



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

A close-up, profile shot of a young woman with dark, curly hair tied back, smiling and playing a steel drum. She is wearing a light blue top and a necklace with blue beads. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

National Commissions for UNESCO *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2019

National Commissions for UNESCO
*Commissions nationales
pour l'UNESCO*

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FOREWORD

The National Commissions of UNESCO's Member States and Associate Members are essential drivers for our multilateral ambitions, ensuring these are achieved at the national level. They are a unique asset and have played a key role in our operations for the past 75 years.

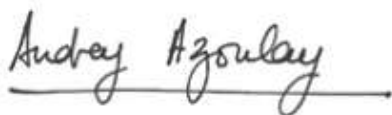
Last year was an important one for our Organization. Crucial decisions for the future were made at the 40th session of the General Conference, including those to begin elaborating Recommendations on Open Science and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. An expert group, chaired by the President of Ethiopia, began drafting a report on the Futures of Education. Around the world, UNESCO's field offices made great strides in furthering our Organization's mandate. 2019 was also an intense year for National Commissions, who are building the future at our side. Their patient work deserves to be highlighted.

Today, the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing international crisis require all of us to take action. National Commissions are working on a daily basis around the world to ensure that UNESCO and local authorities can respond to this exceptional situation. There are many challenges, and their scope is unprecedented: we need to ensure the continuity of education, support cultural life, fight disinformation, promote scientific responses to the crisis – without sacrificing the future.

These actions will be discussed in the report published next year. For now, I would like to acknowledge the remarkable commitment that National Commissions have made to furthering our values during the pandemic, and to helping us overcome it.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations system, this crisis reveals the interdependence of countries and the relevance of multilateralism. We will have a key role to play in supporting recovery efforts and in imagining and creating the world to come. I am delighted to know that we can count on the dynamism of our National Commissions.

In the pages that follow, I invite you to discover the enthusiasm and inventiveness of the women and men working around the world to ensure that multilateralism is not only a method but an everyday reality. I thank them warmly for their efforts.



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

AVANT-PROPOS

Courroies de transmission entre les ambitions multilatérales de l'UNESCO et leur réalisation à l'échelle nationale, les Commissions nationales des États membres et celles des membres associés sont des rouages essentiels du fonctionnement de notre Organisation et un atout unique, depuis maintenant 75 ans.

L'année 2019 a été importante pour notre Organisation, avec notamment l'adoption lors de la 40^e session de la Conférence générale de décisions cruciales pour l'avenir, comme celles lançant l'élaboration de Recommandations sur les Sciences Ouvertes ou encore sur l'éthique de l'Intelligence artificielle. Le groupe d'experts présidé par la présidente de l'Éthiopie a également commencé son travail en vue de la rédaction d'un

Rapport sur les Futurs de l'Éducation. Et, dans le monde entier, beaucoup a été fait par les Bureaux de l'UNESCO pour agir au service du mandat de notre Organisation. Cette année 2019 a naturellement été particulièrement intense également pour les Commissions Nationales, qui construisent l'avenir à nos côtés. Leur patient travail mérite d'être mis en lumière.

Aujourd'hui, la pandémie COVID-19 et la crise mondiale qui s'ensuit exigent toute notre mobilisation. Les Commissions Nationales œuvrent jour après jour et dans le monde entier, pour permettre à l'UNESCO et aux autorités locales de répondre à cette situation exceptionnelle. Les défis sont multiples et inédits dans leur ampleur : assurer la continuité de l'éducation, maintenir une vie culturelle, lutter contre la désinformation, promouvoir les réponses scientifiques à la crise, et ne pas sacrifier l'avenir.

Vous découvrirez le compte-rendu de leurs actions dans le rapport qui sera publié l'an prochain, mais je tiens dès aujourd'hui à saluer leur remarquable engagement pour perpétuer nos valeurs dans la crise et contribuer ainsi à la surmonter.

