improvement of the capacity of teachers in primary schools to deliver Global Citizenship Education;
- Promotion of gender-responsive teaching and learning environment in secondary schools;
- Promotion of the Lake Victoria as a multi-state Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR);
- Promotion of role of museums and collections for sustainable development in Uganda;
- Establishment of national mechanism for safety of journalists in Uganda;
- Development of CESA/SDG4 Assessment Survey and report with participation of the UNESCO project staff in Uganda.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- To roll out GAP/ESD Programme countrywide and strengthen partnership between MoSTI and other stakeholders in line with the ESD Policy;
- To expand the UNESCO ASPnet to new applicants to foster country-wide scope of activities;
- To support networks and partnerships for Science, Technology & Innovations (STEI) and natural resources and ecosystems management through the specialized Programme Committees, Chairs and Clubs in 22 universities, research institutes, science-based ministries, departments and agencies;
- To promote more nominations of National and Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (including the Lake Victoria TBR), Geoparks and Heritage Sites;
- To support the safeguarding, promotion, protection and management of heritage and cultural diversity through building capacity in the cultural sector and documentation of Uganda’s cultural diversity;
- To promote the freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge through building capacity of media institutions, enhance the knowledge and skills of female journalists and others on elections reporting in Uganda and retool Community Media Centres to deliver relevant local content and information;
- To support the Memory of the World National Committee and other institutional stakeholders to preserve documentary heritage;
- To inaugurate and create awareness on the newly declared World Engineering Day and the International Day of Mathematics;
- To support mechanisms for intercultural dialogue, human rights, inclusive development, management of social transformation as well as consolidation and sustenance of peaceful coexistence of communities in post-war areas of Uganda.

ZAMBIA

Zambia National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Dennis Wanchinga, Minister of General Education

Secretary-General: Dr Charles Ndakala

Email: ndakalac@yahoo.com / natcomzambia@gmail.com

Website: <https://unesco.org.zm/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Zambia recorded its first confirmed COVID-19 cases on 18 March 2020 and the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) started taking measures to contain the virus from spreading widely, including school closures. The Ministry of General Education (MoGE) developed its own sector response plan, guided by the National COVID-19 Response Plan led by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the office of the Vice President.

MoGE COVID-19 Plan Response Phase aimed to:

- enhance awareness among children and youth through dissemination of age-appropriate messages as supplementary to regular delivery of lessons;
- ensure continuity of learning through diverse platforms with focus on disadvantaged and marginalized children and adolescents;

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Zambia National Commission for UNESCO was affected by COVID-19 just like other institutions. Hence, some activities could not be undertaken due to the lockdown and partly due to health guidelines which encouraged working from home. The following were achieved by the Commission amid COVID-19.

The National Commission took part in the UNESCO Executive Board virtual meetings and started documenting thirty-seven ways Zambia is benefiting from UNESCO to culminate into a publication.

- develop content and provide teaching and learning materials or various platforms;
- empower teachers to provide remote learner support on structured lessons delivered through multiple platforms as well as provide guidance on self-directed learning;
- sensitize the community to enhance the continuity of learning;
- Design and implement strategies for monitoring coverage and access to continuity of learning programme;
- provide psychosocial support to teachers, learners and parents;
- support feeding programmes through alternative mechanisms focusing on learners from drought/flood affected districts;
- utilize already existing interventions, good practices, facilities and human resources in ICT at the two ICT Centres of Excellence.



© Zambia National Commission for UNESCO - A poster displayed to create awareness on COVID-19 at Roma Girls Secondary School in Lusaka, Capital of Zambia, 1 June 2020

With support from UNESCO, the Commission developed the National Framework on Social Dialogue for Teachers in Zambia as well as the Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession. It spearheaded the formulation of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) sub-sector Plan (2021-2025) and monitored ESD and GCED activities in ASPnet schools.

A submission was made to the Members of Parliament committee on local governance, housing and chiefs affairs on the role of traditional leaders in local governance system in Zambia.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Zambia National Commission for UNESCO in conjunction with GRZ is interested in collaborating with UNESCO and other stakeholders in the following areas:

- Teacher Continuing Professional Development (CPD) especially in STEM subjects;
- Use of ICT in Teacher Education as well as teaching and learning;
- Capacity building of education planners;
- Roll out of robust ICT and interconnectivity in the region;
- Artificial Intelligence;
- Water Supply and Sanitation in the headwaters, to embrace water management, warning and resilience ;
- Open Science and Climate Change;
- Understanding culture and diversity in building communities;
- Culture as a driver for sustainable development;
- Learning to live together and fostering rights, inclusion and non-discrimination among all members of the global community;
- Promoting the development and the practice of sporting activities, as well as the fight against doping to foster social integration.



Arab States

ALGÉRIE

Commission nationale algérienne pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Président : M. Mohamed Ouadjaout, Ministre de l'Éducation nationale

Secrétaire générale par intérim : Mme Nadia Bouhara

Courrier électronique : natcomalgerie@unesco.dz

Site web : www.unesco.dz

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Pour répondre au besoin d'instaurer la culture du développement durable dans l'esprit des jeunes, la Commission nationale algérienne a initié avec le club UNESCO

« éco-conception, analyse de cycle de vie et développement durable », ainsi que le ministère de l'éducation et l'université de Boumerdes, un projet de mise en œuvre du label « Éco École » dans les écoles associées de l'UNESCO.

Ce projet consiste à mettre en place un programme de gestion environnementale et d'éducation au développement durable. Il vise à sensibiliser les élèves aux problèmes environnementaux, ayant trait à l'alimentation, la biodiversité, les déchets, l'eau, l'énergie, la santé, les solidarités et le climat et leur impact sur l'environnement.

La démarche adoptée permet de :

- concrétiser le concept de développement durable par l'élaboration d'une méthodologie de travail ;
- mobiliser tous les membres de la famille éducative dans un projet commun débouchant sur la définition de critères d'attribution du label « Éco-école » ;
- impliquer les élèves et leur famille pour un engagement de mise en œuvre concrète du développement durable, ainsi que la création d'une plateforme et d'une revue.



© Commission nationale algérienne pour l'éducation, la science et la culture — École privée « La Citadelle du Savoir », Alger, 15 décembre 2020.

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

En dépit de la pandémie de la COVID-19, la Commission a pu assurer l'essentiel de ses missions, notamment par le télétravail à domicile.

Dans le cadre de la prise en charge de la continuité pédagogique, le coordinateur national du Réseau des écoles associées a assuré des actions de formation en ligne, au profit de 150 inspecteurs et enseignants, ayant pour objectif l'initiation à :

- élaborer des cours vidéo avec diverses applications numériques ;
- créer des réseaux d'apprenants à distance ;
- créer des sites web et des chaînes YouTube pour des contenus pédagogiques ;
- utiliser diverses plateformes d'enseignement parmi celles proposées par l'UNESCO, telles que : Google, class room, drive, Idrak, khan académie, etc.

La Commission a procédé à la création et à l'animation d'un forum dédié à « l'éducation au service du développement durable », constituant ainsi un espace numérique de concertation, d'échanges et de réflexion, associant 70 personnes parmi les inspecteurs, les enseignants, les chefs d'établissement, les points focaux des écoles associées de l'UNESCO, etc.

La Commission a présenté une candidature au réseau UNITWIN et Chaires UNESCO : « Économie circulaire pour le développement durable ».

Au titre du Programme de participation 2020-2021, la Commission a présenté sept projets, dont quatre ont été approuvés :

- Soutien aux actions visant la promotion de l'éducation aux arts plastiques pour une meilleure sensibilisation aux thèmes ayant trait, notamment à l'égalité des genres, à la culture de la paix et au développement durable ;
- Égalité des genres dans la préservation de l'environnement, économie verte et développement durable ;
- Mise en œuvre du programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 de l'indicateur ODD 6.4.2 « Niveau du stress Hydrique » Méthodologie et calcul ;
- Promotion de la femme entrepreneur dans les zones rurales.

La Commission a proposé à l'UIL l'inscription des trois villes suivantes, pour l'adhésion au Réseau des villes apprenantes: Tlemcen, Adrar et Alger qui ont vu leurs candidatures retenues.

La Commission a animé des conférences à distance sur les thèmes :

- Quels scénarios pédagogiques et organisationnels pour la prochaine rentrée scolaire et universitaire ?
- Célébration de la Journée internationale du vivre ensemble en paix, 16 mai par deux webinaires :
 - « Vivre ensemble face à la pandémie et pour un monde meilleur »
 - « Vivre ensemble le déconfinement »
- Interaction enseignants et élèves face à la pandémie de la COVID-19.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Soutien à la numérisation et renforcement à l'échelle régionale par des formations destinées à améliorer le fonctionnement des réseaux des écoles associées, Clubs UNESCO et Chaires UNESCO.

EGYPT

Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Khaled Abd El Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Secretary-General: Prof Ghada Abdelbary

Email: egnatcom@egnatcom.org.eg / egypt.natcom@gmail.com

Website: www.egnatcom.org.eg

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of National Commissions' role and showed how much the sharing of



information is necessary to develop synergies. From this perspective, the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in the Arab States (UCO), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Information Center in Cairo launched awareness messages to confront rumours and alleviate fears in society, and adopt preventive methods to curb the spread of the virus.

The Egyptian National Commission participated in the first ResiliArt debate in Egypt on 30 August, "Artists and Creativity in Egypt beyond Crisis" in cooperation with Art d'Égypte Foundation specialised in organising art and cultural exhibitions.

Together with Art d'Égypte Foundation the NatCom implemented several activities. On 21 December 2020, an educational trip was organised for 100 children aged (10-12) from ASPnet Egyptian schools to the Pyramids. A series of other community engagement activities are planned throughout 2020-2021 until the date of «Forever Is Now» exhibition, which will be launched at the pyramids under UNESCO's patronage on 21 October 2021. The Egyptian National Commission and Art D'Égypte plan to publish the "Misr Helwa Wa Teama" colouring book series to highlight one of the important Egyptian sites registered on the World Heritage List, the pyramids area from Giza to Dahshur.

© Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO, in light of UNESCO's reform, adopted more interdisciplinary programmatic activities, strengthened partnerships to reach an increased visibility. In terms of governance, the annual General Assembly of the Egyptian National Commission held its second meeting on 29 December 2020, headed by His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and with the representation of concerned Egyptian ministries namely: Foreign Affairs, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Education and Technical Education, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Environment, Local Development, International Cooperation, Water Resources and Irrigation, Communications and Information Technology, Health and Population, Social Solidarity, Planning and Economic Development and Youth & Sports, as well the presidents of Alexandria, Helwan and Beni-Suef Universities. Through 2019-2020, the Technical Committee of the National Commission (TC), was convened eight times to follow up the National Commission's work.

The Egyptian National Commission adapted its methods of work to the current pandemic and carried out several activities virtually. One of these was the virtual Consultative Meeting on "Establishing UNESCO Chairs in Egyptian Universities to Support Egypt's Plan 2030 for Sustainable Development" (24-28 September 2020)

organised in cooperation with UCO, to highlight UNESCO Chairs' role in establishing cooperation networks between higher education institutions. Representatives from various Egyptian universities participated in the meeting, namely from Alexandria, Ain Shams, Suez Canal, Assiut, Beni-Suef, South Valley, Banha, Mansoura and Zewail City for Science. The 2020 addition to UNESCO Chairs in Egypt was the establishment of UNESCO Chair in Underwater Cultural Heritage at Alexandria University.

The National Commission actively participated in the Virtual Regional Arab Meeting for Open Science and Research held on 24 August. In its intervention it shed light on the needed transition to make science data more accessible and open to society to close the gap between developing and developed countries and to find solutions to complex societal issues such as COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was informed about the regional project "Supporting the consultation process on Open Science in the Arab region" led by the Egyptian National Commission.

The National Commission supported and actively participated in the virtual Regional Consultation for the Arab States on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence on 11-12 August 2020 hosted by Egyptian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT). Other activities in this field were organised in the framework of the Arab Digital Inclusion Week (25-31 October 2020).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, the Egyptian National Commission will continue implementing the following projects, which are all in line with UNESCO's strategic priorities:

- In the field of higher education, two projects are ongoing: developing the infrastructure of the National E-Learning Center (NELC) at the Supreme Council of Universities, with capacity building of Egyptian universities academic staff in the field of hybrid and e-learning as well as "Capacity building at the national level to develop mechanisms to operationalise UNESCO conventions on the recognition of higher education qualifications";
- In the field of science, one sub-regional project entitled «Advanced Photonic Training Program for African Graduate Students» and a regional project «Supporting the consultation process on Open Science in the Arab region»;
- In the field of culture, "Cultural Diversity and Intangible Cultural Heritage ...for Dialogue, Diversity and Development";
- In the field of ICT, "Enhancing the Role of ICT in the Preservation and Accessibility of Digital documentary heritage for Sustainable Development".

JORDAN

Jordan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Dr Tayseer Al Noaimi, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Ms Ibtisam Ayoub

Email: jounesco@moej.edu.jo

Web site: www.natcom.gov.jo

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Jordan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science is keen to continue its efforts and follow-up alongside the concerned national authorities to play a crucial role in reducing the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our local communities. Jordan National Commission took some measures during the COVID-19 outbreak, which included sharing through its site and social media the official messages, initiatives, and measures undertaken by the three organisations UNESCO, ALECSO and ICESCO during the pandemic. These measures aimed at raising public awareness about Coronavirus and supporting distance-learning efforts done by the Ministry of Education by circulating lists of open and free resources and educational content.

Jordan National Commission issued the Voluntary National Report (VNR) for SDG 4 (2015-2019). The preparation process for the national report came through the efforts of SGD4 specialised committees: the National Team, the Technical Committee, the Indicators Committee and the Reporting Committee. This Report went through an intensive consultative process led by Jordan National Commission for UNESCO with broad participation of many concerned national institutions such as ministers, civil society, and the private sector. To prepare the report, many efforts were made to monitor

progress in achieving SDG 4 during the last four years. The report presents the progress made during 2015-2019 and the programmes that achieve the targets of SDG 4. A specialised committee on statistical indicators has been assigned with partners to update the educational indicators and develop tools to monitor the improvements in the SDG 4 indicators.

Jordan National Commission coordinated the participation of ministries and institutions in webinars on such topics as vocational education, reopening schools, curricula, climate change, transparency and accountability in education, higher education and early childhood.

Jordan National Commission, alongside the other concerned national authorities, also participated in several activities and webinars about «Open Science» which aims at intensifying the importance of science accessibility and transparency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also participated in several webinars on the significance of water during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks.



© Qasr Ali Hallabat Secondary School, folkloric dance "Samer"

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Two UNESCO Associated Schools from Jordan won two Excellence Awards in the "Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young" organised by ICCROM-Sharjah. Qasr Al_Hallabat Secondary School won the first-level Excellence Award in the folkloric dance category (Samer), while Dania Al-Amrat, a student from Al-Madina Alwardiah Primary School won the first-level Excellence Award in the awareness film category (City of Petra). The award aims to shed light on the emerging generations, increase their interest in tangible and intangible heritage, customs and traditions as well as to raise awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage in the Arab region, where the competition included four categories (drawing, folkloric dance, photography, films).

Jordan National Commission worked alongside the concerned national authorities to adapt to the changes the pandemic had imposed. For example, the Jordan National Commission followed up with the Ministry of Culture to raise awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid the effects of rumours and negative news on the local communities. On the other hand, the concerned authorities worked hard through their platforms to stimulate talents of all ages and in all fields to invest in spare time and use the opportunities presented by the pandemic.

There is no doubt that the media played a major role during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, along with other concerned national authorities, Jordan National Commission participated in a series of regional webinars on the annual celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week to reiterate the importance of media and information literacy in the time of the pandemic.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Jordan National Commission will continue its efforts to realize SDG 4 on education in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the concerned parties, by working on activities and projects to achieve SDG 4 targets.

Moreover, tangible and intangible cultural heritage will be on our top list of priorities for 2021 by conducting awareness workshops or specialised meetings with all stakeholders. In addition, more activities will be organised to empower youth and women for the future.

LIBAN

Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : Prof Henri Awit

Secrétaire générale : Dr Tala Zein

Courrier électronique : info@lncu.org

Site web : www.lncu.org

ACTIVITÉ EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Financé dans le cadre de l'aide d'urgence accordée par l'UNESCO par le biais du programme de participation suite à l'explosion qui a ravagé la ville de Beyrouth le 4 août 2020, le projet « Éducation aux médias en temps de crise » a été lancé par la Commission nationale libanaise et l'Association francophone de journalisme (AFEJ) pour faire face au contexte médiatique caractérisé par la violence des informations et des images, à laquelle se sont ajoutés une vague de désinformation (fake news) à large échelle et un discours de haine traumatisants pour les individus et déstabilisants pour la société en général.

Les ateliers de formation, destinés aux différents acteurs de la chaîne académique scolaire et universitaire (élèves du

cycle secondaire, professeurs du cycle secondaire, étudiants en journalisme, professeurs universitaires de journalisme, les clubs médias, et les acteurs professionnels/ journalistes), visent à développer l'esprit critique de manière à ne plus subir passivement le flux des informations – notamment celles liées aux crises, développer la réception active des informations donc parvenir à « décoder » l'information et détecter la désinformation, et développer les compétences journalistiques chez les participants afin qu'ils assument une contribution active au flux d'information.



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AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 202

L'année 2020, marquée par la pandémie de la COVID-19 a été une année difficile pour le monde entier en général, et pour le Liban et la Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO en particulier. Le confinement et la quarantaine face à l'épidémie, accompagnés d'une crise économique et sociale, et l'explosion horripilante du 4 août ont affecté la mise en œuvre de la plupart des activités et des projets envisagés.

La Commission nationale libanaise a toutefois réussi à mener plusieurs activités en ligne ou même présentiels (en appliquant évidemment les protocoles de sécurité sanitaire concernant l'hygiène des mains, la distanciation physique et le port de masques) en rapport avec les quatre domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO – la culture, l'éducation, les sciences et la communication, et les Objectifs de Développement Durable, en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Beyrouth, les universités et les écoles, ainsi que les organisations de la société civile.

Deux ateliers de formation ont été organisés pour la préparation des candidatures aux listes de la Convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel et

sur la coopération et l'assistance internationale. D'autres activités ont été réalisées à l'adresse des jeunes comme la formation des élèves des écoles associées à la bonne gouvernance et la citoyenneté active ; et l'Art-Lab pour les droits humains et le dialogue afin de promouvoir le rôle important des arts comme outil de dialogue et développement.

De plus, dans le cadre de ces initiatives en ligne face à la pandémie du coronavirus et les mesures restrictives mises en place, la Commission a organisé des rencontres virtuelles avec des écrivaines et conteuses libanaises ; un séminaire sur « La société de l'information en temps de crise » ; des consultations en ligne pour les jeunes dans le cadre du 75ème anniversaire de l'ONU « Quel avenir voulons-nous au Liban ? » sur le changement climatique et l'inégalité des genres ; des dialogues en ligne à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la philosophie « Les nouvelles pratiques de la philosophie pour un changement social : Approches éducatives pour apprendre à vivre ensemble en toutes circonstances », et à l'occasion de la Journée des droits de l'Homme « Éducation pour la Justice ».

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Malgré les crises sanitaire, économique et sociale auxquelles le Liban fait face, la Commission nationale libanaise s'engage à organiser en 2021 des projets et activités en rapport avec les Objectifs de Développement Durable et les quatre domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, à travers des partenariats avec le secteur privé et les organisations de la société civile, sur le plan régional et interrégional :

- Promotion de l'éducation pour la citoyenneté et le développement durable ;
- Promotion de l'éthique des sciences et technologies ;
- Séries d'ateliers sur l'Objectif 4 « Assurance qualité dans l'enseignement supérieur » ;
- Séries d'ateliers pour promouvoir le dialogue culturel, la diversité, le rapprochement et l'acceptation de l'autre malgré nos différences, face à la situation actuelle du pays ;
- Atelier de formation sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel au Liban ;
- Forum international sur la culture et le développement durable dans les pays arabes ;
- Atelier sur l'évaluation environnementale des ressources naturelles dans le monde arabe.

MAROC

Commission nationale marocaine pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture

Président : M. Saaïd Amzazi, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale, de la Formation Professionnelle, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Porte-parole du Gouvernement

Secrétaire général : M. Jamal Eddine EL Aloua

Courrier électronique : marocnatcom@gmail.com

Site web : www.marocnatcom.ma

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

- La mobilisation d'un fonds koweïtien affecté pour l'achat de 165 ordinateurs en faveur des élèves marocains les plus démunis dans le cadre de la coopération avec l'UNESCO ;

- La distribution de produit d'hygiène et de protection au profit des personnes sans-abris (plus de 6000 bénéficiaires) dans le cadre d'un don octroyé par l'ICESCO à la Commission Nationale ;
- La distribution de 725 tablettes dans le cadre d'un don attribué par l'ICESCO au profit des élèves issus du milieu rural afin d'assurer la continuité pédagogique ;
- La mobilisation d'une assistance technique par l'UNESCO pour l'appui du programme de la petite enfance ;
- Le lancement d'un projet d'appui à l'innovation et à l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes et des femmes, et ce, dans le cadre d'un partenariat entre l'ICESCO et la Commission Nationale ;
- La coordination avec l'UNESCO et d'autres organisations internationales pour accompagner les efforts des partenaires gouvernementaux dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture.



© Commission Nationale pour l'Éducation, les Sciences et la Culture — Distribution des tablettes au profit des élèves issus du milieu rural (don ICESCO) à l'Académie Régionale d'Éducation et de Formation Marrakech-Safi

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

- La refonte du cadre juridique de la Commission nationale et la nomination de ses nouveaux membres ;
- L'accompagnement des villes marocaines candidates au réseau UNESCO des villes apprenantes, et l'adhésion pour la première fois de deux villes au réseau : Benguerir et Chefchaouen ;
- La proclamation d'Essaouira en tant que ville créative ;
- L'approbation de trois projets dans le cadre du Programme de Participation UNESCO 2020-2021, dont un à aspect régional ;
- La participation à la session ordinaire du 113ème Conseil exécutif de l'ALECSO et du 40ème Conseil exécutif de l'ICESCO ;
- La participation à la 25ème session de la Conférence générale de l'ALECSO ;
- La participation à la session extraordinaire de la réunion mondiale pour l'éducation GEM2020 ;
- La participation à l'appel à projets du FIDC et la mise en place d'un jury de présélection : deux projets sont soumis à l'UNESCO pour examen et évaluation ;
- Le lancement du site web officiel et des pages officielles des réseaux sociaux : Facebook ; Twitter ; Instagram et YouTube.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Étude pour la mise en place d'un organigramme administratif de la Commission nationale : projet élaboré et discussion en cours ;
- Enrichissement des réseaux des clubs et chaires UNESCO ;
- Développement du réseau marocain des villes créatives et des villes apprenantes ;
- Mise en œuvre des projets approuvés dans le cadre des programmes de participation 2020/2021 ;
- Encouragement et accompagnement des propositions visant à protéger, conserver et promouvoir le patrimoine marocain ;
- Renforcement de la coopération avec les commissions nationales similaires ;
- Mise en place d'un plan de communication pour plus de visibilité.

OMAN

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Dr Madiha Al-Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Mohammad Al Yaqoubi

Email: onc@moe.om

Website: www.oncoman.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONC) has joined different platforms to exchange ideas, share good practices and discuss contingency plans for COVID-19 and the post-pandemic era. H.E. Dr Madiha Al-Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education and Chairperson of ONC, participated in the ministerial meeting hosted by UNESCO Beirut to mark the launching of the new school year 2020/2021 in the Arab states in the context of the COVID-19

crisis, where participants shared their experiences and challenges in coping with back to quality learning for all.

ONC also participated in the online edition of Mobile Learning Week 2020 held from 12 to 14 October 2020 and devoted to the theme “Beyond Disruption: Technology Enabled Learning Futures”. Nationally, ONC actively participated in the preliminary consultative virtual meeting on water’s role in combating COVID-19 which aimed to promote healthy behaviours for students.



© Oman National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Most of this year’s focus was on taking drastic measures to cope with the pandemic. However, ONC was determined to continue with its plans towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission delivered its remarks and actively participated in the panel discussions of the following events: 1) the Regional online launch of the Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 Roadmap — Arab States (November 2020); 2) the International online conference “the role of the European Union on the Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in conflict (November 2020); 3) the virtual symposium on “How to benefit from the International Fund for Diversity (IFCD) to support cultural projects” (June 2020); 4) World Arabic Language Day (December 2020); 5) the Virtual Regional Symposium on Geoparks (November 2020); 6) the High-Level Meeting on UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (November 2020).

ONC also hosted the National Forum for Artificial Intelligence and Education: Future Foresight and Pioneering Applications on Microsoft Teams from 26 October to 9 November 2020. The forum focused on reviewing ideas and services based

on smart applications and artificial intelligence technologies to provide effective solutions for the continuity of quality education, including education for people with special needs in light of COVID-19.

Although most of the year’s activities were conducted virtually, one of the most important events carried out by ONC took place face to face before the pandemic crisis and that was the training workshop on “Building intercultural competencies for sustaining peace”, which was held in Oman, from 24 to 26 February 2020, for Kuwaiti and Omani secondary school teachers. Organised jointly by UNESCO and ONC, it was sponsored by the Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Program for the promotion of Arabic Language. The workshop consisted of two sessions: Writing Peace and Story Circles. It focused on strengthening Intercultural Competencies as one of UNESCO’s contributions to peacebuilding, disseminating knowledge about cultural diversity, and the evolving notion of cultures and their interdependence. The workshop also aimed to promote intercultural competencies to contribute to the achievement of SDG16 “achieving peace and justice” and SDG4 “ensuring quality, equitable and inclusive education for all.”

FUTURE PRIORITIES

As for 2021, ONC will continue to promote, encourage and foster government and private sectors cooperation in order to achieve the top UNESCO related goals such as SDG 4, global citizenship, the promotion of cultural heritage, innovation and technology programmes, and sustainable development programmes related to the environment, natural resources and renewable energy as well as to strengthen support for UNESCO Chairs and motivate institutions to invest in scientific research outputs. Further, ONC will participate in creating workshops and activities that promote the culture of entrepreneurship in schools by implementing innovative projects and building talents and capabilities through innovative science courses and sponsoring creative students in the field of science. ONC also plans to increase the use of the OER provided by the UNESCO, particularly pertaining harnessing the applications of AI and digital accessibility for people with disabilities, especially in light of the current circumstances.

The following programmes are also planned to be conducted during 2021: 1) Virtual Seminar “Underwater Heritage: Reality and Aspirations” (14 January 2021); 2) World Heritage Day (18 April 2021); 3) World Arabic Language Day (18 December 2021); 4) Twinning between 4 Omani ASPnet schools with their counterparts in the Sultanate of Brunei; 5) Including more schools in ASPnet.

PALESTINE

Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Dr Ali Zedan AbuZuhri

Secretary-General: Dr Dawas Dawas

Email: admin@pncecs.plo.ps

Website: www.pncecs.plo.ps

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Since the spread of the coronavirus pandemic worldwide, international organizations have launched open workshops aiming at delivering assistance to the countries to cope with the challenges emerging due to the pandemic and its reflections, especially on education, scientific and cultural level. The Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and

Science (PNCECS) worked with international organizations (UNESCO, ALECSO, ICESCO) and National Commissions counterparts to assist communities to cope with the great challenges imposed by the spread of COVID-19 in the world.

Through the staff of PNCECS and the partners from the government and private sectors, the Commission coordinated an effective participation of the State of Palestine in a number of webinars, online meetings and platforms held by UNESCO.

PNCECS followed up on all releases and recommendations by UNESCO, its regional and field offices in relation to coping with the implications of coronavirus through circulating them to the relevant parties and institutions, in addition to publishing them in local media and the Commission's official website.

UNESCO increased its contribution to the scholarships awarded for the students of the State of Palestine in the context of the annual emergency fund under the Participation Program for the years 2020-2021. The decision came in response to the National Commission's request to increase support for Palestinian students in light of the multiple challenges and hardships facing Palestine.



© Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science - Medical Prevention Kits are delivered to the Ministry of Health by the Palestinian National Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education to distribute it to the volunteers who have been trained

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In cooperation with the partner national institutions, the Palestinian National Commission accomplished many programmes funded by UNESCO, in order to lessen the impact and implications of the COVID-19 crisis. Among these initiatives were supporting medical sector with volunteers, doubling the number of scholarships awarded for Palestinian students, and enhancing media research in Palestinian universities.

To counter the spread of coronavirus, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research initiated to support medical sector with volunteers from medical professions. This initiative came in the context of the emergency plan to engage 1500 senior graduate students to help cope with the health crisis implications. The project enabled selected students to be volunteers after having been trained and

equipped with the required protective and medical equipment bags in line with the highest standards and specifications approved by the Ministry of Health.

PNCECS supported the initiative and published it on its website as a pioneering Palestinian initiative in light of a visionary study for the development of the epidemiological situation in Palestine and the medical sector capacities, as an initiative to enhance the value of voluntary work, solidarity and civic accountability among the students. Information about the initiative was circulated among the National Commissions counterparts. In view of the above, the President of PNCECS Dr Ali Zaidan Abu Zuhri signed the agreement with the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Mahmoud Abu Mwais, in the presence of the Minister of Health Dr May Kaileh, after holding several meetings and consultations with heads of medical faculties and medical professions to discuss the implementation mechanisms for the agreement.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

One of the main future priorities of the Palestinian National Commission is establishing the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme with Palestinian universities in several important fields to promote international inter-university cooperation and networking, to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. PNCECS will support the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in key priority areas related to UNESCO's fields of competence.

QATAR

Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahid Al-Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education

Secretary-General: Dr Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti

Website: <https://qnc.edu.gov.qa>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

MADA Center has won the 2020-2021 UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for its distinguished role in promoting digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and in recognition of its work in providing digital access solutions and accessible platforms in the face of COVID-19.

The UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities aims to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals and

organisations in promoting the inclusion, and enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities through effective and innovative application of digital solutions in line with UNESCO strategic goals, especially the basic program on Communications and Information.



OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science in collaboration with various ministries and partners organised several training workshops and events such as:

- a virtual consultative meeting of the directors of Arab universities, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Beirut, to exchange experiences among universities and resume university education after the COVID-19 crisis;
- a virtual ceremony for launching the Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 "Inclusive Education for All" under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Education and Higher Education of the State of Qatar, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Doha and with the participation of representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries;
- an online round table "Environmental Oversight in Qatar: Working Together to Achieve Greater Impact", in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Doha, to direct natural resources for SDGs related to biodiversity and climate change, and to present a unified national vision for education and sustainable development;
- training workshops for UNESCO ASPnet schools on the concept of Alliance of Civilizations, in collaboration with the National Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations;
- celebration of the International Day of Education (January 24), in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Doha, UNESCO ASPnet schools in Doha and relevant entities;
- celebrating the World Teacher's Day through a virtual platform on the theme "Teachers: Leading in crisis, Reimagining the Future", in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Doha and with the participation of the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, universities and UNESCO ASPnet schools;
- the first edition of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack on 9 September 2020, organised Qatar National Commission, Education Above All

Foundation, UNICEF and the UNESCO Office in Doha, in response to the initiative of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser to emphasise the importance of protecting education from attacks, and developing relevant mitigation policies and solutions;

- celebrating International Youth Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Silatech Foundation, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, and the UNESCO Office in Doha, through a virtual platform "Start Your Project" on how to positively exploit the COVID-19 crisis during the stay-at-home period, and start translating ideas into projects;
- UNESCO Chair in Marine Sciences was established at the Qatar University to promote marine science in Qatar and its implications for the region, and to share scientific experiences and research with universities and higher education institutions;
- Al-Sheehaniya Municipality obtained a Learning Cities membership and announced this at a press conference;
- participation in the virtual meeting on the Documentary Heritage Preservation Project organised by the Qatar National Library on 13 May 2020, to understand the project's details, its role in preserving and protecting documentary heritage, and how it could be supported by UNESCO;
- forming a committee for the Memory of the World Program in collaboration with the Qatar National Library and the Ministry of Culture and developing a roadmap for listing nominations on behalf of the State of Qatar on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register;
- celebrating the World Arabic Language Day in collaboration with the Qatari Forum for Authors in February 2020, by delivering lectures at UNESCO ASPnet schools and conducting workshops for teachers;
- issuing Qatar's national report on the implementation of SDG 4.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- To implement the new SDG 4 roadmap for 2020-2030;
- Develop and implement action plans for UNESCO Chairs;
- Consider joining the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- Organise several training workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and the UNESCO Office in Doha, to introduce the concept of community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage;
- Organise seminars regarding the role of women in achieving peace;
- Launch, in collaboration with the Qatar National Library, a project for combating illegal trade in documentary heritage in the Arab region and the Middle East.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: His Highness Prince Badr bin Farhan Al-Saud

Secretary-General: Mr Hattan Muneer Bin Samman

Email: SNC@moc.gov.sa

Website: www.SNC.gov.sa (in process)

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

2020 proved to be an unusual year for the Kingdom and the world at large. With the ominous advent of COVID-19, its devastating effects on all aspects of life in general and education, culture, and science in particular, as well as the Kingdom hosting the G20 in such circumstances, the newly formed Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science (SNC) had its work cut out for it on many fronts and contingencies. This year in SNC's life can be viewed as de facto Y1 since it officially commenced its activities in November of 2019. Yet, it managed during this most turbulent of years to enhance NGOs' collaboration and involvement at an unprecedented level, successfully navigating through the complexities of multi-sectoral coordination locally and effective liaison internationally to bring culture, education, and science

agendas to the forefront of the G20 ministerial-level meetings and accompanying events.

SNC also widened its reach and collaborative efforts, beyond conventional coordination with education, culture, heritage and science agencies, to include Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Agency (SDAIA), General Authority for Statistics, King Abdulaziz City for Science & Technology (KACST), Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture (MEWA), Ministry of Energy, King Abdullah University for Science & Technology (KAUST), International Camel Organization (ICO), King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness & Creativity (MAWHIBA), MISK Foundation, Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS) and NEOM, to name but a few.



© Saudi Arabia National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, SNC continued its diligent pursuit of goals with insight and ambition. The year kicked off with an official visit from UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay to the Kingdom in January which included an audience with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, his Crown Prince His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Minister of Culture and Chairperson of SNC His Highness Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud. She also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Education, and President of the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority. The DG's itinerary included visits and extensive tours of UNESCO Heritage sites, Al-Ula and Dir'iyah's Al-Turaif district.

The one-year-old SNC managed to facilitate, coordinate, and assist with the following:

- KSA joining UNESCO Executive Board;
- KSA joining UNESCO World Heritage Committee;

- KSA joining UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- Jubail Industrial City joining UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities;
- COVID-19 activities such as coordinating Saudi UNESCO Heritage sites videos for the much sought after UNESCO COVID-19 #ShareOurCulture campaign and sharing facts and figures on education and culture measures and performance during the pandemic;
- Liaising with, and involving an extensive unprecedented number of public, private, NGOs and individuals to encourage active participation in UNESCO's vastly eclectic prizes and competitions;
- Largest number and rate of Academic and Scientific chairs programmes endorsements to date.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In its upcoming Y3, the newly formed National Commission will continue striving towards making meaningful headway at all fronts with a focus on the following areas:

- Forming a national-level Heritage, Culture & Science Nominations committee with the aim of improving and refining the screening, prioritisation, shortlisting, evaluation, recommendation processes for all nominations at the national level;
- Aligning national governmental and non-governmental entities towards optimum achievements pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030);
- Creating a dedicated task force to break new ground on indicators framework and accompanying technical aspects related to 2030 Agenda Thematic Indicators for Culture;
- Expanding qualitative and quantitative collaborations with NGOs and relevant entities to develop world-class projects and initiatives with UNESCO;
- Cooperating with regional and international National Commissions on capacity building and mutual/cross-cultural initiatives;
- Hosting workshops for UNESCO professionals in Saudi Arabia to include all related entities while providing other international National Commissions for UNESCO with the opportunity to present best practices and experiences;
- Enriching the ongoing creative dialogue at UNESCO conferences, workshops, and meetings to meaningfully contribute to technical and practical outcomes.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Syrian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Darem Tabaa, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Dr Nidal Hassan

Email: ncom@scs-net.org

Website: www.syriantcom.org.sy

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

To confront the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the concerned ministries focused all their efforts to address the effects of the pandemic and strengthen the continuation of work while emphasising the importance of adherence to health aspects, personal and public hygiene rules and social distancing,

ensuring continuity of the educational process despite the ban imposed due to the Coronavirus, and participating in virtual activities and events as a basic alternative at this stage to ensure learning about the global experiences and leading success stories in a way that enhances aspects of openness to the world.

In these exceptional circumstances, formal education started to adopt appropriate alternatives available on the Internet and through the updated educational platforms to facilitate the educational process and lessons provided through the Syrian educational satellite channel for all stages.

In addition, the Ministry of Education fostered "Catch-up Courses" to compensate for the educational loss which benefited 32,234 primary education students and 4,271 secondary school students, to help them pass their exams after they were absent from school due to the Coronavirus crisis. These courses were launched in the Syrian governorates, in 390 centers, with the participation of 3042 teachers and schools, in addition to 784 administrative staffs. The Ministry also fostered a Central Training Course on Using "Moodle System" and its Tools to Prepare Lessons in Blended Learning Classes.



© Syrian National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

During 2020, the Syrian National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research held a national workshop on "The Role of Universities in Achieving the Goals of Sustainable Development".

The National Commission continued to ensure Syrian participation in most of the virtual meetings, symposiums and conferences convened by UNESCO and its Regional Offices, including, among other, the regional meeting with stakeholders in education statistics on the main education data challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the webinar on media coverage and disinformation about the COVID-19 crisis, the regional meeting "The Future of Education after the COVID-19 Pandemic", webinar series on "The Framework for Reopening Schools", the knowledge-sharing workshop "Distance Education Programs Using Radio and Television in the Arab States", the regional webinar on launching the UN World Water Development Report 2020, the preliminary consultation to enhance awareness on the importance of water in

combating COVID-19, the regional consultations for the Arab States on the Draft of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the regional webinar to launch a report on "Trends in Adult Learning and Education in the Arab States", the regional meeting on Open Science and Research, the Regional Training Program on "Arab Youth Against Discrimination and Stigmatization in the Time of COVID-19", the Meeting on "Efficiency and Effectiveness in Choosing and Using an Education Management Information System (EMIS)", the webinar "Conceptual Framework for Blended Learning Programs for the Re-opening of Schools in Arab Countries", the regional webinar on "Efficient Teaching Strategies for Distance Learning: Supporting Teachers' Continuous Professional Development in the Digital Age", the webinar on UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks "Programs and Ways for Preserving and Managing the Geological Heritage", the ITU-UNESCO Regional Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab States, and the Regional 8th Dialogue Webinar for the Middle East and North Africa on "Action for Climate Empowerment".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In recognition of the importance of the virtual alternative in sharing knowledge and experiences, the National Commission has a firm determination to pursue participation and cooperation in this field.

The concerned national entities have begun implementing the three requests approved by UNESCO within the framework of the Participation Program for the fiscal period 2020-2021, and the National Commission is waiting for a decision on the remaining requests.

Among the future activities that the Syrian National Commission is keen to follow up is the inscription of elements "Falconry" and "Al-Qudoud al-Halabiya" on the National List of the Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), with a view to inscribing them on the UNESCO Representative List of the ICH of Humanity during the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the ICH in 2021.

TUNISIE

Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Président: M. Fethi Sellaouti, Ministre de l'Éducation

Secrétaire Général: M. Mohamed Bouhleb

Courrier électronique: comnatu@edunet.tn

Site Web: <http://www.edutic.edunet.tn/comnattn/>

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Comme partout dans le monde, en Tunisie aussi, l'année 2020 fut une année exceptionnelle à cause de la propagation soudaine de la pandémie du COVID-19. Le Gouvernement

tunisien a mis en place des mesures de confinement général entre le mois de mars et mai, période après laquelle il était question de restrictions sanitaires de distanciation sociale limitant les réunions et les manifestations jusqu'à la fin de l'année. L'imprévisibilité de cette pandémie a eu un impact non négligeable sur la capacité de la Commission nationale à réorienter et réadapter les activités programmées tenant compte de toutes les limites techniques et humaines confrontées.

Pendant l'été 2020, une série d'ateliers de sensibilisation aux gestes barrière et aux risques de propagation du COVID-19 a été organisée au profit des fonctionnaires de la Commission nationale, en partenariat avec le Ministère de l'Éducation qui a fourni les équipements et le matériel nécessaires à cet effet. Malgré les limites imposées par la pandémie, l'année 2020 était riche en initiatives très prometteuses.



© Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO - Atelier de sensibilisation aux gestes barrière au profit des fonctionnaires de la Commission Nationale Tunisienne pour l'UNESCO

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

En 2019, la Commission nationale avait préparé un calendrier ambitieux pour l'année 2020 qui comprenait un programme diversifié portant sur plusieurs thèmes comme, en l'occurrence, la sauvegarde et la mise en valeur du patrimoine culturel immatériel, l'abandon scolaire, la culture de la paix. En raison des conditions imposées par la propagation de la pandémie, il n'a malheureusement pas été possible de réaliser ces projets dont la majorité a été reportée, par mesure de précaution sanitaire. Cependant, au tout début de l'année, certaines de ces initiatives ont été entamées avec succès:

- Dès janvier, et suite au succès de sa 1ère édition en 2019, la Commission nationale a décidé de lancer la préparation de la 2ème Conférence Annuelle des réseaux des Chaires, Clubs et Écoles Associées à l'UNESCO sous le titre « le Rôle des Jeunes dans le leadership social et le vivre ensemble » programmée pour avoir lieu pendant les vacances scolaires de mars. La série de réunions préparatoires organisées au siège de la Commission a abouti à l'élaboration d'une feuille de projet détaillant le programme et identifiant les différents partenaires ainsi que le public cible.

- La Commission nationale a organisé plusieurs réunions et entretiens en préparation à un projet de session de formation au profit des fonctionnaires et conseillers municipaux des communes du Grand Tunis sur les sources de financement et des partenaires instigateurs d'actions et de programmes portant sur les domaines d'expertise de l'UNESCO, notamment la conservation du patrimoine culturel ou l'environnement.
- La Commission nationale a organisé une série d'ateliers préliminaires avec les représentants de la société civile, de structures de gouvernance locale et d'élus locaux pour la préparation d'un projet de partenariat avec l'UNESCO sur un plan de Mise en Valeur des Déchets Verts dans la ville du Grand Tunis. Cette action a suscité l'intérêt de nos partenaires régionaux à l'ALECSO et l'ICESCO.
- La Commission nationale a lancé une série de réunions en étroite collaboration avec les dirigeants de la Fédération Tunisienne des Clubs UNESCO – ALECSO - ICSO dans le cadre du projet de la création d'une plateforme en ligne ayant pour but d'assurer le suivi des activités des clubs tunisiens ainsi que leur visibilité.
- La création récente du Comité Tunisien pour les Géoparcs a donné lieu à plusieurs réunions dans le but d'assurer le suivi du projet de création du Géoparc dans le sud-est de la Tunisie.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En 2020, la Commission nationale tunisienne a assumé son rôle d'instigateur d'actions et de collaborations pionnières avec des partenaires divers au niveau national ou international, officiels ou faisant partie de la société civile, et ayant à cœur d'entreprendre des actions novatrices afin d'assurer la promotion des valeurs universelles de l'UNESCO.

Dans le cadre de notre partenariat privilégié avec l'UNESCO, la Commission nationale est membre du comité de pilotage d'un projet ambitieux d'autonomisation des systèmes éducatifs par la promotion des droits de l'homme financé par le Royaume des Pays-Bas et proposé par l'organisation en partenariat avec le Haut-Commissariat des droits de l'Homme.

Un deuxième projet axé sur la formation d'enseignants en matière de culture de la paix, de résilience et de prévention de l'extrémisme violent, dont les premières phases sont déjà entamées, a aussi été reportée par précaution sanitaire.

Malgré cela, la Commission nationale s'engage à continuer de s'acquitter de sa mission de coordination entre l'UNESCO et la Tunisie afin de représenter au mieux les efforts des institutions nationales visant à mettre en œuvre tous les programmes et projets proposés par l'organisation au profit des priorités de la Tunisie dans les différents domaines d'expertise de l'organisation.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

United Arab Emirates National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science

Chairperson: Ms Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth

Secretary-General: Ms Salma Al Darmaki

Email: uaenatcomecs@mckd.gov.ae

Website: www.mckd.gov.ae

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The UAE National Commission transferred all of its work to the digital environment and continued to collaborate closely and safely with its partners in the virtual setting. It coordinated the country's participation in UNESCO statutory meetings, intergovernmental committee meetings, working groups, regional and global online webinars, dialogues and panel discussions.

The UAE, UNESCO-Iraq and the Government of Iraq worked closely to ensure the continuation of the restoration and reconstruction work on the three historic religious sites in Mosul. In 2020, two virtual meetings of the Joint Steering Committee were held to facilitate decision making for the project. The Al Nouri Mosque Complex saw the start of the second phase of work, and in November an international design competition was launched for the Al Nouri Mosque and Al Hadba Minaret. Further, the preparatory phase of work on the sites of the Al Sa'aa Church and Al Tahera Church was started.



© United Arab Emirates National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science — The progress of work at the site of the Al Nouri Mosque

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

- In March 2020, the UAE National Commission took a series of precautionary measures to maintain its staff and partners' health and safety by taking its activities and initiatives online. In response to the unfolding situation, the National Commission revisited its plans, adjusted timelines, initiated new projects in response to evolving needs, and agreed with its mandate. Despite the sanitary restrictions, the National Commission was able to strengthen its relationship and collaboration with existing partners and support their engagement with UNESCO. Further, it developed new relationships with local partners working in the fields of UNESCO's mandate and initiated consultations to establish a system and process for Clubs for UNESCO in the country.
- The UAE National Commission engaged in a dialogue with other National Commissions to see the development of a working guide on Intellectual Property Protection for the cultural and creative sector in the digital environment. Through virtual consultations, the National Commission and its partners prepared the UAE's quadrennial periodic report for the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as its response to surveys, including those associated with UNESCO's draft medium-term strategy 2022-2029.
- H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth, Chair of the UAE National Commission, represented the UAE during the online Ministers of Culture Conference on 22 April 2020. Her Excellency took the opportunity to call for a "creative and bold" response to the issues faced in the creative industry around the world by the coronavirus pandemic.
- The UAE participated in the Regional Policy Dialogue Webinar on School Reopening in the Arab Region conducted by UNESCO Beirut and UNICEF MENA Office on 20 May 2020. On 11 August 2020, the UAE hosted the virtual interactive dialogue on the "Framework for Reopening Schools" that was published by the UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the World Food Programme. The event was attended by decision-makers and policymakers from the UAE.
- The UAE successfully registered two elements of national heritage on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: the traditional Aflaj system of water channels used for farm irrigation and camel racing submitted jointly with the Sultanate of Oman.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Below is an overview of some of the UAE National Commission's priorities and interests in the areas of UNESCO's mandate for the coming years.

Global level:

- Be part of international efforts to secure quality education, creative culture, and science for all;
- Support digital education initiatives to spearhead innovation and online learning for all communities during and after the global health crisis;
- Explore the role of libraries and how to reimagine them in the time of Artificial Intelligence and advanced technologies;
- Encourage global collaborations on intellectual property rights and protection of cultural heritage;
- Encourage discussions on best practices for the protection and empowerment of freelancers in the cultural sector and on policies for supporting talent in the cultural sector;
- Develop programmes that allow young scientists to come up with solutions for world challenges such as waste management, food security, and water scarcity;
- Encourage research in space-related matters, and others.

Regional level:

- Promote Arab and Islamic cultural expressions;
- Promote and safeguard the Arabic language through avenues such as research, nurturing reading, literature and poetry;
- Ensure that programmes are tailored to respond to regional priorities when addressing needs on the ground, and others.

YEMEN

Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Dr Abdullah Lamlass, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Dr Hafedah Saleh N. Al-Shaikh

Email: natcom.ye@natcom.unesco.org

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Science successfully implemented several initiatives in the UNESCO related fields of competence despite the COVID-19 crisis, armed conflict and political instability in the country since the 2015 civil war. Furthermore, Yemen is going through

a financial crisis that caused a reduction in the allocated budget for the Commission and other public institutes (75% reduction). Despite these conditions, the Yemeni National Commission was able to implement numerous activities and interventions.

In response to the pandemic, the Commission managed to produce short, animated videos supporting distance learning aimed at school and special education students. The project funded by the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut also included recorded interviews and discussions with educators and psychologists to raise awareness of the significance of education. These videos and discussions were broadcast on TV and radio channels. Furthermore, the Yemeni National Commission hosted the national conference “Learning Technologies and the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Education” with the support of ICESCO. The conference outcomes focused on the integration of technology in education in both public and private schools.



© Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In education, the Commission facilitated the work on the National Task Force on the implementation of SDG4 through engaging relevant units in the Ministry of Education. Moreover, the Ministry collaborated to support the rebuilding of the national education system by developing the Transitional Education Plan. This was designed as a complementary project to CapED for Yemen, which focused on sector-wide policy and planning implemented with the UN Children's Fund's support. Finally, the “Catch Up for Children Affected by the Crisis in Yemen” project started in November 2020. This project aims to institutionalise the much needed Second Education Opportunities and Alternative Pathways to Education to support the reintegration of out of school and at-risk children in schooling. The project's technical support was provided through the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and funded by the King Salman Aid and Humanitarian Relief Centre.

As for natural sciences, the Commission members participated in the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Network webinar series. Furthermore, a related seminar on

the “Environmental degradation in the post-war city of Aden” was organised in coordination with an International Day celebration. This session discussed the destructive effects wars cause within cities and their surroundings.

In culture, the Yemeni Commission nominated and submitted the “Hadrami Dan” (traditional folk music) in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list for consideration in 2021.

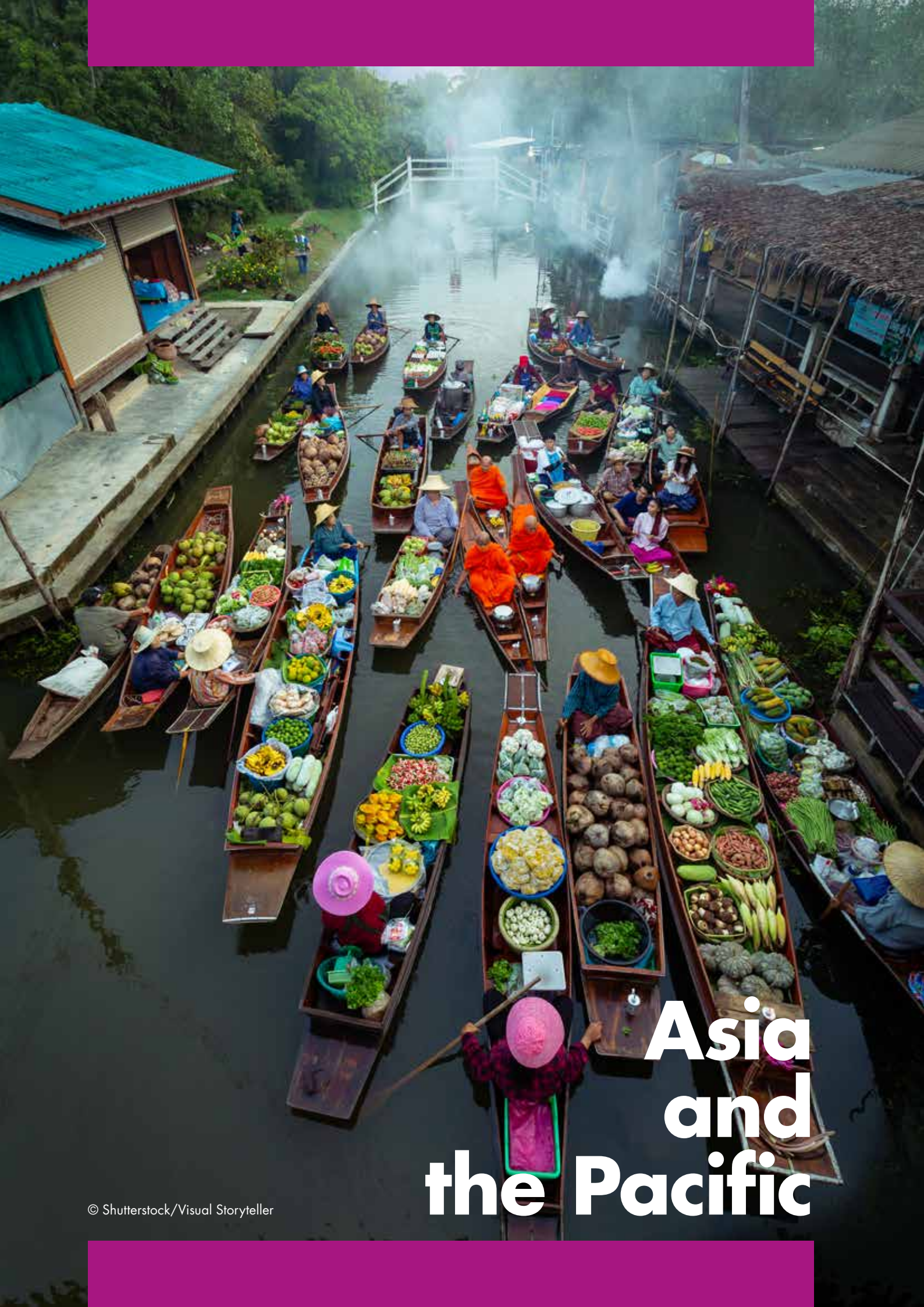
From September to December 2020, many activities were organised upon the recruitment of new committee members from the academic community, which strengthened the Commission's interventions. This included seminars and campaigns organised by the Commission in the celebration of UNESCO International Days, such as World Cities Day, the Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, to name a few. These interventions increased the visibility of UNESCO in the country and earned recognition despite the limited funding. The celebrations were done in collaboration with TV channels and local media outputs to reach a larger audience.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Yemeni National Commission has a long path ahead for development; nevertheless, we accept the challenges and work hard to meet local needs. We seek to found national and international partnerships to implement projects and initiatives to foster the country's quest for sustainable development and promote economic, social and cultural development. Our main priorities include:

- Teacher capacity building programmes to build the capacities of local teachers in the use of ICT resources in an aim to support distance learning and to bring library services and internet to schools;
- Developing a strategic plan for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and train teachers on ESD to facilitate innovative practices in schools and institutes;
- Youth engagement and empowerment projects for self-reliance include media literacy, peacebuilding and technical vocational education.