Alors que nous célébrons cette année le 75^e anniversaire du système des Nations-Unies, cette crise révèle toute l'interdépendance des pays et la pertinence du multilatéralisme. Nous aurons beaucoup à faire pour accompagner la sortie de crise, pour penser et faire advenir le monde d'après : je suis heureuse de savoir que nous pourrions compter sur le dynamisme des Commissions nationales.

Pour l'heure, je vous invite à découvrir au fil des pages l'enthousiasme et l'inventivité de ces hommes et de ces femmes qui, tout autour du monde, se mobilisent pour que le projet multilatéral soit non seulement une méthode, mais aussi une réalité au quotidien. Je les en remercie chaleureusement.



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Table of contents

Africa

ANGOLA	7
BÉNIN	8
BOTSWANA	9
BURKINA FASO	10
BURUNDI	11
CABO VERDE	12
COMORES	13
CONGO	14
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	15
DJIBOUTI	16
GABON	17
GAMBIA	18
GHANA	19
GUINÉE	20
KENYA	21
LESOTHO	22
MADAGASCAR	23
MALI	24
MAURITIUS	25
MOZAMBIQUE	26
NAMIBIA	27
NIGERIA	28
RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE	29
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO	30
RWANDA	31
SEYCHELLES	32
SÉNÉGAL	33
SIERRA LEONE	34
SOUTH AFRICA	35
TCHAD	36
TOGO	37
UGANDA	38
ZIMBABWE	39

Arab States

ALGÉRIE	41
BAHRAIN	42
EGYPT	43
JORDAN	44
KUWAIT	45
LIBAN	46
LIBYA	47

MAROC	49
MAURITANIE	50
OMAN	51
PALESTINE	52
QATAR	53
SAUDI ARABIA	54
SUDAN	55
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	56
TUNISIE	57
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	58

Asia and the Pacific 59

AFGHANISTAN	60
AUSTRALIA	61
BANGLADESH	62
BHUTAN	63
CAMBODIA	64
CHINA	65
COOK ISLANDS	66
INDIA	67
INDONESIA	68
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	69
JAPAN	70
KAZAKHSTAN	71
KYRGYZSTAN	72
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	73
MALAYSIA	74
MALDIVES	75
MONGOLIA	76
NEPAL	77
NEW ZEALAND	78
PAKISTAN	79
PHILIPPINES	80
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	81
SINGAPORE	82
TAJIKISTAN	83
TIMOR-LESTE	84
UZBEKISTAN	85

Europe and North America 87

ALBANIA	88
ANDORRE	89
ARMENIA	90
AUSTRIA	91

AZERBAIJAN	92	SUISSE	130
BELGIUM/BELGIQUE	93	SWEDEN	131
BELGIUM/BELGIQUE	94	TURKEY	132
BELARUS	95	UKRAINE	133
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	96	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	134
BULGARIA	97		
CANADA	98	Latin America and the Caribbean	135
CROATIA	99		
CYPRUS	100	ARUBA	136
CZECH REPUBLIC	101	BAHAMAS	137
DENMARK	102	BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	138
ESTONIA	103	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	139
FAROEES	104	COLOMBIA	140
FINLAND	105	CUBA	141
FRANCE	106	CURAÇAO	142
GEORGIA	107	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	143
GERMANY	108	ECUADOR	144
GREECE	109	EL SALVADOR	145
HUNGARY	110	GUYANA	146
ICELAND	111	HONDURAS	147
IRELAND	112	JAMAICA	148
ITALY	113	MEXICO	149
LATVIA	114	PERU	150
LITHUANIA	115	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	151
LUXEMBOURG	116	SINT MAARTEN	152
MALTA	117	ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	153
MONACO	118	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	154
NETHERLANDS	119		
NORTH MACEDONIA	120	Meetings of National Commissions	155
NORWAY	121		
POLAND	122	UNESCO Field Offices List	168
PORTUGAL	123		
ROMANIA	124	Abbreviations list	170
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	125		
SERBIA	126	Annexes	173
SLOVAKIA	127		
SLOVENIA	128		
SPAIN	129		

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

Veuillez 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 œuvre 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

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission of Angola for UNESCO developed the following activities:

- Integrated into the Multisectoral Commission, in the context of the elevation of the city of Mbanza Kongo to the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- Organized the working visit to the Republic of Angola by the Director of the Yaoundé Regional Bureau, Mr. Salah Khaled, and facilitated presentation and consultation with different sectors within UNESCO's areas of competence;
- Co-organized, in partnership with *Cultura para Todos*, the Opening and Closing Session of the 4th Edition of the

International Theatre Circuit (ITC) under the motto "Take Angola to the World and bring the World to Angola";

- The UNESCO Associated Schools Network held the 1st National Meeting, on 5 October, World Teachers' Day. The Network from Angola has forty-four registered schools;
- In commemoration of the International and World days of the Tree, Water and the African Child, the National Commission organized a seminar to raise awareness and strengthen the network of partners of the Associated Schools Project network;
- On 12 August, International Youth Day, the National Commission, in partnership with the National Youth Council, organized a workshop aimed at raising awareness of adolescents, young people, and general public about the damage to mental health of the use and abuse of alcohol;
- Co-organized a concert with the participation of Angolan and international musicians, such as Waldemar Bastos, Lili Haydn and Mitchell Long, on the International Jazz Day, in partnership with the Multisectoral Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé and the American School of Angola;
- Signature of two Cooperation Protocols with *Cultura para Todos* and the *Association of Communicators*;
- Expanded opportunities to participate in the Organization's recruitment, including internship programs.

SUCCESS STORY

In the context of the launch of the 1st Edition of the Luanda Biennale, focusing on the Culture of Peace in Africa, the UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, was received by the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço. During this official visit, Ms. Azoulay participated, as part of the Official Opening of the Biennale, in the Panel Discussion with Heads of State of the continent and high officials of the African Union. Ms. Azoulay also signed an Agreement with the Government of Angola for the Implementation of the National Doctoral Training Programme in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Biennale comprised five main axes: the Partners Forum, the Ideas Forum, the Youth Forum, the Women's Forum, and the Festival of Cultures. These created a platform for cultural diversity and African unity, as well as the space for the creation of intelligent, sustainable, and innovative partnerships. Promoting the dissemination of good practices for crisis prevention and conflict resolution, the Biennale also enabled international and inter-African exchanges and reflections on the future of Africa.



President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço and the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Audrey Azoulay © A.R.R. Angolan National Commission for UNESCO



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Working meeting of the National Commissions of the Central African Region in the first quarter of 2020, to exchange experiences and good practices for defining an action strategy;
- 2nd Meeting of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network on the 5 October 2020;
- Creation of the Communication and Information Strategy of the National Commission of Angola aligned with continental and international strategies.

BÉNIN

Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO est composée d'une équipe de moins de cinq personnes. En raison du faible effectif de l'équipe et de conditions de travail difficiles, les travaux peuvent parfois être rendus avec certains délais de retard. Afin d'y remédier, la Secrétaire générale a décidé de demander l'appui des membres de la Fédération des clubs UNESCO dans les différents domaines où la Commission a besoin d'appui logistique. Par conséquent, la Commission nationale et la Fédération des Clubs UNESCO ont pu mettre en commun de nombreux projets d'activités

ce qui a permis de faciliter la réalisation des objectifs de Développement Durables (ODD) et de donner de la visibilité à l'UNESCO, même dans certaines régions reculées du Bénin.

En décembre 2018, la Commission nationale béninoise a pu remettre sur pied la Fédération des associations et clubs UNESCO du Bénin, qui avait apporté son aide en 2019 dans la réalisation d'activités entrant dans le cadre des ODD.