Our focus will be on women and youth empowerment in all future activities and projects. Furthermore, we plan to establish a resource center to enhance the Commission's mandate to carry out capacity building programmes, research and information sharing on UNESCO programmes and activities.



Asia and the Pacific

AUSTRALIA

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

Acting Chairperson: Mr Adam McCarthy

Secretary-General: Ms Melissa Kirk

Email: natcom.unesco@dfat.gov.au

Website: www.unescoinaustralia.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The City of Ballarat was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Craft and Folk Art in 2019. Ballarat moved swiftly to design a cultural response to a state-wide COVID-19 lockdown — called

Kind — Be Creative, designed to support the community with opportunities to respond creatively changing circumstances, while acting as a stimulus for its arts and culture sector.

In total, ten different programmes of arts and cultural activity were implemented – including podcasts, kid’s TV programmes, digital choirs, artist commissions, video productions and workshops. Local artists, producers, designers, musicians and others were directly funded through the initiatives with over 100 different community groups, businesses and individuals providing input. In less than 3 months over 135,000 people were reached through the combined initiatives, at a cost of less than a \$1 per person.

Amongst the most innovative of programmes was the opportunity for the community to call a hotline to register their fears, concerns, hopes and dreams — messages were compressed into sound files, which were used to compose a moving and hopeful piece of music called *In So Many Words*.



© City of Ballarat — Kim Anderson, visual artist working on a collaborative commission tracking the impact of lockdown

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The National Commission supports the efforts of the South Australian (SA) Museum which began a two-year pilot program called SA Living Archive. The program will significantly boost the online presence of Aboriginal language resources for community-based learning and will be a foundational resource for schools.

The Commission worked with stakeholders across the Education sector to promote ‘education for all’ and remind others of the important goals of UNESCO, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission supported the launch of Balance

of the Planet — 17 modules of challenged based learning, for use by schools and universities based on the 17 SDGs and these relate to problem solving the world’s problems.

Australia hosted the Memory of the World Symposium, which brought together the most senior levels of speakers from Public Health, academia and memory institutions to take stock and coordinate the collection and preservation of the documentary heritage that will enable future generations to understand the national experience of COVID and prepare for the next pandemic.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, the Australian National Commission will focus on the following priorities:

- Promote UNESCO programmes and awards;
- Continue to deepen its engagement with UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network (Bendigo, Ballarat, Sydney, Geelong, Melbourne and Adelaide) and the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs;
- Increased engagement with UNESCO Pacific Regional Office and other National Commissions in our region;
- Promote the Decade of Indigenous Language (2022-2032);
- Promote the ongoing work of the Australian Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, including the celebrating its 50th anniversary.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Dipu Moni, MP, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Md. Mahbub Hossain

Email: natcombd@yahoo.com

Website: www.bncu.gov.bd

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) begins the year 2020 with huge promises and potentialities as in this year the Government of Bangladesh celebrates the

Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. UNESCO, by the decision of 40th General Conference, was associated with this celebration. BNCU being an integral part of this celebration also chalked out programmes involving UNESCO and 199 National Commissions. But the whirlwind of COVID-19 global pandemic unsettled everything. Despite all this, BNCU conducted its routine affairs online with utmost sincerity to forward UNESCO’s cause for humanity and peace.

On 24th and 26th of December 2020, in association with Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), MISK Foundation and Alwaleed Philanthropies BNCU distributed a package of electronic devices including Laptop, Audio-visual Conference Cam, Noise Cancellation Microphone, Video Editing Software etc. to 39 educational institutions in Bangladesh.



© BNCU — Dr Dipu Moni MP Hon’ble Minister for Education delivers her speech as Chief Guest

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

International Day of Education: BNCU held a discussion meeting at International Mother Language Institute on 25 January 2020 on the theme of Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace. Dr Dipu Moni MP, Hon’ble Minister for Education was the Chief Guest and Deputy Minister of Education was Special Guest at the programme. Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, eminent educationist and economist and former Governor of Bangladesh Bank presented the keynote paper and Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Secretary, Technical and Madrasah Education Division took part in the discussion. Head of UNESCO Dhaka Office was present at the meeting as Guest of Honour. The programme was attended by more than 400 people including education administrators, policy makers and people from the Press.

Celebration of Historic 7th March Speech as MOW: The inscription of the Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the International Memory of the World Register is truly an honour for Bangladesh. BNCU organized a colourful event at Azimpur Government School and College in Dhaka with the

participation of more than 10,000 students from 20 ASPnet schools. Hon’ble Minister for Education Dr Dipu Moni MP was the Chief Guest in the programme. This programme did infuse the essence of independence among the young generations of Bangladesh. They could very intimately associate themselves with the sacrifices made by our greatest leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

From 23 March till 30 May 2020, the entire country was locked down due to COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, BNCU facilitated many online programmes such as Extraordinary Conference of ICESCO Member States’ Education Ministers, Safeguarding Investment in Education in the Aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, Virtual Meeting of National Commissions, Together for Peace (T4P) Virtual Regional Dialogue, Global Education Meeting, UNESCO MGIEP’s World Youth Conference on Kindness, Regional Consultation with the National Commissions for UNESCO, Joint UN Webinar on Health Issues and Safe School Reopening, COVID-19 Lessons and Curriculum-related Actions: The Challenges for Developing Countries, UNESCO Virtual Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), FGDs with ASPnet schools on UNESCO’s Future of Education 2050 Initiative etc.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

BNCU will reinforce its coordinating role in achieving UNESCO’s goals and ideals focusing on implementation of SDGs, especially SDG 4 in Bangladesh. On the occasion of Decade of Ocean Sciences BNCU will facilitate a participative and transformative process among the stakeholders so that scientists, policy makers, managers, and service users can work together to ensure that ocean science delivers greater benefits for both the ocean ecosystem and for society. BNCU will also try to expand its area in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by facilitating and sharing UNESCO’s knowledge and resources among interested parties in Bangladesh. Besides, in area of strengthening partnership, BNCU intends to increase the number of ASPnet schools significantly with a view to expand this potential network across the country.

CAMBODIA

Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Phoeurng Sackona, Minister of Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts

Secretary-General: Ms Un Bophanna

Email: cambonac@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the advance of the National Commission's planned activities for 2020 was strongly affected with most of field works activities, training programmes, workshops suspended. However, abiding by strict regulations of the Cambodian government for officials in order to confront with the pandemic, the working style and some activities were changed by using the online platform instead. Depending on the level of pandemic, working from home or half-day work was accepted. During the high peak of COVID-19 spreading period, creating the internal archive document and guidance for each project were a focus.

Moreover, some parts of projects that could be implemented via online have been selected as a priority for Participation Programme of UNESCO. A cooperation research project with Korean National Commission for UNESCO, known as the Joint Project of National Commissions for UNESCO in East and Southeast Asia, was also done through online platform. Beyond this, due to the good control of COVID-19 situation, the short field trip research activities were led to the World Heritage sites in Cambodia, specifically to sites on the tentative list.



© Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The activities carried out by the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO were linked to:

- working for the organisation of the Technical Meeting on its UNESCO's Heritage Tentative List;
- joining governmental counterparts in activities for the preparation of the Koh Ker dossier for inscription in the World Heritage List;
- collaborating in the working group set up for preparation of the Banteay Chhmar dossier;

- offering its support to all parties concerned, both government and private sector, for the effective implementation of the activities related to the sites of 1972 World Heritage Convention, namely Angkor (1992), the Temple of Preah Vihear (2008), and the Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk (report needs further monitoring), Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (2017);
- acting as focal point for the preparation of the exercise linked to the Periodic Reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

The National Commission is currently engaged in the implementation of the Participation Programme 2020-2021.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

According to the UNESCO's Global Monitor of School Closures caused by COVID-19, at the height of the pandemic at the end of April 2020, more than 1.5 billion learners were affected around the globe by the impossibility to attend class at school. The COVID-19 crisis has shown us that the focus needs to be put on education for youth empowerment and on vocational training for more stable and reliable employment. Every activity suggested under this light will bear fruits in the future to make our societies more resilient and more equitable, where education is the drive for improvement.

Moreover, reviving the culture and tourism sector will be put as one of priorities, since the cultural sector suffered a strong negative impact because of the outbreak of COVID-19. The shock caused by the pandemic on the tourism sector had a major effect on the region given the high level of its importance both as contributor to GDP and source of incomes and jobs.

Therefore, learning from this experience, we realized that regular sharing of information is a main key points to ensure education for all, reviving the culture and tourism sectors, and combatting the disinfodemic.

CHINA

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Xuejun Tian, Vice Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Changwei Qin

Email: natcomcn@moe.edu.cn

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Chinese National Commission for UNESCO joined and mobilized domestic partners, such as the UNESCO Category 2 centers, creative cities, UNESCO chairs and private sectors to join the initiatives by UNESCO in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions were taken, such as organizing "International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads: Special Dialogue on Youth's Response to COVID-19", compiling Reference for Education Response to Public Health Crisis and other projects to share experiences in support of UNESCO's efforts in response to the pandemic.

To further support African countries, the Chinese National Commission and UNESCO co-organized virtually on 24 June 2020 the "UNESCO-Africa-China High-Level Dialogue for Supporting Priority Africa in the COVID-19 and Post-COVID

Context". Ministers of Education from China and African countries, UNESCO ADG for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO ADG for Education, officials from National Commissions and heads of UNESCO regional offices in Africa, as well as representatives from relevant local governments, universities, the Category 2 centers and private sector in China, shared experiences on the response to the pandemic and initiated concrete measures which have been all implemented by now.



© Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the Chinese National Commission stood firm with UNESCO and made every effort to implement all major programmes to increase UNESCO's visibility. The annual meeting of the Chinese NatCom was organized as planned.

Professor Peng Liyuan, UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, and Ms Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, sent congratulatory video messages to the laureates of the 5th UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. The Chinese government committed to support the Prize for the second cycle (2021-2025). The UNESCO-China Fund-in-Trust project phase III in support of priority Africa was carried out smoothly.

The Chinese National Commission participates actively in the consultations for the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget (41C/5). Official feedback was submitted timely. The Commission attended the Consultation Meeting of the National Commissions of the East and South East Asia and served as Rapporteur.

As follow-up of the first international consensus on AI and education (Beijing Consensus), the International Forum on AI and the Futures of Education 2020 was held on 7-8 December 2020, focusing on "Developing Competencies for the AI Era".

Working closely with the World Heritage Center and other World Heritage Committee (WHC) members, H.E. Mr Tian Xuejun, Chairperson of the WHC and Chairperson of the Chinese National Commission, convened and chaired virtually the Bureau Meeting and the 14th Extraordinary Session of the WHC. In light of the developments of the pandemic, the Committee decided to hold an extended 44th session in June/July 2021 in Fuzhou, China and the exact dates will be determined at a later stage.

Several events and conferences were co-organized by China and UNESCO, including the third UNESCO Creative Cities Beijing Summit (September 17-18), 2020 China Yangzhou Huaiyang Cuisine Festival (April 18), Nanjing Peace Forum 2020 (October 24), and the Awarding Ceremony of 15th UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (September 28). Due to the impact of the pandemic, a hybrid format of online and in presentia was introduced with good effects achieved.

The UNESCO-China Fund-in-Trust projects to reinforce the capacity and contribution of young researchers to the Silk Roads and UNESCO's Courier, supported by China, were carried out smoothly.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The year of 2020 has shown that we live in a community with a shared future. Bearing in mind the mandate of UNESCO to promote mutual understanding and learning among civilizations, guided by the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and in the spirit of multilateralism, the Chinese National Commission will work in unison with other National Commissions in 2021 to continue to support UNESCO global priorities, participate actively in UNESCO's major programmes and flagship projects. Some highlights are as follows:

- Co-organize with UNESCO the third International Forum on AI and the Futures of Education to further discuss opportunities and challenges brought by AI on Future Education;
- Prepare for the extended 44th session of the WHC in line with the decision by the Committee;
- Continue to support the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education and the Confucius Prize for Literacy;
- Continue to support the UNESCO-China Fund-in-Trust projects to reinforce the capacity and contribution of young researchers to the Silk Roads and UNESCO-China Fund-in-Trust phase III in support of priority Africa;
- Resume the Staff Exchange Programme among Asian National Commissions once the situation improves.

FIJI

Fiji National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Rosy Sofia Akbar, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts

Secretary-General: Dr Anjeela Jokhan

Email: alrina.ali@govnet.gov.fj

Website: www.education.gov.fj

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (Ministry) brought forward Term One school holidays to 23 March 2020 as an immediate control measure for COVID-19. The first positive case was detected on 19 March 2020. A total of 238,213 students remained home due to the closure of schools. During this period the Ministry initiated a number of programmes to engage students with learning activities. Some of which included the following:

Supplementary worksheets were uploaded on the Ministry's website and social media pages to ensure continuous delivery of education to the children on Fiji. A number of awareness

programmes were conducted by the Ministry to alert students, parents and guardians to take advantage of the supplementary worksheets which was made available from 31 March.

On 6 April, the Ministry initiated supplementary radio programmes to keep children engaged while at home and this was made available through the Schools' Broadcasting Unit and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation. The radio programmes were aired on FBC Radio Fiji One and Radio Fiji Two. The supplementary radio programmes focused on developing literacy and numeracy skills.

The Ministry formed partnership with the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) and Walesi, to develop educational television content for the children of Fiji. The supplementary materials were broadcasted via the Walesi platform which enabled students to keep themselves engaged while at home due to the extended school closure.

The Ministry reopened face to face classes for Years 12 and 13, as these students must sit external examinations, which are a pathway to tertiary institutions. Schools for these students commenced on 30 June 2020 while the rest resumed classes from 6 July 2020. The Ministry realigned its term dates and curriculum to ensure there was no added pressure on the students. All schools commenced under strict measures and health and safety controls.



© Fijian National commission for UNESCO — Handwashing activity

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Ministry developed and implemented Safe Schools Operations Guidance, which included the printing and distribution of "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools". Several normal school activities were suspended, such as school assemblies, contact sports, and events that would attract a large gathering of students. The Ministry collaborated with a few Donor Agencies to provide online and face to face trainings for teachers on Psycho-Social Support (PSS), which allowed teachers to provide emotional support to students upon resumption of school. A

number of WASH Facilities in schools were upgraded to make provisions for hand-washing stations. This allowed students to engage in hand-washing programme and safe hygiene practices.

A few schools in Fiji were also damaged due to Tropical Cyclone Harold which disrupted learning and teaching for some students. The Ministry worked with Donor Agencies and a number of stakeholders to provide immediate support so that students continued learning.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Ministry has a number of priorities areas that are clearly outlined in the National Development Plan for Fiji. The Ministry will continue to work with relevant stakeholders in ensuring the outcomes are met before 2023.

INDIA

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Amit Khare

Email: inc.edu@nic.in

Website: www.education.gov.in/en

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India took immediate action to intensify digital learning with equity to mitigate the effects of this disruption. The Ministry of Education has, over the last few years, developed a rich variety of online resources (DIKSHA, e- PATHSHALA, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, NISHTHA, National Digital Library) that are available on a variety of platforms. While students and teachers can access these through their laptops, desktops and mobile phones, these resources are being reached to learners in remote areas through television and radio.

Government of India reacted promptly to contain the outbreak by closing all touristic places, including world heritage properties, and other cultural institutions such as museums and art galleries. Advisories were issued for all education institutions regarding preventive measures to be undertaken/ precautions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the International platform, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was invited to Co-Chair a Social Protection Steering Group created to advise on the development of a United Nations Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery commissioned by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. The final recommendations on the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery is now released after being presented before the UN General Assembly (<https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/UNCOVID19ResearchRoadmap.pdf>).



© Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) was reconstituted in January 2020 and first meeting of reconstituted INCCU was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Education on 30 January in New Delhi, India.

Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General UNESCO, carried out an official visit to India from 3 to 7 February 2020 with a view to reinforcing the strategic partnership between UNESCO and India, one of UNESCO's founding members. She visited Raj Ghat to pay her respects to Mahatma Gandhi.

Meetings were held with Mr Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Sh. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Minister of Education. During these meetings, Ms Azoulay explored opportunities to develop UNESCO's partnership with India with a particular focus on culture, education and artificial intelligence (AI), for which Member States had asked UNESCO to develop a standard-setting instrument. A meeting between Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Director-General UNESCO was also held at the residence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

On the occasion of World Heritage Day in April 2020, Ministry of Culture launched a weeklong program called "Viraasat Setu" on digital platform and social media to boost the morale of people and artists during lockdown by showcasing various aspects of our tangible and intangible heritage. Several webinars around heritage monuments/cities under the theme "Dekho Apna Desh" or "Explore Your Country" were conducted that witnessed large and enthusiastic participation. Webinars included the following:

- Calcutta: A Confluence of Cultures (conducted by Calcutta Walks);
- Mamallapuram, a 7th century AD Pallava port (on occasion of World Heritage Day);
- World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism at Humayun's Tomb (on occasion of World Heritage Day).

The virtual space has also featured sangeetsetu, virtual concert series, programmes on temples and historical monuments of India, classical and folk music, manuscripts, dances (kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri etc.), educational tours for teachers (Museums) etc.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

India launched its new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, in which Artificial Intelligence has an important role to play. The NEP will bring transformative reforms in both school and higher education sectors. Revamping the educational sector (Curriculum Integration of Essential subjects, Quality Academic Research and Technology Research) and having international academic collaborations is a major priority for the country. Priority will be accorded for promoting schemes and activities that catalyze employment generation of those associated directly or indirectly with cultural spaces, particularly those engaged in tertiary activities related to culture.

There will also be sustained campaign to promote monuments and museums to encourage visitors to visit them. ZCCs are exploring existing plans and state schemes by which immediate support can be provided to performing artists and crafts persons through their registration with various organizations, viz, State Academies and various Artist Associations/ Folk Artist Federations/ Folk Artist Welfare Boards etc. Ensuring safety of personnel at heritage sites and cultural institutes will be continued by providing PPE kits to staff including security guards, waste and visitor management staff.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Mansour Gholami, Minister of Science, Research and Technology

Secretary-General: Dr Hojatollah Ayoubi

Email: unesco@irunesco.org

Website: <https://fa.irunesco.org>

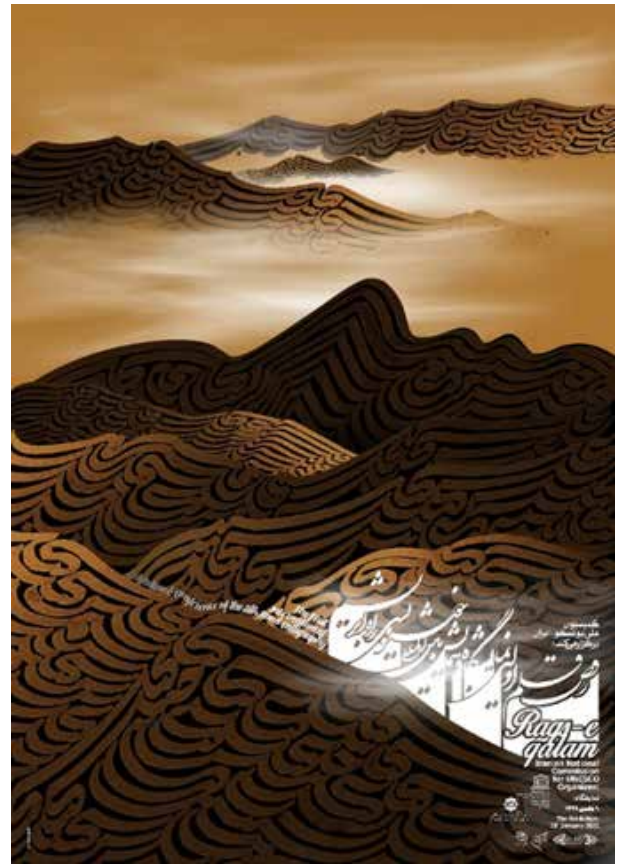
HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO took several important measures to raise the morale of the people, especially doctors and nurses. In the first step, in the early days of the epidemic, in an event entitled "Clad in white: caretakers of love", Iranian National Commission for UNESCO invited the graphic designers to send their graphic works to commend the medical staff.

In the second step, by launching Instagram Talks, the National Commission invited the famous figures, especially in the field of literature, to talk to people. This measure was highly welcomed.

In the third step, the National Commission for UNESCO opened a new way for art enthusiasts by launching its own virtual gallery and holding several art exhibitions. So far, the works of 400 artists in various fields have been showcased in this gallery.

Another part of "Clad in white: caretakers of love" event was a music festival. This festival, which was one of the important measures of the National Commission, aroused a wave of enthusiasm in the medical community. Different



© Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

bands from all over the country created an important event by sending their pieces of music and presenting them to the health staff. More than 50 musical works were edited by the National Commission for UNESCO and loaded daily on the commission's website. Immediately, musical works were uploaded on the websites of the Medical Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ministry of Health.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, using its symbolic capital, tried to create a consensus among the elites and the intellectual to have scientific and cultural cooperation with the National Commission. In magnificent ceremonies, the Commission's supreme medal was awarded to Master Yadollah kaboli, one of the greatest Iranian calligraphers, and the third supreme medal was awarded to Professor Mehdi Mohaghegh, one of the greatest Iranian scholars.

Afghan Art Week was held to sympathize with students, who were victims of terrorism in Kabul. During this cultural week the president of Kabul University, the country's ambassador to Iran and other personalities spoke, works of Afghan artists were displayed on five nights, and every night was dedicated to one branch of art, including music, painting, calligraphy, graphics and handicrafts. Also, every night, several artists and cultural figures held interviews on the live stream of the

Commission's Instagram. More than 100 Afghan artists showcased their work to say that Afghanistan is alive and that a glorious future awaits it.

In 2020, three other cities joined UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, contracts of two new Category 2 Centers were finalized, and two other Iranian cities were added to UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.

However, the most important event of the year was the establishment of 12 Clubs for UNESCO with the formation of the Iranian National Federation of Clubs for UNESCO and its accession to the Regional Federation of Clubs. Finally, after 40 years, UNESCO Clubs were also launched in Iran.

Finally, in an unprecedented measure, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO established a Parliamentary group, entitled "the Parliamentary group of World Cities and the National Commission for UNESCO", with the aim of building a meaningful relationship between the legislature and the elites who cooperate with the different committees of the National Commission.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO intends to publish a collection of works of a century of Iranian life in the fields of science, culture, art and press. The arrangements for this measure have been made and contracts have been concluded with leading researchers. In 2021, the Commission will try to finalize the process of changing the status of the Secretariat to an organization and increasing its budget. Fostering the clubs, strengthening the relationship with Parliament, and holding a major Silk Road calligraphy conference and exhibition are among the other plans of this year. Also, the National Commission intends to implement several plans in cooperation with other 12 countries for the coming Nowruz celebration. The establishment of Artificial Intelligence Club is another plan of the Commission.

JAPAN

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Michinari Hamaguchi

Secretary-General: Mr Yasushi Taguchi

Email: jpnatcom@mext.go.jp

Website: www.mext.go.jp/en/unesco/index.htm

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In response to the global impact of COVID-19, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) published a message from the JNCU chairperson on the "Role and Expectations of UNESCO in the COVID Era and how JNCU should promote UNESCO activities". This was posted on JNCU's website, to serve as a guide for promoting UNESCO activities in Japan.

Due to the pandemic, the JNCU General Assembly, normally held in person, was held in a hybrid format on 2 September. From July to September 2020, JNCU held meetings of its

subcommittee on education as well as joint subcommittees on natural sciences/social and human sciences, culture and communication. At these, participants discussed ways to make JNCU's activities more flexible and effective and to revitalize the activities of UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan.

As a result of discussions, the JNCU was revamped, and on December 1, 2020, the specialized subcommittees were re-organized into three subcommittees on education, science, and culture/communication.



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OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

2020 was not only the launch year of Education for Sustainable Development for 2030; it also marked the start of the implementation of Japan's new National Curriculum Standards, which call for the "fostering the builders of a sustainable society". In response to these developments, the Government, together with diverse stakeholders, revised the national ESD Implementation Plan. Progress was also made on revising "A Guide to Promoting ESD," which describes specific methods so that teachers can more effectively put ESD into practice.

Every year, a national conference and regional conferences for UNESCO Associated Schools are held to generate momentum for their activities and promote ESD. In 2020, due to COVID-19, these were held in a hybrid format. At the regional conferences, participants shared their ESD activities through regional networks. At the national conference, participants shared experiences and exchanged under the theme "A grand design for school education towards 2030: The role of ESD, SDGs, and ASP for the building of a sustainable society".

In 2019, the JNCU published a "Proposal for Revitalization of UNESCO activities in Japan", calling for building a strategic platform for deepening collaboration

among various stakeholders and disseminating the results of these activities in Japan and worldwide through international cooperation. The JNCU also established a secretariat platform to strengthen cross-collaboration and the dissemination of information to promote UNESCO-related activities.

Through funding by Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT), four videos to improve awareness of the themes discussed at the roundtables on "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" and "Ethics of Genome Editing" held in 2019, were released in October 2020 and distributed to Member States, IBC and COMEST members, other relevant UN and international organizations working in the field of bioethics and ethics of science. Moreover, funding was provided to the UNESCO Jakarta Office for the webinar on "Science to Enable and Empower Asia-Pacific for COVID-19 Response" in May 2020. JFIT also supported the compilation of "Asia-Pacific Recommendations of Action by the UNESCO Science Family in Asia and the Pacific in response to COVID-19 Challenges", as well as "Sustainability Insight" webinar series, held from June to November 2020, to foster synergies among science networks across many fields, with participation of specialists from both Asia-Pacific and other regions.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2021 is a milestone year, marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's accession to UNESCO. The JNCU will take this opportunity to strengthen UNESCO-related activities in Japan for building a sustainable society through disseminating information about UNESCO's principles and activities in COVID and post-COVID times.

In the run-up to the Regional Kick-Off Conference of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in 2021, communication materials, such as videos, to raise awareness of the Decade will be produced and distributed with support from JFIT.

In education, the JNCU will support the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference organized by UNESCO Bangkok with JFIT support. In addition, the 3rd Session of the Tokyo Convention (Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education), co-hosted by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and UNESCO Bangkok, is scheduled in October 2021 in Kanazawa.

Japan will start funding a new JFIT project to promote ESD for 2030. This will support UNESCO in encouraging the formulation of country initiatives, networking, and advocacy for ESD.

KAZAKHSTAN

National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO

Chairperson: Ms Aktoty Raiymkulova, Minister of Culture and Sports

Secretary-General: Ms Anar Dutbayeva

Email: a.dutbayeva@mfa.gov.kz / m.baikuatova@mfa.gov.kz / d.zheken@mfa.gov.kz

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the activities of UNESCO and the forms of cooperation with the Republic of Kazakhstan. Nevertheless, the National Commission continued its work to promote the country's interests on the platform of the Organization and strengthen practical interaction with its executive structures.

Chairperson of the National Commission – Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms Raiymkulova participated in the first virtual meeting of Ministers of Culture regarding the impact of the health crisis on the cultural sector, organized by UNESCO on 22 April 2020. Kazakhstan's delegation also took part in UNESCO Virtual Ministerial Dialogue on Open Science in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (30 March 2020).

The National Commission assisted UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty in their work with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as in providing to relevant educational institutions in Kazakhstan materials and documents of the series of sub-regional online meetings on open science and distance education in the context of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Asia.

The National Commission presented its views on the preparation of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and Programme and Budget for 2022-2025, which were discussed during the Consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific (Sub-group 2) on 22 June 2020.



© Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Due to the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the world, the organization of the visit of UNESCO Director-General Ms Audrey Azoulay to Kazakhstan had to be postponed. Currently new terms of a possible visit are being determined.

On June 18, the National Commission and the Ministry of Culture and Sports organized capacity building workshop "UNESCO Processes of World Heritage Properties in Kazakhstan: Management, Reporting and Monitoring" as a follow up to the WHC Decision 43 COM 7B.67. Kazakhstan notified the World Heritage Committee and Permanent Missions accredited to UNESCO of its candidacy for the World Heritage Committee for the period 2023-2027.

In celebration of the dates important for Kazakh history, culture and science, the National Commission coordinated the participation of the UNESCO Secretariat in two online conferences "Civilization of the great steppe and the modern Turkic world" and "Abai and XXI century: continuity of epochs", dedicated to the 1300th anniversary of the outstanding monument Bilge Tonyukuk (in ancient Turkic written language) and the 175th anniversary of Abai Kunanbaiuly respectively. On October 19, Kazakhstan National Commission together with the Iranian National Commission organized an online conference "Consonance of civilizations along the Silk Road" dedicated to the 1150th anniversary of al-Farabi. The National Commission submitted as Kazakhstan's proposal for anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2022-2023 the 150th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding scientist and turcologist Akhmet Baitursynov with the support of Belarus, Tajikistan and Turkey.

By the decision of the 8th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention, Kazakh NGO "Uly Tagzym" was accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. During the 15th session of this Intergovernmental Committee, multinational nomination "Togyzkumalak" (traditional board game) was inscribed on UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

At the end of January 2020, a member of the National Commission Mr Roman Yashchenko was appointed to the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves and elected Vice-president of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) for 2020-2021. During the 32nd session of MAB ICC, Almaty and West Altai biosphere reserves were included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The National Commission submitted a new Kazakh application "Kolsai Kolderi" for possible inclusion in this Network in 2021.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat made a positive decision on the extension of the agreement for the UNESCO Chair of International Journalism and Media at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University until May 2023. Applications for the extension of relevant agreements for the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Management at the Kazakh-German University are under consideration.

The National Commission submitted three applications from Kazakhstani NGOs for grants under the Participation Programme, the results of which should be announced in 2021.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, the National Commission will be involved in organization of several national, regional and interregional events. In particular, there are plans to implement international activities in the field of ICH, MAB Programme and the global network of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO. Kazakhstan National Commission strongly supports contributing to capacity building as well as strengthening relationships and network of partners between Kazakhstan and UNESCO.

KYRGYZSTAN

National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO

Chairperson: currently in the process of appointment

Secretary-General: Ms Sabira Soltongeldieva

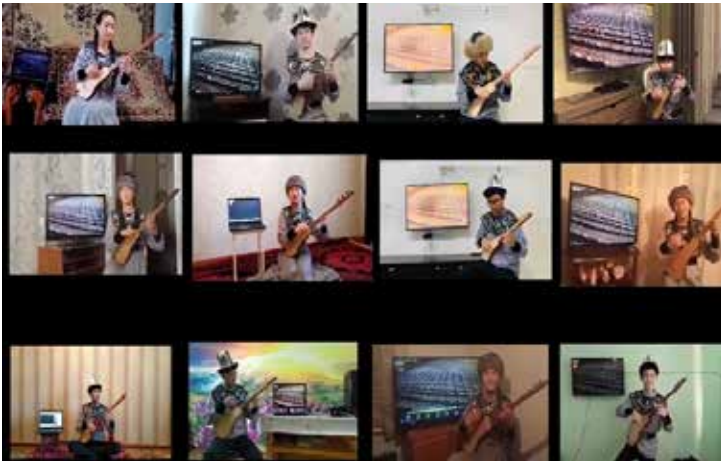
Email: natcomunesco.kg@gmail.com

Website: UNESCO Kyrgyzstan (Facebook page)

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO conducted a number of activities in response to pandemic in line with UNESCO's priorities. To raise public awareness on COVID-19 pandemic, information materials were published on the Facebook page of the National Commission in

education, science, culture, communication and information. National Commission worked to widespread information materials and publications in response to fake news and disinformation related to COVID-19. In line with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Commission developed interactive curricula to improve access to information, the qualifications of teachers and the quality of education based on the use of ICTs. Moreover, the National Commission initiated a number of activities to safeguard the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). During the quarantine, online master classes were initiated for the safeguarding and transmission of the living heritage. As a result, the interest in crafting among people, especially among the younger generation increased. Besides, different online concerts of famous musicians and performers of the Kyrgyz Republic were initiated. For instance, a famous Manaschy (bearer of the Kyrgyz epic trilogy 'Manas') told 'Manas' epic via social networks that urged people to unite and be tolerant. Komuz musicians (Kyrgyz traditional music instrument) performed during the quarantine via online. Various articles were published in response to COVID-19.



© National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO
– A thousand komuzists performed "Mash Botoy" by Atay Ogonbaev during the quarantine in the Kyrgyz Republic

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious socio-economic consequences. A state of emergency was introduced on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, which limited the ability of many organizations, including the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO, to carry out its work. Nevertheless, during the period of quarantine, the National Commission worked remotely online.

The National Commission participated in a number of online meetings within the UNESCO such as the 209th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (29 June - 10 July), the 8th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH (8-10 September), the 32nd session of the International Coordinating Council of the "Man and the Biosphere" Program (27 to 28 October). Furthermore, the National Commission and its partner organizations participated in a number of regional and national online meetings, as well as the webinars organized by the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in Jakarta, European Union, UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate Change), and others.

Within the framework of the "UNESCO Global Geoparks" programme, the National Commission carried out activities to promote the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme in the Kyrgyz Republic. The National Commission initiated a number

of activities with UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, representatives of UNDP in Kyrgyzstan, local communities, local administrations of Batken and Issyk-Kul regions, and with local NGOs to raise the importance of geoheritage for the sustainable development. A number of online meetings were held. After the emergency situation stabilized in the country, the National Commission organized two workshops in Batken and Issyk-Kul regions with all COVID-19 measures in place. The aim of these workshops entitled "UNESCO Global Geoparks: Opportunities and Potential in the Kyrgyz Republic" was to identify and prepare a nomination for UNESCO Global Geoparks from the Kyrgyz Republic.

The National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO is working closely with the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Institute of History and Cultural Heritage; Institute of Language and Literature after Ch. Aitmatov of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, and NGOs for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH. The nomination file "The Nomad Games: Rediscovering Heritage, Celebrating Diversity" was prepared for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. The multinational nominations "Falconry" and "The Telling Tradition of Nasreddin Hodja/ Molla Nesreddin/ Molla Ependi/ Apendi/ Afendi Kozhanasyr Anecdotes" were prepared for inscription on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Preparation of multinational nomination files at the sub-regional level for the inscription on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity and the World Heritage List;
- Preparation and promotion of the serial transnational nomination of the World Heritage "Silk Road: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor" to the UNESCO World Heritage List in cooperation with Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Strengthening of cooperation and exchange of experiences among UNESCO ASPnet schools at the sub regional level.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Lao National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Minister of Education and Sports

Secretary-General: Dr Silinthone Sacklokhham

Email: laonesco@yahoo.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

With the encouragement of the Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU), ASPnet schools played a significant role in UNESCO activities, especially during the spread of COVID-19. Many schools sent solidarity messages and artworks to other ASPnet schools around the world, expressing their feelings and how they were studying at home during the lockdown.

With the support from the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), LNCU collaborated with the Non-Formal Education Department to implement the Bridge Special Project: COVID-19 Response under the Bridge Laos Project by organizing the Dissemination Workshop on health education to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak through Community

Learning Centers (CLCs) and providing hygiene products and posters to Provincial Education and Sports Services (PESS), District Education and Sports Bureau (DESB), CLCs and local communities by selecting six CLCs in three target provinces such as Savannakhet, Luang Prabang and Sayabouly (two CLCs per province). The Bridge Laos Project, a five-year project (2020-2024) funded by the Korean government, promotes inclusive and equitable quality education for marginalized populations in Lao PDR through the provision of non-formal education.



© Lao National Commission for UNESCO — Handing over the hygiene materials and posters to CLCs

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

LNCU partnered with UNESCO Bangkok Office to develop UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for 2020-2021 and co-organize the National Launch of the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report (2020 GEMR), which was distributed to ASPnet schools and other educational institutions.

In partnership with KNCU, LNCU implemented the preliminary survey for a joint project among National Commissions for UNESCO in East and Southeast Asia, aimed to promote collaboration among the National Commissions in the subregion by identifying their future challenges and developing a more in-depth research and/or a Joint Project for the year 2021.

Jointly with UNESCO Bangkok Office, LNCU organized and facilitated the Final/Review Meeting "Happy School Project" and conducted an interview in video-visual of the Minister of Education and Sports regarding COVID-19 Education Response. It also translated the Framework for Reopening Schools and the body text of a series of Information Cards to support living and studying during COVID-19 into Lao Language.

LNCU organized the national discussion on the Future of Education in 2020-2030 among ASPnet teachers, students and parents; monitored and evaluated the

activities and good practices of ASPnet schools and organized the Annual Meeting to exchange experiences among ASPnet schools in Lao PDR; participated in the Asia-Pacific Teacher Exchange for Global Education 2020. It also coordinated ASPnet Teacher Education & Training Institutions Change Initiative.

The Commission participated in Online Training for New Secretary-Generals of National Commissions for UNESCO, Online 2020 Global Education Meeting, Sub-regional Consultation for 41C/4 and 41C/5, Online Meeting on Recommendation of the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Regional Workshop on Education Costing and Financing, and the Together for Peace (T4P) Initiative.

LNCU supported the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to improve the proposed documents of Traditional Craft of Naga Motif Weaving in Lao Communities to submit for the Tentative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021.

LNCU worked with the Lao National World Heritage Committee and Lao Permanent Delegate to UNESCO to clarify the issues regarding the impact of the construction of a hydropower to the state of conservation of Luang Prabang. It followed up and supported the relevant authorities with their duties on membership contribution and periodic reporting to the Convention.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Organize a training workshop on youth engagement in heritage preservation in Lao PDR, Luang Prabang Province;
- Organize the designing and developing of Global Citizenship Education source pack in local context in Bolikhamxay and Vientiane Provinces;
- Organize a training on capacity building for the integration of UNESCO concepts in teaching subjects for principals and teachers of ASPnet schools in Lao PDR;
- Organize the youth project on Heritage Protection in Xiengkhouang Province;
- Organize the Annual Meeting of Sub-Commissions for UNESCO;
- Prepare to implement the Trash Hack Campaign ASPnet Schools;
- Support the Non-Formal Education Department to continue implementing the 2021 Bridge Laos Project;
- Follow up to the enhancement of digital resilience through competency-based teacher training reforms to facilitate ICT-pedagogy integration and the comprehensive teacher policy in Lao PDR; as well as the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

MALAYSIA

Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Radzi Jidin

Secretary-General: Mr Mohammad Sanusi Abdul Karim

Email: skum.bha@moe.gov.my

Website: <https://unesco.org.my/v2/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

2020 was a year of massive economic and social disruptions exacerbated by COVID-19. The outbreak vastly affected the global activities planned for the year which resulted in various programmes being conducted in virtual manner in response to the pandemic. The MNCU that was established on 7 July 1966 actively played its role to render support during the pandemic year with the aim to achieve UNESCO goals at all levels. This included the participation of the National Commission at the webinar entitled "Science to Enable and Empower Asia Pacific for COVID-19 Response" (SEE-AP) held on 18 May 2020. The webinar hosted by UNESCO Jakarta Office with the support of Malaysia Funds-in-Trust (MFIT) and Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) provided a platform for discussion to more than 1,600 stakeholders across UNESCO's science family and collaborators. The discussion provided recommendations for immediate actions during COVID-19 and long-term actions to be taken by stakeholders.

In conjunction with the World Population Day 2020, Malaysia organised a webinar on the Social, Health and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Malaysia. The programme was held on 27 July 2020 with the theme "Putting the Brakes on COVID-19: How to Safeguard the Health and Rights of Women and Girls Now" in collaboration with United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Malaysia, the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB)

and University of Malaya. Participants had the opportunity to deliberate on the "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-Based Violence" as well as "Growing up as Generation COVID".



© Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO — Among the KLWBC2020 kiosks built in Kuala Lumpur

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Kuala Lumpur was named as World Book Capital for the year 2020 by the Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee. Subsequent to this recognition, Malaysia hosted the Kuala Lumpur World Book Capital 2020 (KLWBC2020) that was held from 22 to 23 April 2020 with 65 kiosks built by Kuala Lumpur City Hall to allow urban communities to access reading materials around the capital city in line with the slogan of "KL Baca – caring through reading".

Malaysia conducted various programmes to preserve, conserve and sustain the growth of arts and culture in Malaysia through the digital platform. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the National Archives of Malaysia has conducted an Online Workshop on UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) for the Asia-Pacific Region from 27 July to 21 August 2020 to share best practices and provide guidance on

the nomination process of potential archival materials to be submitted to the MoW for recognition.

Malaysia as the Vice Chair of Information for All Programme (IFAP) Bureau and the Chair of IFAP Information for Development Working Group organised an IFAP Webinar on Uplifting Communities through Digital Literacy in the Malaysian Context on 10 August 2020. The webinar was attended by the Chair of IFAP (Ghana), members of the Asia-Pacific Network of Science and Technology Group of UNESCO (ASPAC) as well as policy makers, academicians and university students from across Malaysia. The webinar deliberated on topics such as the Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward in Digital Economy in Malaysia, the Effects of Digital Society on Older Cohorts in Malaysia and Millennial's Future: Suggestions on Utilizing Their Talents for Societal and Economic Development. The programme was in line with the SDGs 8, 9, and 16.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Malaysian National Commission looks forward to further collaborate and expand its network at all levels in order to advance work relating to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030. In furtherance to that, the Commission will step up efforts in facilitating the nomination of Malaysia's geoparks and biosphere reserves for UNESCO's recognition. Digitalisation of cultural heritage for long term preservation is also in the pipeline for the year ahead. In addition, Malaysia will continue to be part of UNESCO's global laboratory of ideas and continue efforts in the field of futures literacy.

MALDIVES

Maldivian National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO

Chairperson: Dr Aishath Ali, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Ahmed Mausoom

Email: natcom@moe.gov.mv

Website: www.moe.gov.mv

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 directly impacted over 91,000 school children from pre-KG to higher secondary. To ensure continuity of education during the pandemic the Ministry of Education partnered with three national television stations to develop educational programming and implemented dual modes of teaching and learning: online classes and telecasted lessons via television, locally known as 'Telikilaas' (A local version of Tele-class). The Telikilaas lessons were complemented with daily interactive sessions for students, via Google Classroom, YouTube, EduPage, TED-Ed, Moodle, and other digital learning platform, approved by the MoE. The lesson recordings were done by a pool of 500+ volunteer teachers from approximately 130 schools (including government, the private and, the community-run schools) inclusive of all 21 atolls in the Maldives.

With lead role played by the professional body of the Education Ministry, the National Institute of education (NIE) started a nationwide training and mentoring program for teachers on the use of G-Suite for Education established in all schools with user accounts for all students and teachers. The main aim of this program was to build confidence in the

teachers to creatively utilize different applications of G-Suite for Education and teach students online, while they stayed at home.

These innovative projects, the 'Teliklaas' (Local brand name for Tele-Class) and the 'G-Suite', proved extremely successful in addressing the policy challenge in Maldives Education Sector Plan (2019-2023), Goal 1: Improved learning for all, through equitable access to quality education, as well as relevant Sustainable Development Goal 4 (to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and the key trends of education in the 21st century.



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OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The National Workshop on Incorporating ICT Competency Standards (ICT-CST) into the Teacher Training Programmes was held in Male' from 9 to 12 March 2020. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Auken Tungatarova from UNESCO Bangkok Office. This was the second ICT-CST related workshop under the Japan Funds-in-Trust project of UNESCO. It was held under UNESCO's initiative to guide Member States to determine and develop the required ICT competency standards for teachers. The four-day workshop functioned as a good capacity building activity to help the participants in designing and developing their programmes for dual purposes — to integrate ICT at the same time aligning the programmes with the newly developed Teacher Professional Standards.

Five delegates from the Maldives took part in the 2nd South Asia Regional Symposium on ICT in Education, conducted virtually on 15-16 October 2020. This symposium under the theme of "Rebuilding Towards ICT-Enabled Resilient Education in the COVID-19 Era" presented applications of ICT that can improve the quality of education and skills training, bridging learning disruption that occurred during COVID-19 pandemic.

A Psychological First Aid Orientation program was conducted for all teachers in the schools of Maldives including the school management staff to build the capacity of school staff on the provision of mental health and psychological support. This

was conducted from June to August 2020 in collaboration with the Maldives Red Crescent. A total number of 6332 participants were trained altogether through 88 sessions. Another significant training program conducted in collaboration with the Maldives Red Crescent was the Training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for Children aimed at ensuring the availability of a trained counsellor in each and every school.

A Refresher Training was conducted for school counsellors in collaboration with the Center for Mental Health / IGMH. Additionally, we conducted Hand and Respiratory Hygiene program for all schools to ensure cleanliness among school children in readiness to the re-opening of schools following the COVID lockdown.

Maldives, under the umbrella activities of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB), proposed two additional atolls Addu and Fuvahmulah, located in the Southern tip of the Maldives, to be included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. They were approved at the 32nd session of ICC-MAB held virtually on 27-28 October 2020.

Ms Yumna Mausoom, the Culture and Heritage Minister participated in UNESCO's first virtual meeting of Ministers of Culture. The progress made on inscribing the Coral Stone Mosques of the Maldives on the UNESCO World Heritage List was shared with UNESCO New Delhi Office via an online meeting held on 14 October 2020.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Maldivian National Commission has no specific plans yet to co-organize regional activity in 2021. However, we have interest in doing so wherever necessary.

MONGOLIA

Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Batmunkh Battsetseg, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Ms Uyanga Sukhbaatar

Email: natcom@unesco.mn

Website: www.unesco.mn

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU) achieved the 19 goals it set for 2020 and successfully implemented numerous projects within all fields of UNESCO in collaboration with its partner organizations.

MNCU in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Institute of Teacher's Professional Development (ITPD), UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and Mongol Content LLC and under the guidance of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office implemented the project "Strengthening the national capacity to suppress transmission and maintain essential services in the COVID-19 pandemic in Mongolia", which aims to develop 104 exemplary interactive contents that support students' participation based on the content of the TV-lessons due to the pandemic in Mongolia.

MNCU accomplished various projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic in support of UNESCO, particularly a series of articles on key topics related to the COVID-19 education response, which were translated into Mongolian under the auspices of the MNCU with the support of UNESCO Beijing Office and distributed to MoES and its associated

organizations. The translated animated short films and posters that illustrate the rules of hygiene and social distancing to children, produced by "Les Films du Cygne", were distributed to 12 ASPnet schools in Mongolia. A comic pamphlet on COVID-19 was published by Zhejiang Education Publishing House of PRC with support of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, 1000 copies were distributed to relevant institutions including schools in remote areas, lifelong learning centers, libraries, orphanages and welfare centers. In addition, MNCU with support of UNESCO Beijing Office organized an online scientific conference on "The Effects of the Digital Environment on Mongolia's Society: Philosophical Issues" aimed to contribute to the ongoing global reflections on digitalization, artificial intelligence, cyber issues and their ethical implications and the consequences of their application in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.



© Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO — 2 years old Khuslen.B "Learning interactive lesson" with his mother Uranzaya.B

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The final report of the Education Policy Review (EPR) in Mongolia was officially launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and with support of UNESCO. The EPR was a critical analysis of the Education Sector and an in-depth assessment of the policies and programmes aligned with the development aspirations of the Mongolian Government within the framework of the Education 2050 vision and sustainable development strategy of Mongolia and Mongolia Education Medium Term Development Plan (ESMTDP) 2021-2030.

One of the highlight activities in 2020 was that Toson-Khulstai Nature Reserve of Mongolia was added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The establishment of UNESCO Chair on Environmental Sciences in Eastern Central Asia at the Institute of Geography and Geo-Ecology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences was the significant occasion to ensure sustainable ecosystem and to protect natural reserve of Mongolia.

MNCU conducted virtual training on crafting of the Limbe instrument with a total of 40 students within the framework of project on stabilizing and inheriting the Folk Long Song Performance Technique of Limbe performance — A Circular Breathing

to the future generations. Furthermore, the MNCU collected 600 documentations and added them to the national registration database of sacred sites within the framework of the project on promoting natural and cultural sustainability through inheriting and reviving Mongolian traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites. Moreover, two publications related to the sacred mountains and lands of the Gobi and Steppe, its protection of nature and cultural heritage was prepared.

MNCU successfully organized the 2nd MIL Forum under the theme of "Resisting Disinfectomic: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and by everyone" with support from the Swedish International Development Agency and UNESCO Beijing Office. During the forum, we discussed possible solutions for harmonizing MIL activities by integrating existing digital and information literacy efforts and policies, with the view to optimize the use of resources invested in digital and information literacy activities and to promote MIL with a cross-curricular approach.

MNCU also organized the sixth annual Model UNESCO Mongolia in cooperation with the UN Youth Advisory Panel in Mongolia and with support of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office. The MUM 2020 focused on the reimagining of the 'new normal' during the current pandemic and post-COVID world within the overarching theme of "Youth: The future you want, the future youth want".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

MNCU is pleased to support the organization of the International Youth Green Games (IYGG), which will be held in September 2021 under the auspices of the President of Mongolia. The IYGG will be the first international sporting event that specifically aims to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to their implementation. National Commissions are invited to participate in the event which will promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions.

NEPAL

Nepal National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Krishna Goap Shrestha, Minister for Education, Science and Technology

Secretary-General: Mr Gopinath Mainali

Email: unesconatcomnepal@gmail.com

Website: nncu.org.np

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Policy measures and priority areas set by the government in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Protect children and the teachers from infection: Tips on health and hygiene, psychosocial counselling and disseminating facts and protective measures;
- Continue learning in lockdown: Priority is to continue learning at home (through National TV/radios/FM/Cable TVs);
- Academic plan after schools /colleges/universities/technical intuitions reopen: High priority to reschedule the academic calendar (admission, exam, alternative education Pedagogy, training, curriculum);
- Budgetary Plan.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) / Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) initiated following activities in line with the above priorities:

- Contingency plan: Nepal Education Cluster developed and launched coordination with provincial and local government, the local Education Groups-LEG including UNESCO Kathmandu, Open University-OU and some other universities, private institutions;
- Psychosocial support to needy children, teachers and parents, awareness on the transmission of COVID-19;
- Development, adaptation and dissemination of distance and virtual learning using digital materials;
- Forming thematic sub committees (6) working for immediate and long terms interventions;
- Mobilizing the media to disseminate education related messages and content.

Research was done by Education, Social Science and Mass Communication Committees. Action research was done on

effect of COVID-19 in Nepali Drama and Theater on “The uncertain impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Nepal’s drama and theater”.

Webinar was held on “Science Diplomacy in the 21st Century: Seizing opportunities through fostered collaboration in Nepalese Context” aimed at opening a dialogue between scientists, diplomats, and citizens at large on the role of Science Diplomacy to seize the opportunity for sustainable development through fostered collaboration and mainstreaming of science diplomacy for achieving SDG-2030 and fostering the notion «No One is Left Behind’ in the 21st Century. Both Science and Diplomacy are changing in the 21st Century. It is characteristic to observe that non-state actors increasingly drive diplomacy, science is becoming more global than ever before, and the mobility and connectivity accelerate solutions, yet lead to new challenges. It is well said that scientists have to act beyond their laboratories, and diplomats have to collaborate with scientists to achieve their missions. According to experts, the developing countries have a vast potential to utilize its soft power for international collaboration through science diplomacy. They suggest that developing countries need a more focused approach to preparing government officials and scientists to take full advantage of science diplomacy. However, with access to technology, the world is being divided further, making the gap between developed and developing countries. Science is the tool to ease the process of diplomacy. With the advent of frontier technology and innovation, the importance of science diplomacy is ever-increasing to address the issues of climate change and to combat pandemics like COVID-19.