L'Organisation islamique pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture (ICESCO) est également un partenaire actif du Bénin dans l'élaboration d'activités dans les domaines de l'éducation, des sciences et de la culture. En 2019, l'ICESCO a accompagné le Bénin dans deux principales activités :

- En janvier 2019, à Cotonou, un atelier de renforcement des capacités en couture et en broderie de 50 femmes des groupements féminins de tout le Bénin a eu lieu pendant une durée de trois semaines ;
- En août 2019, à Akassato dans la Commune d'Abomey-Calavi, un autre atelier de renforcement des capacités en couture et broderie, du même format que l'atelier précédent, a eu lieu pour 45 femmes alphabétisées. A la fin des formations, ces femmes ont reçu chacune une aide financière et une machine à coudre.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Le 21 septembre 2019, à Abomey, la Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO, en partenariat avec la Direction Départementale des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire du Zou, a organisé une caravane pour célébrer la journée internationale de la paix. Cet événement a été célébré pour la 1ère fois dans cette ville avec la participation des élèves de l'école urbaine, encadrés par leurs directeurs et directrices, les forces de l'ordre, les autorités administratives (préfecture, mairie), les jeunes des clubs UNESCO. La caravane a été suivie par les jeunes apprentis et ouvriers de la ville qui ont affirmé que l'événement était un succès.



Caravane de la journée internationale de la paix – 21 septembre 2019 © T.D.R. Commission nationale béninoise pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En 2019, le bureau multisectoriel régional d'Abuja a appuyé le pays dans la réalisation d'un document de politique holistique nationale (PNE@BENIN) sur la base du guide proposé par l'UNESCO. En 2020, le budget national permet la mise en place d'une seule activité. La Commission nationale souhaiterait bénéficier de programmes de participation pour, entre autres, réaliser une activité sur le changement climatique avec les étudiants de l'Université de Parakou (Nord Bénin), pour commencer la mise en œuvre du PNE@BENIN, ainsi que pour redynamiser les activités des écoles associées.

BOTSWANA

Botswana National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Puso Gaborone

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The focus of the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO in the 2018-2019 biennium was to strengthen structures for effective coordination across UNESCO's five areas of competence. At the center of this exercise was to re-energize the Programme Committees and their Thematic Working Groups for effective implementation of the UNESCO mandate and to optimize the impact of UNESCO programmes and activities. In the process, Botswana realized some remarkable achievements, which include a positive response to Botswana's application to host the UNESCO Chair on African Heritage Studies and Sustainable Development at the University of Botswana, winning the 2019 UNESCO Prize for Education for

Sustainable Development through Camphill Community Trust, and the inscription of Seperu folk dance and its associated practices under the Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Similarly, the Women Writers Symposium, funded through the UNESCO Participation Programme (2018–2019), was organized to empower abused women with knowledge and skills to turnaround their predicaments through applied drama. These two phased workshops gave abused women a platform to share and document their stories as well as to produce videos showcasing abuses they experienced.

With funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme, the Phuthadikobo Museum embarked on a process to digitize its collections. The project included training of regional museum curators on digital archiving as well as conducting an audit of the museum collections for digitization. The purpose was to ensure increased access to information by researchers and the public at large.

As part of awareness raising and advocacy campaigns, Botswana commemorated several International Days, such as World Radio Day, World Science Day for Peace and Development, International Literacy Day, and the World Poetry Day.

SUCCESS STORY

The Botswana National Commission for UNESCO, with seven other National Commissions from the Sub-Saharan Africa, have been implementing the Bridge Africa Project with support from the Korea National Commission for UNESCO. The aim is to empower local communities to be self-sufficient through community-driven education initiatives, necessary for the eradication of extreme poverty and fostering sustainable development. The project facilitates progress towards the achievement of six Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, and SDG 17 on partnerships.) It delivers in three results areas, covering capacity building for teachers and adult facilitators, supply of teaching and learning materials, and the construction of a Community Learning Center.

In Botswana, the project is implemented in Mmaothate, Kacgae, and New Xade, with Mmaothate the main site for the Centre. Kacgae and New Xade are secondary sites receiving support through provision of teaching and learning, capacity building of teachers, as well as education and health-based community mobilization.

The Community Learning Centre (CLC) was officially opened by the Chairperson of the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Kgosi Puso Gaborone, in a special event on 5 November 2019. Following the opening, Mmaothate CLC was handed over to District Commissioner of Kweneng, Ms. Bernice Mosime for community use. Thanks to the provision of transport and meals for disadvantaged learners accessing educational services, the CLC has continued to register enrolments growth from 25 learners in 2016 to 206 learners in 2019. Registered learners were school drop-outs and Early Childhood Development learners who could not cope with the long distances they were forced to travel each day to Monwane and the bephatshwa Primary Schools.



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Botswana
National
Commission for
UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

During the 2020–2021 biennium, the Botswana National Commission for UNESCO and the Bridge Botswana National Committee will implement sustainability strategies for the Bridge Africa Project Ideals, in collaboration with other Bridge National Committees from Eswatini and Zambia. Targeted initiatives include:

- Organizing an annual conference involving all the countries that participated in the Bridge Africa Project, to create an opportunity for countries benefited from the Bridge Africa Project to share experiences and learn best practices for sustainability of the Bridge Africa Project Ideals;
- To submit a regional application for funding through the UNESCO Participation Programme 2020–2021, to close an identified gap in quality assurance of literacy programmes.

BURKINA FASO

Commission nationale burkinabé pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Au cours de l'année 2019, plusieurs activités ont été menées par la Commission nationale, dont la session de grand plaidoyer d'appui aux femmes exclues par allégation de sorcellerie ainsi que l'Assemblée générale extraordinaire des Comités spécialisés pour préparer la participation du Burkina Faso à la 40ème Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.

Par ailleurs, la 5ème rencontre statutaire du Comité directeur du Réseau du Système des Ecoles Associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (RéSEAO), organisée du 20 au 22 mai 2019, à Ouagadougou a été un succès. Elle a été réalisée grâce au

Programme de Participation 2018-2019 dont la Commission a été bénéficiaire sous le titre sous régional. Cette rencontre était placée sous la présidence du Pr Alkassoum MAÏGA, Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche scientifique et de l'Innovation, Président de la commission nationale pour l'UNESCO du Burkina Faso. Elle a vu la participation effective des secrétaires généraux et des coordonnateurs nationaux des Écoles associées du Bénin, du Burkina Faso, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Mali, du Niger, du Sénégal, du Togo, de membres statutaires du RéSEAO et de trois nationaux de la Gambie, de la Guinée et du Cabo Verde.

Dans le cadre de leur mission d'évaluation des actions des écoles associées au Burkina Faso, une délégation de la Coordination internationale du Réseau des Ecoles Associées de l'UNESCO-RéSEAU conduite par Madame Sabine Detzel, Coordinatrice dudit RéSEAU y a pris part. Les objectifs étaient de contribuer à renforcer le rôle du RéSEAO dans la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie 2014-2021 du RéSEAO et de contribuer à dynamiser les réseaux nationaux des écoles associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Au sortir de cette rencontre, la forte recommandation fut celle sur la redynamisation des réseaux nationaux des écoles associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest avec une forte implication des autorités gouvernementales.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Au regard des efforts du Burkina Faso pour la mise en œuvre de la convention 2005 sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles ainsi que l'intérêt de l'UNESCO pour la problématique des inégalités de genre dans le secteur du cinéma, la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Audrey AZOULAY a donné son accord pour la participation de l'Organisation à la 26è édition du Festival Panafricain du cinéma et de l'audiovisuel de Ouagadougou (FESPACO) du 23 février au 2 mars 2019. Ainsi, en collaboration avec la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, plusieurs activités phares ont été menées dont le Café des femmes cinéastes avec la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO ainsi que la table ronde : 50 - 50 « fifty-fifty » pour les femmes : Égalité et diversité dans le cinéma africain.

En ce qui concerne la table ronde : 50- 50 « fifty-fifty » pour les femmes : Égalité et diversité dans le cinéma africain, elle était présidée par Madame Sika KABORE, Première Dame du Faso avec à ses côtés Madame Audrey AZOULAY, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, Monsieur Abdoul Karim SANGO, Ministre de la Culture, des Arts et du Tourisme du Burkina Faso, Madame Espérance Nyirasafari, Ministre de la Culture de Rwanda, Madame Mehla Ahmed Telebina, Directrice du Département Culture, des Affaires sociales et de la Famille de l'Organisation de la Coopération Internationale, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Délégués Permanents du Burkina Faso ainsi que celui du Mali auprès de l'UNESCO, leurs Excellences Messieurs Alain Gustave Ilboudo et Oumar KEITA, Madame Metsi MAKHETHA, Représentante Résidente du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) et Coordinatrice du Système des Nations Unies au Burkina Faso pour discuter de la parité Femme/Homme dans le cinéma africain.