© Nepal National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

An action research was done on Building Science Chasing Coronavirus “How young scientists help combat COVID-19 in Nepal?” Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NNC UNESCO) was delighted and happy to be a part of this good cause and collaborate with Resources Himalaya Foundation in educating society through the dissemination of science-based information. The team was doing its best in creating awareness among people in the best possible ways, through audiovisual materials, awareness posters, arts and paintings, articles, and journal publications. The team of these young scientists has produced awareness materials in English, Nepali, Newari, Maithili, Gurung, Doteli, among other local dialects, which has made the work even more effective and people friendly.

The major themes we decided to work on were categorized into following five agendas:

- Engaging school children in awareness programmes,
- Strengthening health informatics system,
- Online training on making PPE-like Mask using local resources,
- Engaging with local youth networks to create media material in local language,
- Psychological first aid training to district coordinators.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Efficient and effective coordination will be further enhanced among the UNESCO entities within country and beyond.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Robyn Baker

Secretary-General: Ms Vicki Soanes

Email: unesco.nz@education.govt.nz

Website: www.unesco.org.nz

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO supported crucial work during and after the COVID-19 lockdown in Aotearoa New Zealand by reorienting its work programme and undertaking a range of activities designed to assist people to thrive in a COVID-19 world. One focus was providing timely and useful information, including promoting expert scientific knowledge and sharing COVID-19 information from UNESCO with New Zealand stakeholders and through social media channels. Another was allocating contestable funding towards COVID-19 recovery activities.

The National Commission provided a grant to the Te Rito Toi project (www.teritotoi.org) which developed and provided resources to schools for teachers to use the arts to help students return successfully to school after the long absence and trauma of lockdown. The project was led by Auckland University Professor Peter O'Connor and benefited from the expertise of the National Commission Education Commissioner Professor Carol Mutch. In the first month after lockdown 40,000 teachers accessed and used the site, downloading over 250,000 pages; the programme has received interest

from 114 countries wanting to emulate the approach. Hong Kong of China is about to create its own version of Te Rito Toi which is being assisted by the New Zealand Te Rito Toi team.

The National Commission also provided funding support for the OER Foundation, led by the UNESCO Chair in OER, to provide web-conferencing capabilities allowing educators under lockdown to communicate synchronously while working on local OER4Covid actions. Following the success of the online capacity development initiative, the OER Foundation has collaborated with UNESCO, the National Commission and the International Council for Open and Distance education (ICDE) to promote the delivery of five OER-based online micro-courses for ongoing capacity development in a post COVID-19 world. Consistent with the UNESCO OER Recommendation adopted by Member States at the 40th General Conference in November 2019, these courses can be accessed free.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh-Ec5wKQb0&feature=youtu.be)

[Ec5wKQb0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh-Ec5wKQb0&feature=youtu.be)

<https://oer4covid.oeru.org/oer4covid-collaborators-act-locally-and-share-globally/>



© New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

2020 was a challenging year for the National Commission, as it was worldwide due to the global pandemic. Programmes that were scheduled and funded projects incurred significant delays. The Commission responded by offering minor grants funding with an open-ended application deadline to respond to the needs of communities and individuals specifically with COVID-19 focused projects.

After a COVID-19 related postponement, the National Commission's Global Citizenship Education Ideas Exchange took place in October. The public event brought educators, learners and activists together to discuss areas of their work that align with GCED principles. Two of the presenters, high school students, spoke at the Ideas Exchange about the social enterprise project they worked on during lockdown. Due to a scarcity of ventilators globally, and the anticipated need for such medical equipment the team of teenagers worked together to invent and build a working ventilator. Created with easily accessible and inexpensive materials, the ventilator garnered media interest and is now on display at a technology museum in Auckland.

Covid-19: High school students create working ventilator from wood, lego | RNZ News

Videos of the Ideas Exchange can be seen here on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLV_wpUrCjCAA9yPQCUi2APbjDb6dpf9al

One of the projects that received Major Funding from the National Commission captured the stories of Muslim women who have migrated to New Zealand. The Our Hijrah project, with its clear focus on gender equality, surfaces the stories of women who otherwise might not have been heard. The video recordings of these women are now being shared through social media.

A national meeting of New Zealand UNESCO Creative Cities took place in Wellington in November. The meeting coincided with the launch of Wellington's Creative City Strategy, which laid out their plan for the next four years. New Zealand's three Creative Cities; Dunedin (Literature), Auckland (Music) and Wellington (Film) discussed their projects and plans for collaboration to ensure the success of the Network.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2021 marks the first year of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The National Commission has set up a reference group of ocean experts from a range of disciplines to liaise on the promotion of the Decade. The first activity supporting the Decade is the development of a website called Te Tini a Tangaroa or the many multitudes of the ocean, to highlight New Zealand and Pacific science with a particular focus on indigenous knowledge and Mātauranga Māori, including waka voyaging. The website will be a connecting point between members of the general public and scientists in New Zealand with the international community supporting the Decade.

The assessment process to establish Waitaki Whitestone as a UNESCO Global Geopark was put on hold in 2020, but Waitaki remains active with the international Network and continues to develop the Aspiring Geopark. We hope that the assessment can go ahead in 2021.

PHILIPPINES

Philippine National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Teodoro Locsin, Jr.

Secretary-General: Mr Ernesto C. Abella

Email: secretariat@unesco.gov.ph

Website: <https://www.unesco.gov.ph>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In 2020, the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO (PH NatCom) intensified its online presence to continue promoting UNESCO programmes and bridging platforms especially in relation to the response to pandemic. It also mobilized focal persons and stakeholders of UNESCO-inscribed sites through virtual meetings and visits to assess the impact of pandemic to the sites and cascade/gather/identify relevant information on challenges in the sites and solutions that would benefit the communities within and around UNESCO-inscribed sites.

It engaged prime movers and stakeholders in UNESCO designated creative cities in the country to strengthen local creative industries network amid pandemic and help build foundations for sustained recognition of UNESCO Creative Cities in the Philippines. With various partners from public and private sectors, the Commission co-organized the Cebu Design Week 2020 held from 26-30 October 2020, which had hundreds of participants in online series of talks and panel discussions on how creatives from all disciplines all over the world are powering through the global pandemic.

In partnership with the National Coordinating Body of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines, the Commission, through social media, featured stories of teachers in remote areas who helped ensure the continuity of students' learning despite the pandemic. PH NatCom conducted online sessions with hundreds of UNESCO Club members and its partners to promote and stir discussions on youth-led community-based projects all over the Philippines in response to pandemic. To echo the sentiments of the youth during the pandemic, a publication compiling poems and artworks, entitled "Obra at Pandemya (Masterpieces and Pandemic)" was initiated by PH NatCom for dissemination to its partners including cultural agencies and youth organizations through UNESCO Clubs and ASPNet. This supported UNESCO's call to promote linguistic diversity through poetic expression and safeguard the endangered languages around the world.



© Philippine National Commission for UNESCO — This is the cover illustrated by Miss Goldie Geanne Yabes for the PH NatCom publication in observance of World Poetry Day and World Art Day

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

- PH NatCom organized the Partners' Forum and Fellowship on 3 March 2020 attended by government agencies, United Nations Offices in PH, NGOs, academic institutions and youth sectors to advance UNESCO initiatives in the country. It also co-organized a multi-stakeholder online series of futures literacy and anticipatory conversations that engaged hundreds of participants including the youth on the topic of Futures of Education and Lifelong Learning.
- PH NatCom vigorously collaborated with the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and other concerned agencies and officials to ensure Philippine representation to UNESCO's online events such as the Extraordinary Global Education Meeting (GEM) attended to by the head of the Department of Education, Secretary Leonor Briones.
- With the theme, "Radio and Diversity," PH NatCom joined in the worldwide commemoration of Radio Day, where "World Radio Day" was translated into various Philippine languages and local dialects. It also joined the global community in celebrating the World Teachers' Day on the 5th day of October

through its social media platform where Officer-in-Charge Ernesto C. Abella expressed appreciation to all the teachers for their hard work and dedication especially during the challenging times.

- It promoted the virtual tour to heritage sites and supported UNESCO and the National Commission for Culture and Arts' campaigns in promoting cultural heritage and increasing awareness about different UNESCO-inscribed sites during the pandemic.
- PH NatCom served as a knowledge partner in the Asia Pacific Futures Network (APFN) Virtual Conference with the theme: Regenerating Asia 2050: Using Futures Literacy to Transform Governance, Culture, and Economy. It also participated in the SeaBRNet meeting hosted by UNESCO Office in Jakarta on 26 November 2020. Update on the ongoing activities and preparations of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Youth in Southeast Asia for the 50th Anniversary of the Programme was presented by the Philippine youth representative to MAB.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

PH NatCom seeks to continue updating database and collaborating for the monitoring and preservation of UNESCO-inscribed sites in the Philippines (existing and tentative). The Commission will assist in the proposed Philippine hosting of the 2030 Culture Indicators project – a framework to measure and to monitor the progress of culture's enabling contribution to the national and local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which is envisioned to commence in 2021.

At the regional level, PH NatCom is in constant coordination with national government agencies led by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts or NCCA and UNESCO Jakarta Office for the proposed Training-of-Trainers workshop on intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and disasters. Moreover, PH NatCom plans to host a UNESCO Fellowship Programme for National Commissions (NatComs) in the Asia-Pacific, to involve selected NatComs in the region in a series of virtual capacity-building sessions, and if possible, site visits to UNESCO-inscribed sites in the Philippines. The Commission also prepares for its participation to the joint regional research project that the Korean National Commission for UNESCO leads, together with neighboring NatComs. The said project will be a collaborative effort among NatComs in their agreed focus of work.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Eun-hye Yoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr Kwangho Kim (till 26 December 2020); Mr Kyung-Koo Han

Email: kocom@unesco.or.kr

Website: <http://www.unesco.or.kr> (KOR), <http://unesco.or.kr/eng/> (ENG)

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) carried out various activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including holding the 4th Korean National Forum on SDG4-Education 2030 with the theme of 'Implementation of SDG4 during the COVID-19 pandemic.' KNCU also initiated an online campaign called 'Stay Healthy Together' through which ASPnet schools offered encouragement to healthcare professionals and COVID-19 patients through photos, paintings and videos. Third, KNCU translated the 'Statement on COVID-19: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE' into Korean and disseminated it through local media and websites to raise public awareness of ethical issues relating to the pandemic. Fourth, KNCU participated in the

'ResiliArt' Movement by organizing a series of expert meetings touching upon issues including digital platforms, artificial intelligence, and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the creative economy. KNCU also collected examples of good practice leveraging the power of creativity in response to COVID-19. These were collected through the Korean Network of UNESCO Creative Cities and shared through an e-publication entitled 'UNESCO Creative Cities' Response to COVID-19.' Finally, KNCU worked with schoolteachers to create posters in Korean and English with Media & Information Literacy tips for avoiding disinformation and staying healthy in the pandemic. This 'media literacy vaccine' was distributed to schools.



© Korean Ministry of Education and KATOM (Korean Association of Teachers for Media Literacy) — Poster on "media literacy vaccine" against COVID-19, created by the Ministry of Education and KATOM and distributed by KNCU

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the Republic of Korea's accession to UNESCO. KNCU worked with various government ministries and other partners to organize many events and activities to celebrate this milestone.

KNCU joined forces with multiple partners to co-host the 2020 Global Media & Information Literacy Week with UNESCO. Held online amidst the pandemic, the Feature Conference had the theme of 'Resisting Disinfectomic: MIL for everyone and by everyone,' and addressed the connections between MIL and key issues such as democracy and youth. More than 600 participants watched the conference from 65 countries, reflecting the growing interest in and significance of MIL. The outcome document, titled 'Seoul Declaration on Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone,' includes recommendations on specific actions that stakeholders can take to advance MIL as a defense against disinfectomic. The Week also featured a Youth Hackathon, in which 144 contestants from 42 countries presented MIL-related solutions to issues such as discrimination and privacy.

In education, 2020 marked the 20th year of the UNESCO Korea-Japan Teachers' Dialogue, an exchange programme held every year since 2001. This year, KNCU carried out the programme online for the first time in response to the COVID-19

pandemic. Although the spread of COVID-19 introduced new challenges in implementing face-to-face exchanges, various activities such as group discussion, debate, and lectures were successfully conducted online. In addition, the KNCU Online Youth Camp for Peace offered 80 high school students from ASPnet schools in the Republic of Korea a new understanding of peace and sustainable development.

In science, KNCU organized domestic and Asia-Pacific consultation meetings on the first draft of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and Open Science.

To promote international cooperation during the pandemic, KNCU worked with 9 other National Commissions in East and Southeast Asia to conduct a joint research project on National Commissions in the sub-region, while KNCU's Bridge Programme, which supports non-formal education in developing countries in Africa and Asia, responded to the pandemic by adjusting its activities to provide health and hygiene education programmes.

KNCU also successfully created new partnerships this year. In particular, Smilegate, a Korean global online game company, launched a donation campaign, which resulted in 30,000 users collectively contributing around USD 220,000 for the Bridge Programme.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, KNCU will continue strengthening its partnership with UNESCO, Regional Offices, and National Commissions through various on and offline activities in the fields of Education, Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information.

Based on the data and suggestions accumulated from the 10 National Commissions that participated in the 2020 Joint Research on National Commissions for UNESCO in East and Southeast Asia, a more in-depth research and/or a joint project will be launched, through which the participating National Commissions will work closely to strengthen regional cooperation in UNESCO's fields of competence, contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, and help prepare the subregion for the post COVID-19 era.

KNCU aims to expand participation in the Bridge Programme, which is now in its second phase, supporting non-formal education through a model based on partnership between National Commissions. In addition, KNCU will expand the scope of the programme by launching the Bridge Sejong Programme in 2021, to contribute to the literacy education activities of organizations that will be selected from among winners of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize.

SINGAPORE

Singapore National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

Secretary-General: Ms Rosa Daniel

Email: mccy@gov.sg

Website: <http://www.mccy.gov.sg/sector/unesco-snc>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, 2020 was a fruitful year for the Singapore National Commission. We experienced the importance of the UNESCO domains of culture, education, science and information in helping us weather the effects of the pandemic.

In December 2020, Hawker Culture in Singapore was successfully inscribed as Singapore's first element on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity. Hawker Culture is an integral part of the Singaporean identity, evolving over generations in tandem with our socio-economic development. In Singapore, hawker centres are beloved 'community dining rooms' where residents from all backgrounds and walks of life enjoy a variety of food together. The nomination of Hawker Culture received

widespread community support, and its successful inscription is a source of pride for each and every one of us. Despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, our hawkers have continued to innovate, harnessing technology to keep their trade and traditions alive and thriving, with strong support from the Government and the community.



© Singapore Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment — Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community & Youth, Second Minister for Law, and Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, celebrate the inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity with hawkers of Ghim Moh Market and Food Centre

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Singapore participated actively in UNESCO platforms to exchange knowledge and share best practices on our response to the COVID-19 situation. Representatives from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Science Centre Board participated in UNESCO webinars to discuss education-related challenges and shared Singapore's experience in engaging students amidst the pandemic. MOE also contributed a case study on Singapore's safe school re-opening and resurgence planning to the UNESCO's COVID-19 Response Toolkit. The National Heritage Board (NHB) participated in various webinars to share the resilience and innovation of ICH practitioners in responding and adapting to COVID-19 and presented on the impact of COVID-19 on our work in managing sites and monument. Design Singapore Council participated in two Virtual Sub-Network Convenings of the Cities of Design, sharing Singapore's efforts in responding to the pandemic in the areas of policy, programming, business and education. The Council also contributed to the publication on 'UNESCO Creative Cities' Response to COVID-19', showcasing programmes to better sustain and provide appropriate assistance to affected designers and design enterprises.

Singapore continued to play an active role in strengthening international and regional cooperation in the areas of education, culture and science. The UNESCO Chair on Architectural Heritage Conservation and Management in Asia was

established in the National University of Singapore to deepen expertise and promote best practices in architectural conservation in the region. Senior Minister and Co-Chair of the Global Education Forum Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam participated in the High-Level Segment of the Global Education Meeting and expressed support for the 2020 Global Education Meeting Declaration. Professor Lee Eng Hin, Emeritus Consultant of the National University Hospital, was appointed to the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC) for a four-year term and participated in the 27th session of the IBC.

Singapore was awarded the UNESCO NetExplo Smart Cities Award 2020 for 'Zero Carbon Objective' in recognition of our achievements in smart cities, innovation and sustainable development. Singapore's Chief Negotiator for Climate Change Mr Joseph Teo contributed a video message for the NetExplo Smart Cities Forum to share Singapore's initiatives in climate change, sustainable development and smart city.

As a UNESCO Creative City of Design, Singapore presented the work of Singapore designers in various cities and participated in wide-ranging international conversations organised by other global Cities of Design. These opportunities helped increase visibility for Singapore design, and showcase our efforts in developing design and capability building for the design industry.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

With our first ICH inscription, and the successful election of Mr Yeo Kirk Siang as Singapore's expert representative to UNESCO's ICH Evaluation Body for the term 2021-2024, we will continue to strengthen efforts to safeguard our ICH and contribute to the sharing of knowledge on best practices with the wider UNESCO community. We are committed to supporting our ICH practitioners in continuing their practices through innovative means in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19. We also remain committed to preserving the universal value of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, our first World Heritage Site, to ensure that it remains relevant to the changing needs of the communities it serves.

Singapore will continue to participate in the UNESCO Bioethics Programme through platforms such as the IBC and contribute to discussions on emerging bioethical issues and setting standards in the field of bioethics. We will also contribute to UNESCO's ongoing efforts to develop the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

As a UNESCO City of Design, Singapore will continue to support the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in uplifting the role of culture, creativity and design innovation to develop a sustainable city of the future, in partnership with other global Cities of Design.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Dr Punchi Nilame Meegaswatte

Email: slncu@slt.lk / natcom.lk@natcom.unesco.org

Website: <https://www.slncu.lk/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

With national-wide lockdown for over 3 months owing to COVID-19, the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO (SLNCU) was able to successfully achieve some of the goals set out for 2020.

A webinar on 'Futures of Education and Knowledge Economy' with an emphasis on Sri Lanka and the South Asian Region was organized together with UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office, which received an overwhelming response. The guest speakers Dr Upali Sedere (Senior Adviser to the Minister of Education), Dr Meegaswatte (Secretary-General, SLNCU) and Dr Mazoor Ahamed (Chair of the Bangladesh Early childhood Development Network) contributed with their insight on how

education systems should look like, especially in a period where online learning has become predominant.

Following the urgent need to address the mental health concerns owing to the closure of schools during the pandemic, a webinar called the "Minding the Mind" along with five posters in Sinhala and Tamil languages were launched for students, teachers and parents in collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office.



© Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO – Activities for Workshop

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

SLNCU in collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Education for Peace (MGIEP) and the United Nations Association of Coalition (UNAOC) successfully organized the South Asia Regional Workshop on Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E) in February 2020 in Sri Lanka. Thirty-six youth leaders from South Asian countries participated in a 7-day workshop. The workshop highlighted the importance of the values of empathy, respect for others and for the environment, peace and sustainable development, and emphasized on related educational and community-oriented initiatives to be carried out in the respective countries.

Given the importance attached to the UNESCO Category 2 South Asian Centre for Teacher Development (SACTD) for the provision of quality education for all in the South Asian region, SLNCU facilitated activities to operationalize its programmes with the appointments of the new Executive Director in July and the four expert consultants in October.

With the generous contribution of the Government of Japan, SLNCU in collaboration with the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office and supported by UNESCO Asia-Pacific

Regional Bureau for Education launched the project, 'Learning for Empathy: A teacher exchange and support program' in Sri Lanka. The project was inaugurated on 25 September at the Ministry of Education with the participation of principals, teachers and students from Sri Lanka as well as the virtual participation of regional countries involved in this project, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan. As a follow up, student participants with the guidance of their teachers and principals are involved in completing school-based project designs. The best project designs will be selected, supported and carried out in 2021. In the meantime, a teacher guidebook is being compiled on Empathy to be disseminated among In-service Advisors (ISAs) and teachers, who will soon participate in the 2-day workshop to train and inculcate empathy in teacher educators. Simultaneously, this project also aimed to reintroduce and reactivate the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Sri Lanka.

SLNCU in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture proposed the Rajagala Archeological Reserve to be included to the Tentative List of the World Heritage Sites.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

SLNCU has planned activities under the 'Learning for Empathy' project in 2021 and beyond recognizing the timeless need to cultivate empathy in all beings with the aid of the Government of Japan. Beginning with selected teacher trainers, principals, teachers and students, we hope to reach all schools as well as communities associated with them.

We also look forward to commence the 'English Language for Teachers' project to empower teachers nation-wide with the collaboration of the Indian High Commission and the National Institute of Education.

It is also our hope to strengthen the management of the World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka by developing the capacities of Site Managers. Increased collaboration among the National Commission and Site Managers will also support the development as well as conservation of the sites; therefore, we have created a close network with the Site Managers which will allow us to continue to support their work in 2021. Not only tangible heritage but also intangible heritage will be uplifted in 2021 with the compilation of the National database by the Ministry of Culture.

Another major area, we hope to develop via SLNCU in 2021 concerns the media. We hope to organize a workshop for media personnel that aims to instill an 'ethical and independent media culture' aligning with the 'World Press Freedom Day' falling on 3rd May.

THAILAND

Thai National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Nattapol Teepsuwan

Secretary-General: Mr Wira Khaengkasikarn

Email: thainatcom@sueksa.go.th

Website: www.bic.moe.go.th

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO continued its active role in coordinating with UNESCO to implement programmes in the fields of UNESCO's mandate, to meet both national and international development targets. In response to the COVID-19 education crisis, the Ministry of Education of Thailand decided to extend school closures without effecting school timetables by eliminating school breaks during the year. To prevent students from falling behind in their learning during the extended school closures, the Ministry launched new initiatives so students could continue their studies effectively and efficiently. Distance learning television and online learning were implemented as key pedagogical methods given physical distancing recommendations and the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok, co-organized the National Launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 with the theme

“Inclusion and Education: All Means All” on 14 September 2020. The National Launch provided snapshots of the GEM Report and the terms “inclusion” and “inclusive education” were highlighted to ensure that education and learning is available for everyone as part of their basic needs. The emphasis on allocation of the government budget and the formation of partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders were also underscored to bridge the learning gap. The National Launch also offered a Panel discussion on “Opportunities, Challenges and the Importance of Inclusion and Education in Thailand”. In this session, the Ministry of Education of Thailand received honorable mentions from several partner stakeholders, namely, the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, the Department of Local Administration, the Ministry of Interior, the Equity Education Fund, and the Childline Foundation.



© Thai National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In line with the Education 2030 agenda, the Ministry of Education of Thailand continued its efforts developing and expanding quality education to facilitate universal access to diverse sources of learning and knowledge consistent with learners' interests, and to promote lifelong learning for all people.

Thailand's Equitable Education Fund (EEF) worked with the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Bangkok, UNICEF, Save the Children, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as well as partners to organize the World's First Equitable Education Conference. The conference brought together decision makers, civil society, technical experts and other key stakeholders to identify key strategic areas and actions required to overcome barriers to education equity. The two-day E-Conference was conducted using online meeting tools and was broadcasted through multiple channels by the Thai Public Broadcasting Service. Presided by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the E-Conference served as a platform to highlight innovative solutions, to exchange good practices and lessons learned as well as to invigorate the momentum to achieve education equity for all children regardless of wealth, income, power or possessions.

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok Office, organized the Final National Meeting on Thailand's Happy Schools Project on 28 January 2020 at the Ministry of Education of Thailand to exchange views and experiences on the outcomes of the project's pilot program which included the following schools: 1) Ban Bangneaw Municipal School, Phuket, 2) Benchama Maharat School, Ubon Ratchathani, 3) Jirasart Witthaya School, Autthaya, 4) MuangKraabi School, Krabi, and 5) Suksasongkhro Chiangmai School, Chiangmai. The forum was chaired by Miss Duriya Amatavivat, Deputy Permanent Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Thai National Commission for UNESCO. The forum provided opportunities to brainstorm on future activities and the way forward for the Happy Schools Programme in Thailand.

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO successfully supported cities in Thailand for membership in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. After UNESCO accepted Chiang Mai, Phuket and Chachoengsao as members of the Global Network of Learning Cities, the cities started working towards a common mission: promoting inclusive learning from basic to higher education and fostering a culture of learning throughout life to create and reinforce individual empowerment and social cohesion, economic and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Thai National Commission for UNESCO plans to co-organize the Ministerial Conference on Monitoring of SDG4 in the Asia-Pacific Region with the Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau of Education (UNESCO Bangkok) in the year 2022. Delegates led by Ministers, Vice-Ministers, and High-officials from Education Ministries from the 46 Member States of the Asia-Pacific region and co-convening UN agencies of Education 2030 will be invited to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and reflect on the first five years of SDG4-Education 2030 in the region and to accelerate progress in the coming years.

VIET NAM

Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Le Hoai Trung, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Mr Mai Phan Dung

Email: unescovn@mofa.gov.vn

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

A workshop entitled “Social Security for vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19 epidemic in Viet Nam” was organized in December 2020.

Due to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the events promoting world cultural and natural heritage in Viet Nam have largely been converted to the online form: Tourism exhibition across cultural heritage regions of Viet Nam in 2020 at the World Cultural Heritage of Ho Dynasty Citadel, Online Exhibition on old costumes in Hoi An through nearly 100 photos of costumes in Hoi An that were taken from 1975 or earlier on the website of the Hoi An Center for cultural heritage management and preservation.



© Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

- Implementing the project “We are able” (2019-2022) to encourage children from ethnic minorities to continue learning and the project for analysis of the education sector, establishment of the education indicator of Viet Nam and building the education development strategy for the period of 2021 -2030 with funding support from Global Partnership Fund;
- Submitting to UNESCO 2 nomination dossiers of intangible cultural heritage, 2 nomination dossiers of biosphere reserve, 1 nomination dossier of geopark and 2 proposals for the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in 2022-2023;
- Promoting public-private cooperation in implementation of UNESCO programmes and activities in Viet Nam;
- Implementing commitments with UNESCO in the management and preservation of heritage in accordance with the 1970, 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions;
- Organizing an annual conference to provide information to the network of reporters / editors in charge of programmes and activities within the framework of the Viet Nam-UNESCO cooperation relationship (in June).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Contribute to the implementation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5);
- Strengthen cooperation with partners including UNESCO Office in Hanoi;
- Collaborate with UNESCO Hanoi Office to implement activities under the National Strategy of UNESCO in Viet Nam for the period 2020-2021 and prepare the UNESCO Director General’s visit to Viet Nam;
- Perform the role of membership in a number of UNESCO bodies;
- Capacity building for journalists, press, and information officials in provinces.



Europe and North America

ALBANIA

Albanian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Elva Margariti, Minister of Culture

Secretary-General: Mr Sokol Gjoka

Email: unesco.al@mfa.gov.al

Website: <http://www.unesco.al>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During 2020, which was a pandemic year, the Albanian National Commission was engaged in the preparation

and submission of the nomination dossier for inscription to the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of the «Gjirokastra National Folk Festival». This Festival is an important national cultural and ethnographic event, held once in 4 years, which displays traditional cultural and spiritual values and heritages of the Albanian people.

Following up on issues related to the joint administration of registered property, Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, a joint commitment of 12 European countries, is expected to be extended with other countries from our continent. The contributions of the National Commissions have been and remain valuable in this aspect.



© Albanian National Commission for UNESCO – Joint Committee of Albania with North Macedonia on the Ohrid Lake as the UNESCO World Heritage

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Albanian National Commission for UNESCO was involved as much as possible in enhancing the work done so far on the conservation of “Natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region”. In January 2020, a joint Committee on the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management was set up between Albania and North Macedonia, where the National Commission played an important role.

The constitutive meeting of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Committee was organized on January 17, 2020. This first meeting was hosted by the Municipality of Ohrid and was chaired by the Minister for Diaspora of North Macedonia, Mr Edmond Ademi and the Mayor of Ohrid, Mr Konstantin Georgevski. The purpose of this high-level meeting was to discuss and address the issues related to the implementation

of the full structure of this committee, define the tasks and responsibilities for each state party for the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee decision and coordination of agendas and related activities for the joint World Heritage Center/International Council on Monuments and Sites/International Union for the Conservation of Nature Reactive Mission planned for the end of January 2020 as well as preparation for the next upcoming meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the parties reiterated the need for cooperation and the importance Lake Ohrid has for both states parties not only in terms of culture and heritage but also in terms of economic development, in particular through development and promotion of tourism in this cross-border region.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The priorities of the Albanian National Commission for 2021 and beyond, will be:

- following the reporting process on the conservation and protection of assets, listed in the World Heritage List. Specifically, issues related to the transnational assets of the Ohrid Lake Region and the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians will be addressed, viewing these as an important aspect of cross-border and regional cooperation;
- following the implementation of the four-year DIKTAS Project, on Dinaric Karstic Water Management, with the involvement of three other countries in the region: Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, given its importance both nationally and regionally; This project will be treated within the frame of achieving the sustainable development objectives;
- following the implementation of the UNESCO funded project to compile a national register of intangible cultural practices. In this context, work will be carried out to compile a list of intangible cultural practices at risk, with a view of including them in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
- the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO Education Policy Review Paper, drafted as a concrete and genuine contribution to the development and improvement of education policies in Albania will be pursued, in particular, in meeting the conditionalities of Sustainable Development Goal 4, in which UNESCO has a leading role within the UN system;
- working with the relevant Albanian institutions to prepare and inscribe in the World Heritage List projects like the “Venetian Fortresses”, “The Ancient City of Apollonia” and that of “Bylis” on the Tentative List for World Heritage sites;
- another target of our work will be including the Albanian specific sites in the UNESCO Geoparks’ List, where Albania is not yet a part.

ANDORRE

Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO

Président(e) : En attente de nomination

Secrétaire général : M. Jean-Michel Armengol

Courrier électronique : cnau.unesco@andorra.ad / jmarmengol@andorra.ad

Site web : <http://www.unesco.ad>

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Depuis 2008, la Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO organise Art Camp Andorra « Des couleurs pour la planète ». Cet événement, qui a lieu tous les deux ans a déjà accueilli plus de 150 artistes venus du monde entier.

Cette année 2020 devait avoir lieu la septième édition. Malheureusement, à cause de la pandémie nous avons dû la reporter à 2021. Afin de maintenir la dynamique du projet, la CNAU, en accord avec la marraine du projet, Mme Hedva Ser, artiste et Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO pour la diplomatie culturelle, a décidé de participer au mouvement Résiliart lancé par l'UNESCO (<https://fr.unesco.org/news/resiliart-artistes-creativite-au-dela-cri-se>) en proposant à tous les artistes ayant participé aux différentes éditions Art Camp d'adhérer au mouvement Résiliart.

28 artistes ont accepté de participer à cette initiative en nous faisant parvenir une vidéo d'une minute dans laquelle ils ont répondu à une des questions proposées :

- Comment nous maintenir créatifs et rendre l'art accessible malgré les mesures d'éloignement social ?
- En tant qu'artistes, quel est pour vous le plus grand obstacle rencontré pendant cette crise sanitaire ?

Voici le résultat : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGdUSBwoct&list=PLWuYED1WVJIMMYA916ZGS7ks-6WCXzsGc&index=7>



© Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO – Exposition d'artistes andorrans

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Art Camp Andorre

Mise à part l'adhésion au mouvement Résiliart, plusieurs activités ont eu lieu :

- une exposition itinérante avec les œuvres 2012 dans tout le pays ;
- une exposition de trois œuvres au bâtiment du Gouvernement d'Andorre renouvelées chaque mois ;
- une exposition de tous les artistes d'Andorre ayant pris part à ce projet ;
- le site web avec toutes les œuvres des six éditions Art Camp a aussi été inauguré. Cela permettra de donner une plus large diffusion du travail des artistes : www.artcampandorra.ad.
- Mail Art : aussi restreinte que soit la mobilité des personnes, elle n'implique pas que nos œuvres ne puissent pas bouger et à travers elles nous pouvons nous retrouver. 37 artistes ont ainsi répondu à notre appel pour participer à ce projet de Mail Art sous le thème : « Vous n'êtes pas seul » Ils nous ont fait parvenir des cartes postales dessinées par eux-mêmes qui seront prochainement incluses sur le site www.artcampandorra.ad.

Coopération avec la Commission nationale du Canada

D'autre part, une activité de grande importance pour nous le protocole d'entente signé avec la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du Canada. Au cours de cette année nous avons collaboré à la traduction en catalan, en espagnol et en portugais de deux documents publiés depuis le Canada. D'un côté la traduction de "Penser l'intelligence artificielle responsable : un guide de délibération" <https://opendialogueonai.com/fr/nos-documents/>. D'autre côté, la traduction d'une charte pour une culture inclusive et qui sera disponible très prochainement. Ceci nous permet d'aller plus loin dans la collaboration avec nos partenaires en dehors de nos frontières. En plus, étant donnée la pertinence entre le thème de ces deux documents et l'ordre du jour, cela nous a permis d'impliquer d'autres partenaires d'Andorre pour collaborer aux différentes traductions.

Le Courrier de l'UNESCO

La Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO en collaboration avec la Généralité de Catalogne (Espagne) et l'Université de Perpignan a réussi à traduire et publier Le Courrier de l'UNESCO en catalan portant ainsi à dix le nombre de langues dans laquelle cette édition est traduite. Le premier numéro (janvier-mars 2020) a eu un vif succès.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Art Camp

Après six éditions du projet organisé en Andorre et trois éditions à Malte, de nombreux pays et régions nous ont fait part de leur souhait de pouvoir organiser un Art Camp et souhaitent partager notre expertise. C'est pour cela que nous travaillons actuellement à la rédaction d'une charte Art Camp qui permettra de définir les caractéristiques principales de ce projet afin qu'il puisse être développé de manière harmonieuse en Andorre et à l'étranger.

Candidatures UNESCO

Andorre continuera à travailler sur des projets de candidature d'inscription au niveau du patrimoine culturel et naturel, du patrimoine immatériel, des villes créatives et des réserves de la biosphère.

Intelligence artificielle

La CNAU continuera à travailler sur ce thème très pertinent en collaboration avec nos collègues de la Commission de Slovénie.

ARMENIA

Armenian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Ara Aivazian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Secretary-General: Mr Arman Khachatryan

Email: natcom.am@natcom.unesco.org

Website: www.mfa.am

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The expansion of digital technologies and the online management of culture and education became one of the urgent issues of the strategy of the Republic of Armenia. Cultural institutions were mobilized to develop digital platforms for sharing cultural and educational materials and ensuring

communication with diverse types of audiences. Online museums, libraries, theater, music, and cinema programmes brought together stakeholders to share their collections, exhibitions, and other programmes related to cultural heritage and other educational initiatives.

Several TV programmes were launched, such as "Unseen Cinema," "Class + Classic," and "Cultural Corona pause", as well as comprehensive pages of distance education resources like heravar.armedu.am, armedu.am, elearning.am, etc.

Information about the steps taken by Armenia to ensure the continuity of the educational and cultural process was provided to UNESCO and it was posted on the official website of the Organization.

Due to the pandemic, the education process in public educational institutions restarted on September 15, 2020. In this regard, Armenia organized full-time training for teachers and established guidelines for the organization of the educational process.



OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia participated in the Virtual Global Meeting of Education Ministers organized by UNESCO on March 30 and October 22, as well as in the Online Meeting of Ministers of Culture organized by UNESCO on April 22. During the 69th session of the International Bureau of Education, the representative of Armenia was elected as a Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Council for the period 2020-2021.

The Cultural Heritage Strategic plan 2021-2025 is being developed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. The Plan identifies policy measures and sets several activities to strengthen the preservation of cultural heritage during outbreaks and pandemics.

The first joint nomination of the "Pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus Apostle Monastery" (presented with Iran), was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The UNESCO Chair on Education and Prevention of Genocide and Other Atrocity Crimes was established in Yerevan State University.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the National Polytechnic University of Armenia and the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education Under the Auspices of UNESCO located in Saint Petersburg.

The National Commission for UNESCO contributed to the third and fourth thematic editions of the "Sustainable Heritage" magazine of the Regional Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage of South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Commission intends to expand its cooperation with the UNESCO category 1 educational institutions, in particular, in the implementation of measures arising from Armenia's membership in the International Bureau of Education. As an elected member of the IBE, Armenia will contribute to ensuring the high quality and relevance of education and learning.

The Commission will assist in the enlargement of the ASP Network in Armenia.

Armenia will continue to enhance its cooperation with the UNESCO category 2 institutions and seek new partnerships.

In association with UNESCO, Armenia will hold events for the "100th anniversary of the birth of Henri Verneuil" and the "150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Spendiaryan." The concert dedicated to the "100th anniversary of the birth of Henri Verneuil" was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic and is scheduled for March 25, 2021.

Also, the Commission intends to expand its involvement in artificial intelligence and other natural science programmes.

The National Commission will support various programmes and training sessions for media workers, aimed at raising media literacy and combating fake news.

AUSTRIA

Austrian Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Sabine Haag

Secretary-General: Ms Patrizia Jankovic

Email: oeuk@unesco.at

Website: www.unesco.at

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Within the context of the 2005 Convention, the Austrian National Commission organized two ResiliArt Debates, providing a platform to highlight the challenges imposed on artists and cultural workers, who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The second debate allowed to take a closer look at the impact of the crisis on international cultural exchange and the asymmetries between the Global North and Global South in the context of Austria.

The working group on Cultural Diversity (ARGE), including associations, unions, academic institutions, and artists, discussed main challenges in two official meetings. Demands, proposed ways forward and concrete recommendations were published in two documents, publicly available at www.unesco.at

As the COVID-19 pandemic affected many elements of intangible cultural heritage, online sessions called Virtueller

Salon (Virtual Salon) were held. In two sessions, experts on the 2003 Convention, as well as Ethnologists and members of NGOs presented important national and international initiatives and projects that were launched with regards to the pandemic. Hence, the bearers were able to exchange experiences and receive input for implementation measures in times of crisis. In addition, and due to COVID-19, a monthly online consultation hour for interested groups has been established to further connect and support the bearers in their application process and to answer general questions in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage as well.

In order to support the Austrian World Heritage sites, which were heavily affected by the crisis as well, the National Commission continued to develop resources with regard to awareness-raising and public relations, such as a textual toolkit to be used by the sites.



© Austrian Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Austrian National Commission operates as an association, advising the federal, state and local level as well as NGOs on the implementation of UNESCO's objectives. It establishes and maintains contacts between UNESCO and national partner institutions and informs the public of UNESCO's goals and programmes.

The Commission is entrusted by the government with the implementation of the 2003 Convention. Compiling, maintaining, and updating the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is a central aspect, as well as cooperation and participation in capacity-building projects with other National Commissions, national and international stakeholders.

Aiming to build alliances and to open a space for solidarity, three interactive workshops on artistic freedom were organized. These workshops allowed artists and cultural workers from all over Austria to gather online and discuss violations of artistic freedom as well as to find measures to counteract infringements. In the light of the polycrisis, working and living conditions, being an integral part of artistic freedom, were of utmost interest to the participants.

In collaboration with the German Commission and in consultation with colleagues from Switzerland and Luxembourg, the Austrian National Commission translated and published five UNESCO 2005-publications on artistic freedom, preferential treatment, gender equality, digital environment, and civil society participation.

Further, the Austrian Commission assisted other National Commissions in producing versions of the World Heritage explanation video in additional languages.

The Austrian National Commission coordinates the Austrian ASPnet comprising 97 schools, focusing in 2020 on 'Futures of Education'.

The Youth Representative organized her second youth event entitled: 'Your rights – your world!' in order to raise awareness for human rights and sustainable development within the event series 'Turning point. Youth for sustainable development'.

In collaboration with L'ORÉAL Austria and the Austrian Academy of Science, the Commission awarded four fellowships "For Women in Science" to excellent young female scientists.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Austria will follow a human rights-based approach in all areas with a focus on the agenda 2030. In this light, activities in the cultural sector will prioritize questions on how to secure and guarantee artistic freedom as well as fair cultural exchange and cooperation. Looking at current challenges from an intersectional angle, the crisis has made the need for action to battle the existing asymmetries in the arts and culture sector as pressing as never before.

Correlating to this are efforts and projects that focus on facets of cultural diversity in relation to intangible cultural heritage. Cooperation with national institutions/initiatives and universities will further illuminate aspects of intangible cultural heritage in the context of (post)migration.

In 2020, the Commission laid the groundwork for its future active promotion of SDG 4.2 – quality Early Childhood development, Care and pre-primary Education (ECCE) in relation to transformative education (SDG 4.7). In the following year, the Commission will initiate a long-term stakeholder process in preparation for a practical guide for teachers and caregivers specifically targeting Austria's national and local challenges.

To foster the national implementation of UNESCO's recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence, the Commission prepared the involvement of national stakeholders. Consequently, the Commission plans to host a board consisting of experts in various relevant fields such as artificial intelligence, ethics, human rights and technology.

AZERBAIJAN

National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Mr Elnur Sultanov

Email: unesco@mfa.gov.az

Website: www.unesco.az

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in UNESCO's fields of competences the National Commission of Azerbaijan has been closely exercising coordination work with relevant national bodies and UNESCO. This included informing national bodies about UNESCO's key initiatives, facilitating access to them, namely ResiliArt and Global Education Coalition, as well as ensuring the participation of Azerbaijan in virtual events of Organization and sharing information on national measures.

Under the quarantine regime, numerous special programmes and actions were set up and successfully implemented by



© National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

relevant ministries. Such projects included, among others, "Virtual School" project; TV lessons on State Television for all classes; global campaign "Stay at home, create at home" to motivate students' creativity; online platform "Creative Azerbaijan" to facilitate the outreach of various artists to the society and potential customers; organization of virtual tours by museums; a contest "Digital solutions in culture and arts"; a competition "Global Virtual Hackathon"; online service platform www.evdeqal.az; the provision of e-books by libraries.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, dynamic development of relationship between Azerbaijan and UNESCO was marked by significant events.

For the first time, 3 cities of Azerbaijan, namely capital Baku, Ganja and Gabala joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and received the relevant certificates.

2020 was remarkable with the inscription of Azerbaijan's nomination "Nar Bayrami, Traditional pomegranate festivity and culture" and joint nomination "Art of miniature" with Iran, Turkey and Uzbekistan on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Azerbaijani writer, playwright and public figure Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev, included in the Commemoration of historic events and anniversaries of eminent personalities program of UNESCO for 2020, a number of projects were realized both in Azerbaijan and abroad with the support of the National Commission.

The 20th anniversary of the inscription of the "Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower" on the World Heritage List was celebrated. On this occasion, a number of projects were realized with the support of the National Commission.

The 10th anniversary of the inscription of the nomination "Traditional art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving" to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was celebrated at the national level with the participation of the National Commission and relevant stakeholders.

The "Khinalig – medieval mountainous village" nomination was inscribed on the Tentative List of UNESCO. It should be mentioned that Khinalig is a living community that bears a unique testimony to the cultural traditions of high mountain people from Great Caucasus. It is one of the best-preserved examples of transhumance – nomadic culture and an outstanding example of historical rural settlement preserving specific architectural solutions.

Two new UNESCO Clubs were established, and total number of Clubs reached six. With support of the National Commission, all clubs were active in carrying out the relevant projects and celebrating the International Days observed at UNESCO. Also, the process of the establishment of UNESCO Clubs' Association was initiated.

The National Commission celebrated in partnership with relevant stakeholders the International Days observed at UNESCO, namely International Mother Language Day, International Youth Day and International Day of Peace.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

It should be noted that 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the eminent Azerbaijani mathematician, founder of the Fuzzy Logic Theory, artificial intelligence scientist, Professor Lutfi Zadeh. The National Commission plans to organize with relevant stakeholders events at the national and international level to celebrate this anniversary.

2021 marks also the 850th anniversary of the birth of the philosopher and writer Ahi Evran, which is included in the UNESCO's Commemoration of historic events and anniversaries of eminent personalities program jointly with Turkey and Iran. The National Commission will take part in organizing events on this occasion.

The National Commission plans to carry out the joint projects with the National Committee on World Memory Program, the National Committee on IFAP and other National Committees.

The National Commission will continue to explore, together with related structures, the possibilities of increasing the number of educational institutions to become member of ASPnet as well as increasing the number of UNESCO Clubs.

The National Commission jointly with relevant bodies will continue to work on the establishment of first geopark and biosphere reserve in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The National Commission will continue to deepen cooperation with National Commissions of Member States.

BELGIUM/ BELGIQUE

Flemish Commission for UNESCO in Belgium

Chairperson: Prof Dr Marc Vervenne

Secretary-General: Mr Lukas Van Damme

Email: secretariaat@unesco-commissie.be

Website: www.unesco-vlaanderen.be

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, our commission, as most organizations and society as a whole, turned to digital solutions for continued cooperation, events and initiatives.

The pandemic had an enormous impact on pupils and teachers, due to school closures, distance learning, and implementing various health precautions at schools when reopened. Obviously, this impacted on the ASPnet activities with merely digital collaboration and initiatives. To support pupils and teachers, a webinar on 'creating a powerful and socially inclusive learning environment at home' was developed. It is equally available with English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tOIHkwfk8&t=10s>

Instead of the scheduled full day seminar on UNESCO Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves and regional policies on National Parks and Landscapes, we set up a well-attended

webinar for professionals working on heritage, nature, landscape and regional development. By organising this digital event, we informed many civil servants and civil society stakeholders on UNESCO programmes, upcoming nominations and policy developments in Flanders.

Last but not least, we also enhanced our online presence by launching a new comprehensive website on UNESCO for internet users in Flanders (Belgium) – www.unesco-vlaanderen.be, in collaboration with 'Unesco Platform Vlaanderen' club. The new site offers more information than ever before in an attractive way.



© Flemish Commission for UNESCO in Belgium — Concluding symposium in Brussels (26 February 2020) of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Project (IMP), in presence of Tim Curtis (Secretary of the 2003 Convention) and Marc Vervenne (President of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO)

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In addition to the launch of a new website, we continued to develop more and better communication materials. This includes a new brochure on 'UNESCO in Flanders', a folder on UNESCO's World Heritage, Biosphere Reserve and Geopark denominations, as well as videos on the two most recent UNESCO Chairs in Flanders, and co-funding for a video on intangible cultural heritage at school as part of the EU-UNESCO pilot project on teaching and learning with living heritage.

We remain devoted to supporting existing UNESCO networks, programmes and partners in Flanders, as well as encouraging initiatives for additional UNESCO denominations. We supported the ASPnet, ICOMOS Flanders-Brussels, UNESCO Creative City of Design Kortrijk, as well as the Belgian IHP Committee in particular. The year 2020 proved to be successful for UNESCO Chairs too, with the formal establishment of a Chair on 'Images of the futures and co-creation' (Erasmus University College in Brussels) that was involved in UNESCO's High-Level Summit on Futures Literacy in December 2020.

Furthermore, we offer advice and take care of the appropriate follow-up of initiatives for aspiring Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves. The commission drafted a formal advice to the Minister of Culture with regard to the selection procedure for intangible cultural heritage in Flanders for UNESCO recognition in the framework of the 2003 Convention. We also conducted a comparative study among a number of Western European National Commissions with regard to set-up, resources, priorities and outputs.

Finally, our Commission was equally involved in several initiatives linked to UNESCO's priorities, in collaboration with relevant partners in civil society and public administration. Such events include the Difference Day event focusing on press freedom and the African Film Festival. In the wake of 'black lives matter' and discussions on colonial past, our commission offered additional support to the African Film Festival – in particular as the cultural sector suffers significantly due to public health restrictions during the pandemic. Last but not least, we supported the concluding symposium in Brussels of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Project (IMP).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

We foresee the formal application of an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and a Biosphere Reserve. Both are transborder initiatives with Dutch partners, for which we are in close contact with our Dutch National Commission colleagues.

We look forward to the organization of a second edition of a UNESCO Day in 2021 aiming for stronger cross-sectoral networking and collaboration between UNESCO stakeholders in Flanders, as it could not take place in 2020. We will involve the UNESCO Liaison Office to the EU in Brussels as well as the IOC/IODE project office in Ostend, and we will be inviting the National Commissions of neighboring countries.

As Belgium will be reporting on both the 2003 and 2005 conventions in 2021, our Commission members will be involved, and cooperation with other National Commissions can be envisaged.

BELGIUM/ BELGIQUE

Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO

Président : Mr Philippe BUSQUIN

Secrétaire général : Mr Marien FAURE

Courrier électronique : m.faure@wbi.be

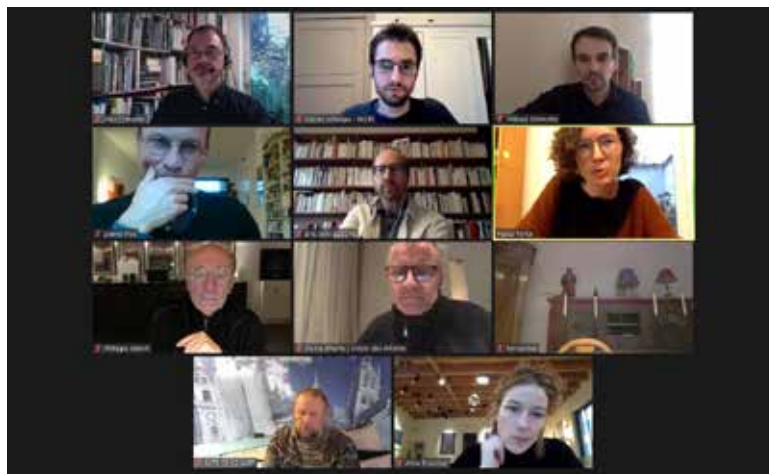
Site web : www.unesco.be

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

La Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO, dans le cadre de l'initiative #Résiliant, a organisé, en ligne, le 7 décembre, une Journée de réflexion et de

débats sur « *La situation et le rôle des artistes et des industries créatives en période de Covid-19* ». Cet événement fut plus particulièrement axé sur la question du statut de l'artiste, déjà précaire en temps ordinaire, mais plus encore affecté par la crise sanitaire.

Une centaine de participants, notre Ministre de la Culture, Bénédicte Linard, une représentante de l'UNESCO, Mme Laurence Mayer-Robitaille, des juristes, des artistes bien sûr, des acteurs de terrain des arts de la scène, mais aussi du secteur du Livre, de la musique, de l'architecture, ont témoigné et débattu du contexte actuel en abordant des questions liées à la résilience et la durabilité du secteur culturel (les contraintes auxquelles les artistes sont confrontés en raison des mesures de confinement, les conséquences financières actuelles et futures de cette crise, les mesures qui pourraient être mises en place par les gouvernements, voire le secteur privé, pour soutenir les artistes pendant et après cette crise, les politiques et les modèles de financement du secteur culturel qui pourraient le rendre plus résilient en temps de crise, etc.).



© Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO – Table ronde

AUTRE ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

La Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO, compte tenu de la crise sanitaire mondiale, a suspendu une grande partie de ses activités. Elle ne s'est pas réunie en 2020 mais a pu poursuivre ses travaux, notamment ceux de ses sous-commissions thématiques.

Deux activités remarquables ont pu ainsi être mises sur pied, en présentiel :

- une Journée d'étude, le 24 janvier, sur la question de la restitution des biens culturels intitulée : « *Le Rapport Savoy – Sarr, un modèle pour la Belgique ?* », en présence de Mme Bénédicte Savoy, à l'Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, et en partenariat avec ICOM Belgique/Wallonie-Bruxelles, qui aura réuni quelques 150 participants ;
- une Soirée-débat, le 26 septembre, sur le thème « *La crise de la biodiversité, terrestre et marine* », au cours de laquelle aura pu intervenir Mme Meriem Bouamrane, Point focal Biodiversité et IPBES de l'UNESCO. Un peu moins d'une centaine de personnes ont répondu à l'invitation de la Commission.

Indépendamment de ces manifestations, notre Commission a également assuré ses missions habituelles d'information, de diffusion et d'échanges, auprès d'un public spécialisé ou non.

Elle a pleinement participé, en outre, à l'exercice de rédaction de la contribution de la Belgique aux projets de Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2022-2029 (41 C/4) et de Programme et Budget pour 2022-2025 (41 C/5).

Bien que le contexte ne fut pas vraiment favorable (fermeture des écoles), il a été procédé avec succès à une vaste réactivation du réseau de Ecoles Associées.

Enfin, la Commission s'est particulièrement investie dans un certain nombre d'exercices de consultation globale comme ceux relatifs à l'avant-projet de Recommandation sur la science ouverte ou encore l'avant-projet de Recommandation sur l'éthique de l'intelligence artificielle.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO a vu son mandat prolongé mais sa composition renouvelée. Une nouvelle équipe entame donc ce mandat avec d'autres perspectives et d'autres priorités. Il reste également que devrait pouvoir être réalisée la plus grande partie des activités prévues en 2020 et reportées à 2021. La Commission s'attellera, aussi, à la mise en ligne de son tout nouveau site pour plus d'interactivité et d'information générale.

Enfin, la collaboration devrait être renforcée avec d'autres Commissions nationales pour le dépôt de candidatures communes en vue d'une inscription sur les Listes du Patrimoine ou dans le cadre du Programme « Mémoire du Monde ».