Photo de famille des participants (photo/Guy Hermann Bazemo) © Commission nationale burkinabé pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En lien avec l'UNESCO, la Commission entend prioriser la redynamisation du réseau national des écoles associées. Pour ce faire, la Commission a entrepris des démarches administratives auprès des autorités en charge de l'éducation. L'accord étant acquis, la Commission adressera une requête à l'UNESCO en vue d'un soutien technique et financier pour l'atteinte de ses objectifs. Cela permettra de relancer les activités des écoles associées au niveau du Burkina Faso, pays confronté au terrorisme et qui a vu la fermeture de près de 2132 écoles avec autour de 300.800 élèves hors circuit scolaire. Les valeurs de paix qui constituent le socle de l'UNESCO ne peuvent être prônées que par l'éducation.

BURUNDI

Commission nationale du Burundi pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale du Burundi pour l'UNESCO a fonctionné tout au long de l'année 2019 dans un environnement favorable car elle a privilégié la collaboration avec la société civile, les médias et les institutions œuvrant dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

Des activités prioritaires ont fait progresser les objectifs de l'UNESCO et donc ceux des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD). Il s'agit des activités qui ont été réalisées dans le but de promouvoir les idéaux de l'UNESCO, comme

l'alphabétisation des adultes pour éradiquer l'analphabétisme au Burundi (ODD 4.6); la gestion environnementale (ODD14) ; la promotion de l'éducation pour les enfants ayant des difficultés pour apprendre, notamment ceux avec handicaps (ODD 4.5 et 4.a).

Tous les projets financés au titre du Programme de Participation 2018-2019 ont été mis en place, notamment le Projet « insertion socio-économique des femmes vulnérables par des activités d'alphabétisation et de post-alphabétisation » et le Projet « Redynamisation et Création des Clubs UNESCO dans les Établissements d'Enseignement Fondamental et Post-Fondamental au Burundi » qui ont été mis en œuvre avec succès.

Les défis qui ont caractérisé la mise en œuvre des projets ont été liés à une demande élevée de personnes souhaitant participer aux activités d'alphabétisation pour un nombre limité de places. Par ailleurs, la formation sur la redynamisation et création des clubs UNESCO dans les écoles n'a pas pu être dispensée dans tous les établissements qui le souhaitaient.

Les deux sources de financement de la Commission nationale sont l'État du Burundi (pour les salaires du Personnel et le matériel de bureau), ainsi que l'UNESCO.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Des activités de l'année 2019, l'expérience qui a le plus abouti est celle de l'alphabétisation (suivie de l'octroi de chèvres comme activité génératrice de revenus) de 164 femmes adultes, analphabètes et vulnérables pour la plupart. Ces femmes, provenant de trois provinces du pays, n'avaient pas eu l'opportunité d'apprendre à lire et à écrire au cours de leur jeunesse.

Soucieux de contribuer à la réussite de l'Agenda 2030, et conscients de l'état d'alphabétisme de la population du Burundi, en particulier des femmes, la Commission nationale a soumis à l'UNESCO, dans le cadre du Programme de Participation au titre du biennium 2018-2019, le projet intitulé « insertion socio-économique des femmes vulnérables par des activités d'alphabétisation et de post-alphabétisation ». Ce projet a été élaboré par l'Association civile « Association Burundaise d'Éducation des jeunes et des Adultes », en partenariat avec la Commission nationale burundaise.

Avec l'aide de l'Administration locale dans ces Provinces, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a identifié les femmes qui avaient le plus besoin de cette formation, qui ont été formées pendant une période de 4 mois. À la fin, un test d'acquisition de connaissances a été préparé à destination de ces femmes. Sur 180 femmes inscrites, 164 femmes ont suivi la formation jusqu'au test. 111 femmes ont été jugées avancées par rapport aux autres et ont reçu des Certificats de réussite. Les 53 femmes restantes ont reçu des Certificats de participation.



Cérémonies de remise des Certificats et des chèvres aux femmes récemment alphabétisées.
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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Pour l'année 2020, les actions prioritaires sont les suivantes :

- Au niveau national, la Commission nationale souhaiterait renforcer les activités des clubs UNESCO qui ont été réimplantés au cours de l'année 2019 dans le cadre d'un des six projets qui ont bénéficié d'un financement de l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Programme de Participation pour le biennium 2018-2019 ;
- Au niveau de la sous-région, la préoccupation de la Commission nationale est de lutter contre les effets néfastes des produits qui polluent les eaux du Lac Tanganyika, un des grands lacs de la sous-région. L'objectif serait de réduire les quantités de matières qui sont déversées dans le lac et qui menacent sa biodiversité. Cela constitue une double perte pour l'homme, du point de vue économique ainsi que d'un point de vue sanitaire.

CABO VERDE

Commission nationale de Cabo Verde pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Abrão Vicente

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

- **Atelier de motivation à la lecture** : en juillet 2019, quatre sessions de formation ont été organisées sur trois îles et dispensées par quatre animateurs en partenariat avec la Coopération portugaise afin de sensibiliser les enseignants à l'importance et à la nécessité de la lecture afin d'être les promoteurs à leurs élèves ;
- **Journée mondiale de la radio** : L'un des sous-thèmes choisis par l'UNESCO pour la Journée mondiale de la radio 2019 était : Promouvoir le dialogue et la participation. La

Commission nationale ainsi que la Direction générale de la Communication Sociale (DGCS) et l'Autorité de régulation de la Communication Sociale (ARC) se sont réunies et ont organisé une table ronde pour discuter de la viabilité des radios communautaires et ses perspectives ;

- **« Magalhães va à l'école »** : A travers l'Ambassade du Portugal et promue par la Commission nationale de Cabo Verde pour l'UNESCO, en mars 2019, une formation des enseignants a eu lieu à Praia, « Magalhães va à l'école », dans différentes écoles, parmi elles, les écoles associées de Praia ;
- **Séminaire Sandwatch et ODD** : Ce séminaire, qui est l'un des principaux programmes de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement durable, s'est déroulé dans le cadre des activités de la Commission nationale de Cabo Verde pour l'UNESCO sur les objectifs de développement durable (ODD), les sciences exactes et naturelles ;
- **Rencontre avec les directeurs** : Elle a eu lieu les 3 et 4 décembre 2019 et visait à rappeler l'importance pour les directeurs et les coordinateurs de la mise en œuvre des projets de phares de l'UNESCO tout au long de l'année scolaire ; de rendre compte et partager des activités qui en découlent ; de continuer de travailler avec d'autres écoles associées.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

LA PLUS GRANDE LEÇON DU MONDE 2019. Le Cabo Verde a atteint l'universalisation de l'enseignement primaire dès six ans. Cependant, d'importants défis demeurent comme le développement des compétences comme la communication et le raisonnement logique-mathématique, ainsi que la sensibilisation aux étudiants de tous les âges à être des citoyens actifs.

Dans le cadre du 30ème anniversaire, en 2019, de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, avec la perspective que cet instrument soit essentiel pour la réalisation des Objectifs de Développement Durable, la Commission nationale de Cabo Verde a organisé un atelier autour de l'initiative « La plus grande leçon du monde » qui a eu lieu le 26 Novembre 2019.

L'objectif de cette initiative lancée en 2015 conjointement par l'UNESCO et l'UNICEF vise à faire connaître les objectifs de développement durable aux enfants et aux jeunes gens du monde entier et à les faire agir tous ensemble.