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

Chairperson: currently in the process of appointment

Secretary-General: Ms Biljana Čamur Veselinović

Email: biljana.camur@mcp.gov.ba; jelena.dzomba@mcp.gov.ba

Website: <http://unescobih.mcp.gov.ba>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The culture ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Antenna in Sarajevo, participated in elaboration of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 to Cultural and Creative Sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Assessment was commissioned by UNESCO in order to identify systematic impact of the crisis by capturing information on public measures and provisions to support the cultural activities

and industries. The assessment sought to determine the impact on its domains: heritage, arts and crafts, audio-visual, publishing, design, and other related domains that depend on the cultural and creative output such as the tourism industry. It also explored new ways of production, dissemination and consumption of culture.

Assessment Reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's and youth's learning in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Rapid situation and needs assessment- education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Phase II) was elaborated in cooperation of with education ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, aiming to obtain an overview of the current situation and needs in the education sector, considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been supported in minimizing the immediate socio-economic consequences emerging due to the disruption of continual educational processes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Re-imagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina project financed by the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Objectives relate to strengthening the system which can prevent, mitigate the impact and respond to emergencies while addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children, girls and boys.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite numerous COVID-19 pandemic related lockdowns and restrictions, the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina managed to complete a number of significant projects in 2020.

The extension nomination of the serial property Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe was submitted to the World Heritage Centre at the beginning of February, and IUCN evaluation mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was successfully organized and carried out in October. Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in this serial nomination with the site Strict Nature Reserve Primeval Forest Janj.

Competent authorities completed and submitted the proposal of 'Nevesinje Olympic Games, traditional games' for possible selection for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, as well as the multinational nomination of the "Lipizzan Horse Breeding Traditions" for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The 'Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres' was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at the fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities submitted a report on SDG indicator 11.4.1 (expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation

of all cultural and natural heritage) to UNESCO Institute for Statistics in December 2020. The collection of the data for this report served as the basis for calculating baseline and target values for this indicator, which has been included in the recently developed "SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

SDG Indicator 4 on Education has also been included in the "SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina" with baseline and target values, and statistical institutions and ministries for education are working on alignment of national indicators and reporting to be able to report on SDGs related to education.

The close cooperation with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe continued in 2020, with Antenna Office in Sarajevo providing invaluable support in implementation of the above-mentioned activities.

Antenna Office in Sarajevo directly supported education authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina through donation of ICT equipment to primary school students. The total of 152 tablets was donated to primary and secondary schools to assist in ensuring continuity of school process during COVID-19 related closures as well as equal learning opportunities for all students. The mobile online teaching platform was supported through provision of 2,914 mobile connections for primary school students and 994 mobile connections for secondary school students in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture Government of Republika Srpska.

Guidelines for Safe Re-opening of Schools were distributed to education ministries on all levels of government. This was followed up with the webinar for line ministries to assist in facilitation of re-opening of schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

COVID-19 related recovery activities should focus at developing a shared marketing strategy to increase cultural heritage investments, establishing new institutional capabilities, and implementing innovative governance patterns, able to reduce administrative, social and economic barriers among cultural and creative sectors and potential investors. This is in line with the effort of the authorities in BiH to promote cultural heritage as a tool for development of the country, and at the same time to promote the role of culture in advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

BULGARIA

National Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Georg Georgiev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Mr Hristo Georgiev

Email: unesco-bg@mfa.bg

Website: <http://www.unesco-bg.org/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The 10th International Conference "Digital Presentation and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage" DiPP2020 was

held in Burgas, Bulgaria, both in praesentia and online on 24-26 September 2020, and gathered representatives of national and foreign research institutions and universities, public and specialized libraries, museums, and archives.

The event was organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences under the patronage of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO. The presentations at the Conference DiPP2020, as well as the published proceedings, showcased innovative results, research projects and applications in the field of digitization, documentation, archiving, representation and preservation of global and national tangible and intangible cultural and scientific heritage. The reports clearly demonstrated that both cultural and scientific heritage need more than ever innovative digital approaches to ensure their protection, access and/or restoration.



© Medical University of Sofia — Mr Hristo Georgiev, the Secretary-General of the Bulgarian National Commission in the conference dedicated to the World Bioethics Day 2020 and announcement of the establishment of a Department of Bioethics at the Medical University in Sofia.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

UNESCO's global and primary priorities took a leading part in the work of the National Commission in 2020. The active work of Bulgaria, as a member of the UNESCO Executive Board, was assisted by providing expert opinions, proposals and initiatives from the National Commission. Due to the consistent efforts of the National Commission for UNESCO, in 2020 Bulgaria was elected vice-president of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS).

Throughout the year, the National Commission for UNESCO has made efforts to set up a national geoparks committee. Also, the Commission supported specific projects accomplished by the network of the Associated Schools in Bulgaria "more than 50 schools". Support was also provided to the Regional Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Category 2) and its programmes. There has been an active cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat regarding the project for combating anti-

Semitism through education, financed by the UNESCO-Bulgaria Trust Fund. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the seminars which were initially planned to take place in the countries from the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership will be held online.

As proposed by the National Commission for UNESCO, a Department of Bioethics was established at the Medical University in Sofia with the prospect of becoming a UNESCO Chair. Also, a regional seminar dedicated to phytochemistry was held in February, and the World Bioethics Day was celebrated by students and teachers.

The pandemic caused by the coronavirus has imposed a shift to online forms of work (both in terms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage). The Bulgarian National Commission became part of the initiative of the German National Commission for UNESCO towards joint presentation of midwifery for inclusion in the Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Moreover, Bulgaria has joined the network of national coordinators in the field of artificial intelligence.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The main work priorities in 2021 for the National Commission for UNESCO are as follows:

- implementation of three projects financed by the UNESCO-Bulgaria Trust Fund, namely: the project for combating anti-Semitism through education; the project regarding the impact of climate change on cultural heritage and the project related to training women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa;
- providing support regarding the Bulgarian candidature for a member of the World Heritage Committee;
- implementation of projects that would be funded under the Participation Program;
- transition back to the planned events *in praesentia*, depending on the development of the sanitary crisis;
- working towards an active participation in the 41st General Conference of UNESCO.

CANADA

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Liette Vasseur

Secretary-General: Mr Sébastien Goupil

Email: ccunesco@ccunesco.ca

Website: <https://en.ccunesco.ca/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chairs on Food, Biodiversity, and Sustainability Studies and on Community Sustainability: From Local to Global have created Building Back Better Post COVID-19 Task Force. This group shares ideas for a sustainable economic recovery. Several notes for decision-makers have been published to support investments in ecosystems and biodiversity; green infrastructure; food systems; the Canadian Geoparks Network; and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Network.

In collaboration with the Association for Canadian Studies and the Vanier Institute, the Commission supported the creation of the COVID-19 Social Impacts Network. In addition to monitoring the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, particularly on newcomers, this network provides analysis and ideas to decision-makers, including those part of our Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, linked to International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR).

The Commission has also published articles with its partners on the effects of the pandemic on education systems and on disinformation.

Recent months have also been marked by the amplification of social movements to denounce persistent and systemic forms of racism. To give a voice to Black people, our Commission

has intensified its efforts to advance the objectives of the International Decade of People of African Descent. We published "Slavery in Canada", highlighting the contributions of individuals who have successfully challenged this scourge; and PROFILE, a toolkit developed with the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism and Project SOMEONE to assist police and front-line workers in combating social and racial profiling. The Commission also co-published a special edition of Canadian Diversity magazine on the International Decade of People of African Descent: Facing the Change, Part 1 and Part 2.

In partnership with the Global Centre for Pluralism, we offered professional development sessions to Canadian high school teachers on how to hold conversations about racism in the classroom.



© Canadian Commission for UNESCO — Branding developed for the Building Back Post COVID-19 Task Force

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Commission partnered with the UNESCO Chair on Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education to organize 11 international webinars in support of UNESCO's consultations on the creation of an Open Science Recommendation. The webinars were supported by numerous UNESCO regional offices and the National Commissions of Jamaica and Ghana. A session organized in collaboration with Dr Lorna Williams (University of Victoria, Lil'wat First Nation) and the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium reflected on the role of open science in enhancing Indigenous knowledge and epistemologies. The webinar series is based on a discussion paper entitled: "Open Science: A step towards the decolonization of knowledge".

Over the past few months, we have supported UNESCO's online consultations and deliberations on the ethics of artificial intelligence, in collaboration with several partners: Mila, Algora Lab, the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la

Francophonie du Québec, the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Research Council of Canada and the Andorran Commission for UNESCO. Consult the final report.

In collaboration with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, we have mobilized UNESCO Chairs from Canada and Germany to publish a series of articles on the future of knowledge mobilization.

To contribute to UNESCO's efforts to enhance the safety of women journalists, our Commission partnered with Journalists for Human Rights to highlight the threats faced by women journalists.

Finally, the Commission asked Indigenous specialists to advance reflection on important themes linked to Indigenous heritage (intangible cultural heritage, repatriation and museums), including exploring the role of UNESCO Conventions in safeguarding and revitalization efforts.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Supporting the UN International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
- Advancing anti-racism efforts aligned to the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and the UNESCO Schools Network;
- Examining ways that the culture sector can advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Building digital literacy (notably with respect to algorithms and AI) among youth;
- Collaborating with the UK National Commission on the Maps for Peace initiative.

CROATIA

Croatian Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Academician Zvonko Kusić

Secretary-General: Ms Rut Carek

Email: rut.carek@min-kulture.hr / unesco@min-kulture.hr

Website: <https://min-kulture.gov.hr/unesco-16291/16291>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In the year of the pandemic, the Republic of Croatia has faced some other challenges besides COVID-19, such as the earthquakes that occurred in March and December 2020. We would like to emphasize that facing all these challenges was much easier to overcome through the assistance that UNESCO has wholeheartedly and promptly offered.

During the year, the Croatian Commission for UNESCO cooperated with and strongly promoted the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar. ICUA Zadar organized the initial conference which announced the implementation of the project "Renovation of the complex of the former St. Nicholas church and monastery in Zadar", on 28 August 2020.

ICUA Zadar as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO plays a fundamental role in the implementation

and promotion of UNESCO's 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Centre has been particularly important in promoting Convention 2001 in South East Europe, Mediterranean and worldwide.

The renovation of the complex of the former St. Nicholas church and monastery in Zadar is one of the most important restoration projects in Croatia which aims at valorizing, protecting and preserving cultural heritage. This project will end the complete renovation and the Center will get a representative space for presenting and conducting activities in the field of underwater archaeological research.

The goal is to continue education and training of international students, experts and the general public in order to present not only the richness of Adriatic underwater cultural heritage, but of the wider Mediterranean area as well.



© Croatian Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO promotes Croatia's priorities and interests in UNESCO. In 2020, the Commission contributed to the development and implementation of programmes in support of UNESCO priorities in the fields of education, natural sciences, culture, social and human sciences and communication and information.

The Republic of Croatia is a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Croatian expert participated in the 13th Session of Intergovernmental Committee which was held in February 2020.

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO has submitted the Quadrennial Periodic Report of the Republic of Croatia on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Framework of the 2005 UNESCO Convention for the period from 2016 to 2019.

Given the situation with the coronavirus pandemic in the world, the importance of continuous investment in science and excellence has once again come to the fore. The world needs innovation and scientific solutions more than ever, and one of the

programmes that supports such an attitude is the National Fellowship "For Women in Science". The Croatian Commission for UNESCO at the Ministry of Culture and Media and L'Oréal ADRIA awarded four fellowships to young women scientists at the last stage of PhD in the amount of 5,000 Euros.

The Minister of Culture and Media, Ms Nina Obuljen Koržinek participated at the first UNESCO ResiliArt debate where together with experts and artists discussed the sensitive status of artists and the responsibility of governments and especially of Ministers in charge for culture to adopt measures to assist artists.

In the context of the 10th anniversary of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), the 15th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005 Convention) and the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist (1980 Recommendation), Minister Obuljen Koržinek also gave a statement as part of the ResiliArt Online High Level Discussion broadcast together with statements of other experts, who made a significant contribution to the entry into force of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expressions.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO and Stari Grad Plain Agency will participate in the World Heritage Volunteers Program. The volunteer camp will be held in 2021 in Starogradsko Polje on the island of Hvar. Through the "active camp" young volunteers will actively participate in the restoration of the World Heritage, in local community development, learn about crafts and tools, develop awareness of heritage conservation, and learn about local history and cultural heritage.

The Croatian Commission for UNESCO has finalized the project Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) and has been planning a conference upon the finalization of the project with the support of UNESCO.

In art education, the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Media together with the Ministry of Science and Education have been working on a new revised edition of the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit and during 2021 will organize an international seminar.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Education a seminar for the new ASP schools will be organized.

At the proposal of the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Media, at the 40th session of the General Conference, in 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Slavoljub Penkala (1871–1922) was included in the list of anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated. The celebration will be appropriately marked and will draw greater attention to the work of this great man in both Croatian and world history.

CYPRUS

Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel

Secretary-General: Mr Pavlos Paraskevas

Email: unesco@culture.moec.gov.cy

Website: www.unesco.org.cy

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During the unprecedented situation mankind had to face this year, UNESCO's values remain more relevant than ever. Cultural heritage, museums and creativity proved to be a source of resilience for people. In this spirit, the Commission strengthened existing partnerships and through its broad network of collaborators managed to adapt its work plan to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Special emphasis was given to heritage education and public awareness through the development of audiovisual material and relevant publications as well as regular posting on social media.

The annual Festival of Archaeological, Ethnographic and Historical Documentary of Cyprus was held online, including five short films produced by students of the ASPnet Cyprus under the guidance of professional filmmakers, archaeologists and film producers. This partnership promotes youth

participation in researching and disseminating information about history and cultural heritage, thus empowering students not only as spectators but also as creators.

The Commission also produced a new publication about Heritage Education and Global Citizenship (<https://bit.ly/2WltXs0>), based on activities of the national ASPnet. It consists of articles and teaching proposals on heritage interpretation and awareness-raising in the context of formal and non-formal education, while encouraging active youth participation and citizenship. It also includes the recommendations drafted by youth participants of the ASPnet National Forums held in 2018 and 2019 regarding the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.



© Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO — Publication of the Commission on Heritage Education and Global Citizenship

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting culture as a driver and enabler of peace and sustainable development are among the main strategic objectives of the Commission. The Commission coordinates the inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) – updated annually – and collaborates with practitioners and relevant stakeholders for the implementation of safeguarding measures. In 2020 the Commission launched the publication “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Cyprus – National Inventory” (<https://bit.ly/3rdWpJD>), with the support of the Deputy Ministry of Tourism and the UNESCO Chair of the University of Nicosia. It is the most recent on-site photographic documentation of people, places, traditions, practices, techniques, tools and objects, related to the first thirty elements inscribed on the National Inventory of ICH (2009-2017) and on the Representative List of ICH (2009-2019).

In the fields related to the diversity of cultural expressions, the Commission worked closely with the National Focal Point in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth and civil society organizations to prepare the periodic report for the implementation of the 2005 Convention.

The Commission also supported cultural activities initiated by NGOs, museums and CSOs such as “The Piano Tour” at the Neolithic Settlement of Choirokoitia (World

Heritage Site), implemented by the Avantgarde Cultural Foundation. The project consists of a grand piano placed in unconventional locations all over Cyprus and the recital given by invited artists to be broadcasted live via social media thus reaching a broad audience (<https://bit.ly/2Wzbtb0M>).

In Education, the Commission supported activities promoting culture, education and science, mainly through the UNESCO Chairs and school networks. ASPnet schools participated in the Programme “CITIZEN! Global citizens and sustainable cities”, designed by the National Commission with the aim to empower students to understand the values and attitudes associated with global citizenship while acting at local level for sustainable development. Furthermore, the Commission supported the organization of online students’ workshop for ASPnet schools, to promote media literacy and empower young people to counter the spread of unreliable and false information (fake news), which has reached unprecedented levels during the pandemic.

On the occasion of the World Philosophy Day and the official launch of the Greek translation of the UNESCO Publication “Philosophy, a school of freedom: teaching philosophy and learning to philosophize; status and prospects”, the Commission and the UNESCO Chair on “Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue for a Culture of Peace” organized an online panel on the topic of Philosophy in Education, as a tool to address contemporary challenges and ethical dilemmas.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the field of culture, priorities include inventorying and safeguarding ICH through promotion and capacity-building activities as well as enhanced regional international cooperation (submission of multinational nomination files for ICH Lists, collaboration with the Regional Center for ICH in South Eastern European countries). Other activities envisaged aim at fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions and promoting culture as a driver of resilience and sustainable development.

Further to the above priorities, the Commission will continue its efforts to optimize its engagement with UNESCO Designations and networks at national level and ensuring their compliance with UNESCO's mission and programme.

Furthermore, the Commission will continue joint work with the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice mainly in its fields of competence.

Finally, the Commission is planning to engage youth more actively in its programmes and mission, by bolstering the national ASPnet, providing opportunities for internships and establishing collaboration with youth organisations and young artists.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Stanislav Štech

Secretary-General: Mr Petr Štěpánek

Email: unesco@mzv.cz

Website: www.mzv.cz/unesco

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Several members of the Czech Commission for UNESCO conducted thorough research on the impact of pandemics on individual sectors with an emphasis on culture and education. They also came up with sets of recommendations and guidelines on how best to deal with the course and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the research and reports on the impact of pandemics on the fields of culture and education were shared with the public and presented during the plenary meeting of the Czech Commission for UNESCO that was held online.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Czech Commission for UNESCO was established by the Government resolution of 1 June 1994 as the Government's advisory and coordinating body in the matters concerning UNESCO and the relations of the Czech Republic with this organization. Since 1 July 1996, the Secretariat of the Czech Commission has had a status of a special unit within the United Nations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission now consists of 35 regular and 5 honourable members, who are either representatives of relevant ministries, important institutions and organizations, or prominent personalities in Czech science and culture.

Although the activities in 2020 have been strongly affected by COVID-19, the Czech Commission for UNESCO still managed to maintain work online and to actively participate in public life.

In the context of the SDGs, the Commission, together with L'Oréal Czech Republic and the Czech Academy of Sciences, co-organized the 14th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO "For Women in Science". The program granted three fellowships in life and physical sciences fields to recognize and support the career development of talented women scientists and to promote their lifelong learning opportunities.

Furthermore, the Commission held the 26th annual General Assembly of the ASPnet schools in the Czech Republic in Prague. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for ASPnet coordinators to present the most successful projects of their schools and share best practices. During the two-day event, the participants also listened to the lectures on the topics approved for the UNESCO Associated Schools Week in 2020-2021, which were the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, International Biodiversity Day, and International Volunteer Day.

In 2020, the Commission assumed patronage of 15 non-profit projects, including those related to the implementation of the SDGs within UNESCO's mandate and field of competence, e.g. 25th season of the UNESCO/IUPAC Postgraduate Course in Polymer Science. Several of these projects will continue in 2021, as they had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Finally, the Secretariat of the Commission continued to publish its online newsletters providing the public with information about important UNESCO events and Commission activities.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation, especially in the field of the implementation of UNESCO's mandate in the context of SDGs. The Czech Republic, therefore, participates in the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO and continues its collaboration with other National Commissions to promote partnership and joint work.

In 2021, the Czech Commission will continue to focus on the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and will support strengthening the international cooperation between schools that are involved in the Network. Several projects concerning the implementation of SDGs will be carried out, e.g. addressing climate change or focusing on how to achieve carbon or climate neutrality in the daily operation of schools and other educational institutions.

DENMARK

Danish National Commission of UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Elsebeth Gerner Nielsen

Secretary-General: Ms Anna Enemark

Email: Anna.enemark@uvm.dk

Website: www.unesco.dk

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

A stronger voice in the debate of human rights: UNESCO Denmark wants to strengthen the human rights-based approach, particularly concerning the status of journalists, scientists and artists. Although the pandemic has put the agenda under more pressure and cancelled several events, it has been possible to engage with essential stakeholders regarding this question. The emergence of virtual meetings has made it easier to maintain the ongoing work.

As a response to the challenges faced by media-professionals during the Pandemic, the European Federation of Journalists, International Media Support, the Danish Union of Journalists, and the Danish National Commission has created a coalition to support the safety of journalists in Denmark and across the

world. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Denmark endorses this initiative, including financial support. The National Commission has subsequently maintained the collaboration, and the stakeholders meet regularly to share information and coordinate their tasks. For example, the stakeholders have published a joint article.

Besides this, UNESCO Denmark has hosted a seminar on human rights, where experts in journalism, science, and arts have participated. The aim has been to start a cross-sector dialogue to combat the common issues that each sector experiences regarding freedom of expression.



© Viborg UNESCO Creative City — Himlen over Viborg

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

New website: The lockdown of COVID-19 made it possible to develop a new website due to fewer activities. Thereby, in the spring, the National Commission launched the website www.unesco.dk. The website provides an overview of UNESCO Denmark's initiatives, visions, members of the Danish National Commission, monthly news, etc. You are more than welcome to visit our English site: <https://www.unesco.dk/english>

New Commission and Chairperson: In 2020, The Danish UNESCO National Commission welcomed new members and Chairperson. The new Chairperson, Elsebeth Gerner Nielsen is Secretary-General of the Danish Folk High School and former Minister of Culture.

Global Education Monitoring Report: The Danish National Commission held a virtual launch of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report in collaboration with Save the Children, Disabled People's Organizations Denmark (DPOD), and Global Focus. The director of GEM report, Manos Antoninis, facilitated the launch.

The cooperation with the civil society was of great benefit for the launch. For example, it was possible to provide sign language during the entire virtual launch due to DPOD.

The Danish UNESCO-ASP network: The Danish network is experiencing significant interest, which has led to increased numbers of applications. Today, more than 63 schools are part of the network.

Furthermore, the network has trained 13 students to become UNESCO ambassadors. These young ambassadors are between 14-19 years old. Their role is to promote UNESCO's values and the Sustainable Development Goals. Through camps, these ambassadors have now gained knowledge and tools to inspire other young people. For instance, they can now go out and make presentations for other students.

Partnerships Strategy: In 2020, a partnerships strategy was launched because more people should know the opportunities and resources that are available through UNESCO. Therefore, the Commission wanted to mobilize more stakeholders and create future partnerships. The goal was to increase cooperation with civil society organizations, the private sector, private foundations, research institutions, municipalities, regions, and national institutions.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the period 2019-2022, the Danish National Commission for UNESCO will focus on five strategic priorities:

- Partnerships for the future;
- Quality education and global citizenship;
- Freedom of expression and knowledge create democracy;
- World Heritage and local communities in development;
- Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting;

Therefore, the following initiatives are some of the areas that the Danish National Commission will focus on in 2021.

The value of UNESCO: After reading the report "The National Value of UNESCO Designations to the United Kingdom", the Danish National Commission is now investigating the possibilities of creating a similar Danish report. The purpose of this report is to create a more sustainable, peaceful and equitable future at a local, national and international level.

Human rights: The ongoing work regarding freedom of expression will continue to be a core area for the National Commission in 2021.

Women in Sciences: At the beginning of 2021, the Danish National Commission will collaborate with different stakeholders regarding a virtual conference that will focus on the gender gap that exists in science.

ESTONIA

Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Kristin Kuutma

Secretary-General: Ms Kerli Gutman

Email: unesco@unesco.ee

Website: www.unesco.ee

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO, the University of Tartu Centre for Ethics and active philosophy teachers celebrated World Philosophy Day on the 19th of November with a thematic online workshop for UNESCO ASPnet students and teachers.

The topic of the workshop was “Individual Liberty at the Age of Restrictions” and the day started with a debate between Julia Laffranque, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights and Kadri Simm, associate professor of practical philosophy in the University of Tartu. The debate posed the question of how to find a balance between individual liberty and state regulated restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the second half of the day, students were invited to reflect in

groups about their own values and beliefs regarding individual liberty while teachers discussed the possibilities of teaching philosophy in times of distance learning.

Although the online format of the day differed from previous years we have celebrated the World Philosophy Day, and the debate was lively and inspiring leaving participants with the feeling of anticipation for the next year.



© Estonian National Commission for UNESCO — Philosophy day 2020

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Estonian National Commission serves as focal point for liaison and coordination between UNESCO and Estonian institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as private individuals connected with UNESCO's work. The National Commission consists of a Supervisory Board, Advisory Committee and a Secretariat with three professional posts.

In cooperation with Estonian Folk Culture Centre, we published a brochure in English “ICH in Estonia: safeguarding framework and some examples”. It gives an overview of the implementation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention in our country, introduces the rich ICH present in Estonia as well as local safeguarding practices.

Estonian experts continued to participate in Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Coordinating Council (ICC) and MAB Advisory Committee.

Our commission continued to copartner with L'Oréal Baltic and the Estonian Academy of Sciences on the fellowship programme “For Women in Science”.

Under the coordination of NGO Mondo, Tartu Environmental Education Centre and youth, annual activities of ASPnet and youth were organized, such as Model UN Programme, World Day competition for schools, nature observations, web quiz, teachers' and students' seminars and trainings on Sustainable Development Goals, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED). The main challenge compared to previous years was to shift most of the events online, among other youth-led Model UN three-day event that gathered participants world-wide for debates and discussions on topical issues. Besides challenges, online format provided opportunities for organizers and participants as well, e.g. to be more creative and open-minded, learn new IT- and problem-solving skills, to bring together participants with diverse backgrounds.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the field of culture, the priorities for 2021 include activities related to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, especially in the context of the Second Protocol Committee, and intangible cultural heritage. We will also be preparing our candidature to the Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage and our capital Tallinn is planning to apply for membership of the Creative Cities Network in the category of music.

The cooperation between Estonian and Eswatini National Commissions for UNESCO will continue in 2021. The main activities include youth volunteering, ASPnet school links and teachers' training.

A local communication project has been planned with an aim to provide a better overview of Estonia's involvement in UNESCO's networks, lists etc.

One of the main activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Estonia will involve the development of citizen science projects – creating work sheets and organizing thematic days. The data gathered will be shared with the Estonian Environment Agency and with schools participating in the UNESCO Baltic Sea Project as well as other international cooperation partners.

FAROES

Faroese National Commission for UNESCO¹

Chairperson: Mr Herleif Hammer

Acting Secretary-General: Ms Armgard Weihe

Email: ummr@ummr.fo

Website: www.unesco.fo

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

As in most parts in the world, the COVID-19 crisis has taken its toll on Faroese society. For the Faroese National Commission, it

meant the postponing and cancelling of activities, conferences, and meetings, including participation in the planned 7th Interregional meeting of the National Commissions in Lugano in Switzerland. Despite most meetings being postponed due to the crisis, the National Commission managed to arrange a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO. Online meetings with our colleagues of the National Commissions in the other Nordic countries have been invaluable in these difficult times.

In December 2020, the new membership of the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO was appointed for the 3rd time since its foundation in 2012. The newly appointed Commission is eager to take on the role as partner for the Faroese international co-operation in UNESCO.



© Armgard Weihe — the Faroese National Commission's meeting with Mr Jenis av Rana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In February 2020, the Faroe Islands were accepted as a permanent member of the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO. Since its establishment in 2012, the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO has enjoyed the profound support of the Network of National Commissions in the Nordic countries and we look forward to extending our international co-operation to the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO.

In March 2020, Faroese intangible cultural heritage was nominated to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for the first time as part of a joint Nordic nomination of the Nordic clinker boat traditions. The Faroese National Commission for UNESCO is pleased to support the implementation of the

2003 Convention of the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the further work to highlight the importance of this Convention. In 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture designated the Faroese National Museum as a competent body for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present on its national territory.

The clinker boat tradition is a living heritage in the Faroe Islands. Once the lifeline and the only boat for fishing and transport between the 18 islands in the Faroes, today the versatile Faroese clinker boat is mostly used for leisure and sports. The Faroese clinker boat in all its different sizes is used in the national sport of the Faroe Islands – the rowing competitions that take place at festivals all over the Faroe Islands during summer.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Sustainable Development Goals are at the core of the future priorities set out by the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO. Entering the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development the importance of Goal number 14 on life below water and the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is crucial and will continue to be a priority for the Faroese National Commission.

The Faroese National Commission for UNESCO will prioritize its participation in both the Nordic and the European network of National Commissions for UNESCO. The international cooperation in UNESCO is more important than ever, and we look forward to meeting again once the COVID-19 crisis is under control.

¹ Faroes is an Associate Member of UNESCO since 12 October 2009.

FINLAND

Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Henna Virkkunen, Member of the European Parliament

Secretary-General: Ms Zabrina Holmström

Email: unesco@minedu.fi

Website: <http://minedu.fi/en/national-commission-for-unesco>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda with focus on UNESCO's mandate continued to steer and guide the work of the National Commission throughout the year. As part of this ambition, the National Commission was instrumental and participated in promoting both living heritage and world heritage linked to the 2030 Agenda together with other most central actors. The National Commission together with the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Finnish National Board of the Antiquities and Metsähallitus (state owned enterprise, producing environmental services for a diverse customer base, ranging from private individuals to major companies) organized a hybrid National World Heritage Forum on 10th and 11th of October. The National Commission's Chairperson Ms Henna Virkkunen greeted the Forum dealing with the follow-up of the National World Heritage Strategy together with the Minister of Science and Culture and the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

As part of the 2030 Agenda theme, Ms Henna Virkkunen also took part in the opening of the "Living Heritage as a Resource in Tourism" seminar, organized jointly by the Finnish Board of Antiquities, Visit Finland and the National Commission on 19-20 November.



© Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, the National Commission convened virtually five times. The National Commission was consulted on a regular basis and participated actively in forming Finland's positions for the 209th and 210th sessions of the Executive Board. The support of the National Commission for Finland's work in the Executive Board of UNESCO has been valuable. It also contributed to the consultation on the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5).

To celebrate the International Literacy Day on 8th of September, Posti Group (the Finnish Post) published, upon the initiative of the National Commission, a series of stamps with images celebrating literacy. The stamps are designed by graphic designer Ilkka Kärkkäinen.

The National Commission lent its support, amongst other, to the applications of the cities of Vantaa and Tampere to join UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities.

The National Commission contributed to co-organizing numerous events throughout the year. For example, the University of Jyväskylä organized an annual international SDG 4 seminar on 22nd and 23rd of October. This year's seminar focused on the special theme of the 2020 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report on Inclusion and Education. The Chairperson of the National Commission Ms Henna Virkkunen gave the opening speech at the seminar.

The National Commission's members also contributed to a highly topical series of articles on press freedom released at the time of the World Press Freedom Conference as well as took part in the UN75 celebrations.

This year again, the National Commission decided to donate its annual meeting fees to UNESCO's World Heritage Fund.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, the National Commission will continue to support the work of Finland as a Member of the Executive Board, and participate in the national and Nordic preparations of the 41st session of the General Conference, including programme and medium-term strategy deliberations.

Promotion and follow-up of the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 nationally, regionally and globally remains a long-standing priority (particularly Education 2030, press freedom and safety of journalists, AI, access to information etc.).

The Commission will also take part in meetings of Nordic, regional and global UNESCO networks.

GEORGIA

Georgian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr David Zalkaliani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Secretary-General: Ms Ketevan Kandelaki

Email: unesco@mfa.gov.ge

Website: www.unesco.ge

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Georgian National Commission was providing information on key activities and initiatives in response to pandemic in Georgia. At the same time, the Commission added a new chapter "UNESCO and COVID-19" to its official site unesco.ge to raise awareness of organization's efforts and make them visible to more people in Georgia.



© Georgian National Commission for UNESCO — International Students Conference "Archives, Students, Innovations"

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

An important event advancing the ideals and objectives of UNESCO, took place in October 2020. The Batumi International Music Fest was traditionally organized by Ms. Elisso Bolkvadze, the UNESCO Artist for Peace and her charity foundation "Lyra", in close cooperation with the National Commission and under the patronage of UNESCO. The event was broadcasted by TV channel and online. (<https://www.facebook.com/elisso.bolkvadze/videos/10221767699917946/h>)

As a strong supporter for musical education of the young people, Ms. Elisso Bolkvadze also joined the Project "TVSCHOOL" specially elaborated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia and the 1st

Channel operated by Georgian Public Broadcasting to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia. The well-known artist introduced masterpieces of prominent composers to the students.

The International Students Conference "Archives, Students, Innovations" was opened online on November 5. The event, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the National Archives of Georgia, was organized by the National Archives under the patronage of UNESCO.

The aim of the conference was to support future scientists and to encourage future researches; to establish cooperation between students, to share experiences and practical work features as well as to establish appropriate standards for new challenges.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Georgian National Commission will continue its cooperation with other National Commissions in a regular basis.

GERMANY

German Commission for UNESCO

President: Prof Dr Maria Böhmer

Secretary-General: Dr Roman Luckscheiter

Email: natcom@unesco.de

Website: www.unesco.de

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The German Commission for UNESCO increased its outreach and impact in 2020, both at the level of designated sites and partners of UNESCO in Germany, as well as in general national policy advice and international networking, through hundreds of digital events and innovative digital formats. For example, the German ASPnet improved the quality of its international partnerships; several online debates respectively discussed ResiliArt and Open Science.

The main response of the Commission to the pandemic was its emergency relief programme #SOSAfricanHeritage, with funds from the German Federal Foreign Office. The Commission provided rapid financial support to 22 UNESCO designated sites in 19 Member States of Africa, in order to address severe impairments caused by the pandemic. Since tourism collapsed

and many sites had to close, sites lack income and means to pay their staff; local communities also lack income. Thus, poaching, bush fires, illegal natural resource extraction and looting have increased.

The German Commission implemented #SOSAfricanHeritage as a call for proposals. More than 70 proposals were submitted. The 22 World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves selected by an international jury successfully implemented their projects, funded with up to 25,000 Euro each, until the end of December.



© German Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

2020 was another momentous year of transformation for the German Commission, not only due to the pandemic. The strong political and financial support from parliament and government was further increased. The annual members' assembly, the first ever digital one, decided about a thorough rejuvenation of the 100 elected members of the Commission; the election, for the first time, was preceded by a public call for candidatures. The newly elected members also reflect much better the fact that Germany is a country of immigration. The Commission adopted a new ambitious structure for youth participation.

The 2020 World Heritage Day in Germany, the first organized digitally, on 7 June, was the most successful in scope and visibility so far. For the first time, the Commission implemented a funding programme for UNESCO Global Geoparks in Germany, providing some 200,000 EUR. The Commission also supported the successful establishment of a parliamentary group of friends of UNESCO biosphere

reserves. New private sector partnerships provide funding for ASPnet schools and biosphere reserves. The Commission translated the resources of the UNESCO MIL Clicks campaign and organized several events, e.g. for the ASPnet to counter disinformation and conspiracies. With the UNESCO Jakarta Office, it organized a four-day training course for young Indonesian journalists on countering disinformation.

As in previous years, outstanding visibility was created through German-language versions of both the GEMR's and the World Water Report's Executive Summary.

From March until September 2020, the Commission's "kulturweit" international youth volunteers were not able to work abroad, instead, they supported social institutions within Germany to cope with the pandemic. Since October 2020 "kulturweit" again sends young people abroad to European countries, including to UNESCO designated sites. We continued our close cooperation with African National Commissions, implemented our successful entrepreneurship training STEP in several countries and supported several initiatives for Biosphere Reserves in Southern Africa.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

For 2021, the German Commission has chosen as its first-ever annual theme: "Shaping the digital transformation for equal opportunities". Through this, the Commission focuses on several issues:

- further optimizing the use of digital tools for improving global cooperation among UNESCO networks;
- fostering digital access, inter alia to education as well as to heritage resources; and
- critically reflecting the impact of the digital transformation on the analogous world.

It will build on the comprehensive studies commissioned in 2020 on the "Fair Culture" concept and on the application of the ROAM Internet Universality Indicators to Germany.

The German Commission will strengthen its robust cooperation frameworks with other National Commissions. This international commitment, focused on but not limited to Africa and Europe, has been upheld for more than 10 years. Priorities remain unchanged, such as optimizing the engagement of National Commissions with UNESCO networks in their countries, using such networks to foster cross-border understanding at the regional and inter-regional level, as well as articulating insights from the work of the National Commissions at the global level.

The 2021 ESD World Conference and the global launch event for the UN Ocean Science Decade will both be hosted digitally from Berlin.

GREECE

Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Maria-Ekaterini Tzitzikosta

Email: unescogr@mfa.gr

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Into the framework of the COVID-19 outbreak and in alignment with UNESCO's priority to support distance learning, the opening up of science, knowledge and education to humanity as fundamental means of solidarity and cooperation, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO co-organized with UNESCO, the Global Geoparks' Network and the Lesvos Global Geopark in June 2020 the "1st Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks". The online Course was hosted by the University of the Aegean and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest.

The Course, entitled "Territories of Resilience" included presentations, discussions and workshops by 28 Geopark experts and was attended by 133 participants from 42 countries, including Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Zambia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia,

Serbia, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA and Viet Nam.

The Digital Course provided a unique opportunity for participants to discover how UNESCO's networks and in particular Global Geoparks can stand the test of challenges surviving the COVID-19 pandemic in resilient and creative ways, while making a meaningful impact on local communities.



© Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite this year's ongoing difficulties and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO (HNC UNESCO) organized and implemented a wide range of online activities for the promotion of UNESCO's Programs and Priorities in the framework of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Regarding the Education sector, a challenging initiative took place with a view to the pandemic and two webinars entitled "We stay connected – We discuss the Climate Change" and "We stay connected – We learn about the Global Geoparks" were organized by the HNC UNESCO and the Hellenic Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs for the first time online for the Greek ASPnet network. In addition, a primary school teacher of the network participated with a presentation at the UNESCO webinar on "ESD in remote and digital settings: Lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic" and a group of teachers and students from ASPnet schools participated at the Global Webinar "COVID-19 Reflections by the ASPnet Community". Furthermore, the city of Corinth was included in UNESCO's Network of Learning Cities.

In the Culture sector, an application for the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on "Threats to Cultural Heritage" was submitted and an online Colloquium entitled

"Preserving the Future: New approaches to Natural Heritage and Environmental Protection" was organized by the HNC for UNESCO and the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with the participation of representatives from European UNESCO Chairs. Additionally, a teacher and a student from a secondary school of the Greek ASPnet network participated at the Workshop 'Integrating intangible cultural heritage in school-based education – lessons learnt from the UNESCO-EU pilot project'.

Concerning the Sciences sector, the "Asterousia Mountain Range" area in Crete was designated as a Biosphere Reserve, and an online course entitled "Asterousia Hybrid University on Management of Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas" was organized by MIO ECSDE in cooperation with the Regional Office for the Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE), with the support of the HNC UNESCO. Furthermore, the "Grevena – Kozani" area was designated as the sixth Greek Global Geopark, and two new applications, the area of "Kefalonia – Ithaka" and the "Lavreotiki" area, were submitted for inclusion in the UNESCO's Global Geoparks Program. Additionally, the 11th Greek "L'OREAL – UNESCO for Women in Science Awards" were launched, this time with the addition of two extra areas of research: mathematics and computer science.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, the Global Geoparks' Network and the UNESCO Chair on Geoparks and Sustainable Development of Insular and Coastal Areas of the University of the Aegean are co-organizing in April 2021 an International Colloquium entitled "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainable Development of Insular and Coastal areas".

The aim of this Colloquium is dual: a) to highlight the importance of natural heritage protection in insular and coastal areas, and b) to advocate the necessity for international, coordinated, institutional action in the face of the looming environmental crisis.

The Colloquium aims to underline the linkages between natural heritage protection, development practices, sustainability and education, focusing on the role of UNESCO's Global Geoparks in insular and coastal areas. Moreover, it aspires to bring to the forefront the contribution of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as vehicles for understanding biodiversity and implementing the five priority areas of UNESCO's SIDS Action Plan (2016-2021).

The Colloquium will include presentations from academics, researchers, focal points and experts from UNESCO, the Global Geoparks Network, the UNESCO Chairs and other UNESCO's networks. We are really looking forward to cooperating for this event with as many as possible National Commissions for UNESCO from all geographical regions.

HUNGARY

Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Miklós Réthelyi

Secretary-General: Dr Gábor Soós

Email: info@unesco.hu

Website: www.unesco.hu

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In response to the pandemic, we focused on our online presence by renewing our website, and we moved most of our meetings and conferences into the online space. In cooperation with our partners, we celebrated international days with online events: World Philosophy Day (in partnership with the Hungarian Philosophical Society), International Day for Universal Access to Information (in partnership with the University of Szeged), and the International Jazz Day (in partnership with the Hungarian Jazz Federation). We translated the Statement on COVID-19: Ethical Considerations from a Global Perspective of the International Bioethics Committee and the World Commission on the Ethics of

Scientific Knowledge and Technology into Hungarian. Our UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability published videos to help secondary school students prepare for their final exams in History, Literature and English. We highlighted the importance of access to reliable information by sharing an article on infodemics by our Chair of Communication and Information Committee. In order to increase the visibility of intangible cultural heritage elements, we commissioned the manufacturing of face masks prepared with Hungarian blue-dyeing, as well as with Matyó and Kalocsa embroidery and disseminated them in our networks as well as to the participants of the Cultural Heritage Festival held in the Skanzen under the patronage of UNESCO in September.



© Balázs Bánáti, Hungarian Open Air Museum

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Hungarian National Commissions for UNESCO continues to see its role as the connection between UNESCO, national government, civil society, academic and professional communities to translate UNESCO's ideals into actions on the ground in partnership with stakeholders. A useful way of coordinating national efforts has been the anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated. We facilitated preparations for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hanna Szenes (1921-1944), poet, and hero of Jewish resistance and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Georges Cziffra, Hungarian pianist (1921-1994).

The Sustainability Theme Week and the World's Largest Lesson 2020 were held under the patronage of the Commission between the 5th and 9th of October and had great success. This year's topics were climate change, energy, and education for health awareness. For the first time this year, the programmes were organized for all Hungarian schools in the Carpathian Basin across 8 countries. The program included webinars and trainings for teachers, diverse activities and competitions for students including the planting of school trees, visits to external sites. A research has been launched about the perception of sustainability by students and teachers with nearly 4,000 students completing the online questionnaire in the first week. Focus group interviews will take place in the coming weeks.

We organized an online workshop for our ASPnet school focal points where we welcomed the 2 new schools who launched their application to the network this year, shared information about the sustainability research mentioned above, and held a focus group discussion about the Futures of Education. Schools shared their experience in coping with the pandemic situation and received a briefing about work in progress for a sustainability learning module prepared in partnership with the Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation.

Our Chairs of Communication and Information Committee and Social Sciences Committee convened a workshop on Human-centered Artificial Intelligence. The Commission supported the celebration of the International Day of Light by the Agroverzum Centre of Science and Fun at Martonvásár.

In partnership with the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability, the 2nd UNESCO MOST Winter School and 25th International Summer University took place at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Kőszeg: the former with the title *Dancing with Uncertainty. Trials and Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, 1989 to COVID-19*; the latter with the title *In What and Whom Do We Trust? The Sustainability of Ideals and Re-evaluation of Values Across Continents*.

In 2020, the membership of the UNESCO MAB National Committee of Hungary was renewed, the President was (re-)appointed.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Commission will continue to provide professional advice to the government in relation to Hungary's membership of the Executive Board (2019-2023).

The 3rd UNESCO MOST Winter School (22nd – 26th February 2021) will be held under the title *How to be a citizen? Citizenship and responsibility in the new world of uncertainty*.

In partnership with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences we will organize a conference on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of UNESCO MAB Programme.

Two anniversary proposals are submitted for the 2022-2023 biennium: 100th anniversary of the death of Vilma Hugonnai (1847-1922), first female doctor in Hungary (2022) and the 200th anniversary of János Bolyai's letter about the discovery of non-Euclidean geometry (2023).

We are open to continue further work on the elaboration of nominations of the bagpipe tradition and the circus tradition to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

ICELAND

Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Sæunn Stefánsdóttir

Secretary-General: Ms Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir

Email: postur@mrn.is

Website: www.unesco.is

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO consists of a President and six members with expertise in the fields of UNESCO's competence. The Minister of Education, Science and Culture nominates members for a four-year term, the new composition of the National Commission was appointed

2019-2022. The Commission meets approximately six times per year to advise the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and contribute to the work and visibility of UNESCO. The National Commission plays a facilitating, monitoring and coordinating role for advancing the SDGs.

The National Commission fosters the linkage with and involvement in UNESCO's activities of relevant governmental bodies, national institutions and other civil society stakeholders and individuals in order to obtain intellectual and professional inputs, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation in the process. The Commission also coordinates national responses to UNESCO-conducted surveys and reports on national implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments.

The Commission encouraged on-line celebrating to commemorate the 75th anniversary of UNESCO and the United Nations system as the COVID crisis reveals the interdependence of countries and the relevance of multilateralism.



© Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir — The Icelandic National Commission meeting in December 2020

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

It was of high importance during this year of international crisis to promote UNESCO's ideals and disseminate information on the Organization's activities and achievements, for example the Future of Education initiative in order to strengthen UNESCO's impact at the national level.

In collaboration with the National Commission, the Minister for Education, Science and Culture Ms Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir took active part in the consultation and drafting of the 2020 GEM Declaration. The Minister also took part in the 2020 Global Education Meeting and there she expressed the view that the COVID crisis is also an educational crisis and underlined the importance of acting decisively and acting now to avoid a generational catastrophe. Inclusive and equitable access to education is a priority for the Government both at home and in our International Cooperation. There have been many challenges, and their scope is unprecedented, but Iceland has placed emphasis on trying to ensure the continuity of education, reopening schools safely, supporting cultural life, fighting disinformation and promoting scientific responses to the crisis.

The National Commission was also involved with the preparation for the international meeting of UNESCO Ministers for Culture where we focused on the importance of art and culture when crisis strikes. The vulnerability of the cultural sphere as a whole has become evident during the COVID crisis and the status of the artistic has to be protected. The value of tangible and intangible cultural heritage is high on our agenda and there have been taken specific measures in Iceland to support the cultural sector since culture is a driver of resilience and human development.

The National Commission has been active in furthering the values of UNESCO during the pandemic, and pointing out relevance of multilateralism. This year the Commission launched a new website www.unesco.is which has a wide array of information on UNESCO both from a local and international perspective. The new website has proven to be an important platform for disseminating information and increasing interest in UNESCO in Iceland.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In Iceland we put emphasis on the Creative Cities Network, the Nordic World Heritage Sites Network, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and the Nordic ICH Network. The Commission will also put emphasis on supporting UNESCO networks in Iceland to adopt Agenda 2030 as a reference framework. The ASPnet schools in Iceland seek more cooperation with ASPnet schools in other parts of the world, mainly on the topic of Global Citizenship Education. The National Commission participates actively in the Nordic cooperation in the field of National Commissions, and with other stakeholders. The next Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions is planned to be held in Iceland in the autumn of 2021.

ITALY

Italian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Franco Bernabè

Secretary-General: Mr Enrico Vicenti

Email: comm.unesco@esteri.it

Website: www.unesco.it

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Due to the pandemic the Italian National Commission carried out its ordinary tasks in remote working modality, focusing on the dissemination of UNESCO initiatives through its website and its Facebook profile. The Italian National Commission participated in several online UNESCO meetings and organised, supported and took part in many online events held in Italy by cultural and educational institutions. Although the physical presence still remains unreplacable, online communication and social media have proven as very effective tools for keeping contacts with citizens and partners involved in all UNESCO activities. The pandemic has shown the great need for tackling the existing digital divide, notably in the sector of education. The Italian National Commission thus disseminated UNESCO initiatives dealing with this topic, and developed a document also focusing on remote learning and the need for an improvement in the school buildings. The document on Education and its role for Italian social and economic relaunch was developed by a panel of experts and it is in line with the SDG 4 of the UN 2030 Agenda. It was presented to the Ministers of University and Education and it was publicly discussed in a webinar.

Since root causes of the pandemic are to be found in the human destruction of biodiversity, we decided to contribute to raising knowledge on the need for preserving biodiversity by publishing on the occasion of the Ocean day the Italian translation of "Ocean literacy for all. A toolkit". The book was also presented in a public meeting introduced by the Minister of Environment and will serve as a dissemination tool for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



© leungchopan — A toolkit, promoted by Italian NatCom together with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe based in Venice.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The decennial of the first inscription of the Mediterranean Diet to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage was celebrated with a full week of online events, meetings and seminars that involved Universities, UNESCO Chairs, Foundations and representatives of the private sector. The Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Education, Culture, Agriculture, Environment and Health introduced the opening session, on November 16.

The Italian National Commission participated to a broadcast organized by the cultural association Parchi letterari (Literary parks) that valued Italian World Heritage properties and MAB reserves and their relationship with leading artists from the past to foster sustainable development and sustainable tourism in the less known areas of the country. It also participated to an international online meeting celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the European Landscape Convention organized by UNISCAPE.

The Italian National Commission collaborated with the Italian Studies program of the University of North Carolina for the organization of a meeting with students for the presentation of the Italian UNESCO designations and their role in the Italian cultural environment.

The Italian National Commission through its Education to sustainable development Committee has organized a contest to award the best school projects dealing with the challenges of the pandemic and of global warming. In October, a meeting of the 32 Italian UNESCO Chairs was attended by Assistant DG for Education.

Other National Commission activities included the candidacies of six new UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs, of two Learning Cities, of three elements for the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of one person for the Madanjeet Singh Prize, of two figures of cultural value (Pier Paolo Pasolini and Adelaide Ristori) for the 2022-2023 UNESCO Anniversaries. Monitoring and revision of the Clubs for UNESCO's activity has been made and the coordination of the Italian Creative Cities, Learning Cities, UNESCO Chairs and World Heritage properties increased. These activities have involved local authorities and have contributed to fulfill the National Commission's goal of strengthening the role of the UNESCO initiatives in Italy in order to contribute to its cultural and social development.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

As a future priority, the Italian National Commission will be strengthening the cooperation with the large and multi-faceted UNESCO designations in Italy, aiming at making them part of a virtuous ecosystem for a more effective dissemination of UNESCO ideals and priorities. This ecosystem is meant to be a major tool for a more effective contribution to the implementation of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Other fields of action will be the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the organization of a meeting dedicated to basic research.

LATVIA

Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Nauris Puntulis, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Latvia

Secretary-General: Ms Baiba Moļņika

Email: office@unesco.lv

Website: <http://www.unesco.lv>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

For many years, the LNC for UNESCO has promoted and adopted educational materials and lesson plans from the global initiative the World's Largest Lesson and schools in Latvia have actively participated in their implementation. Considering the global pandemic and its great impact on the learning process, in the fall semester of 2020/2021 school year, we encouraged schools in Latvia to use this year's materials and lesson plan "The Pandemic is a Portal". As the ongoing events urge us to envision a better future for the world after the pandemic, we developed additional materials for this year's campaign.

Highlighting the role of cooperation between people, communities and intuitions in the creation of a better future and celebrating the United Nations 75th anniversary special lesson plans devoted to the UN system were developed. The lesson plans and methodological guidelines for teachers were designed for different age groups introducing students — as future policy and decision makers — to the UN system and its agencies, including UNESCO, explaining the global challenges the UN is tackling and the role of multilateralism and cooperation in decision making. More than 30 schools took part in the initiative.



© Natālija Šope — UN Lesson in Daugavpils 11 Middle School

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Throughout the years, the LNC UNESCO has built a strong institutional network to support the implementation of UNESCO's vision and programmes. They cover a wide range of regions and target groups: UNESCO Chairs in Latvia, memory institutions involved in the Memory of the World programme, the network "Storytelling Libraries", UNESCO Associated Schools in Latvia and other partners. Therefore, the main goal in 2020 was to support our networks and take on the role of distributor of relevant and crucial information produced by UNESCO to help people overcome the various challenges caused by the pandemic.

In line with the restrictions, most of the planned activities were adjusted to online format or cancelled. It was this year's biggest challenge as it prevented us from meeting in person the members of our networks. At the same time, online access made our activities more inclusive and reached a larger audience.

To support "Storytelling Libraries" network an online seminar took place giving ideas and tools for organizing storytelling events online.

To support UNESCO Associated Schools and other educators in Latvia a list of distance learning solutions was compiled from local and educational resources gathered by UNESCO.

A list of useful resources was also provided to memory institutions and to emphasize the role of documentary heritage during the pandemic online versions of the nominations included in Memory of the World registers were popularized to the public.

The network of UNESCO Chairs in Latvia collaborated with us in dedicating the month of November to science. Together with experts we organized an online lecture cycle on bioethics and COVID-19, big data and biosphere reserves.

Also, the policy briefs on disinfodemic were of particular importance as they provide a clear overview of the problem and how to combat it. To raise awareness about this issue, we focused many of our activities on promoting media and information literacy.

Our networks and partners also managed to find innovative ways to adapt to the pandemic restrictions. The Archives of Latvian Folklore of the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art launched an initiative "Diaries in the Time of Pandemic 2020" to identify and through diary entries document, how our society feels during the pandemic. The annual parade celebrating the day of the Renewal of Independence of the Republic of Latvia where people dress up in traditional Latvian clothing showcasing our intangible cultural heritage took place virtually.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The main priority in 2021 will be strengthening UNESCO networks and other stakeholders in Latvia around the SDGs. We will continue our project devoted to sustainable development and libraries. By recognizing and appreciating the potential libraries have in becoming the community centres for sustainable development and encouraging society to explore the relationship between local and global challenges, the aim of the project is to tackle SDGs relevant to specific community challenges, strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and promote the professional development of librarians.

In addition, next year a project aimed at raising the capacity of museum professionals of the Baltic States at localizing the SDGs and establishing an ongoing contribution of the museums to the implementation of the SDGs in the region will be implemented. Museums are stakeholders with an important role in achieving SDGs, particularly, in reflecting the 2015 Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society. Also, a handbook with useful and original ideas of daily activities or tasks students, teachers and everyone can do to contribute to the achievement of SDGs will be published.

LITHUANIA

Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Jonas Ruškus

Secretary-General: Ms Asta Junevičienė

Email: lietuva@unesco.lt

Website: www.unesco.lt

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

With the purpose to enhance society's comprehension of the World Heritage sites in Lithuania and in order to celebrate anniversaries of inscription of four properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania announced the year 2020 as the UNESCO World Heritage Year in Lithuania. Despite many restrictions related to the global pandemic, most of the important projects dedicated to this celebration were successfully converted into digital format and adjusted to online access. The Commission has conducted a wide communication campaign of this celebration on digital platforms and social media. An interactive exhibition "Lithuanian properties on UNESCO lists and registers" in cooperation with the students of Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts

was installed in the gallery of the Commission. An exhaustive educational programme complemented this exposition, and two documentaries on the Curonian Spit and Kernavė Archaeological Site were produced. As one of the goals of the Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Lithuania was to increase interest in the properties, expand knowledge of the World Heritage Convention and its importance, the Commission together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Agency for Education developed a cycle of online lessons for upper secondary school children.



© Ignas Miškinis

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite the setbacks imposed by the unprecedented pandemic of COVID-19, the Commission managed to achieve most of its goals set the year before. The Commission proceeded with the preparation of the nomination of Kaunas modernism architecture. Particularly relevant its contribution in this regard was organizing collaboration with the international experts.

The Commission continued its active involvement in the different processes related to the renewal of national legislation, strategies and programme to better align with the SDGs in the education field contributing to the process of enacting the renewed Guidelines for the Curricula Revision (2019), which set the Lithuanian general education system on a way to curriculum reform. The Commission also took part in the model monitoring exercise of the Recommendation for Science and Scientific Researchers, which will set the line for the format of the worldwide periodic monitoring.

Also, the Commission renewed the composition of the National Memory of the World Committee after the ending of its previous term, elected its Chairperson and set its action guidelines for the next term of 4 years, as well as updated the Regulations of the National Memory of the World Register.

In 2019–2020 the Commission coordinated the work of the inter-institutional working group established by the Ministry of Culture. This group was responsible

for the elaboration of the quadrennial periodic report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention. The report represents a wide scope of activities on cultural policies, partnerships with civil society, digital environment, mobility of artists, flow of cultural goods and services, sustainable development, preferential treatment, gender equality and artistic freedom implemented by governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Also, the Commission organized the online seminar "The intangible cultural heritage and NGOs in Lithuania and Sweden. What possibilities?" to exchange good practices of NGOs' functioning. A key presentation from a story around the fire to UNESCO was made by Meg Nömgård on the development of the Swedish NGO Storytelling Network of Kronoberg.

The Commission accomplished the elaboration of the database and website www.kryzdirbysteskelias.lt on the Lithuanian Cross-crafting, the element inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.

To draw greater attention of scientific community to the issues of World Heritage, and to initiate discussions on climate change and sustainable development, an online international scientific conference Common heritage – common knowledge: cultural landscape of the Curonian Spit in the past and at present was organized together with the Kuršių Nerija National Park Directorate and other partners – Neringa Municipality and Neringa Museum.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The programme of the UNESCO World Heritage Year in Lithuania has prompted new initiatives for the fruitful inter-institutional collaboration to be continued next year in order to enhance management and safeguarding of the World Heritage properties, as well as widen the possibilities for their recognition.

In 2021, the Commission is planning reforms in the National Network of UNESCO ASPnet by recharging the network and the coordination.

Also, the Commission is planning to prepare a travelling exhibition on the Tatar minority living in Lithuania, Centuries-old marks in Celebrations and Memory of Lithuanian Tatars.

It will also continue involvement in the drafting process of the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethical Aspects related to AI.

Activities on science for society, lectures, discussions, workshops for pupils in the frame of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship Programme are planned for the year to come.

The Commission is also planning to initiate a new cycle of inscribing new objects of documentary heritage on the Lithuanian National Memory of the World Register as this programme gains popular acclaim on the national scale. Also, there is a plan to issue a digital catalogue representing all the objects inscribed on the National MoW Register.

LUXEMBOURG

Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Simone Beck

Secrétaire générale : Mme Catherine Decker

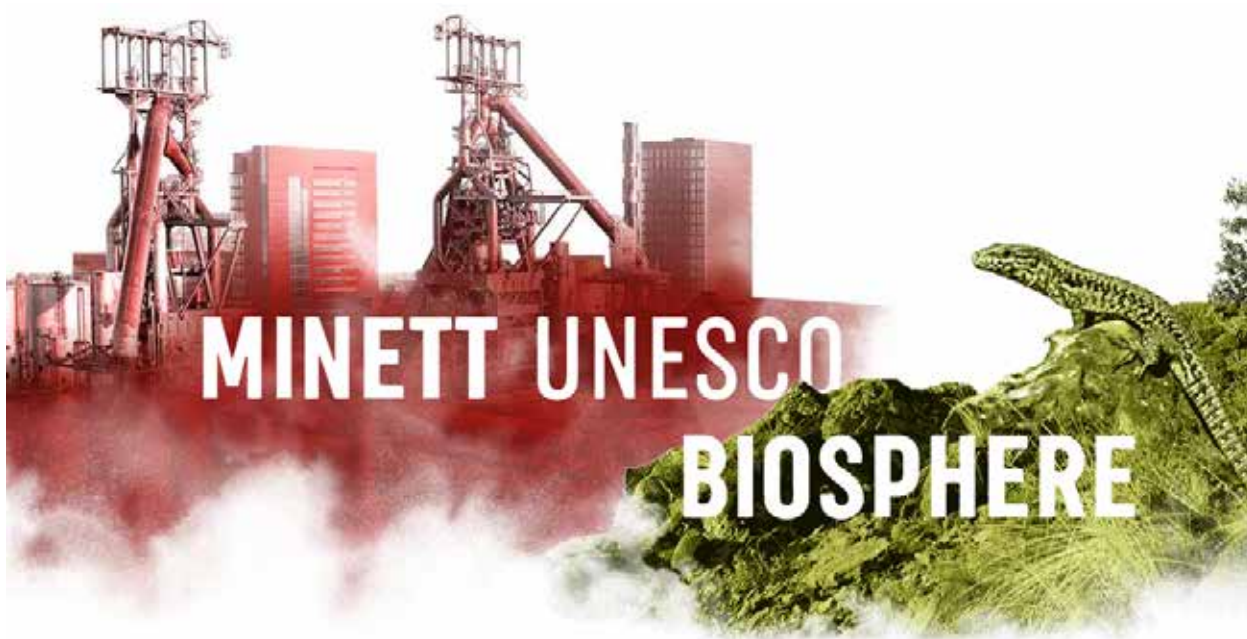
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Site web : www.unesco.lu

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Aux yeux de la Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO et en dépit de la crise sanitaire, l'année 2020 a été couronnée d'initiatives fascinantes et de nombreux succès. En premier lieu, il convient de mentionner la

désignation des onze communes du Pro-Sud comme « Minett UNESCO Biosphere », la première réserve de biosphère reconnue par l'UNESCO au Luxembourg (<https://minett-biosphere.com/en/home-our-biosphere/>) et de l'inscription des « Haupeschbléiser » (émanation luxembourgeoise de l'art musical des sonneurs de trompe) sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'Humanité, la première candidature multinationale auquel le Luxembourg a participé. Par ailleurs, la Commission a initié de nombreux événements et activités avec une panoplie de partenaires, dans le cadre du 25^e anniversaire de « Luxembourg Patrimoine mondial ». 2020 a par ailleurs été l'occasion de célébrer le 10^e anniversaire de l'inscription de la lechternacher Sprangpréssessioun sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'Humanité. Cependant, la crise aura également eu son impact sur les activités de la Commission et les restrictions sanitaires ont rendu nécessaire l'annulation ou le report d'un certain nombre de manifestations.



© Minett UNESCO Biosphere

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLES EN 2020

Si la pandémie du COVID-19 menace particulièrement les pratiques du patrimoine culturel immatériel, appelé encore « patrimoine vivant », celui-ci continue néanmoins à fonctionner comme un important vecteur de cohésion sociale et à susciter l'intérêt de la population au sens large. Devant l'impossibilité de pratiquer certaines traditions, de célébrer des événements ou d'exercer certains savoir-faire, avec le soutien de la

Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO, les communautés ont fait preuve de beaucoup d'inventivité et de résilience pour maintenir en vie leur patrimoine culturel immatériel. En effet, des initiatives conjointes afin de pérenniser et de rehausser ces traditions, savoir-faire et festivités ont permis de les mettre en valeur à travers différents formes et d'offrir la digitalisation de ces pratiques via un site internet qui leur est dédié (www.iki.lu).

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Parmi les priorités à venir, la Commission souhaite revigorer et élargir le réseau national des treize écoles associées de l'UNESCO, ainsi que mieux coordonner et promouvoir les activités de ses membres. Un accent particulier sera également mis sur la candidature nationale du Natur- a Geopark Mëlldall au programme des « UNESCO Global Geoparks ». Le Comité national Géoparc continuera à assurer sa fonction de conseil et d'accompagnement scientifique du projet. A la suite de la reconnaissance de la « Minett UNESCO Biosphère », la Commission mettra tout en œuvre pour appuyer le succès des premiers projets concrets à dérouler sur le territoire de la nouvelle biosphère. Enfin, au regard de la priorité accordée par l'UNESCO aux thèmes de l'intelligence artificielle et des médias, la Commission a élaboré un cycle de conférence intitulé « Mankind and Media » qui permettra en 2021 d'aborder et de discuter ces sujets avec un public large dans le cadre accueillant et contemporain de la nouvelle bibliothèque nationale.

NORTH MACEDONIA

National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of North Macedonia

Chairperson: Ms Irena Stefoska, Minister of Culture

Secretary-General: Ms Biljana Prentoska

Email: minister@kultura.gov.mk / biljana.prentoska@kultura.gov.mk / paris@mfa.gov.mk

Website: www.kultura.gov.mk

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The National Commission for UNESCO coordinated the participation of the competent ministries, institutions and other stakeholders in various UNESCO's initiatives and activities dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 in our societies. The Ministry of Education and Science supported the "Open Science" platform and participated to UNESCO's various programmes and initiatives as follows: Learning cities, Leaving no one behind survey, etc. The E-Classroom digital platform providing teachers with tools to support distance learning for children temporarily out of school due to COVID-19 has been

established in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bureau for Education Development, UNICEF and British Embassy in Skopje.

The Minister of Culture presented information regarding the undertaken measures in the cultural sector on national level in the time of the pandemic crisis during the first virtual meeting of the Ministers of Culture organized by UNESCO on 22 April 2020. The National Commission has encouraged the potential applicants to submit project proposals related to the COVID-19 challenges within the call for the UNESCO Participation Programme 2020-2021.



© Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia — Irena Stefoska, Minister of Culture and President of the National Commission for UNESCO, pays tribute to Parashqevi Qiriazi, November 2020, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

As one of the main activities in 2020 of the National Commission of the Republic of North Macedonia was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Parashqevi Qiriazi under the celebration of anniversaries in association with UNESCO (2020-2021). Parashqevi Qiriazi, born in Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia, is one of the key figures of the Albanian Enlightenment of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her pioneering role in education and emancipation of women in the Ottoman Empire can only be compared to the achievements of Marianne Hainisch in Austria, Annetine Beyer in Denmark or Maria Montessori in Italy. The magazine she ran in her youth, as well as the women's association she was one of the founders of, bore the name of Morning Star, which wonderfully suited this woman whose contribution to the emancipation of the Albanian people was invaluable.

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Institute of spiritual and cultural heritage of the Albanians prepared the video Tribute to Parashqevi Qiriazi and publication "The diary of Parashqevi Qiriazi", that have been also published on the UNESCO's web site.

The National Commission coordinated the activities related to the implementation of the UNESCO's convention concerning the protection of world cultural and natural

heritage. Regarding the implementation of the Recommendations from the Decisions 43 COM 7B.36 and 43 COM 8B.9, the Progress Report on State of Conservation for the transnational World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" has been submitted to the WHC. Two bilateral Watershed Management Committee meetings for the Ohrid Lake have been organized in 2020. In order to determine the state of conservation of the property, the Joint ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission has been realized in the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania in January 2020.

The church St. George, Kurbinovo, which represents one of the rarest and most valuable testimonies of Byzantine art in the region, has been added to the World Heritage Tentative List.

Our country confirmed the interest for participation in the EU-UNESCO project "Fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in the Western Balkans" to be implemented in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice and the Antenna UNESCO Office in Sarajevo.

Regarding the celebration of anniversaries in association with UNESCO, the Republic of North Macedonia has submitted two nominations.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Encourage the participation in intergovernmental Committees and Councils which are associated with UNESCO's major programmes.
- Enhance the cooperation among the National Commissions on regional level and UNESCO with aim to provide know-how and capacity building for competent stakeholders and professionals in the frame of implementation of the UNESCO's conventions, programmes and activities.
- Strengthen the collaboration with the World Heritage Center regarding the state of conservation of the transnational World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" and improve the valorisation and the preservation of the national cultural and natural heritage.
- Focus on the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention of the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression.
- Encourage the youth engagements in the UNESCO programmes and activities.
- Implementation of the activities regarding the celebration of the "100th Anniversary of the Birth of Blaze Koneski" on national and international level in cooperation with UNESCO and respective National Commissions in connection with the World Poetry Day in 2021. Regular cooperation with the Regional Bureau of UNESCO in Venice and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo.

NORWAY

Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Tora Aasland

Secretary-General: Ms Tanja Kristine Hegge

Email: natcom@unesco.no

Website: www.unesco.no

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO was very happy that it could continue to support civil society and institutions that uphold the values and work of UNESCO in this challenging year of 2020. The pandemic has highlighted how important and central education, science, culture and communication are for the well-being of societies and for the well-being of individuals.

The Commission, together with other NGOs, worked to highlight the global education situation and the importance of continued and increased ODA for education. The information and high quality material that UNESCO provided was very useful in this regard.

The Commission supported an event at the University OsloMET to highlight the international day of access to information. The event highlighted how important access to accurate and reliable information is – also in times of epidemics. It also presented the important and useful work that UNESCO does in this field.

Together with other UN agencies present in Norway, we were able to gather the UN family and arrange a seminar, partially digital, partially in person, to highlight UN achievements and importance on the occasion of the 75th birthday of the United Nations.



© University of Bergen

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

As so many others had to do in 2020, we had to switch much of our activities online in 2020. We were able to conduct the National Commission's meetings online and to continue the Commission's activities. It was very positive that the Commission was able to support 23 UNESCO-related activities through its grant programme. The programme allows the National Commission to generate, support and consolidate UNESCO-related activities all over Norway. Of particular interest was that the Commission continued to support activities related to the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL19), which has contributed to continued UNESCO-interest among the Sami population. Because of the pandemic, some of the activities have been postponed to 2021, others were able to conduct their activities online.

There is continued interest in UNESCO activities and designations. The University of Stavanger received a UNESCO-Chair in diversity, inclusion and education and the President of the Commission participated in the opening ceremony which was conducted online.

The Commission supported and participated in the presentation of the UN 2020 World Water development report. The report was presented digitally in November and the theme was "Water and climate changes".

Another important event which the Commission supported and participated in was the seminar to launch new inscriptions on the list of Norwegian Documentary heritage. Six new elements were inscribed, among them one of the oldest recordings of traditional music from early 1900s, the personal archive of one of the Holocaust survivors, the archives after the cholera epidemic in Bergen in 1848-1849, the Gulating law, a legal document from 1000 which was written in Norse, and not Latin. It is the oldest known and existing legal document in the Nordic countries. Another important legal document was the Sisti – the reindeerskin – that marks the opening of the Sami parliament, 9. October 1989.

In February, the National Commission was able to participate in the third national SDG Conference at the University of Bergen with the theme Action/Inaction: Technologies and Partnerships. The Commission also co-hosted a workshop on Nordhordland UNESCO Biosphere as an Arena of Sustainable Development. The workshop was very well attended, and discussions were lively and engaged.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

We were planning to host the annual Nordic UNESCO meeting in 2020 but with the pandemic, we had no other choice but to postpone it. Our Nordic colleagues kindly agreed to let us keep our turn and we are looking forward to hosting the Nordic meeting in 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to gather representatives of all Nordic stakeholders in UNESCO, National Commissions of course, but also ministries and the Nordic delegations in Paris, and to discuss how we can broaden and deepen UNESCO's agenda and share best practices. High on the agenda will be the upcoming 41st session of the General Conference and UNESCO's future work, both the next programme and budget, and very importantly the new medium-term strategy.

We are planning to go to the city of Ålesund on the western coast and visit the world heritage site of the West Norwegian Fjords – Geiranger and Nærøysfjord.

The Norwegian National Commission is looking forward to participating in the online interregional gathering in Switzerland and the subregional one in Iceland.

We are also looking forward to gathering the Norwegian UNESCO-family in 2021 and hope it will be a fitting celebration of UNESCO 75 years – still vibrant and relevant.

POLAND

Polish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Michał Kleiber

Secretary-General: Prof Sławomir Ratajski (till 15 October 2020); Ms Aleksandra Waclawczyk

Email: komitet@unesco.pl

Website: www.unesco.pl

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic influenced several activities in different ways. Serious challenges emerged but also new opportunities. The necessity to change the format of many events from offline to online created a possibility to broaden their geographical scope and participation.

A celebration of the World Philosophy Day in Lublin is an example of a local activity that thus became countrywide. For several years, it has been a successful local event, organised under auspices of Polish National Commission for UNESCO by one of Polish ASPnet schools – the Paderewski International School – in partnership with a university and a city cultural centre. It engaged especially schools, students etc., and broader audience in Lublin in competitions, seminars, quizzes, debates. In 2020, however, due to the pandemic,

only online meetings proved possible. That opened up an opportunity to extend the celebrations also beyond the city and region of Lublin, to the entire Polish ASPnet. The event, under slogan “(Nie) pewność” [(Un)certainty] met with unexpected interest. The organizers were much satisfied to see the circumstances initially considered unfavourable giving impetus to the initiative’s development. They have decided to permanently include online elements in the celebrations to enable participation of schools from all over Poland.



© Michał Kaczkowski — World Philosophy Day

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, the constraints of COVID-19 pandemic crisis necessitated adjusting many of planned activities of Polish National Commission for UNESCO to the new circumstances and challenges. From mid-March, disseminating information about UNESCO’s initiatives directly addressing the crisis as well as news on continuation of the Organization’s pre-scheduled events became urgent. Especially, in the first weeks and months of the pandemic, access to relevant information was important in terms of avoiding confusion and fostering the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. Both the Polish Nat Com’s website and country-level networks, such as ASPnet, UNESCO Chairs, Polish IFAP Committee, and Creative Cities proved useful as communication channels to share information and promote activities. For example, Kraków, a City of Literature was involved i.a. in the UNESCO ResiliArt online debate on “International Festivals and Policy in light of COVID-19” and Katowice, a City of Music joined a global online event celebrating Fête de la Musique on 21 June, as part of the weCulture campaign. Polish ASPnet schools responded to a survey prepared by Polish Nat Com, on their experiences regarding the pandemic’s impact on education process efficiency, changing of teaching and learning methods, pupils/students’ and teachers’ wellbeing, digital hygiene and work overload, etc.

We engaged in the country’s participation in UNESCO’s Executive Board and in consultations concerning the new Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5) – both the preparation of Poland’s reply to the questionnaire to Member States and the National Commissions’ Europe Region’s consultation – as well as in Poland’s involvement in the Memory of the World Programme review process being currently carried out within the Limited Participation Working Group.

Shortly before the pandemic, the 5th annual meeting of the informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO was held in Cascais, Portugal, with active participation of Polish National Commission’s representatives.

One of the directions of our activities that, with a new strength, has proved its relevance in the context of both rapidly developing Industry 4.0 and the pandemic is fostering Media and Information Literacy (MIL). As the MIL is a prerequisite to consciously and freely participating in today’s world and a key tool for addressing disinformation. A collective work on “Media Education as a Challenge” published jointly by the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and Polish National Commission for UNESCO and available online on the Commission’s website (<https://www.unesco.pl/sourcesmedia/mediasdaschallenge.pdf>) will be instrumental in deepening our engagement in this field.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, Polish National Commission for UNESCO will continue disseminating information on UNESCO’s programmes and advising to the government. The latter activity will be especially important in the context of Poland’s membership in the Executive Board and participation in the 41st session of the General Conference.

Informing a broader audience about UNESCO’s programmes will include translating UNESCO’s relevant documents into Polish. In particular, attention will be paid to the Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves. The Polish National Commission’s website will be used extensively to share the information.

We will continue coordinating and facilitating operation of UNESCO programme networks in Poland. They are expanding and our role is, inter alia, to coordinate and assist project preparation. In 2021, at least one application is intended concerning a new UNESCO Chair project in Poland, as well as new applications of Polish cities to join the Creative Cities network. A pilot information programme promoting Creative Cities in Poland is foreseen to be launched on the Polish National Commission’s portal. The work with ASPnet in Poland will require fostering information sharing, organising webinars and advancing innovative approaches using the ICTs.

PORTUGAL

Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. José Filipe Moraes Cabral (Ambassadeur)

Secrétaire exécutif : M. Sérgio Gorjão

Email : cnu@mne.pt

Site web : <https://www.unescoportugal.mne.pt>

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

Au Portugal, toutes les activités prévues ont été revues et adaptées aux plateformes virtuelles en fonction des contraintes qui découlent d'un contexte exceptionnel comme celui qui touche le monde entier.

De plus, la Commission nationale a développé des activités spécifiques en réponse à la pandémie. Dans un premier temps, et tenant compte du fait que le secteur de la culture a subi de plein fouet les effets de la pandémie, nous avons élaboré un texte sur Culture et pandémie: « valorisation des réseaux UNESCO, dans le cadre de la publication COVID-19, guerres et désastres naturels: peur et résilience aux origines de la transformation des paysages culturels » et organisé le webinaire Le numérique dans une pédagogie active et autonome dans les secteurs de la communication et éducation.

La Commission a traduit en portugais et diffusé les 10 recommandations de l'UNESCO sur l'enseignement à distance et les a également envoyées aux pays africains lusophones. Elle a suivi, traduit et diffusé les initiatives de l'UNESCO liées à la lutte contre les effets du Coronavirus, en particulier dans les domaines de l'éducation, du patrimoine et de la sécurité des journalistes, ainsi que la Déclaration conjointe CIB et COMEST sur le COVID-19: considérations éthiques selon une perspective mondiale.



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AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

Le Portugal a accueilli, du 16 au 19 février 2020, la 5ème réunion du Réseau informel des Commissions nationales européennes pour l'UNESCO sur le thème « Défis de notre monde : réflexions pour la paix » qui a rassemblé à Cascais une cinquantaine de représentants des Commissions nationales européennes ainsi que des membres du Secrétariat pour débattre des questions d'intérêt commun. Les groupes de travail ont débattu sur des thèmes comme l'engagement des jeunes, l'intelligence artificielle, l'éducation au développement durable, les réseaux nationaux de villes, le patrimoine culturel, le dialogue et la compréhension interculturels, le sport et la science ouverte.

Étant donné l'aggravation de la situation à partir du mois de mars, les rencontres des réseaux – écoles, clubs, bibliothèques et villes créatives – ont eu lieu en ligne permettant de garder le contact malgré la distance. Le réseau des Clubs a été restructuré, avec notamment la création d'une Commission d'évaluation des candidatures. Malgré la pandémie, tous les réseaux ont vu le nombre de membres augmenter, y compris les villes apprenantes et les chaires.

Internet a été la scène de la remise du Prix de journalisme, du Concours «Agriculture familiale et alimentation saine» dans le cadre de la Journée internationale de

l'alimentation, du Concours «Plus heureux ensemble» dans le cadre de la Journée Internationale du Bonheur, du Concours Media@ction, du Prix pour Clubs UNESCO qui a été remis cette année pour la première fois ainsi que de la célébration de la Semaine de l'éducation artistique et de la journée de la tolérance, sans oublier la commémoration du 75ème anniversaire de l'UNESCO.

La Commission a continué à suivre l'état de conservation des biens du Patrimoine Mondial et les candidatures aux listes des conventions, à fournir son soutien technique aux candidatures de l'aspirant aux Géoparc Ouest – Terre du Jurassique et à soutenir la candidature de l'île de Porto Santo (Madère) aux Réserves de Biosphère et son approbation par le Programme MAB.

En termes d'événements, nous soulignons l'appui institutionnel et la participation aux webinaires des Géoparc portugais sur le thème Territoires de résilience réalisés tout au long de l'année, ainsi que l'initiative annuelle 7 jours avec les médias qui a rajouté la phrase «sans sortir de chez soi» et invité des personnalités de différents secteurs à témoigner sur l'importance de l'éducation aux médias, en particulier de nos jours, et à appeler à un regard critique et attentif sur les informations que nous recevons et partageons en permanence.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

L'Agenda 2030 restera à l'ordre du jour dans tous les domaines d'activité de la Commission et une collaboration avec le Centre Régional des Nations Unies basé à Bruxelles est active depuis quelques années. Les partenariats seront les bienvenus, tant au niveau national qu'international.

En 2021, la Commission nationale attachera une attention particulière à la jeunesse et notamment à la collaboration et au travail pour les jeunes, avec les jeunes. Un Art Camp est prévu au printemps/été et les Commissions nationales seront appelées à collaborer. Une collaboration est d'ailleurs déjà en cours dans ce domaine avec la Commission nationale allemande pour l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme Kulturweit.

L'éducation artistique, l'éducation sur l'holocauste, l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale et l'éducation aux médias resteront des priorités tout au long de 2021.

Les activités de traduction de publications de l'UNESCO en langue portugaise ainsi que des messages de la Directrice générale seront poursuivies.

La Commission nationale portugaise est ouverte à la collaboration avec le Secrétariat, les Bureaux Hors Siège et ses paires dans les domaines mentionnés ci-dessus mais également dans d'autres domaines d'action de l'UNESCO.

ROMANIA

National Commission of Romania for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Monica Cristina Anisie, Minister of Education and Research

Secretary-General: Ms Daniela Zaharia

Email: cnr@cnr-unesco.ro

Website: www.cnr-unesco.ro

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic surprised Romania to the same extent that it surprised the whole world. The measures and sacrifices that society had to make to survive this challenge gradually evolved throughout 2020, and to the concerns of the health crisis there was added anxiety relating to the educational disruption, cultural activities stall, discrimination and lack of inclusion, disinformation and misinformation.

The National Commission of Romania for UNESCO released in 2020 the publication entitled "The experience of the education system during the COVID-19 crisis", depicting 3 categories of perspectives on the first reaction of the education system to the COVID-19 crisis: the institutional one, represented by the measures adopted and the resources mobilized by the Ministry of Education and its partners; the perspective of the

main actors of the system: students, teachers and parents; the opinions of specialists in the sciences of education, who are still at the beginning of the sedimentation and analysis of the information accumulated in this context.

Another publication the Romanian Commission launched in the context of COVID-19 was the policy paper "Addressing the safety of journalists and the quality of information in the context of emergencies — Response and Recovery stages". It covers the security of journalists in a pandemic context, the economic impact of COVID-19 on the media, recommendations for decision-makers to strengthen the partnership with the media and combat information disturbances.



© National Commission of Romania for UNESCO — Children learning about intangible heritage in a practical manner at the Commission's headquarters

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The National Commission of Romania for UNESCO established the Strategic Educational Programme 2020-2023, aiming to disseminate information on the objectives and activities of UNESCO, and how they are implemented together with partners at local level, in Romania. The first two publications released in the framework of this Programme were the aforementioned "The experience of the education system during the COVID-19 crisis" and the anniversary brochure "UNESCO Romania 1956-2021". This trilingual brochure (Romanian-English-French) presents UNESCO, its expertise, major initiatives and specialized areas, as well as the concept of National Commissions for UNESCO, and UNESCO designations in Romania.

The online scientific colloquium "Heritage in the virtual age. Studies and good practices in Romania" brought together representatives from various institutions who presented the experiences of 14 digitization projects, emphasizing the importance of digitization as a method of preservation, research and transmission of tangible and intangible heritage.

In November, the Commission organized the UNESCO National Geopark Forum, where 2 new applications for international geopark status were approved: Buzău County, which applied at the end of 2020, and Oltenia under the Mountain, which will

apply during 2021. Together with the Dinosaurs Geopark of Hațeg Country, the first established in Romania, these new initiatives allow the creation of a national network that will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda objectives.

In partnership with the German Commission for UNESCO, we launched in Romania the international volunteer programme Naturweit, through which young Germans aged between 18 and 26 carry out internships, of 6 or 12 months, at natural sciences institutions. The first institution in Romania that accepted the hosting of a German volunteer was the "Gavrilă Simion" Eco-Museum Research Institute in Tulcea.

On the occasion of the International Arts Education Week, the Commission presented online 6 artistic expressions: the Future Folk project, the Romance song Museum in Târgoviște, the painting exhibition "Polarized Aesthetics", the clothing collection "Pneumatic", the textile exhibition "Walking the Indigo Walk", the "Romance song Youth" Academy of Music.

Pre-pandemic, we organized at our headquarters the event "Mărțișor – Tradition and Legend", attended by 30 students accompanied by coordinating teachers from partner schools of the Commission, in order to present to the young generation an old Romanian tradition celebrated on March 1st.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, we will carry out an interregional collaboration project aimed to ensure an exchange of academics from North African countries and Romania, specialized in archaeology, heritage conservation, art history, who shall offer conferences and workshops for students and researchers, in order to improve knowledge and awareness regarding various aspects of our common cultural heritage. The main objectives of the project are to exchange information and experience in teaching and researching common ancient heritage in North Africa and South-East Europe, and to facilitate contacts and scientific cooperation between specialists in ancient heritage from both regions.

In 2021, we continue to develop the Naturweit programme with new host sites and new volunteers. We also plan to establish 2 new UNESCO Chairs.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Mr Grigory Ordzhonikidze

Email: unescorussia@mid.ru

Website: www.unesco.ru

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The spread of the pandemic COVID-19 has significantly affected all UNESCO priority areas. COVID-19 has become a challenge for the education, culture and science systems. In this regard, in 2020, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO decided to mobilize the potential of its program committees for UNESCO programmes, as well as educational networks – learning cities, associated schools and UNESCO Chairs. In this

report we would like to share some activities implemented by the National Commission in close cooperation with its national partners, foreign colleagues and members of various UNESCO networks.



© Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO — Meeting of the Bioethics Committee on COVID-19 Issues

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Commission of the Russian Federation strengthened cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation. The Russian Committee for UNESCO Educational Programmes and the Commission provided timely information on UNESCO's initiatives in the field of adaptation of educational systems to the pandemic. Two vice-ministers took part in the Global Education meeting and presented the information concerning the Russian experience related to the pandemic challenges faced by the school and higher education system. We shared the UNESCO experience with our members of Global Learning Cities Network (Ufa, Sysert, Kazan, Svetlogorsk), UNESCO Chairs, UNEVOC Centers and members of ASPnet. In response the members of above-mentioned networks planned the anti-COVID-19 activities.

The Conference "UNESCO Chairs collaboration for strategic planning and sustainable development" was held on the 5th of June. It became the first practical online meeting for UNESCO Chairs in Russia. Organizers – UNESCO Chairs of Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, State University of Aerospace Instrumentation, Herzen State Pedagogical University in close cooperation with the Commission of the Russian Federation.

In May, the All-Russian Conference of UNESCO Associated Schools was held. This event served as a catalyst for the activity of Russian Associated Schools in the field of exchange of best practices for adapting the school education system to the conditions of the pandemic. The Conference was organized by the University of Management "TISBI", its UNESCO Chair, National Coordinator of ASPnet and the Commission of the Russian Federation.

The participants presented their experience and positive outcomes of the organization of training in the framework of UNESCO Chairs and leading Russian universities. One of the up-to-date topics was the idea of implementing educational programmes using distance technologies.

10th International Conference "Early Childhood Care and Education" (ECCE 2020 Digital) was held on December 10–12 under the auspices of UNESCO and with the support of the Commission of the Russian Federation. One of the main topics discussed was the impact of the pandemic on preschool education.

The session of the Russian Bioethics Committee was held online on April 30 during one of the toughest periods of the epidemic. It was devoted to the ethical and psychological aspects of the coronavirus pandemic, in particular, the emotional reactions of the population to the disease, the changed living conditions and uncertainty regarding life after the pandemic.

On October 20 the International conference "Botkin readings on bioethics, ethics of science and ethics of artificial intelligence in the context of COVID-19" was held in an online format within the framework of the international scientific Congress "Globalistics – 2020" under the auspices of UNESCO. The organizers are The Russian Committee on bioethics, The Russian Committee of the program "Management of social transformations (MOST)" and the UNESCO Chair for the study of global problems and emerging social and ethical challenges for large cities and their populations of the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The cultural sector has proven to be one of the most vulnerable and has suffered enormous economic losses. The availability of digital content has become even more necessary.

The Russian Research Institute — the national coordinator for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972 held an All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference "Digitalization of Culture and Culture of Digitalization: Modern Problems of Information Technologies" on October 8, with the participation of the National Commission.

Three Russian UNESCO Creative Cities, Kazan, Kargopol and Ulianovsk organized the events in online format aimed to support creativity and art during the pandemic.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021 the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO plans to continue its activities related to countering the challenges of the pandemic and to work closely with ministries and institutions concerned. It is planned to organize a joint meeting of the Russian Committee for UNESCO educational programmes, the Coordinating Committee of UNESCO Chairs and the National Council of UNESCO Associated schools to sum up the results for 2020 and outline an action plan for 2021, share ideas and best practices. We believe that this difficult situation for all members of UNESCO family entrusts national commissions with the important task of coordinating the work of the Organization, as well as of mobilizing efforts aimed at combating the pandemic in line with UNESCO initiatives.

SERBIA

Commission of the Republic of Serbia for cooperation with UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Dr Goran Milašinović

Secretary-General: Ms Aleksandra Kovač

Email: serbia.natcom.unesco@mfa.rs

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In response to the pandemic, the Serbian National Commission strengthened its liaison and coordination role in communication



© Sofija Nestorović — Geopark Djerdap: Open Class about geological heritage on the occasion of the European Researchers' Night in 2020, for students of Elementary and Secondary School in city of Kladovo

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

- Collaborative exhibition "Celebrating the International Mother Language Day in Serbia – the case of Kovacica village", organized at the UNESCO Headquarters with the Foundation Babka Kovacica and the Slovakian National Commission;
- Promotion of activities of the first Serbian Geopark Djerdap (proclaimed at the 209th session of the UNESCO Executive Board), and of the city of Vranje as UCCN Member;
- Promotion of inscription of a new element "Zlakusa Pottery" on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity, and further advocacy of ICH role with the national section of the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts;
- Preparation of one nomination in the framework of the Man and Biosphere Programme (first transboundary BR Mura-Drava-Dunav) and participation of BR Golija-Studenica in #Proud to Share campaign;
- Promotion and mobilization actions with regard to artists, arts education and creative sector (e.g. Project IGRAJ (SE) by the Centre for Drama in Education and Art (CEDEUM));

- Further development of activities within Media and Information Literacy (MIL), including participation in the evaluation of UNESCO's work in this thematic area;
- Intensifying cooperation between UNESCO and L'Oréal Balkan Alumni members in Serbia, marking ten years of cooperation in the National Scholarship Programme for Women in Science.

New cooperation was established with international organizations and NGOs, some of which are partners with UNESCO: UNHCR, ICESCO, Novak Djokovic Foundation, the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), the Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS), the Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) of Serbia, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI), World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU), Commission of the Republic of Bashkortan (Russia). Cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice and especially with the Antenna Office in Sarajevo remains valuable for Serbia's active involvement in UNESCO's activities in the European region.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Establishment of the Secretariat for Danube IHP Committees in Belgrade;
- Preparation for celebration of anniversary of Serbian poet and diplomat Jovan Ducic, included in the list of anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated (in cooperation with institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- Support of the preparation of the World Conference on Basic Sciences and Sustainable Development in Belgrade on 20-22 September 2022, and the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering of the theaters for children and young people in Belgrade in 2023;
- Renewal of the National Commission membership and establishment of National Committee for Geoparks;
- Development of the web page of the National Commission.

SLOVAKIA

Slovak Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Ivan Korčok, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

Secretary-General: Ms Viera Grigová

Website: www.unesco.sk

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO continued to promote UNESCO's values and programmes across the country under the leadership of the Commission's new President Mr Ivan Korčok after the new Slovak government was formed. The new leader attracted a lot of media attention and helped to raise the visibility of UNESCO's agenda and the work of our National Commission. "The current global challenges and their impact on our country are an opportunity to search for and find innovative solutions. In doing so Slovakia can also use the expertise of UNESCO. Many of the visions of UNESCO are also reflected in the new Slovak Government Program Manifesto, whether it is improving the quality of education, science and research, gender equality or the protection of the environment," stressed the new President.

The Commission focused on engaging representatives of the new Slovak government and sensitizing them to the UNESCO agenda. Deputy ministers of culture, education and science took part in the high-level meetings UNESCO organized as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also focused on increasing the visibility of UNESCO designations in our country both through publications and online. Quarantine measures prevented us from organizing the annual Forum of UNESCO partners and friends, but we have established new means of communication with a wide range of institutions and individuals. One success story was the publication of brochure entitled

UNESCO Designations in Slovakia, which informs about the different UNESCO locations, educational institutions, intangible and documentary heritage and natural locations that bear the UNESCO brand. Another good practice put in place this year was the electronic Newsletter of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO that regularly informs about the latest activities of our members and partners and is sent to hundreds of addresses. Moreover, our Commission contributed to the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the UN and UNESCO, notably by creating a travelling exhibition and organizing a student essay competition.



© Slovak Commission for UNESCO — Newsletters and brochures distributed by the Secretariat of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2020

Slovakia is currently a member of the MOST and IHP Intergovernmental Councils. Moreover, our experts are active in the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (Ms Vladimira Fabriciusova), the SDG — Education 2030 Steering Committee (Ms Katarina Deakova) and the Evaluation Body of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ms Lubica Volanska). We are proud of our members who represent Slovakia and our NatCom in intergovernmental bodies of various UNESCO programmes.

ASPnet students participated in interesting projects throughout the year, notably the arts and crafts workshop focused on traditional techniques of decoration that are part of our living heritage, organized by the Centre for Folk Art Production and the University Library in Bratislava. Children have also participated in the International Arts Education Week 2020, they have organized charitable projects and have learnt how to build an insect hotel. The Slovak National Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Education also for the first time ever managed to support the ASPnet schools financially.

Slovak experts participated in the drafting of the text of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and they have formally established cooperation with Category 2 UNESCO centre in Slovenia, the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence IRCAL. On November 3, 2020 Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of the Artificial Intelligence — an expert body of 25 prominent personalities from different areas of our society was created. We are proud that Prof Marta Kollárová, Chairwoman of the Slovak Bioethics Committee and member of the Slovak Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Education also for the first time ever managed to support the ASPnet schools financially.

Despite the pandemic, we witnessed another successful Slovak edition of the l'Oréal UNESCO Prize for Women in Science: Mgr Svetlana Mikliková was rewarded for her research in oncology and MUDr. RNDr. Dominika Fričová for her research of Parkinson disease. Similarly, young girls were once again inspired to study IT thanks to this year's project "Girls Day" organized by the NGO "Aj Ty v IT (you too in IT)".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the following year, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO will continue to develop cooperation with government, youth organizations and schools in the field of global education and education for sustainable development. We will focus on improving our presence on social media to reach a wider audience. Our ambition is also to engage with cities and municipalities in Slovakia on a number of topics.

SLOVENIA

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Dr Verica Trstenjak

Secretary-General: Mr Gašper Hrastelj

Email: gasper.hrastelj@gov.si

Website: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-izobrazevanje-znanost-in-sport/o-ministrstvu/urad-za-unesco/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During the epidemic, the Commission constantly communicated with all UNESCO sites and published various content in the media and social networks. UNESCO sites offered to the general public the possibility of online visits and some provided access to a variety of online materials.

In 2020, the Slovenian Government established the first International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) as a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

IRCAI has established active contacts for cooperation with more than 60 UNESCO Member States already. The researchers at IRCAI approached the incumbent COVID-19 outbreak by quickly building on its proven in-house AI technologies with the intention to engage in raising public awareness and solving the challenge of understanding the pandemic across different computational dimensions and AI models and techniques. IRCAI launched a dashboard: the Corona Virus Media Watch that uses global and national news updates to create powerful narratives and visualizations that ultimately can take us further into future predictions of how the pandemic is evolving across the world. The application is being used by intergovernmental agencies such as UNESCO and the OECD, including policymakers, media and the public to observe the emerging trends related to COVID-19 in their respective country and the world at wide.



© IRCAI

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite some cancelled activities due to the epidemic, the activities of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO were numerous and diverse.

Due to distance learning in Slovenian schools from 16 March till the end of May, some ASPnet projects could not be carried out during this period. Nevertheless, UNESCO schools managed to carry out 46 projects. In autumn, the Slovenian ASPnet decided to join the Futures of Education Initiative and organized focus groups in every region. Regional ASP coordinators held several on-line sessions with various stakeholders: teachers, heads and students in secondary schools and pupils in primary schools.

The Mercury Heritage Management Centre published a Slovenian translation of the educational kit World Heritage in Young Hands in cooperation with the Slovenian

National Commission, this being the 40th translation of the Kit. Under the auspices of the National Commission, all units of UNESCO intangible cultural heritage came together for the first time, and prepared a joint presentation video.

The Commission and L'Oréal Adria awarded three national fellowships 'For Women in Science' for the 14th time, yet the award ceremony was unfortunately cancelled due to the epidemic.

On the 3th Thursday in November, UNESCO's Philosophy Day 2020 was celebrated in the form of an online round table with invited guests and with the participation of students. This year's discussion was dedicated to the philosophical reflection on artificial intelligence.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO will continue to actively cooperate within the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO. An in-person meeting is foreseen for the second half of 2021 in Iceland. Of course, we will also take part online in the Interregional Meeting of National Commissions in 2021 that could not take place this year. As well, we will remain a strong partner of the Lugano Network of National Commissions.

Further, the office of the Slovenian National Commission will collaborate with IRCAI and the Slovenian Government for the organization of a World Conference on Artificial Intelligence which is planned to take place in the second half of 2021 during Slovenia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

If and when the epidemiological situation will be better again, members of the Commission and its office will participate in all important UNESCO meetings.

SPAIN

Spanish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Luis Ramallo

Secretary-General: Ms Leticia Pico de Coaña

Email: hispaunesco@aacid.es

Website: www.aacid.es

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During 2020, the Spanish National Commission focused on its reorganization and the implementation of the Regulatory Framework regarding Association and Clubs for UNESCO. During this year, we did not participate in any presential activities due to the pandemic, but we attended different online events.

In culture, we attended the forum for Spanish creators organized by the Spanish Creative Cities Forum on 26-28 October.

In science, we worked closely with the National Geoparks Committee. Spain did not present new UNESCO Global Geopark applications. In December, the National Commission represented Spain, as observer, in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

In 2020, the National Commission submitted a proposal for a UNESCO Chair on Climate Change, Migration and Diversity, at the University of Salamanca (Spain).

The National Commission granted its patronage to 15 activities. We would like to highlight in particular the activities developed by "Fundación La Caixa" in different UNESCO-related areas such as climate change, social cohesion and interculturality among others.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has reached everyone in different ways. Within the National Commission, all presential activities were cancelled, as well as all the national and international meetings. In May 2020, Ms Leticia Pico de Coaña succeeded Ms Belen Llera as Secretary-General of the National Commission ad interim. In July 2020, Ms Paula Valcarce was appointed as a new Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission.

Despite the special circumstances, the National Commission tried to achieve its mandate by remaining in contact with different sectors and civil society. Through its National Federation for Clubs and Associations for UNESCO, the National Commission will participate in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the UN scheduled for March 2021.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will continue spreading UNESCO values within civil society. We also hope to increase collaboration with other National Commissions in order to develop joint projects to multiply the impact of UNESCO.

Our priorities will be focused on being an active partner of UNESCO programs. At the same time, the National Commission will foster debate on the role of local civil society in facing current global challenges.

The National Commission will actively support the work of the Spanish Delegation to the Executive Board.

The Spanish ASPnet schools will strengthen their commitment to addressing in climate change by sending a delegation of students to participate in the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

In 2020, the National Commission planned to organize the first meeting of Spanish UNESCO Chairs, in collaboration with CRUE (Spanish Rectors Conference), in order to create synergies among different Chairs and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. This event was cancelled due to the pandemic and we will try to organize it in 2021.

SUISSE

Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Thomas Zeltner

Secrétaire général : M. Nicolas Mathieu

Email : info@unesco.ch

Site web : www.unesco.ch

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

En réponse à la pandémie, la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO a dirigé son engagement en faveur de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale (ECM) vers le financement des

projets novateurs qui permettent de faire connaître l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale à un large public. Pour ce faire elle a lancé un appel à projets visant à :

- promouvoir l'ECM, permettre de mieux l'appréhender, et renforcer l'engagement du public grâce à des projets concrets nés dans le contexte de la pandémie ;
- montrer dans quelle mesure l'ECM propose de nouvelles approches aux niveaux tant de la réflexion que de l'action, contribuant ainsi à la lutte contre la pandémie mondiale et ses conséquences sanitaires, sociales et économiques ;
- faire ressortir le potentiel de l'éducation non formelle et informelle pour l'ECM et appuyer les acteurs dans ces secteurs.

Il n'a pas été aisé de départager les nombreux projets soumis, qui présentaient tous un intérêt certain tout en abordant la thématique sous différents angles. Sur la base de critères liés au potentiel de faire connaître l'ECM, à l'originalité de l'idée, à la pertinence, l'efficacité et la faisabilité, la Commission a finalement sélectionné les cinq projets.

L'ECM fait partie des thèmes prioritaires de la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO qui a publié, en 2019, un Policy Brief intitulé « Éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale : Vers une citoyenneté active grâce à l'éducation politique avec une perspective globale dans les secteurs non formels et informels ».



© Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

En partenariat avec les Académies suisses des sciences, la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO organisait le 25 novembre 2020 la 4^{ème} édition de sa Plateforme suisse Éducation 2030 en format virtuel. Comme chaque année, la Plateforme suisse Éducation 2030 a permis de faire le point et d'échanger sur la mise en œuvre de l'agenda Éducation 2030. Cette année, l'événement était consacré au thème : « Quel avenir pour l'éducation en Suisse dans un contexte post-COVID ? »

Sobhi Tawil, Directeur du futur de l'apprentissage et de l'innovation à l'UNESCO, a présenté à cette occasion les résultats préliminaires du rapport mondial sur l'initiative Les futurs de l'éducation développée par l'UNESCO. Un panel composé de spécialistes du monde de l'éducation a permis de dessiner des pistes pour l'avenir du secteur en Suisse.

Les conclusions formulées ont relevé l'importance d'une école solidaire, capable de composer avec les disparités par une discrimination positive et des financements ciblés pour le secteur mais aussi voués à soutenir la transformation vers une école hybride. Elles ont aussi fourni le constat que l'apprentissage à distance reste limité, et assure plus une continuité pédagogique qu'un véritable enseignement. Enfin, elles ont relevé la chance que représente cette crise : c'est une chance d'harmoniser les pratiques, en apportant toujours des solutions ancrées sur le terrain, mais c'est aussi une opportunité d'apporter à chaque élève, des solutions différenciées, en ciblant d'abord ceux qui en ont le plus besoin. La plateforme s'est terminée avec un important rappel sur le rôle de l'école, qui dépasse la simple transmission d'information, en jouant un rôle psychosocial essentiel qui est à protéger en priorité – car oui, l'école « va bien au-delà ».

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En Suisse aussi, la pandémie a forcé l'émergence d'une interdisciplinarité entre les sciences et entre sciences et politique. Dans ce contexte, la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO réfléchit à des modalités afin de mettre son rôle au service d'interface entre les autorités et la société civile, y compris les experts, pour faciliter ce dialogue.

L'organisation de la 7^e Réunion interrégionale des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO en visioconférence figure parmi les activités phares de 2021 et avec de grandes opportunités de travail conjoint au niveau de l'ensemble des Commissions nationales.

Initialement prévue à Lugano (Suisse) du 25 au 29 mai 2020, cette réunion a été reportée en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19 au 22-25 février 2021.

Les objectifs complémentaires de cette réunion sont d'une part de commenter collectivement les propositions préliminaires de la DG sur le 41C/4 et le 41C/5 à la lumière des suggestions formulées lors des consultations régionales et sous régionales, en vue de fournir une appréciation au Secrétariat et aux Etats membres pour la préparation et l'examen des projets qui seront soumis à la 211^e session du Conseil exécutif (printemps 2021) ; de l'autre part de discuter et adopter des recommandations des Commissions nationales sur la Transformation stratégique de l'UNESCO.

SWEDEN

Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Lena Sommestad

Secretary-General: Ms Anna-Karin Johansson

Email: infounesco@regeringskansliet.se

Website: www.unesco.se

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Swedish National Commission was quick to go digital when the COVID-19 crisis hit in March and hosted a number of digital seminars during 2020. While this has been a steep learning curve, going digital has also presented us with new opportunities.

Firstly, our events have benefited from a greater involvement of both national networks beyond the capital as well as international experts and the UNESCO secretariat. Secondly, it has become easier to make our events have been broadcast to a wider audience and also remain available online. Many of our events have been partly held in English, or subtitled in English, so that they are available also outside of Sweden.

The content of these events has also been adapted in response to the pandemic. For example, a long-planned event on cultural policy held in April was re-oriented to focus on the effect of the pandemic on the cultural and creative industries.

The National Commission, together with PLAN Sweden, translated the article written by Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, and Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Chief Executive Officer, Plan International on how the COVID-19 and school closures affect girls. The article was then published in a Swedish magazine on development issues.



© Freja Nilsson — Secretary-General Anna-Karin Johansson during a digital seminar

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite the restrictions and challenges posed by the pandemic, 2020 has been a year of cooperation and closer engagement with the UNESCO network in Sweden.

The Swedish National Commission has submitted its very first nomination of a global geopark in Sweden. This marked the start of a comprehensive review of the policy framework concerning geoparks, including both the role of the National Commission in the nomination process and the national pre-existing system of geopark designations. The National Commission has worked closely with the government agency in charge of the national geoparks to assure that the global UNESCO designations add value to the national system and, conversely, encourage that the core objectives and functions of national geoparks as laid out in national guidelines are in line with corresponding UNESCO documents. The nominated site, Platåbergen, has been an important partner in this process.

Another important focus during the year has been the implementation of the national world heritage strategy (adopted in 2019), in close cooperation with the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. A central purpose of the strategy is to further establish Swedish World Heritage sites as actors contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, as well as strengthening the link to the global level in World Heritage communication. During 2020 work has begun to complement this strategy with a communication strategy and guidelines for nominations of world heritage sites.

The National Commission has also worked closely with the national MAB committee to broaden knowledge of the biosphere programme in Sweden and to increase involvement in the programme among national government agencies. To this end, a national seminar targeting civil servants was organized focusing especially on how the biosphere reserves can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission is a long-time proponent of the importance of civil society engagement. Representatives from civil society organizations are always included in the Swedish delegation to UNESCO's General Conference and the National Commission regularly consults with civil society organizations ahead of strategic decisions.

This became even more important when, on 1 January, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was incorporated into Swedish law. Therefore, we have conducted interviews with representatives from youth organizations to learn more about their views on both youth participation and cooperation with the National Commission. Members of staff within the National Commission were also interviewed. The conclusions will be used to strengthen and develop the cooperation with youth organizations during 2021.

The National Commission has also launched an initiative to strengthen the link between Swedish biosphere reserves and research actors to increase the visibility of biosphere reserves as partners in research for sustainable development, in line with the Lima Action Plan. The first part of this initiative was to map existing links with academia and research institutions. In 2021 this will be followed up, in cooperation with the national MAB committee, through a communication campaign and dialogue between academia and biosphere reserves.

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Dr M. Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms Şule Ürün

Email: webmaster@unesco.org.tr

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Turkish National Commission kept working within the UNESCO fields, firstly by rotating the experts and then by working remotely. The informative texts on the UNESCO website regarding the effects of the pandemic over the UNESCO sectors, especially education, science and culture, are translated into Turkish and uploaded on the website and the social media accounts of the Turkish National Commission.

Under the guidance of the Secretariat of the Turkish National Commission, online meetings and conferences have been organized with the Expertise Committees and the Executive Board, and also with the UNESCO-related stakeholders such as UNESCO HQ, Creative Cities, Learning Cities, UNESCO-related Ministries and L'Oréal-UNESCO National Fellowship Programme Selection Committee as well.

Several meetings organized within UNESCO sectors are: "Looking at the Future through ICH Window: a Virtual Summer School in the Pandemic Period", "National and International Natural Conservation Endeavour and the links between other UNESCO Programmes", "Current Status of the Alevi-Bektaşî Ritual: Semah", "Status of the Wetlands in Turkey over the Pandemic: Evaluation regarding the 2020 Water and Climate Change Report", "First International Turkish Literature Culture Education Symposium", and "Bilge Tonyukuk Consultation Meeting".

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO strongly supports the "UNESCO's response to COVID-19" in terms of education, culture, social and human sciences, natural sciences and communication and information, and deeply suggests that the UNESCO activities to remain active in this time called the "new normal".



© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO — 5th Grand Gathering

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Since 2012, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO biannually organizes the "Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO" with the participation of our boards and stakeholders at the national level, to evaluate the outcomes of the previous UNESCO General Conferences and to get prepared for the next one.

Coinciding with a term of Turkey's Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly, Presidency of UNESCO General Conference and the Membership to the UNESCO Executive Board; 5th Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO was organized online on December 9-11, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planned with the surrounding themes of 70th anniversary of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO (2019), 75th anniversary of United Nations and UNESCO (2020) as well, Sustainable Development 2030 Goals and COVID-19; 5th Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO has aimed to share the mission and vision of UNESCO with our members and stakeholders, to evaluate the outcomes of the 40th UNESCO General Conference organized in 2019, and to review the preparations and to discuss the possible suggestions for the 41st UNESCO General Conference that will be held in 2021. 5th Grand Gathering was planned to be organized via theme-based panels within the event.

Around 370 people including representatives from the General Assembly, Executive Board and the Expertise Committees of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO,

UNESCO Chairs of Turkish universities, academicians, NGOs, private institutions, press and also experts working on UNESCO related areas.

On the first day, following the opening remarks by the Chair of the General Assembly of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the Minister of National Education, Prof Ziya SELÇUK, Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri ERSOY, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yavuz Selim KIRAN and the President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Prof Öcal OĞUZ; promotional video of the National Commission and another video displaying the Resolutions of the 40th UNESCO General Conference have been shown. Kudsi ERGÜNER, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, has also performed a recital for the participants as well.

President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Prof Öcal OĞUZ has given a presentation on the works of the National Commission, then the President of the 40th UNESCO General Conference, the Permanent Delegate of Turkey to UNESCO, Ambassador Altay CENGİZER has provided a speech on current issues of UNESCO and Turkey's position within the processes. Several UNESCO representatives have either actively participated at the panels or sent their video messages to be shown, including Mr Xing QU, Deputy Director General of UNESCO and many others.

Grand Gathering has been wrapped up with the information provided by the panel moderators at the closing session.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Considering the current circumstances, the Turkish National Commission is aware of the continuity of the UNESCO works in local, regional and international levels and desires to keep up the consistent activities in any possible way – online or physically if possible.

Therefore, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO seeks and strives for providing stability especially around 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Artificial Intelligence and global priorities of UNESCO as Gender Equality and Africa as substantial domains.

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO will be in touch with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO, Ministries of National Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism, and also every other related Ministries, public/private institutions, academia and NGOs to provide further cooperation by keeping the culture of working together.

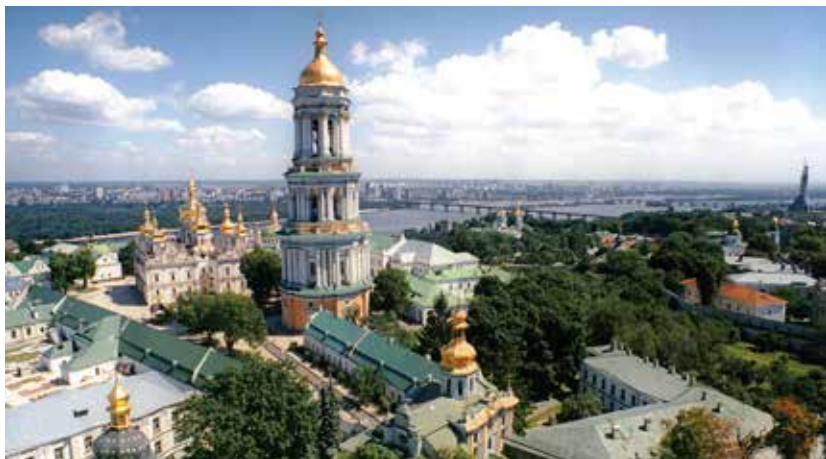
UKRAINE

National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Emine Dzharparova, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Executive Secretary: Mr Artur Oganov

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/>



© Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO - The Holy Dormition Kiev-Caves ("Kiev-Pechersk") Lavra

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation together with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine established the "Culture in Times of Crisis: Institutional Support" Program with the budget of about 18 mln. EUR. This will allow many organizations in the fields of culture, cultural tourism and creative industries to receive support to cover the costs incurred during the period of the lockdown in accordance with the conditions determined by the Foundation.

On 20 April 2020, Ukrainian conductor and UNESCO Artist for Peace Herman Makarenko initiated the 'Art against a pandemic' project, which gathered UNESCO Artists for Peace to transmit a message of solidarity and unity through their art.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

An important event for the Science sector of the National Commission was the opening of the Museum of Science of UNESCO Category II Center – the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. This is the first state museum of science and the first institution of such a level showing the scientific achievements in such spheres as material science, acoustics, optics, human anatomy and physiology.

On 28 April and 6 October 2020, representatives of the Natural Heritage Sector took part in the online meetings of the Joint Committee for Management of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". Online working meetings (round tables) were held on 19 November and 9 December 2020. The first meeting was dedicated to the infrastructure in the buffer zone of the Heritage, and the second to the management of the buffer zone of the Heritage site.

To implement the Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program, in March 2020, the Ministry of Energy together with the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO and the National Man and the Biosphere Committee

summarized information on activities, prepared and sent to the relevant bodies a Report on the implementation of this Action Plan.

The National MAB Committee of Ukraine held two working meetings on the establishment of the Ukrainian biosphere reserve "Pripyat Polissya" and consultations with the National MAB Committee of the Republic of Belarus on the prospects of establishing a Belarusian-Ukrainian transboundary biosphere reserve in Polissya. Joint work with the Romanian party continued to identify areas suitable for a joint biosphere reserve.

In February, the UNESCO/ICOMOS Monitoring Mission visited Kyiv to assess the state of preservation of the Saint Sophia and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra. The report on the results noted positive dynamics.

On 10 December, an International Scientific and Practical Online Conference "World Heritage Sites: Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage" took place online. The event was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the World Heritage property "Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra" on UNESCO World Heritage List. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Culture Sector of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO and the National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Reserve organized the event.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

On November 16, 2020, the President of Ukraine initiated an international flash-mob of video greetings to celebrate the 75th anniversary of UNESCO. The purpose of the event was to draw attention to UNESCO activities and to support the values the organization protects all over the world. Ukraine invites all UNESCO Member States to support the flash-mob and to publish videos on their official channels and social networks about the importance of UNESCO for each country.

Among other priorities for the National Commission is to take an active part in working on draft recommendations on ethical aspects of artificial intelligence with a view to their final adoption. Ukraine has extensive experience and important achievements in this area. In the plans of the National Commission is a dossier for the National Dendrological Park "Sofiyivka" as a monument of landscape art of the late XVIII – early XIX centuries for future possible consideration for the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Science Sector plans to establish the Interdepartmental National Oceanographic Commission of Ukraine as the focal point of interaction with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Colin McInnes

Secretary-General: Mr James Bridge

Email: uknatcom@unesco.org.uk

Website: www.unesco.org.uk

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK National Commission for UNESCO has continued to provide support

and advice to the UNESCO network in the United Kingdom, Overseas Territories, and Crown Dependencies.

We have been inspired and encouraged by UK UNESCO designations resilience and ability to help their communities and networks during these challenging times. We have gathered some of their extraordinary work at <https://unesco.org.uk/covid-19>

In 2020, we published new research showing how UNESCO projects can help build a greener, more equal and peaceful world, while also creating financial value. The National Value of UNESCO to the UK (www.unesco.org.uk/national-value) shows how UK UNESCO projects create local networks to protect and conserve some of the most important places across the country and generate an estimated £151 million of financial benefit to local communities each year. The report provides tangible solutions of how UNESCO designations can help build resilient societies after COVID-19, alongside examples of concrete actions to reinvent our relationship with nature and develop decent jobs and foster social cohesion. We hope UNESCO sites will be able to use the findings in the coming months and years.



© Laura Hamlet — North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

On International Literacy Day we were delighted that United World Schools, a charity based in the UK, was awarded the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize. United World Schools' innovative programmes support ethnic-minority children who cannot attend government schools as they do not speak the national language, Burmese, in which the curriculum is taught. United World Schools provides primary education to these children by employing and training local teachers who can speak ethnic-minority languages. Read more at: <https://www.unitedworldschools.org/news/unesco-literacy-prize>

On 16 November 2020, the UK National Commission for UNESCO partnered with UNESCO and the UK Government to celebrate the 75th anniversary of UNESCO's

founding in London. #UNESCO75 kicked off a year of celebrations which will culminate in global celebrations in Paris at the General Conference in November 2021. From Edinburgh Castle turning blue, the joint letters to UK Members of Parliament from many of the UK's UNESCO sites, and the Early Day Motion in the UK Parliament signed by 33 Parliamentarians, the #UNESCO75 campaign was a huge success.

The #UNESCO75 hashtag we created for the day reached around 5.6 million people on Twitter alone. The campaign put all the UK's UNESCO designations on the national and world stage and showed support for UNESCO from the grassroots to the international, alongside the power of UNESCO to bring people together from across the world. We look forward to working with our colleagues in National Commissions in 2021 to continue celebrating the 75th anniversary of UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The UK National Commission for UNESCO and Praxis at the University of Leeds will be holding a virtual conference on 'Heritage and Our Sustainable Future: Research, Practice, Policy and Impact'. Conference Save the Date: 22 February — 5 March 2021. The conference will bring together a diverse range of cultural heritage and sustainable development contributors, including policymakers, practitioners and researchers, but also NGOs, museums, private sector representatives and other stakeholders from across the globe. United by the shared goal of collaboration for sustainable progress, the conference will explore how best to utilize cultural heritage research on the ground to drive forward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, especially in ODA-eligible countries.

The UK National Commission for UNESCO is delighted to be partnering with the Scottish Government, Visit Scotland, and the 13 land-based UNESCO designations in Scotland to launch a new UNESCO Trail in Scotland in 2021. The first of its kind, the trail will represent a unique collaboration across the natural, historic environment, creative and cultural sectors and include UNESCO's 13 place-based designations: World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities and Global Geoparks.



Latin America and the Caribbean

BAHAMAS

Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO

Ambassador: Mr Desmond F. Edwards

Secretary-General: Ms Deidre L. Bevans

Email: dbevans7180@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

International Jazz Day (IJD) is celebrated annually by UNESCO on April 30th. The Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO in conjunction with the Division of Culture planned a day of celebration to culminate with an outdoor concert featuring jazz artists. However, due to COVID-19 protocols those plans had to be cancelled. We received an invitation from the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz to participate in a virtual IJD by submitting a video. A local jazz band Vice Versa, which consists of husband-and-wife team Clinton Crawford and Naomi Taylor-Crawford recorded a wonderful performance and also brought greetings on behalf of the Bahamas. The National Commission submitted the video and it allowed the Bahamas to be featured among the countries around the world

in the #JazzDayAtHome global submissions on the jazzday.com website. This also provided an opportunity for Bahamian jazz lovers, disappointed by the cancellation of the outdoor concert with the ability to join in the IJD celebrations from the comfort of their homes.



© Naomi Taylor-Crawford — Clinton Crawford & Naomi Taylor-Crawford performing for #JazzDayAtHome

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The National Commission began the year with the Ambassador, Secretary-General and Chairperson of the National Commission Culture Committee paying a courtesy call on the Governor General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, His Excellency Sir Cornelius A. Smith, to discuss matters pertaining to the National Commission. The Governor General was presented with periodicals and literature pertaining to UNESCO's five areas of competencies.

We partnered with the Ministry of Youth for their Junior Ambassadors Training. The Secretary General presented on the topic "Becoming Global Citizens". Partnerships were continued with the Bahamas National Trust, Water & Sewerage Corporation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. New partnerships were formed with the National Junkanoo Committee, Educulture Bahamas, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Ministry of Tourism.

Nomination Papers were completed and submitted for an element for consideration of inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Urgent Need of Safeguarding. This is the first submission for our country.

Although COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns provided challenges for the National Commission it remained active through virtual meetings. The National Commission facilitated the participation of the Minister of Education in UNESCO virtual meetings of Education Ministers to discuss effective national responses to

ensure continuity of education in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Education Sector of the Cluster Office for the Caribbean hosted a number of webinars on the response to COVID-19 inclusive of guidance on the safe reopening of schools that personnel from our Ministry of Education attended and benefited from.

The Ambassador, Secretary General and Chairperson of the Culture Committee attended the virtual Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place from 14 to 19 December 2020.

A Focal Point was appointed for the International Convention Against Doping in Sport.

Programme Specialists from the Cluster Office for the Caribbean in all five areas of competencies met with the Secretaries General of the Caribbean National Commissions which assisted in strengthening our programmes. The Secretary General of the Bahamas National Commission served as one of the Rapporteurs for the Consultation of the Director-General for UNESCO with National Commissions of Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean sub-region on the preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022 – 2029 41 C/4 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022 – 2025 41 C/5.

The National Commission closed the year by hosting "Christmas Caroling in Place with the Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO" on Facebook Live on the NATCOM's Facebook page.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Our country has two sites (Lighthouses of the Bahamas and Inagua National Park) on the Tentative List of World Heritage. The next objective is to have the sites moved from the Tentative List to inclusion on the World Heritage Map. Other priorities are as follows:

- Work with our Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme Focal Point to establish Water Resource Studies and Research at the University of the Bahamas under the UB Sustainable Development Programme;
- Develop a Bahamas National Commission Youth Climate Change Group to assist with educating the public on Climate Change;
- The National Commission will host activities to celebrate in 2021, 40 years of the Bahamas becoming a Member State of UNESCO and heighten public awareness of UNESCO and its mandate;
- Revisit consideration to join the Man and the Biosphere Network;
- Partner with CID-Nassau Section (International Dance Council) to promote dance studies in the Bahamas;
- Youth engagement remains a priority.

BRAZIL

Brazilian National Commission for UNESCO

Secretary-General a. i.: Mr Ricardo Martins Rizzo

Email: comissao.unesco@itamaraty.gov.br

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Brazilian National Commission for UNESCO in its current configuration does not have a mandate to implement actions or programmes. In its institutional role, it follows closely, however, all relevant aspects of bilateral cooperation, actions, and initiatives implemented by UNESCO or by UNESCO's National Office in Brazil, as well as all government activities developed with UNESCO's participation, with a view to facilitating such activities, to promoting dialogue with all relevant sectors of Brazilian institutions and society, and to ensuring that such work feeds into Brazilian national priorities.

In 2020, the National Commission followed closely the implementation of several initiatives in response to the pandemic by UNESCO's National Office with different counterparts in Brazil. The Commission is of the view that several among such initiatives, included the ones listed below, are examples of good practices and cover a wide range of issues affected or aggravated by the pandemic:

- Mobilization of UNESCO Chairs in Brazil, such as the Chair on Distance Education at the University of Brasília (UnB), for the preparation of a repository of Open Educational Resources (OER), and the Chair for Teacher Education at Carlos Chagas Foundation (FCC), for organizing exchanges on solutions and challenges they have encountered in practicing distance education during the COVID-19 pandemic (a preliminary report is available on www.fcc.org.br/fcc/educacao-pesquisa/educacao-escolar-em-tempos-de-pandemia-informe-n-1);
- Support to the Ministry of Education's priorities related to production of OER, specially for the Family Literacy program, aimed at making available quality content for early childhood to families in vulnerable situations, which became critically important in the context of the pandemic;
- Partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and with Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology in establishing the Directory of

open access scientific information sources on Coronavirus (diretoriodefontes.ibict.br/coronavirus/index.php/en/ciencia-aberta-e-vida-english/);

- Partnership with the National Youth Council (CONJUBE) that carried out a study on youth and the coronavirus pandemic, according to which fear of infection, unemployment, the difficulty of adapting to virtual education and even the increase in depression have become usual marks among 15-29-year-olds (available in Portuguese on www.juventudeseapandemia.com);
- Partnership with the Central Union of the Favelas (CUFA), a civil society organization that develops relevant community projects across the country, in support of the "Mothers of the Favela" project, which aims at promoting income-generating activities to mothers living in favelas who are home leaders and who, in this pandemic moment, are more exposed to vulnerabilities (to date, the project has benefited more than 640 thousand families, with more than 8 thousand tons of food and a total of almost R\$ 82 million invested in vouchers and basic-supply baskets);
- In the context of the Brazilian comprehensive humanitarian response to the inflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela, UNESCO in Brazil is partnering with other UN agencies to preserve the traditions of indigenous migrants from Venezuela (Warao ethnicity), who culturally transmit their knowledge and traditions orally and risk losing their cultural knowledge due to the impact of the pandemic.



© CONJUBE / LEITE, Ariany and REZENDE, Cristina — Partnership between the UNESCO Office in Brazil and the National Youth Council (CONJUBE)

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In 2020, the Commission continued to organize and promote selection processes for grants, prizes, and other modalities of participation in the Organization's programmes and activities, such as the selection and submission of projects to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity; and it continued to overview cooperation initiatives of UNESCO with organizations in Brazil. The Commission also continued

to engage with various UNESCO partners, such as the UNESCO Schools Network, to address specific concerns regarding their activities during the pandemic. It participated in the first Aspiring Geopark Projects Webinar, organized by the Brazilian Geopark Network, with a view to explore future avenues for cooperation. It continued to engage with students, schools, universities, civil society and other actors to disseminate information on cooperation opportunities within the UNESCO system.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be a key concern in the joint efforts between UNESCO and its Brazilian counterparts in 2021. Projects and cooperation initiatives aiming at preparing the recovery, reopening of schools, preventing dropout, re-engagement with the cultural and tourism sector, relaunching of creative economy and support to vulnerable groups will be looked at as priorities. The Commission will remain ready to facilitate this agenda, focused on recovering, reopening and reengaging. At the same time, as Brazil prepares to mark the 200th anniversary of its independence in 2022, preparatory events or activities that shed light on the importance of this milestone for reaffirming strategic commitments in culture, science and education present further opportunities for joint endeavors.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Natalio D. Wheatley

Secretary-General: Dr Allison Flax-Archer

Email: aflax-archer@gov.vg

Website: <http://bvi.gov.vg/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The BVI National Commission for UNESCO supports the mission statement as laid out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture but also that of UNESCO Headquarters which is to serve the Virgin Islands community by promoting international co-operation among the Organization locally and throughout the world through the UNESCO platforms. In response to the pandemic the BVI National Commission for UNESCO found innovative ways to continue the work of UNESCO by supporting the UNESCO and United Nations days.

One of the successful events that was led by the BVI National Commission for UNESCO which provided unlimited visibility for the Commission and UNESCO was the celebration of International Literacy Day. Literacy stands at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and through the collaborative efforts with residents of the Territory, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Government Department of Information and Public Relations, the BVI National Commission for UNESCO was able to produce a documentary highlighting thoughts on Literacy. The responses to literacy and its importance especially during the pandemic were refreshing and motivating which ranged from the young to elderly.

The documentary is available for the world view online. BVI National Commission for UNESCO International Literacy Day 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHi9itnoUwU>



© British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The BVI National Commission for UNESCO as the rest of the world functioned under very different circumstances but continued to carry out the work of UNESCO. Successes ranged from our well received World Poetry Day documentary celebration during the pandemic and Territory wide lockdown period. The public was invited to submit poems for the BVI National Commission for UNESCO's World Poetry Day Competition held under an anniversary theme, "Celebrating the forefathers of our nation who set the path for 70 years of Legislation." Residents aged 7 to adults participated. The celebration magnified that through the writing of poetry under the relevant anniversary theme, the cultural sacrifices made by our forefathers was further realized. During the celebration, the Director of Culture, reminded the Territory that "the art of poetry is certainly one of the finest ways to educate and empower students to explore their heritage and culture. I look forward to future collaborative efforts with the BVI National Commission for UNESCO." BVI National Commission for UNESCO World Poetry Day 2020- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=258450945243258>

International Literacy Day was another great success where past educators and other residents of all ages shared their thoughts on the importance of Literacy. This was presented as a documentary where the UNESCO organization was highlighted.

The BVI National Commission shared and encouraged the utilization of the ASPnet tools through the online platform. The National Commission participated in ASPnet day on 24 April to promote sharing of good practices between three schools which highlighted the importance and success of collectively contributing to the bigger picture of learning so that no one is left behind during the pandemic and even

after. The Commission also assisted in the launch of ASPnet educational resources on UNESCO related topics and promoted online ASPnet tools for teachers to utilize.

We joined the world with the hope for a medical cure for COVID-19 that still looms and shared best practices in panel discussions online that promoted knowledge sharing on how other countries were moving forward amidst the times. In particular, the webinar series entitled "Sustaining Educational Opportunity during COVID-19: Supporting teachers and education personnel to ensure continuity of learning in the Caribbean", where the Secretary General for the BVI National Commission for UNESCO was a panellist in support for Global Citizenship Education (GCED) to propel the opportunities during this period and beyond.

The BVI National Commission for UNESCO has partnered with the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town, a non-profit organization, and other institutions, to promote sustainable development within the home, school, church and workplace for the inhabitants of the British Virgin Islands during the pandemic. Key activities included the utilization of social media and remote communication on all platforms. Webinars were presented on ways to promote social development in everyday life during this pandemic.

In November 2019, the BVI National Commission for UNESCO hosted a Global Citizenship Education (GCED) workshop in the British Virgin Islands for key stakeholders where partnerships were forged between the Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean, UNESCO Santiago and UNESCO Office in Mexico and we have continued that relationship in 2020, where the Secretary General was a panellist in the webinar entitled "How to strengthen the integration and implementation of Global Citizenship Education in the education systems of Latin American and the Caribbean?", under the theme "Integration of Global Citizenship and transformative education into the curriculum and educational materials".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The hopes are to host the webinar entitled "Continued Awareness of Global Education in the British Virgin Islands," through funding from the UNESCO Participation Program pending for 2021.

COLOMBIA

Colombian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Claudia Blum de Barberi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Executive Secretary: Ms Tatiana García Correa

Email: tatiana.garcia@cancilleria.gov.co

Website: <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/unesco/about>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Colombia actively engaged in most of the different discussing scenarios related to the pandemic of COVID-19 and its impacts on all the working areas of UNESCO. The most important participation of the country, in this context, would be the statement given by the President of the Republic of Colombia, H.E. Iván Duque Márquez, at the high-level segment of the extraordinary session of the Global Meeting on Education (GEM 2020), virtually held on 22 October. In his intervention, the President explained some of the measures adopted in

the education sector in Colombia to face the challenges of the pandemic, such as: expanding coverage, food support, strengthening virtual education programmes through open platforms, among others. Colombia's participation in this important meeting at the highest level was made possible due to the joint efforts of the Executive Secretariat of the Colombian National Commission for UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of Colombia to UNESCO, and the Ministry of National Education as the representative of GRULAC in the Bureau of the SDG – Education 2030 Steering Committee.



© Picture from: <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/unesco/news> — H.E. Iván Duque Márquez, President of Colombia

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Executive Secretary of the Colombian National Commission for UNESCO participated as vice-chair of one of the groups at the Regional Consultation for Latin America for the elaboration of Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5), held online on 29-30 June.

In Sciences:

- In December, Colombia submitted to the Intergovernmental Man and Biosphere Programme – MAB UNESCO, the ten-year periodic report of all its Biosphere Reserves, namely: Tuparro, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Cinturón Andino and Seafflower;
- Colombia actively contributed to the consultation processes of the most important recommendations currently under discussion in UNESCO: Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Recommendation on Open Science.

In Education:

- The cities of Bogotá, Manizales and Medellín shared their experiences on the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning webinar series "Learning Cities Response to COVID-19";
- The cities of Tunja, Quibdó and Rionegro joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities on 21 September 2020, for their good practices in promoting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Colombia submitted four (4) project proposals for UNESCO Chairs and one (1) for a UNITWIN Cooperation Program.

In Culture:

- For the 11th Call to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, the Colombian National Commission received 96 project proposals, which sets a record of applications over the last years;
- On its 15th session, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, decided to inscribe the Traditional knowledge and techniques associated with Pasto Varnish Mapa-Mopa of Putumayo and Nariño, on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
- Colombia participated in the second part of the project sponsored by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA), which included the preparation of the second quadrennial report on the implementation of the Convention for Cultural Diversity (2005), and the production of a gender report on the participation of women in cultural industries in Colombia.

UNESCO Prizes:

- Ms. Jineth Bedoya Lima, a Colombian journalist, was the laureate of the 2020-2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on the recommendation of an independent international jury of media professionals;
- Professor Eduardo Pérez was the laureate in the individual category of the 2020-2021 UNESCO/Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for his pioneering work in developing technology-based resources for people with visual and hearing impairment;
- The L'Oréal-UNESCO Program "For Women in Science", awarded 14 Colombian women researchers for their project proposals and their important contributions to the progress of science at the national level.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- To submit at least three nomination files currently under elaboration, namely:
 - World Heritage Convention: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta;
 - Intangible Cultural Heritage: Traditional knowledge of the people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta;
 - Global Geoparks Network: Geoparque Volcán del Ruíz;
- To conclude the negotiation process between the Government of Colombia and UNESCO to draft a new agreement for the functioning of the Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC);
- To strengthen and increase the presence of Colombian cities and educational institutions in UNESCO Networks such as: Learning Cities, Creative Cities, UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Program;
- To keep representing GRULAC countries in the Bureau of SDG – Education 2030 Steering Committee by playing a leading role in all its working processes;
- To initiate the project for the indicators of Culture on the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with the city hall of Bogotá, the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO.

CUBA

Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Oscar León González

Secretary-General: Ms Mariana Natasha Díaz-Argüelles Ramírez-Corría

Email: cncu@cncu.minrex.gob.cu /
natasha@cncu.minrex.gob.cu

Website: <http://www.cncu.cu/>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

During the year 2020, the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO maintained intensive activity and developed an important number of joint actions with institutions linked to UNESCO's mandate, participating at the highest level in the various virtual meetings convened by the Organization.

Cuba participated in the online forum "Economic, political and health impacts and challenges derived from the Covid-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean", organized by UNESCO. The opening remarks were made by Ms Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, and Her Excellency Ambassador Yahima Esquivel Moynelo, Permanent Delegate of Cuba to UNESCO. Among the intellectuals who participated at the panels, the following stand out: Nobel Peace Prize Rigoberta

Menchu; Abel Prieto, President of Casa de las Americas, Boaventura de Sousa, professor at the University of Coimbra, as well as Pablo Gentilli, Secretary of Educational Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Argentina. It was an appropriate moment to call for regional unity, to value the knowledge of our native cultures, especially their harmonious relationship with nature.

In addition, the Commission celebrated the 73rd anniversary of the membership of Cuba in UNESCO and the founding of the CNCU with various actions in the virtual and social networks, demonstrating Cuba's commitment to UNESCO's values and mandate.



© Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In education, Dr Ena Elsa Velázquez Cobiella, Minister of Education, participated in the extraordinary session of the Global Education Meeting. In the high-level segment the Minister highlighted the achievements, experiences and challenges of this sector, in the framework of the response to the COVID-19. She also stressed the importance of fostering international cooperation and solidarity for the fulfillment of the Education Agenda 2030.

In addition, Cuba participated in the Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Impact of the Pandemic on Education. Ms Martha del Carmen Mesa, First Vice-Minister of Higher Education, and Ms Dania López, Vice-Minister of Education, participated in the virtual meeting. It was an appropriate space to share with the countries of the region the experiences to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 on education.

In culture, it is significant mentioning the participation of Mr Alpidio Alonso, Minister of Culture, in the Virtual Meeting of Ministers of Culture organized by UNESCO. Likewise, the virtual meeting of the Transcultura program was developed with the collaboration of the UNESCO Havana Office. Its objective was to strengthen cooperation between Cuba, the Caribbean and the European Union through culture and creativity. The debate was very useful, since the current state of the program was presented and future actions to be carried out were exchanged.

In the field of sciences, the participation of Cuba was highlighted in the virtual sessions of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). The Cuban representative, Mr José Cedeño Tamayo, head of the National Direction of Physical Education, Sports and Recreation shared with the other members of the organ the valuable national experience that the Caribbean island has accumulated in the matter of physical education and sports training since the revolutionary triumph of 1959.

Likewise, it is worth mentioning the participation of Dr Rafael Bello and Dr Alejandro Rosete, Cuban experts from the Academy of Sciences, in the virtual regional meetings of July and August for the preparation of the draft Recommendation on Ethics in Artificial Intelligence.

Within the framework of the Open Access Week, the Commission, the UNESCO Havana Office and the Representation in Cuba of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization carried out the virtual panel "Access to scientific information and response to COVID-19 in Cuba". The panel had as objectives to make visible the role of open access to scientific information in the implementation of quick and effective responses to sanitary emergencies such as the one the world is living today, as a result of COVID-19. Likewise, it systematized the good practices and lessons for the development of policies or initiatives aimed at widening the access to scientific information in this kind of situations, within the framework of the fulfillment of SDG 16 of Agenda 2030.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

By 2021, the Commission will carry out several activities to celebrate the anniversaries associated with UNESCO, namely: the bicentenary of the birth of Rafael María de Mendive and the centenary of the birth of Cintio Vitier. Likewise, it will continue to accompany the different beneficiaries for the effective implementation of the projects approved by UNESCO for Cuba.

It is worth mentioning as activities for next year the annual meetings of the UNESCO Chairs, of the National Network of Schools Associated to UNESCO and of the National Committees (IHP, MOST, MOW, Bioethics, etc.).

CURAÇAO

Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Steven Croes, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

Secretary-General: Ms Marva C. Browne

Email: marvabrowne@yahoo.com / unescocuracao@outlook.com

Website: www.natcomcuracao.org

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a lockdown, we were forced to make some changes in the Bring Your Own Bag project. In phase 2 of the project, we went digital and named it "Bring Your Own Bag: In Digital Movement". This phase consisted of introducing four assignments for the participating youth at home during the lockdown with three different tasks to do with recycled materials (plastic bottles,

paper and newspaper, cardboard and wood): research, word art to create a poem, haiku and/or a quote of the material and to make an artwork with the material. We created a Bring Your Own Bag (Trese Bo Tas) Face Book page on which we posted and shared all the results of the children with their artwork.



© Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO/Grupo Orkidia — From a carton box to a car! Work of art by Mi-Eelis Lake and her father who assisted her as one of the tasks from recycled material and the result was spectacular

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The year 2020 had an unusual impact on humanity with the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to adapt to a new normal in which, among others, the use of digital resources was accelerated in an instant in the educational system, projects and activities in Curaçao. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports had various presentation roles in the Education Response to COVID-19 in the Caribbean. The Ministry met with the stakeholders in the field to see how they could prepare for the reopening of the schools. On a daily basis, the public was kept informed of developments and what was happening with education through press conferences and briefings. Weekly meetings were held with all school boards to obtain information on how to attend the reopening of schools. An educational television programme for primary education was produced and prepared; a survey was done to obtain better and more accurate information on the amount of students unable to receive distant education, have available devices to do their tasks and internet for contact with the schools. By Ministerial Decree central exams did not take place this year and the school exams were used for final points for students to receive their diplomas and or certifications.

A timeline was prepared for re-opening of schools covering the period from 6 May to 10 August. This timeline included, among others: installation of hygiene products in the schools, preparing school personnel for school reopening, protocol for restarting education on primary and secondary level, evaluation of the adapted education programme, information sessions on logistics, safety, safe environment, and hygiene.

Furthermore, the National Commission also contributed to having the text for the UNESCO Caribbean Video Animation for the Safe Return to School within the COVID-19 Crisis translated into Dutch and Papiamentu as well as for the posters. This material will be distributed to schools and placed on social media and sent to the media for coverage.

Continuing being creative during the COVID-19 measures, the toolkit on Anti bullying was handed over to the School boards in a drive through event. The school boards drove up one behind the other and received their toolkit through the car window from the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2021, we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary as Associate Member to UNESCO. On 25 October 2011 Curaçao became the 7th Associate Member to UNESCO and in view of this we have started preparations for commemorating this date. The National Commission's Secretary General has held various zoom meetings with UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean as well as the National Commissions Unit at UNESCO Headquarters. There will be collaboration between the National Commission and UNESCO to organize joint activities starting in January 2021 when the year of celebration is launched.

The approved Participation Programme on a regional capacity building for National ASPnet coordinators will be executed together with the St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO. In 2021 we hope to start discussions with UNESCO on the role of Associate Members within the Organization, this way bringing to light how Associate Members function within the Organization. There will be year-long activities including the visit of the Director of the Kingston Cluster Office to Curaçao. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we will be organizing more online activities and if possible, a few might be in person. There will also be a digital publication titled "Reflection of 10 Years Associate Member to UNESCO".

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Carmen Heredia, Minister of Culture

Secretary-General: Mr Jesús Paniagua

Email: secgral@cndu.gob.do

Website: www.cndunesco.gob.do

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic through the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO established a strategic alliance with Progresando con Solidaridad (PROSOLI), which is the main social protection program of the Dominican Government and the administrator of social subsidies, to benefit the members of the Cofradía del Espíritu Santo of Los Congos de Villa Mella (inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO), the Cocolo Danzante Los Guloyas

Theater of San Pedro de Macorís (declared a Masterpiece of Oral Heritage and Intangible of Humanity of UNESCO in November 2005), among other groups, artists, artisans and cultural managers with the inclusion in the social assistance program “Stay at Home” for the provision of financial aid in the midst of the pandemic. This initiative reaffirms our commitment with representatives of the Intangible and Cultural Heritage during these times of crisis.



© Dominican National Commission for UNESCO

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In a joint effort, the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO, the La Negreta Cultural Association, with the technical support of UNESCO's Regional Office for Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean, established a working group to organize the response to the health emergency generated by COVID-19 in the cultural space of the Cofradía del Espíritu Santo de los Congos de Villa Mella. The working group managed, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the solidarity support of sanitary material and fortified food for the members of la Cofradía and sixty families that reside in the Mata Los Indios sector, Santo Domingo Norte. Similarly, it was preparing a plan, in consultation with the community, to generate solutions to the situations that have placed the cultural demonstration in danger of disappearing.

To promote the fulfillment of UNESCO's ideals, in the sustainable development of youth, we have managed to reactivate the UNESCO Dominican Republic Youth Club (CJURD) program, as an initiative to train young people with tools and capacities so that they can become aware of their importance as social entities in the national problems that affect us as a country. 200 new young people joined the UNESCO Youth Club of Santo Domingo.

From the Interinstitutional Affairs department, we managed to reactivate the work of subcommittees and specialized committees by holding meetings to get closer to the members. So far, we started work with the Subcommittee on Education, Subcommittee on Natural and Exact Sciences, Subcommittee on Culture,

Subcommittee on Communication and Information, Subcommittee on Social and Human Sciences, Committee on Memory of the World, UNESCO Chairs.

We worked on the development of cooperation agreements with partner institutions, with the following ready for signature:

- Framework collaboration agreement between the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE), the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO and the María Batlle Foundation, on education, culture and the inclusion of people with disabilities;
- Cooperation agreement between the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO (CNDU) and the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications INDOTEL, to work and jointly execute plans, projects and initiatives for local development and the improvement of education in the country, emphasizing in information and communication technologies;
- Cooperation agreement between the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO and the Parque Zoológico Nacional, to work and jointly execute plans, projects and initiatives for local development and the improvement of education in the country, emphasizing the protection of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development;
- Cooperation agreement between the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO and the Acuario Nacional, to work and jointly execute plans, projects and initiatives for local development and the improvement of education in the country, with an emphasis on environmental education and climate change.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Creation of a National Safeguarding Plan for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Dominican Republic, to register the Intangible Cultural Heritage that exists in the Dominican Republic to guarantee its due protection and safeguarding;
- Creation of the UNITWIN Network of UNESCO Chairs, to promote international cooperation between universities and the creation of networks, to contribute to strengthening higher education centers in the world, reducing the cognitive gap, mobilizing specialized knowledge and collaborating in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Program between now and 2030;
- Expansion of the Network of UNESCO Associated Schools, adding schools from all regions of the country;
- Inclusive Museums project, to turn the Museums of the Colonial Zone declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity, into inclusive museums, in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, Universidad Iberoamericana and Maria Battle Foundation.

HAÏTI

Commission nationale haïtienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO

Président : M. Pierre Josué Agénor Cadet

Secrétaire général : M. Jean Coulanges

Courrier électronique : natcomunescohaiti@yahoo.fr

ACTIVITÉS EN RÉPONSE À LA PANDÉMIE

L'action la plus réussie a été le suivi du projet "Appui à la restauration d'écosystèmes forestiers dans la réserve de biosphère La Selle" pendant la pandémie COVID-19. En Haïti, la déforestation a atteint des proportions énormes. Agir pour réhabiliter durablement les aires dégradées demeure une priorité. Plusieurs organismes ont contribué à cette initiative : l'Agence espagnole de coopération internationale pour le

développement (AECID), l'Organisme autonome des parcs nationaux de l'Espagne (OAPN), l'UNESCO, le ministère de l'Environnement (MDE), la Commission nationale haïtienne de coopération avec l'UNESCO (CNHCU) et le Comité national haïtien du MAB. Le projet a abouti à plusieurs résultats dont les suivants :

- l'aménagement et le renforcement de six pépinières communautaires pour l'intensification de la production de plantes maraîchères pendant la pandémie ;
- la formation et la sensibilisation d'environ 300 bénéficiaires directs aux initiatives socio-économiques durables ;
- la création et le renforcement de quatre regroupements d'alliances socioéconomiques / mutuelles communautaires pour la réhabilitation des écosystèmes agroforestiers ;
- Le projet a ainsi adressé l'anticipation et la mitigation de pénuries alimentaires liées à la pandémie COVID-19 ;
- La mise à disposition d'eau, de structures de production, de stockage et de transformation au bénéfice des communautés renforce leurs capacités à produire dans des délais courts les aliments nécessaires à leur survie pendant et après la pandémie.

AUTRES ACTIVITÉS CLÉS EN 2020

En 2020, la CNHCU a dû s'adapter au contexte de crise généré par la COVID-19. Elle a donc réduit ses actions en éducation, en sciences et en culture, à cause du confinement généralisé observé en Haïti. La CNHCU a pu cependant continuer son accompagnement des communautés locales de la réserve de biosphère La Selle dans la réhabilitation d'écosystèmes agroforestiers. L'idée du Comité national du MAB et du ministère de l'Environnement (MDE) était de porter les bénéficiaires à survivre localement en temps de pandémie et après. Entre avril et juin 2020, les communautés cibles ont pu préparer au moins 300 mille plantules. Plusieurs partenaires internationaux, bilatéraux et nationaux ont supporté financièrement cette action.

Parallèlement, la CNHCU et le Comité national du MAB ont continué l'aménagement du Jardin botanique national d'Haïti (JBNH). Il s'agit d'un vaste projet de recherche, de conservation des plantes et d'éducation à la biodiversité. Il est financé principalement par le ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle (MENFP).

A un autre niveau, en octobre 2020, le Réseau des écoles haïtiennes associées de l'UNESCO, sur instruction de la Coopération internationale du RÉSEAU, a organisé deux débats sur "les futurs de l'éducation". Ces consultations se sont tenues avec une trentaine de chefs d'établissement, d'enseignants et d'élèves de deux écoles associées. L'objectif était d'engager la communauté du RÉSEAU dans un débat pour repenser l'éducation et façonner l'avenir afin d'aboutir à des sociétés plus justes, plus pacifiques et plus durables.

Par ailleurs, l'Unité Culture de la Commission nationale a appuyé les efforts du Bureau de l'UNESCO en Haïti et ceux du gouvernement haïtien dans la mise en place d'un espace virtuel où les acteurs culturels haïtiens ont échangé entre eux et avec leur public pendant la crise de la COVID-19. Cette activité initiée en avril a duré toute l'année 2020. En outre, la Commission nationale a appuyé et traité les dossiers des opérateurs culturels haïtiens ayant répondu à l'appel à projet 2020 du Fonds international pour la diversité culturelle (FIDC).

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Pour l'année 2021, la Commission nationale envisage les actions suivantes :

- Initiative zéro déchet avec le Réseau des écoles haïtiennes associées de l'UNESCO et renforcement des capacités d'enseignement-apprentissage de ces institutions en temps de pandémie ;
- Suivi du renforcement des capacités pour l'éducation au développement durable (EDD) dans les deux réserves de biosphère d'Haïti ;
- Suivi de l'Appui à la restauration d'écosystèmes forestiers dans la réserve de biosphère La Selle dans une perspective post-pandémie et d'équité du genre ;
- Aménagement du Jardin botanique national d'Haïti avec un musée de l'eau à ciel ouvert en lien avec les thèmes de la phase VIII du Programme hydrologique intergouvernemental (PHI) ;
- Quatre ateliers de renforcement de capacités sur les conventions de l'UNESCO : Convention de 1972 pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel ; Convention de 2003 pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel (PCI) ; Convention de 2005 sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles ; Recommandation de 1980 relative à la condition de l'artiste ;
- Sauvegarde et valorisation du patrimoine naturel et culturel de Saint-Louis du Sud (Réserve de biosphère La Hotte) avec l'inscription d'éléments sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial en péril ; Inscriptions d'éléments sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité.

HONDURAS

Honduran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Arnaldo Bueso

Secretary-General: Ms Mayra Leticia Motiño Canales

Email: comisionunescohn@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In Honduras, at least half of 2.9 million students do not receive classes due the closure of educational institutions amid the

COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this difficult situation facing the Education Sector of our country, the Honduran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO and the National Coordination of the Network of Associated Schools of UNESCO, have undertaken the following actions:

- Development of Webinars for Teachers of UNESCO Associated Schools in Honduras, with the objective of strengthening the capacities of teachers in the use of technological tools and their implementation in the development of their virtual classes, addressing topics such as: principles of design to improve presentations and Web 2.0, the use and incorporation of the same in education;
- Teachers of UNESCO Associated Schools in Honduras have been provided with online educational resources for their use in their virtual classes (videos, virtual platforms, templates for preparing PowerPoint presentations, templates for development of infographics, among others).



© Ibania Avila Sandres — Strengthening the capacities of teachers, parents and students in times of COVID-19

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Honduran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO continued to work for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We followed up on all the activities emanating from the Honduran Delegation to UNESCO in Paris, and the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago de Chile.

We completed the projects executed in the previous biennium in the Cacique Lempira Señor de las Montañas Biosphere Reserve. It was also possible to design, present and start executing 6 projects under the Participation Program: 1) Strengthening the National MAB Committee and the 4 local management committees; 2) Prevention of child sexual abuse; 3) Strengthening Virtual Education; 4) Communication campaign through the arts against gender violence; 5) Home Education Strategy for Rural Area students who do not have connectivity in the face of the COVID-19 Crisis; and 6) Strengthening the food security of the student population after the passage of Hurricane ETA and IOTA in Honduras.

In cooperation with ASPNet, a consultation on the Futures of Education was carried out with teachers, students and parents. The webinars on critical thinking were also organized at the Pedagogical University.

We participated in the online training sessions on education, culture, sustainable development, youth, journalists, world citizenship, leadership, geoparks, biosphere reserves, hydrology, water and gender, oceanography, aquatic heritage, climate change, water sanitation, consultation on zoonosis carried out by the German cooperation, Indigenous Peoples, role of Afro-descendant women artists, archives, human rights, historical memory and transparency, network of young people in Honduras, the Regional and Subregional Committees on Natural Disasters, Memory, Collective Knowledge and Identities, illicit trafficking of cultural property, 2005 Convention and the celebration of 40 years of the Copan Ruinas archaeological park of being a cultural heritage site recognized by UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the framework of the development of the 2030 Agenda, the country's vision and taking as a reference the mandate of UNESCO, the Honduran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO is interested in co-organizing at a regional level a project focused on young people of the Central American Indigenous Peoples; holding a congress in order to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experiences between academics, professionals from Latin America, the United States and Europe who work with and on indigenous peoples from the perspectives of history, ethnohistory, anthropology and related sciences, as well as the design and implementation of policies for the social development or the conservation of the cultural heritage of these peoples.

JAMAICA

Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Olivia Grange CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

Secretary-General: Mr Everton Hannam

Email: jamaicanatcom@jncunesco.gov.jm

Website: <http://jncunesco.gov.jm>

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (JNC-UNESCO) was also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We adjusted to the work from home policy adopted by the Government of Jamaica and the subsequent protocols. Operational activities were shifted to virtual platforms to maintain contact locally, regionally and internationally. We collaborated with the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO on "UNESCO Open Science & Decolonization of Knowledge, Caribbean region" (15 October), with several partners (National Library of Jamaica, Ministry of Education, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Library Association of Jamaica) for "Dialogue for Change" and a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage activity (Caribbean), as well as with JFUCCA (Clubs for UNESCO) for the International Youth Leadership Conference held in November, Jamaica's Youth Month. We

continued our ongoing relationship with the Maroon Community through the Community Radio Abeng 88.7 in Accompong.

Our most impressive activity was the successful hosting of the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) chaired by JNC-UNESCO's Chairperson, Hon Olivia Grange. It was the first time that this meeting was being held virtually and from Jamaica. In this activity we partnered with the UNESCO Secretariat, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean and our parent ministry. This meeting facilitated the input of 140 countries and 800 participants.



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OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

We continued our engagement bilaterally and regionally. We participated in the Consultative Meeting for the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5) and our Secretary-General was elected as one of the vice-chairs. We also participated in the GRULAC meeting (17 September), the 11th session of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (14-15 September), the 8th session of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Bureau meeting (8-10 September), the 11th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All program (23-24 September) and LAC Online Training for the Periodic Reporting of the 2003 Convention.

JNC-UNESCO Secretary-General was invited and conducted a 3-day sensitization workshop for new members of the Curacao National Commission. We hosted the regional workshop on the "Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property in the Caribbean" and presented at the UNESCO Caribbean Virtual Dialogue "Rethinking the Media Landscape in Caribbean Small Island Developing States post-COVID-19" as well as at the Mental Health panel of the ICS World Youth Day "Health, Education and Economic Empowerment" webinar (12 August). Through funds received under the Participation Programme, JNC-UNESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Education hosted the micro-science sensitization for St Catherine (20 February

2020) enabling the sharing and capacity building for the development of science education. The National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica hosted an online conference "Ethical issues in health care" (18 June) and in collaboration with University of the West Indies, Mona, had an online conversation "Ethical issues in the management of COVID-19" (23 August). JNC-UNESCO actively supported Jamaica's submission «Revivalism, a religious practice in Jamaica» to UNESCO for inscription on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Our continued engagement with the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean was significant especially as forty Jamaican teachers benefitted from the online/blended learning initiative and blackboard academy. We participated in webinars/seminars organized and hosted by them such as: UNESCO Talk: Spotlight on Gender Equality & Artificial Intelligence (1 December), Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility AI4IA Conference (28 September), International Day for Universal Access to Information – A Caribbean Perspective in partnership with the Media Institute of the Caribbean (28 September), "How Open Science can be promoted in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean" (21 September), Media & Information Literacy (MIL) Caribbean Consultation (30 July), Webinar #6 for the Caribbean: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in times of COVID-19 (29 July).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

There will be a special youth project (TALK UP YOUTH) funded by the Participation Programme. This project is designed to give youth a voice in response to problems and dislocation brought about due to COVID-19. The project will address a number of issues in order to develop a survival kit. Some of the areas to be addressed: mental health, online skills, infrastructural challenges with technology, where to get help, how to benefit from creative skills. This kit will be shared on different media platforms. Information will be generated through radio broadcast and community involvement.

Another project "Capacity Building in Climate Change Resilience" will address the increase of knowledge and awareness about climate change to build the resilience of vulnerable community members through training in environmentally sustainable livelihoods (diversifying income stream). The training sessions will also address issues of COVID-19.

Furthermore we will continue to engage with our Caribbean and international partners in areas that are mutually beneficial.

MEXICO

Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Esteban Moctezuma Barragán

Secretary-General : Ms Mayi Berreneche

Email: conalmex@nube.sep.gob.mx

Website: www.dgpmpyc.sep.gob.mx

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Secretary of Public Education was invited to join the UNESCO Special Ministerial Group on the educational impact of the COVID-19. The meeting took place in March 2020 and was led by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. The meeting highlighted the experiences of various countries in organizing online tests, as well as other alternative measures that may include replacing tests with research projects, home tests or portfolio evaluations, and written tests replaced by a single oral test.

On June 15, 2020, the CONALMEX convened the First Virtual Meeting of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in which the state coordinators of 20 states and teachers from their schools participated. During the event, a conference

was held to guide teachers in identifying and treating young people affected by the isolation resulting from COVID-19.



© Mexican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO — Excmo. Sr. Don Esteban Moctezuma Barragan

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay during her first visit to Mexico on 26-27 February 2020 led the international community in the discussion regarding the future of the world's indigenous languages and reinforced the cooperation projects between the Organization and Mexico. She held a meeting with the President of the Republic, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on 27 February at the National Palace, prior to the opening ceremony of the High-Level Event "Building a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages". The Government of Mexico and UNESCO signed a framework agreement, which will establish the general basis for cooperation in the design and development of actions to promote the development of education, science and culture.

UNESCO Director-General also held meetings with Marcelo Ebrard, Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Alejandra Frausto, Secretary of Culture; Esteban Moctezuma, Secretary of Education; and Antonio Molpeceres, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations agencies in Mexico. Among the actions that will strengthen cooperation with Mexico, Audrey Azoulay signed a Framework Agreement for Collaboration with the Secretary of Culture and an agreement for the establishment of the Category 2 Center: Mesoamerican Institute of Sciences in Chiapas.

In March 2020 the CONALMEX managed the candidacy of the Museum of Memory and Tolerance of Mexico City for the 2020 edition of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence.

On October 28, 2020, in the framework of the 32nd session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which was held virtually, the Secretariat of the UNESCO MAB Programme informed Member States of Mexico's decision to withdraw the Gulf of California Islands biosphere reserve from UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. On this subject, Mr Fernando Camacho Rico, Director General of Institutional Development and Promotion of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), took the floor to inform that CONANP and the MAB Committee of Mexico had agreed to withdraw the mentioned reserve from the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

In 2020 Professor Esperanza Martínez Romero from the Center for Genomic Sciences at the National University of Mexico was the winner of "For Women in Science" Program in the area of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, for her pioneering work in the use of ecological bacteria to support plant growth to increase agricultural productivity and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers.

In 2020, the following municipalities applied for membership of the Learning Cities Network: Municipality of Puebla, Puebla.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Execute the necessary steps to:

- Promote institutional participation in order to advance in the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals ensuring that the institutions involved comply with the Sustainable Development Goals indicators;
- Link with UNESCO to advise and support institutions in the implementation and improvement of response to the COVID-19.

PERU

Peruvian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Ricardo David Cuenca Pareja, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Ms Maria Amelia Trigos Barentzen

Email: mtrigosob@minedu.gob.pe / comiunesco@minedu.gob.pe

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Peruvian National Commission programmed its activities to disseminate the 2030 agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4 “Quality education”(SDG 4); to promote Peruvian cultural heritage in schools and the participation of girls and women in science — issues raised since 2018 Workplan approved by the General Assembly of the Peruvian National Commission. Based on these strategic objectives, the Chair on City, Landscape, and Heritage of Universidad de Lima was established. We nominated candidates to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) with the participation of a professional panel selected in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the assistance of the UNESCO Office in Lima. Our Municipalities of Amazonas and Arequipa were selected as Learning Cities. Under the project “Creating capacities for the effective implementation of the Educational Agenda 2030”



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within the Participation Programme, the National Commission trained senior officials of the Ministry of Education on the importance of SDG4, its goals, and its priorities related to development and competitiveness. There were four (4) theoretical-practical workshops aimed at identifying the key points of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the link between the established Goals and the relevance of SDG4.

The video of the Max Uhle School (Arequipa, Perú) was shared within the framework of the UNESCO ASPnet. Likewise, teachers and students were consulted to know about their dreams and concerns about the Futures of Education and reported to UNESCO, Paris. However, none of the projects related to the protection and conservation of the environment, bio-gardens, and development sustainable continued due to the restrictions stated by the national government.

The Peruvian National Commission consulted with different national organizations to prepare a draft program and budget for the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5) required by UNESCO, Paris. And, finally, the Secretary-General actively participated in all the meetings organized by UNESCO.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In Peru, only 30.8% (1337) from 4343 researchers identified by the National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC after its Spanish acronym) are women and, just 11.8% (513) belong to some branch of engineering. Public and private organizations, most of them belonging to the Technical Committee of Science of the Peruvian National Commission carried out various activities to commemorate February 11, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

To promote the vocation and improve the number of girls interested in science, a science fair was held in 2020 for girls and boys who also had the opportunity to talk

with Peruvian scientists and learn about their projects. Attendees were able to enjoy various types of chemistry, physics, and biology experiments; learn about microbes and parasites; build small robots and models; use 3D printers; and other activities. Exhibitions were prepared by the Peruvian Space Agency (CONIDA), the National Planetarium of the Geophysical Institute of Peru (IGP); the Los Olivos Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIELO) — Los Olivos District Municipality; the Peruvian Chapter of the American Chemical Association (ACS Peru Chapter), the Center for Preparation for Science and Technology (CEPRECYT), the STEAM Club of the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University, Fab Lab Peru, Digitoy, MYPs, Codehunter, volunteering STEAMERS of the Municipality of Lima and the Ministry of the Environment.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

We would like to organize subregional activities related to UNESCO’s mandate and the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly quality education and promotion of science for girls and women. It is important for us to learn international experience on monitoring and evaluating progress in the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda.

On the other hand, we also would like to be part of the capacity building activities for the National Commission’s staff members. We would like to improve our capacities to manage different sectors of UNESCO with the participation of our governmental, non-governmental and private organizations.

We are interested in having a good relationship with ASPnet schools from other countries, especially in the Latin American region, and finally, we are working hard to promote, with Peruvian public universities, the creation of a UNESCO Chair in Sciences. The National Commission appreciates the work being done by the Latin American Education Network on the holocaust and genocides and interested in strengthening its participation in this network.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Jonel H.F. Powell, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Secretary General: Ms Dorothy Warner

Email: dorothy.warner@moeskn.org

Website: www.unesco.edu.kn

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The University of the West Indies UWI St. Kitts and Nevis Open Campus Site organized a virtual event "Contending with Fake news and Disinformation in the Caribbean during the COVID-19 Pandemic" under UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC). The initial target audience of journalists from the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis was extended to include journalists from the Caribbean region. Held over 19-20 November 2020, the event aimed to ensure the

development and maintenance of professional standards that will provide accurate delivery of service journalism; counter the impacts of campaigns of disinformation; and ensure the dominance of science in addressing pandemic conditions. The journalists of the Caribbean benefitted from a training to meet the requirements of these imperatives: Journalistic language and scientific storytelling, Basic journalism principles in the face of crises, Verification techniques to identify disinformation and propaganda and Guidelines for journalistic practice in the face of the pandemic.



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OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Owing to delays on-the-ground in implementing the development of National Sport Policy framework over 2018-2019, the project "St. Kitts and Nevis National Sport Policy Framework" was extended by UNESCO, and subsequently completed in May 2020. The project was tailored to address the virtues of sport in improving health, as well as the overall governance of a national sport policy framework. Mr Mark Mungal, UNESCO accredited sport policy expert, conducted an extensive review of the national sports policy needs and consulted widely in proposing new institutional structures that transcend age and gender and speak to equality for all. The four focus areas proposed for Government consideration were Pathways to Excellence, Health-Promoting Physical Activity, Sport as a Tool for Development and Sport Enterprise.

The following four project proposals were approved under the UNESCO Participation Programme for 2020-2021: 1) Regulatory and Operational Guidelines for the establishment of the National Teaching Council; 2) Developing a St. Kitts and Nevis Accreditation policy framework and enhancing the SKN accreditation Board; 3) Phase 2: Completion of the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP)

for St. Kitts and Nevis; 4) Clean-up of the Cayon River/Ghaut and the Hermitage area. The 4 projects covered major areas of the Federation's development strategy.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) sponsored a UNESCO capacity-building pilot project in SKN aimed at strengthening the Inventory Preparation Capacity for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH in St. Kitts and Nevis. The project, now in its third and final phase, is progressing according to plan, led by two focal contact points, Ms Marlene Phillips (St. Kitts) and Mr Patrick Howell (Nevis), and is scheduled to be completed by April 2021.

International Days celebrated under the St. Kitts and Nevis national Commission for UNESCO: International Youth Day (12 August), International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (23 August), International Literacy Day (5 September).

The last year saw a significant uplift in media communications directed at civil society, NGOs, government ministries, youth, the wider Caribbean region, and international donors, relating to the impact of UNESCO's activities on the ground in SKN.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

SKN will seek UNESCO/ICOMOS heritage expertise to assist in identifying, inventorying and documenting the outstanding universal value of potential World Heritage Sites in the Federation. This is being conducted in the framework of Updating the Tentative List of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The SKN Department of Culture, on the basis of a resubmitted request for 'technical assistance', will seek to implement the project aimed at facilitating the introduction and/or elaboration of policies and strategies that protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions as well as the reinforcement of institutional infrastructures supporting viable cultural industries.

SKN will pursue measures to comply with the terms of the anti-doping Convention: seek to reach beyond the present 60% threshold for compliance. Based on the national report, some 10 areas are earmarked for strengthened compliance with/implementation of the Convention, which are being vigorously addressed by the dedicated SKN Anti-Doping Compliance Team via a desk review exercise.

SAINT LUCIA

Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Dr Gale T. C. Rigobert

Secretary-General: Ms Marcia Symphorien

Email: slunatcom@yahoo.com / unesco@education.gov.lc

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO considers as its 2020 success story the launch of the local chapter of the ResiliArt movement and the subsequent hosting of a programme of activities spotlighting artists and other creatives and highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on their lives and livelihoods.

Participation in Saint Lucia's ResiliArt movement was simple but impactful, encouraging people to get involved in the ResiliArt Debate and the Sensitisation Campaign. The ResiliArt Debate brought together, artists and creatives from around Saint Lucia to discuss the many challenges faced by the culture sector and the creative industries and as well to explore approaches to build the resilience of artists and the industry. A number of Media Houses joined the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO in the Sensitisation Campaign which saw the development and hosting of special programming showcasing the work of artists. The highlight of the ResiliArt Movement,

however, was a Major Event tailored to provide Calypsonians with a Stage and a Voice.

The Saint Lucia National Commission in collaboration with Balance Inc. presented Balance Unified Tent (B.U.T) under the theme Resilience Kaiso. B.U.T was a live production showcasing Saint Lucia's Best Calypsonians. It was designed to fill the void brought about by the cancellation of Saint Lucia carnival 2020 due to COVID-19. This Initiative underscored the "universal recognition of the important role that art plays as a catalyst for nurturing creativity, innovation and cultural diversity and promote the development and enjoyment of art".



© Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO — Official Launch of the Saint Lucia ResiliArt Movement (Secretary General Ms Marcia Symphorien and members of Balance Inc (Calypsonians): Lennon "Blaze" Proper, Agnes "Black Pearl" Chester, Linus "JC Brown" Cadet, Anthony "Herb Black" Lewis, Marileen "Lady Leen" Baptiste)

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

The Saint Lucia National Commission welcomed 2020 with the exciting launch of the publication "From INSPIRATION to CREATION Saint Lucian Women Sustaining Lives and Livelihoods through the Arts". This work of art documents the contributions of forty Saint Lucian women, from diverse backgrounds in various creative and artistic disciplines who have fashioned opportunities for themselves and their families and maintained their livelihoods primarily from the arts. Funding for this project was secured under the UNESCO Participation Programme for 2018-2019.

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saint Lucia National Commission managed to maintain a dynamic and interesting work programme, remaining actively involved in a number of projects and events. In February, the Commission launched the second annual Kwéyòl Poetry Writing Competition as part of Saint Lucia's observance of International Mother Language Day and World Poetry Day. This year's competition, which also coincided with the celebration of Saint Lucia's 41st Independence Anniversary (22 February 2020), was held under the theme: "Lè-a vivé: Annou mété tèt-nou ansanm". The prize-giving to honour the three finalists of the Competition (First Place, Mr Damien René, Second Place, Ms Anazilta Tench and Third Place, Ms Jacqueline Simon) was held in October 2020 as part of Saint Lucia's observance of Creole Heritage Month.

In April 2019, the Saint Lucia National Commission collaborated with the Pitons Management Area (PMA) Office, Department of Sustainable Development to formally launch the "PMA-UNESCO Club" in Soufriere, the home of Saint Lucia's World Heritage Site. This initiative is intended to increase youth participation in heritage and biodiversity conservation and promotion, and to engage youth in collective action through training, science, technology and innovation, information sharing and advocacy. As part of ongoing activities, the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO and the PMA Office hosted a PMA UNESCO Club Logo Competition in September of 2020.

From March to December, the Saint Lucia National Commission participated in a number of local, regional and international webinars, organized by UNESCO in collaboration with regional and international partners including the UNESCO-UNICEF-WORLD BANK series on Framework for the re-opening of schools and the UNESCO/UWI-sponsored Media Training Workshop on Contending with Fake News and Disinformation in the Caribbean during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The workshop held on 19-20 November brought together media practitioners from around the Caribbean to explore techniques to challenge propaganda and disinformation and develop fair and responsible media practice in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Observance of the 40th anniversary of the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO;
- Implementation of National Language Policy;
- Implementation of project "Revisiting the debate about male underperformance in the context of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Saint Lucia".

SINT MAARTEN

Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: The Hon. Dr Rodolphe E. Samuel, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

Secretary-General: Ms Marcellia Henry

Email: henrymarcellia@gmail.com

Website: www.unesco.sx

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO posted and shared updates, videos, and literature to educate and inform the public of Sint Maarten about the coronavirus on our UNESCO Sint Maarten Facebook page. The National Commission invited the Minister and personnel of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, schoolboards representatives, school managers, teachers, NGOs and civil society to participate in the many webinars and training sessions organized by UNESCO.

The Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO ensured that the Department of Education and Culture provided data to UNESCO concerning how these areas (education & culture) in Sint Maarten were impacted by COVID-19. The National Commission also assisted in identifying COVID-19 related funding opportunities and technical support possibilities for St. Maarten.

To bring further awareness and to educate the community about COVID-19 safety protocols, the National Commission sponsored projects that promoted proper procedures for combatting/fighting the coronavirus.



© Department of Communication – Left Secretary-General of the Sint Maarten National Commissions, Ms Marcellia Henry, second from right, Prime Minister The Hon. Silveria Jacobs.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

A key activity that the Secretary-General of the Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO led in 2020 was the chairing of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) workgroup for the Four Countries of the Dutch Kingdom platform (4LO). The focus area for the workgroup in regard to ICH was the enhancement of partnerships, providing online capacity building opportunities, establishing ICH inventory lists for countries without expanding existing inventory lists, and finalizing the ICH international nomination policy for the Dutch Kingdom.

The National Commission cosponsored the publication of the book 'Captured by Corona' by Sint Maarten authors. The book is a compilation of poems and letters from the 2020 Beyond Kultura Events Foundation writing competition about the coronavirus lockdown period. Local writers and poets creatively wrote about how

they coped with confinement, life-changing events because of the pandemic, what COVID-19 means to them, best safety practices, and other topics.

On 25 September, 2020, the Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO received a certificate of appreciation for its outstanding contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for St. Maarten from Prime Minister The Hon. Silveria E. Jacobs. The National Commission was recognized for its collaboration with the Department of Interior and Kingdom Relations (BAK) and the University of St. Martin to host series of seminars on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The National Commission's continuous efforts to educate the education sector about the SDGs was applauded. The presentations to more than two hundred educators from elementary, secondary, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) schools, and the successful SDG creative expression high school project to educate and build awareness amongst high school students were praised

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Training for the school coordinators and teachers based on how to use the programmes and curricula developed by UNESCO is vital. Therefore, a sub-regional/regional/interregional activity on ASPnet capacity building and resource-mobilization in 2021 is envisaged. Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Education through supporting Caribbean States to incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change into the curricula and focusing on DRR at the School level is another important area for the Caribbean region.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

President: Dr Nyan Gadbsy-Dolly, Minister of Education

Chairperson: Mr Dennis Francis

Secretary-General: Ms Debra Lalloo

Email: unesco.info@moe.gov.tt

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The National Commission celebrated World Science Day for Peace and Development on 12 November, with a virtual panel discussion entitled, "Virtual Learning: Risks and Rewards – Charting a course towards a more efficient Education System". The event was held in conjunction with the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. The event encompassed a wide cross section of stakeholders in the education sector, including the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association, President of the National Parent Teacher Association, a developmental psychologist, a faculty development specialist and a former Board Member of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, amongst others. The event was live streamed on social media and the recording uploaded on the YouTube Channels of both organizations for future viewing.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

With a view to incentivizing the attractiveness of science to all our students (boys and girls), the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission in conjunction with the National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) agreed on an initiative of strategic collaboration to highlight the outstanding achievement of Women in various fields of science in the national landscape. The women selected as presenters for this occasion were a sampling of the women of Trinidad and Tobago in science who have broken important ground and achieved excellence in their respective fields. The symposium entitled "Celebrating Women and Girls in Science in Trinidad and Tobago" was supposed to be the signature event for 2020. However, mere days before the event, it had to be cancelled in response to COVID-19 restrictions. The country then went into a nationwide lockdown which drastically affected the mandate of the National Commission as all schools were also closed.

At this point, the National Commission had to reformulate the execution of its mandate from physical to virtual. Still settling into a new environment from a

recent relocation, the Commission was faced with a number of infrastructural challenges transiting to fulfilling its mandate virtually. However, this led to the revitalization of its social media presence. The National Commission launched its YouTube Channel "NatComTT Virtual" in observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September, with an inaugural message of peace from the Chairperson of the Commission.

Also, in 2020, Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Network with the designation of its first site - North-East Tobago Biosphere Reserve. Tobago's North-East region is now the largest MAB site in the English-speaking Caribbean Small Island Developing States (the only larger UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Caribbean is located in the French territory of Guadeloupe). This Reserve presents a rare largely intact Caribbean Island Ridge-to-Ocean ecosystem that includes the world's oldest tropical rainforest reserve, the Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve, established in 1776.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In light of the pandemic, the National Commission is seeking to consolidate its internet presence and that of social media to be able to reach its target demographic. As a result, the National Commission will be focusing on digital outreach and education. Being a small island state, climate change and other environmental issues will be a priority, together with gender-based education.

Trinidad and Tobago have two proposed projects under the Participation Programme that are currently being revised from its original version because of COVID-19 restrictions. Once approved, we will be overseeing national projects in the areas of culture and ICT/science.

URUGUAY

National Commission of Uruguay for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms Ana Ribeiro

Secretary-General: Mr Marcello Figueredo

Email: unesco@mec.gub.uy

Website: comisionunesco.org.uy

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

After half a year of distance learning, because of the pandemic, the Government authorised the return to face-to-face classes, what in turn enabled the Commission to run several activities. One of them was the annual photography and plastic arts contest for the ASPnet students, which had "Water" as its subject this year. The contest had great acceptance both among pupils and teachers with over 300 children and teens taking part in it.



© Camila Méndez – First prize "Water" Contest 2020

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

In March 2020, alongside the change of Government in Uruguay, the Commission renewed its authorities. The democratic, legal and institutional stability traditional to the country, enabled a seamless transition, allowing the Commission to move forward with its projects and its general policies present for over 70 years. We attended every international instance to which UNESCO invited us. Taking advantage of the months in which the activities were scarce, we launched our new website, redesigned from scratch (comisionunesco.org.uy) and started our presence in social networks such as Twitter (@unesco.uy). We are currently working on venturing into Instagram (@redpeauy @rutasunesco.uy).

We celebrated that Uruguay was given financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in order to help a highly regarded project "Bandoneón: el sonido del tango", one that will take the best of our efforts for the next 30 months.

In spite of the difficulties imposed by the pandemic, we also maintained and renewed our traditional cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Montevideo: together we celebrated the annual meeting of our UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, we worked on Science Clubs and coordinated new projects and ideas for ASPnet. On 2 November, we participated alongside the Director of the UNESCO Montevideo Office in a presentation on good practices in the territory during the training meeting for the National Commissions convoked by UNESCO. On 7 December, our Minister of Foreign Affairs met the Director-General of UNESCO in Paris, confirming Uruguay's commitment to the Organization.

Nowadays, we intend to relaunch, strengthen and amplify the project "Rutas UNESCO". This project, together with our Biosphere Reserves, the geopark "Grutas del Palacio" and our UNESCO sites, hold special relevance in pandemic and post-pandemic times, which will force us to rethink local and global tourism.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission plans to collaborate with other commissions and committees of the UNESCO family in projects associated with Geoparks, ASPNet, and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

UNESCO Field Network

Region/Office	Office type	Country coverage
Abuja	Multi Sectoral Regional Office (West Africa)	Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo
Abidjan	National Office	Côte d'Ivoire
Accra	National Office	Ghana
Dakar	Multi Sectoral Regional Office (West Africa - Sahel)	Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal
Bamako	National Office	Mali
Harare	Multi Sectoral Regional Office (Southern Africa)	Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Maputo	National Office	Mozambique
Windhoek	National Office	Namibia
Nairobi	Multi Sectoral Regional Office (East Africa)	Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
Addis Ababa	National Office Liaison Office	Ethiopia Liaison Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Juba	National Office	South Sudan
Dar-es-Salaam	National Office	Tanzania
Yaoundé	Multi Sectoral Regional Office (Central Africa)	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe
Brazzaville	National Office	Congo
Kinshasa	National Office	Democratic Republic of The Congo
Libreville	National Office	Gabon
Beirut	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States Cluster Office to Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine
Baghdad	National Office	Iraq
Amman	National Office	Jordan
Ramallah	National Office	Palestine
Cairo	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States Cluster Office for Egypt, Sudan
Khartoum	National Office	Sudan
Doha	Cluster Office	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Rabat	Cluster Office	Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia
Almaty	Cluster Office	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Tashkent	National Office	Uzbekistan
Apia	Cluster Office	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tokelau (Associate Member)
Bangkok	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific Cluster Office for Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Singapore, Viet Nam,
Phnom Penh	National Office	Cambodia
Hanoi	National Office	Viet Nam
Beijing	Cluster Office	Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, China, Republic of Korea
Jakarta	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific Cluster Office for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste
New Delhi	Cluster Office	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka
Dhaka	National Office	Bangladesh
Kathmandu	National Office	Nepal
Tehran	Cluster Office	Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkmenistan
Kabul	National Office	Afghanistan

Region/Office	Office type	Country coverage
Islamabad	National Office	Pakistan
Havana	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean Cluster Office for Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti
Port-au-Prince	National Office	Haiti
Montevideo	Regional and Cluster Office	Regional Bureau for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean; Cluster Office for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay
Brasilia	National Office	Brazil
Santiago	Regional and National Office	Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean National Office to Chile
Kingston	Cluster Office	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago as well as Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat and Sint Maarten (Associate Members)
Quito	Cluster Office	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
Lima	National Office	Peru
San José	Cluster Office	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
Guatemala	National Office	Guatemala
Mexico	National Office	Mexico
Brussels	Liaison Office	European Union and its subsidiaries bodies in Brussels
Geneva	Liaison Office	United Nations in Geneva
New York	Liaison Office	United Nations in New York
Venice	Regional Bureau	Regional Bureau for Sciences and Culture in South-East Europe

Abbreviations list

Liste des abréviations

AHEG	Ad Hoc Experts Group
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ALECSO	Arab Leagues Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
APCEIU	Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding
APFN	Asia Pacific Future Network
APGN	Asia Pacific Geopark Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASPnet	UNESCO Associated Schools Network
BEAR II	<i>Fond « pour une meilleure éducation pour l'essor de l'Afrique »</i>
BIOPALT	<i>Biosphère et Patrimoine du Lac Tchad</i>
BRESCE	UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
CApED	Capacity Development for Education Programme
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBLT	<i>Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad</i>
CDIS	Culture for Development Indicators
CEDEAO	<i>Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest</i>
CEDEUM	Centre for Drama in Education and Arts
CEEAC	<i>Communauté Economique des Etats d'Afrique Centrale</i>
CERALC	Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
CESA	<i>Stratégie Continentale de l'Education pour l'Afrique de l'Union Africaine 2016-2025</i>
CIB	<i>Comité International de la Bioéthique</i>
CIGEPS	Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport
CIOFF	Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts
CLC	Community Learning Centre
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
CONANP	<i>Commission Nationale des Aires Naturelles Protégées</i>
CONCYTEC	Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation
COFIL	<i>Comité de Pilotage</i>
DIKTAS Project	Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ECM	<i>Éducation à la Citoyenneté Mondiale</i>
ED-ALIGN	Aligning curriculum/learning, teacher policies and practices, and assessment
EDD	<i>Education au Développement Durable</i>
EEF	Equitable Education Fund
EFTP	<i>Enseignement et la Formation Technique et Professionnelle</i>
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
FESPACO	<i>Festival Panafricain du cinéma et de l'audiovisuel de Ouagadougou</i>
FIDC	<i>Fond International pour la Diversité Culturelle</i>
FLL	Futures Literacy Laboratories

GA	General Assembly
GAP	Global Action Programme
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
GEMR	Global Education Monitoring Report
GOL	Gender Objective List
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GO-SPIN	Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments
GSGWMSA	Gender-Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia
IA	<i>Intelligence Artificielle</i>
IBC	International Bioethics Committee
IBE	International Bureau of Education
ICC	International Co-ordinating Council
ICCAR	International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICOM	International Council of Museums
ICOMOS	International Council of Monuments and Sites
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICT	Competency Standards for Teachers
IFAP	Information For All Programme
IFCD	International Fund for Cultural Diversity
IGBC	Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
IGC	Intergovernmental Committee
IHP	Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
IICBA	International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa
IICAS	International Institute for Central Asian Studies
IPE	International Institute for Educational Planning
IITE	Institute for Information Technologies in Education
IJD	International Jazz Day
IKCEST	International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology
IMP	Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Project
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IOC-WESTPAC	IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IPDC	International Programme for the Development of Communication
IRCAI	International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence
IRCTUD	International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage
ISESCO / ICESCO	Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
ISTIC	International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation
IUPAC	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
IYGG	International Youth Green Games
JTF	Joint Task Force
LINKS	Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
LLECE	Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education
MAB	Man and the Biosphere programme
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MIO ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
MOST	Management of Social Transformations

MOST	<i>Programme de Gestion des transformations sociales</i>
MOW	Memory Of the World
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSPD	National Strategic Development Plan
OAPN	<i>Organisme Autonome des Parcs Nationaux</i>
ODD	<i>Objectifs de Développement Durable</i>
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OER	Open Educational Resources
OREALC	UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSCE	Organization for Security of Co-operation in Europe
OTA	Online Tool for ASPnet
PCI	<i>Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel</i>
PHI	<i>Programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental</i>
PNDES	<i>Plan National de Développement Economique et Social</i>
PNUD	<i>Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement</i>
PVE-E	Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education
RéSEAU	<i>Réseau des Écoles Associées de l'UNESCO</i>
ROSA	UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa
RTRC	Regional Training and Research Centre
SACTD	South Asian Centre for Teacher Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARPCCO	Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
SASSCAL	Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEMEP	South Eastern Mediterranean Sea Project
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRAJ	<i>Santé Reproductive des Adolescents et des Jeunes</i>
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
SWAN	South Asia Women's Network
TBR	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
TICE	<i>Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication pour l'Enseignement</i>
TTF	Teacher Task Force
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UCCN	UNESCO Creative Cities Network
UCH	Underwater Cultural Heritage
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEVOC	International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
<i>UNICEF</i>	<i>Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance</i>
UNITWIN	University Twinning and Networking Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WAAS	World Academy of Art and Science
WHC	World Heritage Committee
WHO	World Health Organization

WISE	World Innovation Summit for Education
WNBR	World Network of Biosphere Reserves
WPF	World Press Freedom Day
YEM	Youth Employment in the Mediterranean

Annexes

Action plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO	140
Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération du secrétariat de l'UNESCO avec les Commissions Nationales pour l'UNESCO	145
Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO	151
Directives pour les relations et la coopération entre les bureaux hors siège de l'UNESCO et les Commissions Nationales pour l'UNESCO	157
Regulatory framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO	164
Cadre réglementaire relatif aux Associations et Clubs pour l'UNESCO	168

ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO¹

PREAMBLE

Guided by the desire to further enhance the cooperation between Member States, their National Commissions and the Secretariat,

Recognizing that the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) sets the foundation and legal framework for the establishment of National Commissions,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO reaffirms that it is for each Member State to define the range of responsibilities and the nature of the function of its National Commission.

Considering the need to promote exchanges and networking among National Commissions in the context of their diversity in organization and status by sharing information and best practices in a transparent and cooperative manner,

Emphasizing the responsibility of the Secretariat, including all programme sectors and field offices, to work with Member States and their National Commissions

The open-ended tripartite working group composed of representatives of the Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and UNESCO Secretariat adopts the following findings and recommendations:

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURAL ISSUES

➤ Finding and Recommendation 1

The UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO set the foundations and legal framework for the establishment and functioning of National Commissions. They specify basic roles and responsibilities of the UNESCO Secretariat, Member State Governments and National Commissions in this regard. Certain additional responsibilities have been given to National Commissions (for example, in the fields of decentralization, public information, partnerships with civil society, and use of UNESCO's name and logo) by subsequent resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Board (Ref. Resolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 and 36 C/104, and 174 EX/ Decision 34).

As regards the responsibilities of the National Commissions, the Working Group does not at this stage consider that it is a priority to revise or update either UNESCO's Constitution or the Charter of National Commissions. The guiding principles laid out in these documents – and relevant above-mentioned resolutions and decisions taken subsequently by the General Conference and the Executive Board – should however be drawn to the attention of all Member State governments and National Commissions.

It is recommended that, where they have not already done so, Member States adopt legal or administrative instruments specifying the role and the organization of their National Commission within the national context.

Other Member States could review as appropriate their existing provisions to ensure that full account is taken of the relevant legal documents and recent decisions of the Governing Bodies (Ref. Resolutions 27 C/ 13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86, 36 C/104 and 174 EX/ Decision 34) as well as international best practice.

All Member States are invited to provide information to the Secretariat on the legal status (with a copy of the legal text establishing its National Commission where possible) and organization of their National Commission (with a copy of its organizational chart where possible).

➤ Finding and Recommendation 2

Each Member State has developed its own way of operating its National Commission, as provided for in UNESCO's Constitution. It is important that each Member State's National Commission should reflect its particular political, legal and administrative context. The Working Group is agreed that, although there are

¹ This Action Plan was adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session in 2013 (37 C/Resolution 97).

certain features in common to all National Commissions and a measure of standardization can be helpful, no single model can or should be adopted for all National Commissions. Each National Commission's mandate, organizational structure, working modalities and programme priorities, even though guided by the UNESCO Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions, should be decided on its own.

The Working Group recommends that the principle of the diversity of National Commissions continue to be respected.

II. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING PERMANENT DELEGATIONS AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

➤ Finding and Recommendation 3

Member States have primary responsibility for providing their Commissions with appropriate status and authority as well as the human and financial resources needed to carry out the work of their National Commission in accordance with UNESCO's Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions.

The Working Group recommends that all Member States review the status and structure of their National Commissions and their secretariats to ensure that they have the authority, the capacity and the expertise to work effectively in UNESCO's areas of competence, with their governments, government agencies, as well as intellectual communities, civil society partners, UNESCO Secretariat at Headquarters and field offices and other National Commissions, and fulfil their advisory function.

Member States are requested to ensure that the Secretariat has up-to-date information on the status, organization and resourcing levels of their National Commission.

➤ Finding and Recommendation 4

The high turnover of appointees to the positions of President/Chair and Secretary-General in a large number of National Commissions creates instability and discontinuity in their National Commission's work. Moreover the mandates of these appointees are in some cases not well defined.

The Working Group recommends that each Member State consider appointing the Secretary-General of its National Commission for a reasonable period of time and that each appointee be issued with a clear and well defined mandate. In view of common practices, the Working Group recommends Member States to consider appropriate measures to ensure continuity.

Member States are requested to ensure that the Secretariat has up-to-date information on their approach to the appointment of President/Chair and Secretary-General of their National Commission.

➤ Finding and Recommendation 5

With the recent adoption of the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, UNESCO is increasing its engagement with the government donors, private sector and other funding partners. National Commissions are considered by the Working Group to have the potential to benefit from public and private partnerships. Value is seen in National Commissions engaging more closely and extensively with public and private partners in order to support their own programmes as well as to encourage support and contributions to UNESCO.

The Working Group recommends that National Commissions be encouraged to establish and/or expand the network of partners in their countries and that they may seek sponsorship in accordance with clearly established principles and procedures which are consistent with national legislation and UNESCO's comprehensive partnership strategy.

Member States are invited to report to the Secretariat on actions taken pursuant to this recommendation, and on any lessons learned or experience gained that might be useful to other National Commissions.

➤ Finding and Recommendation 6

A number of National Commissions have recently started to work more closely with the various UNESCO networks and civil society partners in their respective countries. These networks include UNESCO Chairs, National Committees of Intergovernmental Programmes, networks such as ASPnet, UNESCO Clubs and Associations, category 2 centres and non-governmental organizations. Given the large number and great diversity of these networks, coordination and governance are often needed to better monitor and facilitate their activities. National Commissions are well placed to play such a facilitating, coordinating and monitoring role.

The Working Group recommends that National Commissions and Secretariat consider ways of engaging more closely with the larger UNESCO family, partners and networks, with a view to exchange advice, guidance and, as appropriate, coordination and support. National Commissions have a particular role to play (under the relevant Directives) on the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and internet domain names. Member States are invited to report to the Secretariat on steps taken to create synergies and work more closely with the UNESCO-related bodies in their country.

The Working Group also recommends that National Commissions actively work with civil society and NGOs based in their respective countries, including legally established national branches of those international NGOs which have established official relations with UNESCO in line with the new "Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations". They should contribute to the fostering of UNESCO's partnership with NGOs by identifying and helping new interested non-governmental partners to join the UNESCO-NGO network.

Finally the Working Group calls upon National Commissions to accredit, monitor and assess as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in their respective countries so as to ensure that activities implemented by Clubs and Centres for UNESCO will be in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO and the name and logo of UNESCO be properly used by them. The National Commissions may withdraw the accreditation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO which are not meeting the required standards, including the "Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, Logo and internet domain names of UNESCO".

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 7**

Most National Commissions report regularly to their government and partners. Some Commissions communicate also with their counterparts within – and even outside – the region to which they belong. Regular communication and reporting mechanisms such as newsletters contribute to the visibility and public awareness of the activities they undertake, to the profile of UNESCO and to the promotion of effective working partnerships and best practices.

The Working Group recommends that each National Commission report on a regular basis to its government as well as to its members and partners. These activity reports should as a rule be done on an annual basis and on a commonly agreed template.

The Working Group also believes that regular newsletters should be encouraged. All such reports should be shared with other interested National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and the Secretariat, which collects and posts them on UNESCO's website.

III. STRENGTHENING INTERACTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS AMONG NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 8**

Regional and subregional consultations and meetings, as well as informal gatherings of National Commissions during the sessions of the Executive Board and the General Conference, are critical not just for enhancing communication with the Secretariat but for strengthening collaboration among National Commissions and deriving maximum benefit from this global network of like-minded agencies.

The Working Group recommends to maintain biennial regional meetings of the National Commissions. In this regard, the Working Group calls on Member States and other funding partners to co-fund and/or host regional meetings of National Commissions every two years, one of which would include every four years consultations of Member States and their National Commissions on the upcoming programme cycle.

The Working Group recommends that the informal meetings held on the margins of the Governing Bodies meetings be prepared in a manner that will optimize the possibilities for exchanging information and sharing experiences. In particular, the working group recommends that the Secretariat implement structured participatory events with clearly defined outcomes, which will improve both effectiveness and the exchange of best practice. These meetings will be prepared with appropriate advance consultation regarding the needs and wishes of the participants.

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 9**

It is clear that a number of National Commissions, particularly those from developing countries or more recently established, would benefit from the opportunity to work more closely with other National Commissions and

to receive assistance from them in the form of training, knowledge and experience sharing and occasional secondments or funding grants. This can be done within the same regional grouping, on a North/South or South/South basis or wherever a need on the part of one National Commission can be matched with the ability and readiness of another National Commission to help out. A number of examples have been drawn to the Working Group's attention of where such arrangements have been very successful.

The Working Group recommends that each National Commission which is in a position to assist other less well-equipped National Commissions take steps to make its position known and actively explore avenues for lending a hand in this way. Twinning system, staff exchange programme and cooperative network among National Commissions are most welcome and encouraged.

It is further recommended that National Commissions be invited to report to the Secretariat on their experience with such arrangements from time to time, so that their experience can be used by others.

IV. IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT, BOTH AT HEADQUARTERS AND AT FIELD OFFICE LEVEL

➤ Finding and Recommendation 10

Although established with different status and structures, assigned different responsibilities and tasks and operating in different ways with distinct audiences and partners, National Commissions and UNESCO field offices have a common mandate to advocate the mission and carry out the work of UNESCO.

They are called upon to work together and to complement each other's effort in promoting UNESCO's activities, partnerships and visibility at country and regional levels.

The respective roles of these two networks are not clearly defined, and in some cases there is considerable confusion and misunderstanding about their respective responsibilities and roles. Inadequate communication and consultation between the two entities is widespread.

The Working Group recommends that the "Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO" endorsed by the Executive Board in April 2006 (174 EX/34, Annex) be reviewed and updated to take stock of current situation to enhance the collaboration between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions. It also recommends that Field Offices be reminded of the obligation to work in close cooperation with National Commissions as well as Member States in their region. Similarly, National Commissions should be reminded of the importance of keeping in touch with the field offices and keep them informed and consulted about any programmes of relevance at a regional level.

➤ Finding and Recommendation 11

Information and knowledge sharing between the Secretariat Headquarters and National Commissions is an important way of enhancing the capacity of National Commissions to engage in various activities of UNESCO. Significant improvements in communication have taken place recently through monthly newsletters, online posting and e-Forum discussions.

Further efforts must be made to enhance two-way communication, using the new ICTs as well as the more traditional methods of communication. Biennial meetings of regional National Commissions remain an important element in this.

The Working Group recommends that the UNESCO Secretariat facilitate the networking of National Commissions by gathering, highlighting and sharing information, knowledge and good practices with National Commissions on a more regular basis. This requires National Commissions to submit, in timely manner and preferably in electronic format, relevant information, newsletters, activity reports and proposals to facilitate the Secretariat's work.

➤ Finding and Recommendation 12

Member States' Governments, Permanent Delegations and National Commissions are not always kept informed of activities being undertaken by the UNESCO Secretariat (Headquarters and field offices) in their respective countries.

They occasionally learn about them only through the media. Bypassing National Commissions while conducting a project or implementing an activity in their country is neither courteous nor in conformity with the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and Charter of National Commissions.

The Working Group recommends that the UNESCO Secretariat ensure that Permanent Delegations and National Commissions be consulted about, informed in advance and involved where appropriate in every activity UNESCO is planning to implement in their countries, including staff missions and meetings with officials and partners; and subsequently be informed of the outcome of these missions and meetings.

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 13**

All National Commissions need to constantly build and adapt their capacities and methods of work to effectively and efficiently play their role. Present training modalities and ways of seeking funding are in many cases no longer suited to current needs. There is an urgent need to explore and develop new ways of training by the Secretariat, drawing on the experience of both the Secretariat and National Commissions.

The Working Group recommends that the Secretariat develop training programmes to satisfy the various needs of different National Commissions. While face-to-face training can continue to be organized where needed and when funding sources are available, alternative cost-effective and targeted training modules should be further explored and developed, such as

- video conferences
- online training
- study visits or learning stays of members of Commissions at Headquarters or in field offices.

Initiatives of networking, partnership and cooperation among National Commissions for capacity-building purposes should be supported by the Secretariat.

➤ **Finding and Recommendation 14**

As principal beneficiaries of the Participation Programme, National Commissions rely on Participation Programme grants both to implement projects and to build their capacities and partnerships. The delay in approving requests for such items as equipment, celebration of anniversaries, training workshops and the publication of reports/news bulletins have triggered some concern.

Due to the incomplete presentation of a number of Participation Programme requests and the unsatisfactory quality of financial and evaluation reports on past grants, the whole evaluation and approval process has become problematic. It is understood that the Executive Board may be considering rules of eligibility and criteria for Participation Programme funding on the basis of the External Auditor's report.

The Working Group recommends that National Commissions and the Secretariat, including the Field Offices, work closely together to further improve the Participation Programme process. Special efforts need to be made in preparing the financial and evaluation reports.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME-LINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

As mentioned above, Permanent Delegations, National Commissions (both are in liaison with their government) and UNESCO Secretariat have the direct responsibilities to implement the respective recommendations.

Any reports by Member States on the implementation of the recommendations of findings 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 are expected by 30 June 2014.

The Secretariat should submit a progress report on the implementation of all these recommendations to the Executive Board at its 196th Session (Spring 2015). The review of the "Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO" (recommendation 9) could also be done on this occasion.

PLAN D'ACTION VISANT À AMÉLIORER LA COOPÉRATION DU SECRÉTARIAT DE L'UNESCO AVEC LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO¹

PRÉAMBULE

Guidé par la volonté d'améliorer encore la coopération entre les États membres, leurs commissions nationales et le Secrétariat,

Reconnaissant que l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) définit les principes fondamentaux et le cadre juridique qui régissent l'établissement des commissions nationales,

Ayant à l'esprit que la Charte des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO réaffirme qu'il appartient à chaque État membre de définir l'éventail des responsabilités et la nature des fonctions de sa commission nationale,

Considérant la nécessité de promouvoir les échanges entre commissions nationales et leur mise en réseau compte tenu de leur diversité sur le plan de l'organisation et du statut par un partage transparent et coopératif de l'information et des meilleures pratiques,

Soulignant que le Secrétariat, y compris l'ensemble des secteurs du programme et des bureaux hors Siège, a la responsabilité de travailler avec les États membres et leurs commissions nationales,

Le Groupe de travail tripartite à participation non limitée, composé de représentants des délégations permanentes, des commissions nationales et du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, adopte les conclusions et recommandations suivantes :

I. CADRE JURIDIQUE ET ASPECTS STRUCTURELS

➤ Conclusion et recommandation 1

L'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) et la Charte des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO définissent les principes fondamentaux et le cadre juridique qui régissent l'établissement et le fonctionnement des commissions nationales. Ces textes précisent les rôles et responsabilités essentiels du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, des gouvernements des États membres et des commissions nationales à cet égard. La Conférence générale et le Conseil exécutif ont assigné certaines responsabilités additionnelles aux commissions nationales (pour ce qui est par exemple de la décentralisation, de l'information du public, des partenariats avec la société civile et de l'utilisation du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO) dans des résolutions et décisions ultérieures (voir résolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 et 36 C/104, et la décision 174 EX/34).

En ce qui concerne les responsabilités des commissions nationales, le Groupe de travail est d'avis que la révision ou actualisation de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO ou de la Charte des commissions nationales n'est pas une priorité à ce stade. Les principes directeurs qui y sont formulés – et les résolutions et décisions pertinentes adoptées ultérieurement par la Conférence générale et le Conseil exécutif susmentionnées – devraient néanmoins être portés à l'attention des gouvernements et des commissions nationales de tous les États membres.

Il est recommandé aux États membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait d'adopter un instrument administratif ou juridique précisant le rôle et l'organisation de leur commission nationale dans le contexte national.

Les autres États membres pourraient réexaminer selon qu'il convient les dispositions qu'ils ont déjà adoptées pour s'assurer qu'il y est pleinement tenu compte des documents juridiques pertinents et des récentes décisions des organes directeurs en la matière (voir les résolutions 27 C/13.12, 28 C/13.5, 29 C/60, 30 C/83, 34 C/86 et 36 C/104, et la décision 174 EX/34), ainsi que les meilleures pratiques internationales.

Tous les États membres sont invités à fournir au Secrétariat des informations sur le statut juridique de leur commission nationale (avec, si possible, copie du texte juridique portant établissement de la commission nationale) et sur son organisation (avec, si possible, copie de l'organigramme).

¹ Ce Plan d'action a été adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 37^e session en 2013 (37C/Résolution 97).

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 2**

Chaque État membre a déterminé sa manière propre de gérer sa commission nationale, comme le prévoit l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO. Il importe que la commission nationale de chaque État membre soit adaptée à sa situation politique, juridique et administrative particulière. Le Groupe de travail a été d'accord pour considérer que, même si toutes les commissions nationales possédaient certains traits en commun et si un certain degré d'uniformisation pouvait être utile, aucun modèle unique ne pouvait ni ne devait être adopté pour la totalité d'entre elles. Le mandat de chaque commission nationale, sa structure organisationnelle, ses modalités de travail et ses priorités de programme, bien que conçus à la lumière de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO et de la Charte des commissions nationales, devraient être décidés de manière indépendante.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que le principe de la diversité des commissions nationales continue d'être respecté.

II. MESURES À PRENDRE PAR CHAQUE ÉTAT MEMBRE, Y COMPRIS LES DÉLÉGATIONS PERMANENTES ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 3**

Les États membres ont la responsabilité principale de doter leur commission d'un statut et de pouvoirs appropriés, ainsi que des ressources humaines et financières qui leur sont nécessaires pour s'acquitter de leur tâche conformément à l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO et à la Charte des commissions nationales.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que tous les États membres réexaminent le statut de leur commission nationale et de son secrétariat afin de s'assurer que ceux-ci ont les pouvoirs, les capacités et l'expertise nécessaires pour travailler de manière efficace, dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, avec le gouvernement et les organismes gouvernementaux, ainsi qu'avec les communautés intellectuelles, les partenaires de la société civile, le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO au Siège et hors Siège et les autres commissions nationales, et pour s'acquitter de leur fonction consultative.

Les États membres sont invités à s'assurer que le Secrétariat dispose d'informations actualisées sur le statut, l'organisation et les niveaux de ressources de leur commission nationale.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 4**

Le taux de rotation élevé des titulaires des postes de président et de secrétaire général dans bon nombre de commissions nationales est un facteur d'instabilité et de discontinuité des travaux de ces commissions. De plus, le mandat de ces titulaires n'est parfois pas clairement défini.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque État membre envisage de nommer le secrétaire général de sa commission nationale pour une période raisonnablement longue et que les personnes nommées à chacun de ces postes aient un mandat clair et bien défini. Compte tenu des pratiques courantes, le Groupe de travail recommande aux États membres de réfléchir aux mesures appropriées pour garantir la continuité.

Les États membres sont invités à s'assurer que le Secrétariat dispose d'informations actualisées sur les modalités de la nomination du président et du secrétaire général de leur commission nationale.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 5**

Depuis l'adoption récente de la Stratégie globale pour les partenariats, l'UNESCO s'emploie à intensifier ses liens avec les donateurs gouvernementaux, le secteur privé et d'autres partenaires de financement. Le Groupe de travail considère que les commissions nationales pourraient tirer avantage de partenariats avec des acteurs publics et privés. Il apparaît utile que les commissions nationales nouent des relations plus étroites et plus larges avec des partenaires publics et privés afin de renforcer leurs propres programmes et d'encourager les soutiens et les contributions à l'UNESCO.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales soient encouragées à créer un réseau de leurs partenaires dans leur pays et/ou à développer le réseau existant et qu'elles recherchent éventuellement des parrainages conformément à des principes et procédures clairement établis et compatibles avec la législation nationale et la stratégie globale pour les partenariats de l'UNESCO.

Les États membres sont invités à présenter au Secrétariat un rapport sur les mesures prises pour donner suite à cette recommandation, et sur tous les enseignements ou l'expérience accumulés par eux qui pourraient être utiles aux autres commissions nationales.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 6**

Un certain nombre de commissions nationales ont récemment entrepris de travailler en liaison plus étroite avec les divers réseaux et les partenaires membres de la société civile de l'UNESCO dans leurs pays respectifs. Au nombre de ces réseaux figurent les Chaires UNESCO, les comités nationaux des programmes intergouvernementaux, des réseaux tels que le réSEAU des écoles associées, les clubs et associations UNESCO, les centres de catégorie 2 et les organisations non gouvernementales. Étant donné le nombre élevé et la grande diversité de ces réseaux, des mécanismes de coordination et de gouvernance sont souvent nécessaires pour mieux suivre et faciliter leurs activités. Les commissions nationales sont bien placées pour jouer un tel rôle de facilitation, de coordination et de suivi.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales et le Secrétariat envisagent des moyens de resserrer encore leurs liens avec la famille élargie, les partenaires et les réseaux de l'UNESCO, en vue d'échanger conseils et avis et, en tant que de besoin, de participer à leur coordination et de les soutenir. Les commissions nationales ont un rôle particulier à jouer (dans le cadre des directives pertinentes) dans l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO. Les États membres sont invités à présenter au Secrétariat un rapport sur les mesures qu'ils ont prises pour créer des synergies et travailler en liaison plus étroite avec les organismes liés à l'UNESCO qui sont présents dans leur pays.

Le Groupe de travail recommande également que les commissions nationales travaillent activement avec la société civile et les ONG basées dans leurs pays respectifs, y compris les branches nationales ayant une existence légale des ONG internationales qui ont établi des relations officielles avec l'UNESCO conformément aux nouvelles « Directives concernant le partenariat de l'UNESCO avec les organisations non gouvernementales ». Elles devraient contribuer à favoriser les partenariats de l'UNESCO avec les ONG en identifiant et aidant les nouveaux partenaires non gouvernementaux intéressés par la perspective de rejoindre le réseau UNESCO-ONG.

Enfin, le Groupe de travail appelle les commissions nationales à accréditer les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO présents dans leurs pays respectifs et à en suivre et évaluer les activités selon que de besoin de façon à s'assurer que ces activités sont conformes à la mission et aux objectifs de l'Organisation et que ces entités font un usage approprié du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO. Les commissions nationales pourraient retirer leur accréditation aux associations, centres et clubs UNESCO qui ne satisfont pas aux normes établies, y compris les « Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO ».

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 7**

La plupart des commissions nationales font régulièrement rapport à leur gouvernement et à leurs partenaires. Certaines communiquent aussi avec leurs homologues à l'intérieur – voire à l'extérieur – de la région à laquelle elles appartiennent. Des mécanismes de communication et de compte rendu réguliers tels que lettres d'information ou bulletins contribuent à améliorer la visibilité et la connaissance par le public des activités entreprises par elles, à renforcer l'image de l'UNESCO et à promouvoir les partenariats de travail efficaces et les meilleures pratiques.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque commission nationale fasse rapport à intervalles réguliers à son gouvernement, ainsi qu'à ses membres et à ses partenaires. Ces rapports devraient en principe être rédigés une fois par an et selon un modèle convenu d'un commun accord.

Le Groupe de travail est également d'avis qu'il conviendrait d'encourager la publication régulière de lettres d'information. Tous ces rapports devraient être communiqués aux autres commissions nationales intéressées, aux délégations permanentes et au Secrétariat, qui les regrouperait et les publierait sur le site Web de l'UNESCO.

III. RENFORCEMENT DES INTERACTIONS ET DES PARTENARIATS ENTRE LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES

➤ Conclusion et recommandation 8

Les consultations et réunions régionales et sous-régionales, ainsi que les rencontres informelles des commissions nationales pendant les sessions du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale sont essentielles, non pas seulement pour accroître la communication avec le Secrétariat, mais aussi pour renforcer la collaboration entre les commissions nationales et tirer un bénéfice maximal de ce réseau mondial d'agences partageant une même vision.

Le Groupe de travail recommande de maintenir la pratique des réunions régionales biennales des commissions nationales. À cet égard, le Groupe de travail demande aux États membres et aux autres partenaires de financement de cofinancer et/ou d'accueillir ces réunions régionales biennales, dont l'une comprendrait tous les quatre ans la consultation des États membres et de leurs commissions nationales sur le cycle de programmation à venir.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que les réunions informelles tenues en marge des réunions des organes directeurs soient préparées de manière à optimiser les possibilités d'échanger des informations et de partager les données d'expérience. En particulier, il recommande que le Secrétariat organise des événements participatifs structurés, avec des résultats attendus clairement définis, afin d'améliorer à la fois leur efficacité et l'échange des meilleures pratiques. Ces réunions seront préparées en organisant une consultation préalable appropriée pour connaître les besoins et les souhaits des participants.

➤ Conclusion et recommandation 9

Il est clair qu'un certain nombre de commissions nationales, en particulier celles des pays en développement ou établies de plus fraîche date, tireraient avantage de la possibilité de travailler en liaison plus étroite avec d'autres commissions nationales et de recevoir leur assistance sous la forme d'un partage des activités de formation, des connaissances et des expériences et de détachements ou de dons financiers occasionnels. Cela peut être fait au sein d'un même groupement régional ou dans le cadre d'échanges Nord-Sud ou Sud-Sud, ou chaque fois qu'au besoin d'une commission nationale peut répondre la capacité ou la disposition d'une autre commission nationale à lui venir en aide. Un certain nombre d'exemples de tels arrangements ayant donné des résultats très positifs ont été portés à l'attention du Groupe de travail.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que chaque commission nationale qui est à même de venir en aide à d'autres commissions nationales moins bien équipées prenne des dispositions pour le faire savoir et étudie activement les moyens de prêter ainsi son assistance. Les systèmes de jumelage, les programmes d'échange de personnel et les réseaux de coopération entre commissions nationales sont les bienvenus et sont fortement encouragés.

Il est en outre recommandé que les commissions nationales soient invitées à présenter de temps à autres au Secrétariat un rapport sur leur expérience de ce type d'arrangements, de manière que d'autres puissent mettre à profit cette expérience.

IV. AMÉLIORATION DE LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES ET LE SECRÉTARIAT, AU SIÈGE ET AU NIVEAU DES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE

➤ Conclusion et recommandation 10

Malgré les différences dans leurs statuts et leur structure, les responsabilités et les tâches qui leur sont assignées et leur manière d'opérer avec des publics et des partenaires distincts, les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO ont pour mandat commun de faire avancer la mission et l'action de l'UNESCO.

Ils sont appelés à travailler de concert et à se compléter dans leurs efforts pour promouvoir les activités, les partenariats et la visibilité de l'UNESCO aux niveaux national et régional.

Les rôles respectifs de ces deux réseaux ne sont pas clairement définis et, dans certains cas, on note une confusion et des malentendus considérables quant aux rôles et aux responsabilités de chacun. La communication et les consultations entre ces deux entités laissent souvent à désirer.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que les « Directives pour les relations et la coopération entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO » approuvées par le Conseil exécutif en avril 2006 (174 EX/34 Annexe) soient révisées et actualisées en vue de faire le point de la situation présente de façon à améliorer la collaboration entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales. Il recommande aussi de rappeler aux bureaux hors Siège leur obligation de travailler en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales ainsi qu'avec les États membres de la région desservie par eux. De même, il convient de rappeler aux commissions nationales qu'il importe de rester en contact avec les bureaux hors Siège les concernant et de tenir ceux-ci informés de tout programme pertinent au niveau régional et de les consulter à ce sujet.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 11**

Le partage de l'information et des connaissances entre le Secrétariat au Siège et les commissions nationales est un moyen important d'accroître la capacité des commissions nationales de s'engager dans diverses activités de l'UNESCO. D'importants progrès ont été réalisés récemment dans le domaine de la communication sous la forme de lettres d'information mensuelles, de messages en ligne et de discussions sur des forums électroniques.

De plus amples efforts sont nécessaires pour intensifier la communication dans les deux sens, en mettant à profit les nouvelles TIC de même que les méthodes de communication plus traditionnelles. Les réunions biennales des commissions nationales d'une même région demeurent un élément important à cet égard.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO facilite la mise en réseau des commissions nationales en assurant de manière plus régulière la collecte et le signalement de l'information, des connaissances et des bonnes pratiques et leur partage avec les commissions nationales. Cela implique que les commissions nationales soumettent les informations, bulletins et rapports d'activité pertinents, ainsi que leurs propositions, en temps voulu et de préférence sous forme électronique de façon à faciliter la tâche du Secrétariat.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 12**

Les gouvernements, les délégations permanentes et les commissions nationales des États membres ne sont pas toujours tenus informés des activités entreprises par le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO (Siège et bureaux hors Siège) dans leurs pays respectifs.

Il arrive qu'ils n'en prennent connaissance qu'à travers les médias. Laisser les commissions nationales dans l'ignorance d'un projet ou d'une activité mis en œuvre dans leur pays n'est ni courtois ni conforme à l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO (article VII) et à la Charte des commissions nationales.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO veille à ce que les délégations permanentes et les commissions nationales soient consultées et préalablement informées pour chaque activité que l'UNESCO prévoit de mettre en œuvre dans leur pays, y compris les missions de membres du personnel et les réunions avec les fonctionnaires et les partenaires, et associées le cas échéant à ces activités, et à ce qu'elles soient par la suite informées des résultats de ces missions et réunions.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 13**

Toutes les commissions nationales ont besoin de renforcer et d'adapter en permanence leurs capacités et leurs méthodes de travail afin de jouer leur rôle avec efficacité et efficience. Dans bien des cas, les modalités de formation et de recherche de financements qui ont cours aujourd'hui ne sont plus adaptées aux besoins actuels. Le Secrétariat doit d'urgence explorer et élaborer de nouvelles modalités de formation, à la lumière de sa propre expérience et de celle des commissions nationales.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que le Secrétariat élabore des programmes de formation pour répondre aux besoins variés des différentes commissions nationales. Une formation face-à-face peut continuer à être organisée lorsque cela est nécessaire et que des sources de financement sont disponibles, mais il conviendrait d'explorer et d'élaborer plus avant d'autres modalités de formation ciblées et d'un bon rapport coût-efficacité, telles que

- visioconférences
- formation en ligne
- visites d'étude ou stages effectués par des membres des commissions au Siège ou dans les bureaux hors Siège.

Le Secrétariat devrait apporter son soutien aux initiatives de mise en réseau, de partenariat et de coopération entre les commissions nationales à des fins de renforcement des capacités.

➤ **Conclusion et recommandation 14**

En tant que principales bénéficiaires du Programme de participation, les commissions nationales s'appuient sur les aides fournies au titre de ce programme aussi bien pour mettre en œuvre des projets que pour renforcer leurs capacités et leurs partenariats. Les délais d'approbation des demandes dans des domaines tels que l'achat de matériel, la célébration d'anniversaires, les ateliers de formation et la publication de rapports ou de lettres d'information ont suscité certaines préoccupations.

Le caractère incomplet d'un certain nombre de demandes d'aide au titre du Programme de participation et la qualité insuffisante des rapports financiers et d'évaluation au sujet des aides antérieures ont rendu problématique l'ensemble du processus d'examen et d'approbation des demandes. Il est entendu que le Conseil exécutif pourrait réfléchir aux règles et critères régissant l'attribution de fonds au titre du Programme de participation à la lumière du rapport du Commissaire aux comptes.

Le Groupe de travail recommande que les commissions nationales et le Secrétariat, y compris les bureaux hors Siège, travaillent en étroite liaison pour améliorer encore le processus du Programme de participation. Des efforts particuliers devront être faits lors de l'établissement des rapports financiers et d'évaluation.

V. RESPONSABILITÉ ET ÉCHÉANCES CONCERNANT LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DES RECOMMANDATIONS

Comme indiqué plus haut, les délégations permanentes, les commissions nationales (les unes et les autres en liaison avec leur gouvernement) et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO ont des responsabilités directes dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations les intéressant.

Tout rapport présenté par les États membres sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations relatives aux conclusions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 et 9 devra être reçu au plus tard le 30 juin 2014.

Le Secrétariat devrait soumettre un rapport d'étape sur la mise en œuvre de toutes ces recommandations au Conseil exécutif à sa 196^e session (printemps 2015). L'examen du « Guide de la coopération entre les bureaux hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales » (recommandation 9) pourrait avoir lieu à cette occasion.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO¹

FOREWORD

The [Member States and their] National Commissions for UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat pursue the same purpose under the Constitution of UNESCO, namely “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.

These constituent elements of the common purpose, all unifying by nature, primarily require *intellectual and moral solidarity* on the part of all those who work to achieve it.

UNESCO’s strategy for the reform of the field network is aimed at optimizing UNESCO’s operations and improving the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, quality and visibility of the field network, thus providing more effective support for the efforts that Member States have undertaken by ratifying the Constitution of UNESCO “to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other’s lives”.

The Organization’s unity of action must remain a key concern of the National Commissions for UNESCO and the Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field. All work together to accomplish UNESCO’s mandate. Such unity is all the more important in the light of the concerted pursuit of post-2015 development agenda through ever closer cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system and, even more broadly, with the international community.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

Mission statement

National Commissions and field offices together promote UNESCO’s ideals and principles.

Introduction

The following guidelines have been developed in response to a need expressed repeatedly by National Commissions for UNESCO and were discussed by an informal Working Group of Secretaries-General and Directors/Heads of UNESCO field offices from all regions who met at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 and 29 January 2004. They were reviewed and amended at the first interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 22 to 24 July 2014, in accordance with UNESCO’s recent field reform and in the light of the Action Plan for enhancing UNESCO’s cooperation with the worldwide National Commissions network, adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 97).

These Guidelines outline the main areas of interface and cooperation between the UNESCO field network and the National Commissions for UNESCO: definition of each entity, their respective responsibilities and roles, and the modalities for planning and implementing UNESCO’s programme within the framework of the field network reform. They are based on legal texts of the Organization and decisions of its governing bodies in this respect. Furthermore, they were widely circulated for comments and suggestions and agreed upon by all concerned.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

National Commissions and field offices have differentiated but sometimes joint and/or common activities. National Commissions report first and foremost to their Governments. Field offices report first and foremost to the Director-General of UNESCO.

¹ These Guidelines were approved by the Executive Board at its 196th session in 2015 (196 EX/Decisions 5 III).

National Commissions

• Advisory function

- Advise representatives of their government on the Executive Board and their alternates as well as their delegations to the General Conference and other meetings convened by UNESCO;
- Advise the respective governmental bodies/line Ministries to ensure that UNESCO mandates are represented/positioned in the development of new National Development Plans, and in the roll out of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), in particular ahead of the UNDAF consultations with Government;
- Advise national institutions and partners on UNESCO-related matters;
- At the request of the UNESCO Secretariat, provide advice on possible linkages with national partners;
- Advise UNESCO's Secretariat on other relevant issues, either on request or on their own initiative, including through international and interregional consultations among National Commissions.

• Contribution to UNESCO's planning/programming processes

- Conduct timely national consultations with relevant governmental bodies and other stakeholders in order to identify and develop national priorities and strategies for cooperation with UNESCO, taking into account UNESCO's mandates and priorities;
- Contribute where appropriate to the development of the UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD);
- Participate and contribute to consultations meetings as appropriate with field offices and other National Commissions at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

• Liaison and outreach function

- Foster the linkage with and involvement in UNESCO's activities of relevant governmental bodies, national institutions and other civil society stakeholders and individuals in order to obtain intellectual and professional inputs useful to the Organization, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation in the process;
- Forge with the support of the field offices new partnerships with national civil society organizations – grass-roots and volunteer groups, NGOs, the academic and professional communities, parliamentarians, local authorities, trade unions and the private sector – and promote UNESCO's various networks and programmes;
- Accredite, monitor and assess as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in their respective countries so as to ensure that activities implemented by Clubs and Centres for UNESCO are in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO, and the name and logo of UNESCO are properly used by them. The National Commissions may withdraw the accreditation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO which are not meeting the required standards, including the "Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and internet domain names of UNESCO";
- Play a proactive role in encouraging national entities to propose candidates for UNESCO prizes, participating in searching for candidates for vacant posts at UNESCO and placing UNESCO fellowship holders;
- Reach out to other National Commissions in the region and beyond and strengthen cooperation, in particular South-South and North-South-South cooperation.

• Implementation function

- In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Conference, submit to UNESCO every biennium, after consulting with the relevant constituents, including with the field offices, Participation Programme requests in alignment with UNESCO's programme priorities ;

- Monitor, evaluate and report to the Organization on the implementation of the approved Participation Programme Requests;
- May contribute on a contractual basis to activities funded under UNESCO's regular programme budget and through extrabudgetary resources, ensuring that requirements for efficiency, effectiveness and accountability are observed;
- Provide, upon request, relevant information for facilitating programme execution, including on the most appropriate national contractors, experts and partners;
- Coordinate national responses to UNESCO-conducted surveys and reports on national implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments;
- Seek support from potential donors at the national level for their own activities and where appropriate for supporting field office initiatives in this respect;
- Assume responsibility for the proper use of the Organization's name and emblem in their respective country and consult the field office as appropriate.

• Information and advocacy function

- Promote UNESCO's ideals and disseminate information on the Organization's activities and achievements, in order to strengthen UNESCO's impact at the national level;
- Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO;
- Work actively with the national media in order to bring the above to the attention of the public at large;
- Organize national and awareness-raising events which come within UNESCO's fields of competence.

Field offices

• Planning function

- Analyse in close cooperation with National Commissions and relevant line Ministries trends in the Organization's fields of competence in the countries they cover in order to inform policy-making and action at national, subregional, regional and global level;
- Develop and coordinate in close cooperation with National Commissions national/cluster/ regional strategic frameworks, UCPD and operational plans, for both regular programme and extrabudgetary activities, as a major input to UNESCO's overall planning process;
- Ensure that national priorities in UNESCO's fields of competence are duly reflected in the United Nations Country Team's Common Country Assessment (CCA), in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and in joint activities for the advancement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as in the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP);
- Draw up work plans for regular programme activities in close cooperation with National Commissions and ensure coherence and complementarities with Participation Programme requests.

• Implementation function

- Provide, upon request, policy advice and technical support to Member States in the formulation and review of policies and strategies in UNESCO's areas of competence;
- Act as broker for good practice and expert services;
- Support cooperation among National Commissions in subregions and beyond;
- Develop, implement and monitor UNESCO's regular programme and extrabudgetary activities in the country/ies under their coverage, including by consulting the National Commissions concerned and keeping them informed of progress;

- Document successes, failures and lessons learned in the execution of activities.
- Within the framework of the approved programme and budget, respond to unforeseen challenges and opportunities arising in the field.

- **Fundraising function**

- Cooperate with Member States in identifying and formulating development projects and mobilize funds for UNESCO activities;
- Ensure, with the help of National Commissions, that extrabudgetary activities and projects have received full endorsement by the respective Member State.
- Involve National Commissions in seeking opportunities for alignment and co-financing modalities via Government funded programmes.

- **Advocacy function**

- Promote and advocate UNESCO's ideals and objectives and disseminate them to governments, civil society, professional communities and the public at large with the support of National Commissions;
- Support governments, at their request, in the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments.

- **Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO**

- Promote international events which come within UNESCO's fields of competence including in cooperation with National Commissions;
- Maintain close relations with the media to ensure wide visibility, consulting National Commissions as appropriate to ensure complementarities;
- Develop communication strategies and reinforce on-line presence of the field offices with a view to enhance UNESCO's visibility within the national and international communities.

- **Clearing-house function**

- Gather, transfer, disseminate and share available information, knowledge and good practices on innovative solutions in UNESCO's fields of competence.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- Directors/Heads of field offices regularly inform Secretaries-General of National Commissions of:
 - Visiting missions of UNESCO staff and consultants;
 - Activities and projects to be carried out at the national level or which involve national participation and the results thereof;
 - Significant developments at UNESCO.
- Secretaries-General of National Commissions regularly inform Heads/Directors of national/cluster offices of:
 - National issues, statements, events, developments, policies that may affect UNESCO's activities within its fields of competence;
 - Their interactions with other parts of UNESCO;
 - Their cooperation with regional IGOs and with NGOs active in UNESCO's domains.

Bilateral consultations

Directors/Heads of Multisectoral Regional Offices in Africa/Cluster/National Offices regularly consult the Secretaries-General of National Commissions on:

- The conceptualization of activities to be carried out at national level, within the cluster/national strategic frameworks agreed on at the sub-regional/cluster consultation;
- The identification of national partners.

Secretaries-General of National Commissions:

Consult as appropriate with Directors/Heads of field offices to ensure consistency with UNESCO's programmes.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

National Commissions and field offices reciprocate invitations to events they organize at the national level.

CONSULTATION MECHANISM

Consultation for the C/4 and C/5 documents

The modality of consultation for the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents emphasizes building regional inputs to the process from a base in country-level consultations. Country-level consultations are within the purview of Member States, through their National Commissions. Management of the linkage between country, subregional/cluster and regional consultation falls under responsibility of the Secretariat.

The modalities of regional consultations are presently under review. Please refer to document 192 EX/5 Part IIIC and related decision 192 EX/decision 5 IIIC.

Country-level consultations

- *Who is in charge?*
 - The National Commission.
- *Who participates?*
 - All governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at country level and UNESCO field office covering the country in question.
- *When do they take place?*
 - Ideally, one meeting before the subregional/cluster and regional consultations.
- *What are the outcomes?*
 - The countries' input to the consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents.

Subregional/Cluster-level consultations

- *Who is in charge?*
 - UNESCO cluster and regional offices, and in Africa, the Multisectoral Regional Offices.
- *Who participates?*
 - National Commissions and within budget available, other stakeholders and experts as appropriate, representatives of Regional Bureaux and UNESCO Institutes. UNESCO programme sectors and central services as well as other United Nations agencies and other partners may be invited to participate in these meetings, as relevant.

- *When do they take place?*
 - Ideally, at regular intervals and depending on budget availability during the four-year cycle. The meetings on the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents should be held, ideally in the spring/summer of the third year of the quadrennium, as per 192 EX/Decision 5.III.C and subsequent follow-up. In between meetings, collective consultations may be conducted by email.
- *What are the possible outcomes? Depending on the purpose of the consultation these could include, at the appropriate times:*
 - Regional/subregional/cluster/national strategic frameworks and operational plans to guide the implementation of the decentralized regular programme by field offices, the identification of projects for submission to extrabudgetary funding sources and advocacy and communication strategies;
 - Assessment of results achieved and follow-up of the implementation of activities and projects;
 - Review of management and coordination issues arising between the field offices and National Commissions;
 - Agreement on joint activities and increased synergy among National Commissions.

PARTNERSHIPS

Role of National Commissions in encouraging partnerships

• With the private sector

UNESCO's National Commissions have a particular role to play in the engagement with a private partner. In addition to the mapping and identification of new partners at national and regional levels, and/or in the screening phase, the National Commissions are major stakeholders and UNESCO's natural interlocutors at the country level. It is of critical importance that any action be consulted, coordinated and sustained within the national development agenda. Partnering with the private sector in a given country should not be seen as purely opportunistic but rather embedded in a more long-term development perspective for the benefit of the country and the region at large.

• With non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Relevant National Commissions for UNESCO are consulted during the admission process of NGOs into partnership with UNESCO, particularly when the request concerns a national or local NGO. Cooperation at country level is conducted in consultation and/or in partnership with the National Commission for UNESCO concerned.

National Commissions should identify NGOs that are relevant to the current work of UNESCO and support the admission of the Organization's non-governmental partners, both internationally and nationally, in order to increase the number of official NGO partners from all regions that actively cooperate with UNESCO.

USE OF UNESCO NAME AND LOGO

National Commissions and the use and authorization of the UNESCO name and logo

In addition to using the UNESCO name and logo themselves to promote UNESCO's visibility and outreach, National Commissions play an important role in the authorization of UNESCO's logo too.

National Commissions can authorize its own patronage, i.e. moral support, to civil society organizations' events at national level and grant the use of the UNESCO National Commission logo in this context. National Commissions can also authorize the use of their own logo when they organize joint events together with other national organizations in the framework of a partnership.

In addition, National Commissions are called to support the Secretariat by providing advice on logo use to members of UNESCO's vast networks, such as to managers of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, to UNESCO Associated Schools, as well as to the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO, and UNESCO Chairs etc.

National Commissions are also called to support the Secretariat by providing recommendations when the Director-General's patronage is requested by civil society organizations in the relevant Member States.

DIRECTIVES POUR LES RELATIONS ET LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE DE L'UNESCO ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO¹

AVANT-PROPOS

Mission

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège travaillent ensemble à la promotion des principes et des idéaux de l'UNESCO

Aux termes de l'Acte constitutif de l'UNESCO, les **[États membres et leurs] commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO poursuivent le même but**, à savoir « contribuer au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité en resserrant, par l'éducation, la science et la culture, la collaboration entre nations, afin d'assurer le respect universel de la justice, de la loi, des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous, sans distinction de race, de sexe, de langue ou de religion, que la Charte des Nations Unies reconnaît à tous les peuples ».

Ces éléments constitutifs du but commun, fédérateurs par nature, exigent au premier chef la solidarité intellectuelle et morale de tous ceux qui y concourent.

La stratégie de l'UNESCO pour la réforme du dispositif hors Siège vise à optimiser les opérations de l'UNESCO et à améliorer l'efficacité, l'efficience, la cohérence, la qualité et la visibilité du réseau hors Siège, de façon à mieux assister les États membres dans la réalisation des engagements qu'ils ont pris en ratifiant la Convention créant l'UNESCO « de développer et de multiplier les relations entre leurs peuples en vue de se mieux comprendre et d'acquérir une connaissance plus précise et plus vraie de leurs coutumes respectives ».

L'unité de l'action de l'Organisation, au Siège et hors Siège doit demeurer la préoccupation centrale des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et du Secrétariat, qui concourent à l'accomplissement du mandat de l'UNESCO. Cette unité est encore plus importante au regard de l'action concertée qu'exige la mise en œuvre du programme de développement pour l'après-2015, à travers une coopération toujours plus étroite entre les organisations du système des Nations Unies et, au-delà, avec la communauté internationale.

DIRECTIVES POUR LES RELATIONS ET LA COOPÉRATION ENTRE LES BUREAUX HORS SIÈGE DE L'UNESCO ET LES COMMISSIONS NATIONALES POUR L'UNESCO

Introduction

Les présentes directives ont été établies pour répondre à un besoin maintes fois exprimé des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et discutées par un groupe de travail informel de secrétaires généraux et de directeurs et chefs de bureau de toutes les régions qui s'étaient réunis au Siège de l'Organisation les 28 et 29 janvier 2004. Elles ont été révisées et amendées lors de la première Réunion interrégionale des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO qui s'est tenue à Astana (Kazakhstan) du 22 au 24 juillet 2014, conformément à la récente réforme du dispositif hors Siège de l'UNESCO et à la lumière du Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération de l'UNESCO avec le réseau mondial des commissions nationales, adopté par la Conférence générale (résolution 37 C/97).

Elles décrivent succinctement les principaux domaines d'échange et de coopération entre le dispositif hors Siège de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO : définition de chaque entité, de son rôle et de ses attributions, ainsi que des modalités de planification et de mise en œuvre du programme de l'UNESCO dans le contexte de la réforme du dispositif hors Siège. Élaborées à partir des textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation et des décisions de ses organes directeurs en la matière, elles ont été largement diffusées pour observations et suggestions et approuvées par toutes les parties intéressées.

RÔLES ET RESPONSABILITÉS

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège ont des activités différenciées mais parfois conjointes et/ou communes. Les commissions nationales rendent compte en premier ressort à leur gouvernement. Les bureaux hors Siège rendent compte en premier ressort au Directeur général de l'UNESCO.

¹ Ces Directives ont été approuvées par le Conseil exécutif à sa 196^e session en 2015 (196 EX/Décisions 5 III)

Commissions nationales

• Fonction de conseil

- Conseiller les représentants de leur gouvernement au Conseil exécutif (et leurs suppléants), ainsi que leurs délégations à la Conférence générale et aux autres réunions convoquées par l'UNESCO.
- Conseiller les organismes gouvernementaux/ministères d'exécution compétents de telle sorte que les mandats de l'UNESCO soient représentés/inscrits dans l'élaboration des nouveaux plans de développement nationaux, et dans la mise en place du Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement (PNUAD), en particulier en amont des consultations sur le Plan-cadre avec le gouvernement.
- Conseiller les institutions et partenaires nationaux sur les sujets intéressant l'UNESCO.
- À la demande du Secrétariat de l'UNESCO, donner des avis sur les liens possibles avec des partenaires nationaux.
 - Conseiller le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO sur d'autres sujets pertinents, soit à sa demande, soit de leur propre initiative, y compris dans le cadre de consultations internationales ou interrégionales entre commissions nationales.

• Contribution aux processus de planification/programmation de l'UNESCO

- Conduire, en temps opportun, des consultations nationales avec les entités gouvernementales et les autres acteurs intéressés, en vue de déterminer et définir les priorités nationales et les stratégies de coopération avec l'UNESCO, en tenant compte des mandats et des priorités de l'Organisation.
- Contribuer le cas échéant à l'élaboration des Documents de l'UNESCO relatifs à la programmation par pays (UCPD).
- Participer et contribuer selon que de besoin aux réunions de consultation avec les bureaux hors Siège et les autres commissions nationales aux niveaux sous-régional, régional et interrégional.

• Fonction de liaison et de sensibilisation

- Faciliter la liaison avec les entités gouvernementales, les institutions nationales et les autres acteurs de la société civile et les particuliers, ainsi que leur association aux activités de l'UNESCO, en vue d'obtenir des contributions intellectuelles et professionnelles utiles à l'Organisation et de promouvoir ainsi le dialogue et la collaboration interdisciplinaires.
- Forger avec le concours des bureaux hors Siège de nouveaux partenariats avec les organisations de la société civile au niveau national – groupes populaires et bénévoles sur le terrain, ONG, milieux universitaires et professionnels, parlementaires, autorités locales, syndicats et secteur privé – et promouvoir les divers réseaux et programmes de l'UNESCO.
- Accréditer les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO présents dans leurs pays respectifs, et suivre et évaluer leurs activités selon que de besoin afin de s'assurer que celles-ci sont conformes à la mission et aux objectifs de l'UNESCO, et qu'ils font un usage correct du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO. Les commissions nationales peuvent retirer leur accréditation aux associations, centres et clubs UNESCO qui ne satisfont pas aux normes requises, y compris aux « Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO ».
- Jouer un rôle proactif en encourageant les entités nationales à proposer des candidats pour les prix UNESCO, en participant à la recherche de candidats pour les postes vacants à l'UNESCO et en aidant à placer les titulaires de bourses UNESCO.
- Prendre contact avec d'autres commissions nationales dans leur région et au-delà et renforcer la coopération, en particulier la coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud-Sud.

• **Fonction d'exécution**

- Conformément aux résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence générale, soumettre tous les deux ans à l'UNESCO, après consultation des parties concernées, y compris le bureau hors Siège, les demandes au titre du Programme de participation conformes aux priorités de programme de l'UNESCO.
- Suivre et évaluer la mise en œuvre des demandes approuvées et faire rapport à l'Organisation à ce sujet.
- Contribuer éventuellement, par voie de contrats, aux activités financées au titre du Programme ordinaire de l'UNESCO ou par des ressources extrabudgétaires, en veillant au respect des impératifs d'efficacité et d'efficience et de l'obligation redditionnelle.
- Fournir, sur demande, les renseignements voulus pour faciliter l'exécution du programme, y compris en ce qui concerne les contractants, experts et partenaires nationaux les plus indiqués.
- Coordonner les réponses nationales aux enquêtes menées par l'UNESCO et aux rapports sur la mise en œuvre de ses instruments normatifs au niveau national.
- Rechercher l'appui de donateurs potentiels au niveau national pour leurs propres activités et, s'il y a lieu, appuyer les initiatives des bureaux hors Siège à cet égard.
- Assumer la responsabilité de l'usage correct du nom et de l'emblème de l'Organisation dans leur pays et consulter le cas échéant le bureau hors Siège.

• **Fonction d'information et de promotion**

- Promouvoir les idéaux de l'UNESCO et diffuser l'information sur ses activités et ses réalisations en vue de renforcer son impact au niveau national.
- Contribuer à la visibilité de l'UNESCO.
- Collaborer activement avec les médias nationaux pour faire connaître ce qui précède à l'opinion publique.
- Organiser des événements nationaux et de sensibilisation entrant dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

Bureaux hors Siège

• **Fonction de planification**

- Analyser en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales et les ministères d'exécution les tendances relevant des domaines de compétence de l'Organisation observées dans les pays qu'ils desservent en vue d'éclairer la décision et l'action aux niveaux national, sous-régional, régional et mondial.
- Élaborer et coordonner en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales des cadres stratégiques des UCPD et des plans d'opérations nationaux, multipays et régionaux, tant pour les activités extrabudgétaires que pour celles du Programme ordinaire, apportant ainsi une contribution capitale à l'ensemble du processus de planification de l'UNESCO.
- Veiller à ce que les priorités nationales relatives aux domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO soient dûment reprises dans le Bilan commun de pays (BCP) de l'Équipe de pays des Nations Unies, le Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement (PNUAD) et les activités conjointes visant à faire avancer le programme de développement pour l'après-2015, ainsi que dans les documents de stratégie pour la réduction de la pauvreté (DSRP) de la Banque mondiale.
- Établir les plans de travail relatifs aux activités du Programme ordinaire en étroite coopération avec les commissions nationales et veiller à leur cohérence et à leur complémentarité avec les demandes au titre du Programme de participation.

• **Fonction d'exécution**

- Fournir, à leur demande, aux États membres des conseils et une assistance technique pour la formulation et l'examen de leurs politiques et stratégies dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.
- Servir de relais pour les bonnes pratiques et les services d'experts.
- Soutenir la coopération entre les commissions nationales à l'échelle de la sous-région et au-delà.
- Élaborer, mettre en œuvre et suivre les activités de l'UNESCO (Programme ordinaire et activités extrabudgétaires) dans le ou les pays qu'ils desservent, y compris en consultant les commissions nationales concernées et en les tenant informées des progrès accomplis.
- Recenser les succès, les échecs et les enseignements tirés de la mise en œuvre des activités.
- Dans le cadre du Programme et budget approuvés, réagir aux difficultés comme aux occasions imprévues qui se présentent sur le terrain.

• **Fonction de mobilisation de ressources financières**

- Coopérer avec les États membres en vue de l'identification et de la formulation de projets de développement et mobiliser des fonds pour les activités de l'UNESCO.
- S'assurer, avec le concours des commissions nationales, que les activités et projets extrabudgétaires ont été pleinement approuvés par l'État membre concerné.
- Associer les commissions nationales à la recherche de possibilités d'alignement et de modalités de cofinancement sous la forme de programmes financés par le gouvernement.

• **Fonction de promotion**

- Promouvoir et défendre les idéaux et les objectifs de l'UNESCO et les diffuser auprès des gouvernements, de la société civile, des milieux professionnels et de l'opinion en général avec le concours des commissions nationales.
- Aider les gouvernements qui en font la demande dans la mise en œuvre des instruments normatifs de l'UNESCO.

• **Contribuer à la visibilité de l'UNESCO**

- Promouvoir les événements internationaux qui entrent dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, y compris en coopération avec les commissions nationales.
- Entretenir des relations étroites avec les médias pour assurer très généralement la visibilité de l'UNESCO, en consultation avec les commissions nationales dans la mesure où la complémentarité l'exige.
- Élaborer des stratégies de communication et renforcer la présence en ligne des bureaux hors Siège en vue d'accroître la visibilité de l'UNESCO au sein de la collectivité nationale comme de la communauté internationale.

• **Fonction de centre d'échange d'information**

- Rassembler, transférer, diffuser et mettre en commun les informations disponibles, les connaissances et les bonnes pratiques ou des solutions novatrices dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

ÉCHANGE D'INFORMATION

- Les directeurs/chefs des bureaux hors Siège informent régulièrement les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales des faits suivants :
 - visites de membres du personnel et consultants de l'UNESCO en mission;

- activités et projets devant être menés au niveau national ou qui comportent une participation nationale, et résultats de ces activités et projets;
- faits nouveaux ou événements importants survenus à l'UNESCO.
- Les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales informent régulièrement les directeurs/chefs des bureaux nationaux et multipays des faits et points suivants :
 - questions nationales, déclarations, événements, faits nouveaux, politiques qui peuvent influencer sur les activités de l'UNESCO dans ses domaines de compétence;
 - leurs interactions avec les autres branches de l'UNESCO;
 - leur coopération avec les organisations intergouvernementales régionales et les ONG exerçant leurs activités dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

Consultations bilatérales

Les directeurs/chefs des bureaux régionaux multisectoriels en Afrique et des bureaux multipays et nationaux consultent régulièrement les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales sur les points suivants :

- La conceptualisation des activités à mener au niveau national, en les inscrivant dans les cadres stratégiques multipays et nationaux arrêtés d'un commun accord au cours de la consultation sous-régionale/multipays.
- La désignation des partenaires nationaux.

Les secrétaires généraux des commissions nationales :

Consultent, selon que de besoin, les directeurs/chefs des bureaux hors Siège, pour assurer la complémentarité avec les programmes de l'UNESCO.

PARTICIPATION À DES ÉVÉNEMENTS

Les commissions nationales et les bureaux hors Siège échangent des invitations aux événements qu'ils organisent respectivement au niveau national.

MÉCANISME DE CONSULTATION

Consultation pour les documents C/4 et C/5

La modalité de la consultation pour la préparation des documents C/4 et C/5 privilégie les contributions régionales au processus, constituées à partir des consultations conduites au niveau national. Ces consultations nationales relèvent des États membres, agissant par l'intermédiaire de leurs commissions nationales. C'est le Secrétariat qui assure et gère la liaison entre les consultations nationales, sous-régionales/multipays et régionales.

Les modalités des consultations régionales sont en cours d'examen. Prière de se reporter au document 192 EX/5 Partie III section B et à la décision 192 EX/5 (III.B) s'y rapportant.

Consultations au niveau national

- *Qui en est chargé ?*
 - La commission nationale.
- *Qui y participe ?*
 - Tous les partenaires, gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux, au niveau national, et le bureau hors Siège de l'UNESCO desservant le pays concerné.
- *Quand ont-elles lieu ?*
 - Idéalement, il se tient une réunion avant les consultations sous-régionale/multipays et régionales.

- *Quels en sont les résultats ?*

- La contribution des pays aux consultations sur les documents C/4 et C/5.

Consultations au niveau sous-régional/multipays

- *Qui en est chargé ?*

- Les bureaux multipays et régionaux de l'UNESCO et, en Afrique, les bureaux régionaux multisectoriels.

- *Qui y participe ?*

- Les commissions nationales et, dans les limites du budget disponible, les autres acteurs et experts requis, et les représentants des bureaux régionaux et des instituts de l'UNESCO. Les secteurs de programme et les services centraux de l'UNESCO ainsi que d'autres organismes des Nations Unies et d'autres partenaires peuvent être invités à participer à ces réunions, selon que de besoin.

- *Quand ont-elles lieu ?*

- Idéalement, à intervalles réguliers et selon les crédits disponibles pendant le cycle quadriennal. Les réunions sur la préparation des documents C/4 et C/5 devraient, dans l'idéal, se tenir au cours de l'automne/été de la troisième année du quadriennium, comme prescrit dans la décision 192 EX/5 (III.B) et les dispositions ultérieures. Dans l'intervalle, des consultations collectives pourraient avoir lieu par courrier électronique.

- *Quels en sont les résultats possibles ? Selon l'objet de la consultation, ce pourraient être, au moment voulu :*

- Les cadres stratégiques régionaux, sous-régionaux, multipays et nationaux et les plans d'opérations qui inspirent la mise en œuvre des activités du Programme ordinaire décentralisées par les bureaux hors Siège, l'identification des projets à soumettre aux sources de financement extrabudgétaires et des stratégies de sensibilisation et de communication.
- L'évaluation des résultats obtenus et le suivi de la mise en œuvre des activités et des projets.
- L'examen des questions de gestion et de coordination qui se posent entre les bureaux hors Siège et les commissions nationales.
- Un accord sur des activités conjointes et une plus grande synergie entre commissions nationales.

PARTENARIATS

Rôle des commissions nationales s'agissant d'encourager les partenariats

- **Avec le secteur privé**

Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO ont un rôle particulier à jouer dans la coopération avec un partenaire privé. En dehors de leur fonction de recensement et d'identification de nouveaux partenaires aux niveaux national et régional et/ou de leur intervention lors de la sélection, les commissions nationales sont des parties prenantes majeures et les interlocuteurs naturels de l'UNESCO au niveau du pays. Il est essentiel que toute action soit menée en consultation et en coordination constantes avec l'agenda de développement national. Le partenariat avec le secteur privé dans un pays donné ne doit pas être considéré comme une mesure opportuniste mais comme un ancrage dans une perspective de développement à plus long terme dans l'intérêt du pays et de la région tout entière.

- **Avec les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG)**

Les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO concernées sont consultées pendant le processus d'admission d'ONG aux relations de partenariat avec l'UNESCO, en particulier lorsque la demande concerne une ONG nationale ou locale. La coopération au niveau national s'opère en consultation et/ou en partenariat avec la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée.

Les commissions nationales devraient déterminer quelles sont les ONG qui présentent un intérêt au regard des activités courantes de l'UNESCO et soutenir l'admission de ses partenaires non gouvernementaux, aux niveaux tant international que national, en vue d'accroître le nombre d'ONG de toutes les régions qui coopèrent activement avec l'UNESCO en qualité de partenaire officiel.

UTILISATION DU NOM ET DE L'EMBLÈME DE L'UNESCO

Les commissions nationales, l'utilisation du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO et le droit d'en autoriser l'utilisation.

Outre l'utilisation qu'elles font elles-mêmes du nom et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO pour promouvoir la visibilité et le rayonnement de l'UNESCO, les commissions nationales jouent aussi un rôle important en délivrant des autorisations d'utiliser l'emblème de l'Organisation.

Les commissions nationales peuvent autoriser à placer sous leur patronage, c'est-à-dire sous leur caution morale, les événements d'organisations de la société civile se tenant à l'échelon national, et accorder dans ce contexte le droit d'utiliser l'emblème de commission nationale de l'UNESCO. Elles peuvent aussi autoriser l'utilisation de leur propre emblème lorsqu'elles organisent des événements conjointement avec d'autres organisations nationales dans le cadre d'un partenariat.

En outre, les commissions nationales sont appelées à assister le Secrétariat en conseillant au sujet de l'utilisation de l'emblème les membres des vastes réseaux de l'UNESCO, comme les gestionnaires des sites du patrimoine mondial et des réserves de biosphère, les écoles associées de l'UNESCO, ainsi que les associations, centres et clubs UNESCO, les chaires UNESCO, etc.

Les commissions nationales sont également appelées à assister le Secrétariat en formulant des recommandations lorsque des organisations de la société civile des États membres concernés demandent à bénéficier du patronage du Directeur général.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS FOR UNESCO¹

1. Background and rationale

1.1 Over the last 70 years, the “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” have made an important contribution to advancing UNESCO’s mandate and goals and increasing the Organization’s visibility. However, there is a need to better codify the relationship between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO and Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, by strengthening an appropriate Regulatory Framework regarding the movement of Clubs for UNESCO.

1.2 In this context, a number of strategic documents were approved by UNESCO’s Governing Bodies, namely:

- Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation of UNESCO’s Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (document 37 C/Resolution 97);
- “Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide” (last published by the Organization in 2009); and
- the provisions outlined in Part F “Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” of the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, contained in document 192 EX/5.INF (2013).

1.3 All these strategic documents were aimed at clarifying the provisions related to the cooperation between UNESCO and National Commissions, Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO. The Consultation Meeting with National Commissions that was held in June 2017 called for the need to simplify the structure of the movement and clarify the role of “Centres for UNESCO” so as to avoid any confusion with the status of category 1 and category 2 centres under UNESCO’s auspices.

1.4 By 37 C/Resolution 93 (November 2013), the General Conference approved “the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres” (which supersedes all relevant prior resolutions by the General Conference on this subject). These institutes/centres serve in their fields of specialization as international or regional centres and poles of expertise/experience to provide services and technical assistance to Member States and cooperation partners. On the other hand, there is no definition legally agreed by the General Conference for the “Centres for UNESCO”.

1.5 It was agreed at the Consultation Meeting that the use of “Centres” as being part of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO movement should be seriously reconsidered and it was suggested that the “Centres for UNESCO” could continue to exist under this name for a transitional period of two years following the adoption of this Regulatory Framework by the General Conference at its 39th session, until such time as they either become a category 2 centre, or change their designation to become either a “Club” or “Association” for UNESCO.

1.6 Given the bureaucratic and operational complexity of changing the name “Centre for UNESCO” to “Association or Club for UNESCO”, the Centres for UNESCO should continue to exist under this name for an additional period of two years until the 41st session of the General Conference and the submission of the report by the Secretariat concerning this decision. At the end of this period, their status should be aligned on 39 C/Resolution 90, paragraph 1.5, of the 39th session of the General Conference. (*Amendment adopted on the report of the APX Commission at the 15th plenary meeting, on 25 November 2019*)

2. Definition and purpose

2.1 Definition of “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO”: They consist of groups of people from all ages, from all walks of life and every background who share a firm belief in UNESCO’s ideals as set out in its Constitution and who decide to realize them in their daily life (cf. Clubs for UNESCO: A Practical Guide of UNESCO).

2.2 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are non-profit bodies. They operate on a voluntary basis and are legally and financially independent from UNESCO. They have close links to the general public and other professional and local authorities. “Associations and Clubs for UNESCO” can operate in any sphere of UNESCO’s competence (ref. major programmes of UNESCO).

2.3 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO are all different in size and financial and operational capacities.

2.4 The main purpose of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO is to promote understanding of and support for UNESCO’s mission, priorities and programmes at the grassroots level. They thus contribute to

¹ This Regulatory Framework was adopted by the General Conference at its 39th session in 2017 (39 C/Resolution 90) and amended by the General Conference at its 40th session in 2019 (40 C/Resolution 98)

the promotion of UNESCO's values, messages and actions and are instrumental for the realization of its objectives and goals.

2.5 With a view to strengthening this Regulatory Framework, it is decided that after a transitional period of two years only Associations and Clubs for UNESCO will be considered as the two categories of partners within the "Associations and Clubs for UNESCO" movement.

2.6 During that transitional period of two years, the provisions of this Regulatory Framework shall apply to Centres for UNESCO.

3. Strategic objectives of the partnership of the Associations and Clubs for UNESCO with the Organization

- foster the interest of the broader public in UNESCO's mission, programmes and activities;
- contribute to developing and promoting an understanding of UNESCO's goals and advocacy, including at grassroots level;
- contribute to the implementation of the Organization's programme at national and local levels, in coordination with the National Commission for UNESCO;
- promote the values of solidarity, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, as well as the values of global citizenship education, human rights and sustainable development among peoples;
- promote the International days, weeks, years and decades proclaimed by UNESCO; and
- contribute to promoting UNESCO's messages by translating UNESCO Secretariat-generated documents and information into national and local languages, through all means of communication, including social media.

4. Role of National Commissions for UNESCO

4.1 The direct oversight of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO by their respective National Commissions is a prerequisite for ensuring the supervision of quality of these entities and their adherence to the provisions of the present Regulatory Framework.

4.2 National Commissions are responsible, among others, for:

- accrediting, supervising, assessing, and if necessary, removing accreditation from Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- keeping an updated directory of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- providing supervision for the work of the National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO, if it exists;
- ensuring that Associations' and Clubs' goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO's current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- ensuring the proper use of UNESCO's name, acronym and logo;
- encouraging cooperation with Associations and Clubs for UNESCO at the national, regional and international level;
- encouraging exploring avenues for cooperation with other UNESCO's networks in the country, such as UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Associated Schools, UNESCO category 2 centres and institutes, and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO; and
- National Commissions could be allowed to take any initiative, which might help Associations and Clubs for UNESCO to fulfil their mission.

5. Rules of engagement

5.1 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO share UNESCO's ideals, and must commit to compliance with the following basic rules:

- operate under the oversight of the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in which they are located;
- submit to the National Commission an action plan at the beginning of each year, as well as an activity report at the end of the year;
- ensure that their goals and activities are inspired by UNESCO’s current strategic objectives and programmatic priorities;
- not to use the Association or Club for political purposes;
- not to make statements in the name of UNESCO or of their National Commission;
- not to use the Association or Club for any profit-making enterprise;
- not to take upon themselves to undertake the rights and prerogatives of UNESCO (for example, appointments of Goodwill Ambassadors, or awarding any other titles; awarding prizes, diplomas or any awards or certificates awarded by UNESCO);
- respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/Resolution 86), in order to prevent any misuse;
- use the UNESCO name, acronym and logo only upon obtaining an authorisation from the National Commission for UNESCO, solely in the following form, which may be displayed in the languages of the country:



- to not use or no longer use the acronym “UNESCO” in the website address, email address or name of social network accounts of the association or club, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.

6. Provisions related to National Federations of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO

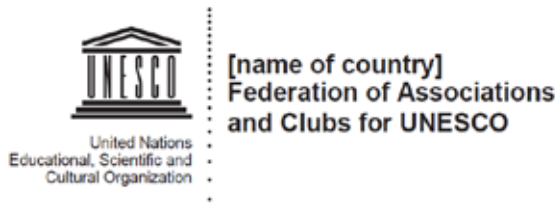
6.1 If there are several Associations/Clubs for UNESCO in a Member State, these Associations and/or Clubs may gather together to create a National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO under the aegis and with the authorization of their National Commission, which could fulfil the following main functions:

- guiding and advising individual Associations and Clubs on how to achieve the strategic objectives of the partnership outlined above;
- if needed, supporting their National Commission in its Clubs-related and coordination work, (including by collecting and compiling individual annual reports of Associations and Clubs and helping to train them);
- alerting their National Commission in case of individual Associations/Clubs non-compliance with the rules of engagement outlined above;
- encouraging contacts, common activities and collaboration between Associations/Clubs in the Member State; and
- organizing their activities based on an action plan validated by their National Commission.

6.2 There must be only one national federation for each Member State or Associate Member. The National Commission guarantees the legitimacy of the concerned National Federation of Associations and Clubs for UNESCO.

6.3 In implementing its activities, a national federation may be supported financially by its national authorities or partners, under the supervision of its National Commission for UNESCO. It can submit projects within the participation programme framework.

6.4 Each national federation undertakes to respect strictly the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference at its 34th session (34 C/Resolution 86); and use the UNESCO logo only upon obtaining an authorization from their National Commission for UNESCO, and only in the following form, which may be displayed in appropriate translation in the languages of the country:



6.5 National federations do not have the authority to grant the right to use UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and Internet domain to any other entity.

6.6 They also undertake to not use or no longer use the acronym "UNESCO" in their website address, email address or name of social network accounts, or any other wording that could falsely suggest that they are part of UNESCO.

CADRE RÉGLEMENTAIRE RELATIF AUX ASSOCIATIONS ET CLUBS POUR L'UNESCO¹

1. Contexte et justification

1.1 Depuis 70 ans, les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO apportent une importante contribution à la réalisation du mandat et des objectifs de l'Organisation ainsi qu'à l'amélioration de sa visibilité. Cependant, il est nécessaire de mieux codifier les relations entre le Secrétariat de l'Organisation, les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO et les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO, en renforçant un Cadre réglementaire approprié relatif au mouvement des clubs pour l'UNESCO.

1.2 Dans ce contexte, un certain nombre de documents stratégiques ont été approuvés par les organes directeurs de l'UNESCO, à savoir :

- Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération entre le Secrétariat de l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 37e session (résolution 37 C/97) ;
- « Clubs pour l'UNESCO : guide pratique » (dernier ouvrage publié par l'UNESCO en 2009) ; et
- les dispositions de la partie F – « Associations, Centres et Clubs pour l'UNESCO » de la Stratégie globale pour les partenariats, contenue dans le document 192 EX/5.INF (2013).

1.3. Tous ces documents stratégiques avaient pour but de clarifier les dispositions relatives à la coopération entre l'UNESCO et les commissions nationales, les associations, les centres et les clubs pour l'UNESCO. La réunion de consultation avec les commissions nationales qui s'est tenue en juin 2017 a souligné la nécessité de simplifier la structure du mouvement et de préciser le rôle des « centres pour l'UNESCO » afin d'éviter toute confusion avec le statut des centres de catégories 1 et 2 placés sous l'égide de l'UNESCO.

1.4 Par sa résolution 37 C/93 (novembre 2013), la Conférence générale a approuvé « la Stratégie globale intégrée concernant les instituts et centres de catégorie 2 » (qui remplace toutes les résolutions précédemment adoptées par la Conférence générale à ce sujet). Dans leurs domaines de spécialisation, ces instituts/centres servent de pôles d'expertise internationaux ou régionaux qui offrent des services et une assistance technique aux États membres et aux partenaires de coopération. D'un autre côté, il n'existe aucune définition des « centres pour l'UNESCO » légalement admise par la Conférence générale.

1.5 À la réunion de consultation, il a été convenu que l'utilisation des « centres » dans le cadre du mouvement des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO devrait être sérieusement réexaminée. Il a été suggéré que les « centres pour l'UNESCO » continueraient d'exister sous ce nom pour une période transitoire de deux ans suivant l'adoption du présent Cadre réglementaire par la Conférence générale à sa 39e session, jusqu'à ce qu'ils deviennent un centre de catégorie 2 ou qu'ils changent de statut pour devenir soit un « club », soit une « association » pour l'UNESCO.

1.6 Étant donné la complexité bureaucratique et opérationnelle du changement de l'appellation « centre pour l'UNESCO » en « association pour l'UNESCO » ou « club pour l'UNESCO », les centres pour l'UNESCO devraient continuer d'exister sous cette appellation pendant une période supplémentaire de deux ans jusqu'à la 41e session de la Conférence générale et la présentation par le Secrétariat du rapport concernant cette décision. À l'issue de cette période, leur statut devra être mis en conformité avec le paragraphe 1.5 du Cadre réglementaire adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 39e session (*Amendement adopté sur le rapport de la commission APX à la 15e séance plénière, le 25 novembre 2019*).

2. Définition et objet

2.1 Définition des « associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO » : Il s'agit de groupes de personnes de tous âges, de tous horizons et de toutes conditions qui croient fermement aux idéaux de l'UNESCO tels qu'ils sont énoncés dans son Acte constitutif et qui décident de les réaliser dans leur vie quotidienne (voir « Clubs pour l'UNESCO : guide pratique »).

2.2 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO sont des organes à but non lucratif. Ils travaillent bénévolement et sont indépendants de l'Organisation sur les plans juridique et financier. Ils entretiennent des liens étroits avec le grand public et d'autres autorités professionnelles et locales. Les « associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO » peuvent **œuvrer** dans n'importe quel domaine de compétence de l'Organisation (voir les grands programmes de l'UNESCO).

¹ Ce Cadre réglementaire a été adopté par la Conférence générale à sa 39e session en 2017 (39 C/Résolution 90) et modifié par la Conférence générale à sa 40e session en 2019 (40 C/Résolution 98)

2.3 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO diffèrent par leur taille et leurs capacités financières et opérationnelles.

2.4 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO ont pour objectif principal de faire mieux connaître la mission, les priorités et les programmes de l'Organisation au niveau local. Ils contribuent ainsi à promouvoir les valeurs, les messages et les actions de l'UNESCO, et jouent un rôle important pour la réalisation de ses buts et objectifs.

2.5 Afin de renforcer le présent Cadre réglementaire, il est proposé qu'à l'issue d'une période transitoire de deux ans, les associations et les clubs pour l'UNESCO seront considérés comme les deux seules catégories de partenaires au sein du mouvement des « Associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO ».

3. Objectifs stratégiques du partenariat des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO avec l'Organisation

- Susciter l'intérêt du grand public pour la mission, les programmes et les activités de l'UNESCO ;
- faire mieux connaître et comprendre les buts de l'UNESCO et son action de sensibilisation, notamment au niveau local ;
- contribuer à la mise en **œuvre** des programmes de l'Organisation aux niveaux local et national, en coordination avec la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée ;
- promouvoir auprès des individus les valeurs de solidarité, de tolérance et de respect de la diversité culturelle, ainsi que les valeurs de l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, des droits de l'homme et du développement durable ;
- promouvoir les journées, semaines, années et décennies internationales proclamées par l'UNESCO ; et
- contribuer à la diffusion des messages de l'UNESCO en traduisant les documents et informations produits par le Secrétariat de l'Organisation dans les langues nationales et locales, à l'aide de tous les moyens de communication, notamment des réseaux sociaux.

4. Rôle des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO

4.1 La supervision directe des associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO par la commission nationale dont ils relèvent est une condition indispensable pour assurer le contrôle de la qualité de ces entités et le respect des dispositions du présent Cadre réglementaire par ces dernières.

4.2 Les commissions nationales sont chargées, entre autres, des tâches suivantes :

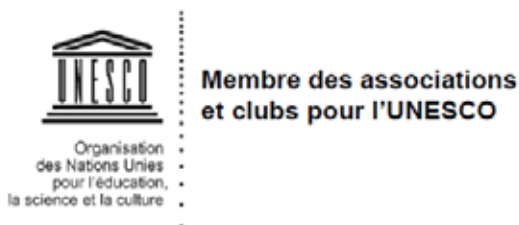
- accréditer, surveiller, évaluer les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO et, le cas échéant, retirer leur accréditation ;
- tenir à jour un répertoire des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO ;
- assurer la supervision des travaux de la Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO, le cas échéant ;
- veiller à la conformité des objectifs et des activités des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO avec les actuels objectifs stratégiques et priorités de programme de l'Organisation ;
- veiller à la bonne utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme et de l'emblème de l'UNESCO ;
- promouvoir la coopération avec les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO au niveau national, régional et international ;
- encourager la recherche de pistes de coopération avec d'autres réseaux de l'UNESCO au niveau national (chaires UNESCO, écoles associées, instituts et centres de catégorie 2, ONG partenaires officiels de l'UNESCO) ; et
- les commissions nationales pourraient être autorisées à prendre toute initiative susceptible d'aider les associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO à remplir leur mission.

5. Règles d'engagement

5.1 Les associations, centres et clubs pour l'UNESCO partagent les idéaux de l'UNESCO et doivent s'engager à respecter les règles fondamentales suivantes :

- exercer leurs activités sous la supervision de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du pays dans lequel ils se situent ;

- présenter un plan d'action à la commission nationale au début de chaque année, ainsi qu'un rapport d'activité à la fin de l'année ;
- veiller à la conformité de leurs objectifs et activités avec les actuels objectifs stratégiques et priorités de programme de l'UNESCO ;
- ne pas utiliser l'association, le centre ou le club pour l'UNESCO à des fins politiques ;
- ne pas faire de déclaration au nom de l'UNESCO ou de leur commission nationale ;
- ne pas utiliser l'association, le centre ou le club pour l'UNESCO à des fins lucratives ;
- ne pas se permettre d'exercer les droits et prérogatives de l'UNESCO (par exemple, la désignation des ambassadeurs de bonne volonté, ou l'attribution d'autres titres ; la remise de prix, diplômes ou autres récompenses ou certificats délivrés par l'Organisation) ;
- respecter strictement les Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine internet de l'UNESCO, adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 34e session (résolution 34 C/86) ;
- utiliser le nom, l'acronyme et l'emblème de l'UNESCO sur autorisation de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et seulement sous la forme présentée ci-dessous, le texte pouvant apparaître dans la langue du pays :



- ne pas utiliser l'acronyme « UNESCO » dans l'adresse du site Web ou l'adresse électronique de l'association ou du club, ni aucune autre mention pouvant suggérer à tort qu'ils font partie de l'UNESCO.

6. Dispositions relatives aux fédérations nationales des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO

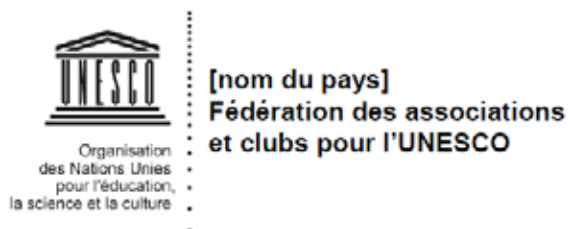
6.1 S'il existe plusieurs associations/clubs pour l'UNESCO dans un État membre, ces associations et/ou clubs peuvent se regrouper pour créer une Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO sous l'égide et avec l'autorisation de leur commission nationale, qui remplirait les principales fonctions suivantes :

- fournir aux associations et aux clubs des orientations et des conseils sur la manière d'atteindre les objectifs stratégiques du partenariat exposés plus haut ;
- si nécessaire, aider la commission nationale concernée à s'acquitter de ses tâches relatives aux clubs et de coordination (notamment en recueillant et regroupant les rapports annuels des différentes associations et des différents clubs et en les aidant à se former) ;
- alerter la commission nationale concernée en cas de non-respect par les associations/clubs des règles d'engagement énoncées plus haut ;
- encourager les contacts, les activités communes et la collaboration entre les associations/clubs dans l'État membre ; et
- organiser leurs activités sur la base d'un plan d'action validé par leur commission nationale.

6.2 Il ne doit y avoir qu'une seule fédération nationale pour chaque État membre ou Membre associé. La commission nationale garantit la légitimité de la Fédération nationale des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO concernée.

6.3 Pour mener leurs activités, les fédérations nationales peuvent recevoir un appui financier de la part des autorités nationales ou de leurs partenaires, sous la supervision de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO. Elles peuvent présenter des projets dans le cadre du Programme de participation.

6.4 Les fédérations nationales s'engagent à respecter strictement les Directives concernant l'utilisation du nom, de l'acronyme, de l'emblème et des noms de domaine internet de l'UNESCO, adoptées par la Conférence générale à sa 34e session (résolution 34 C/86), ainsi qu'à utiliser l'emblème de l'UNESCO sur autorisation de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO concernée et seulement sous la forme présentée ci-dessous, le texte pouvant apparaître dans les termes appropriés dans la langue du pays :



6.5 Les fédérations nationales ne peuvent pas donner le droit d'utiliser le nom, l'acronyme, l'emblème et les noms de domaine Internet de l'UNESCO à des tiers.

6.6 Elles s'engagent également à ne pas utiliser l'acronyme « UNESCO » dans l'adresse de leur site Web ou dans leur adresse électronique, ni aucune autre mention pouvant suggérer à tort qu'elles font partie de l'UNESCO.



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