Cet événement qui a eu comme objectif de faire participer les enfants et les adolescents à un programme d'information et de sensibiliser les élèves aux technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC) a eu lieu à l'Assemblée nationale et a été présidé par la Commission nationale de Cabo Verde. Il a accueilli environ 400 élèves de six (6) municipalités de l'île de Santiago : « Tarrafal », « Santa Catarina », « São Miguel », « Santa Cruz », « São Salvador do Mundo » et « Praia », de la 5ème à la 8ème année et en moyenne trente-six (36) enseignants des différentes écoles. Le Ministre de la Culture et des Industries Créatives et Président de la Commission nationale de Cabo Verde, M. Abrão Vicente a présidé la cérémonie d'ouverture.

Différents orateurs ainsi que des professionnels et des professeurs de technologie brésiliens étaient connectés en simultané durant cette initiative. Dans une logique d'interaction avec les élèves, l'objectif était de transmettre un message sur l'importance croissante de la gouvernance électronique. Des exemples simples ont été donnés pour que les jeunes élèves soient informés de l'actualité du monde de l'informatique et de l'électronique. Enfin, une réflexion a été menée sur les nouvelles technologies et leurs rôles dans le développement durable, mais aussi leur place dans notre vie quotidienne.



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission nationale souhaite continuer de travailler sur les projets Sandwatch; La plus grande Leçon du monde et sur d'autres projets comme :

- **Petits, grands auteurs** : Éveiller le goût de l'écriture et de la lecture dans toutes les tranches d'âge ;
- **Éducation au patrimoine avec Minecraft** : à travers le jeu, les élèves sont invités à résoudre des défis de géométrie et de logique afin d'aiguiser leur intérêt pour la culture et les histoires derrière les monuments ;
- **Coin UNESCO** : La Commission nationale en partenariat avec la Bibliothèque nationale, avancera dans la mise en place du Coin UNESCO pour fournir un accès plus large à l'information ;
- **Cycle documentaire des ODD** : Afin de promouvoir la citoyenneté mondiale, nous avons l'intention de faire la présentation et la discussion de documentaires qui informent, enquêtent et clarifient les questions des ODD.

COMORES

Commission nationale des Comores pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Mohamed Moussa Moindjie, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche Scientifique

Secrétaire général : M. Mohamed Radjay Moustoifa Said

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale des Comores pour l'UNESCO est un organe rattaché au Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, elle a pour fonction de servir d'organe liaison entre l'UNESCO et les départements ministériels, institutions, organisations et particuliers qui s'intéressent et travaillent pour l'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture et de l'information dans les États membres. Elle permet également de garantir la participation active de l'Union des Comores à l'élaboration, à la planification, à l'exécution et à l'évaluation des programmes et activités de l'UNESCO. En 2019, la Commission nationale a participé aux différents ateliers et activités du Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale tels que :

- L'élaboration des manuels scolaires
- La revue sectorielle de l'éducation
- Préparation de la rentrée scolaire 2019-2020

Le Bureau régional de Nairobi appuie la Commission nationale financièrement et techniquement pour la mise en place de certains projets et activités au niveau national, régional et international.

Formation de planification de l'éducation

La Commission nationale des Comores pour l'UNESCO avait organisé un programme de formation de 3 jours en collaboration avec le Centre Régional de l'UNESCO pour la qualité et l'excellence en éducation d'Arabie Saoudite dans le domaine de planification portant sur « la Construction et la Mesure d'indicateurs de l'éducation ». Cette formation s'est déroulée du 11 au 13 février 2019 à Moroni – Comores, et a réuni plus de 30 planificateurs du système éducatif. En 2018, le Centre a présenté ce programme dans certains pays des États Arabes. Par la suite, cette formation a été dispensée dans d'autres pays, dont l'Union des Comores. Le programme vise à sensibiliser et former le public à l'importance de comprendre le rôle fondamental des indicateurs pour mesurer le système éducatif et sa contribution au développement de systèmes et au suivi du processus d'éducation, ainsi que des méthodes

pour construire, mesurer et analyser. Cette formation était financée par le Centre Régional de l'UNESCO pour la qualité et l'excellence en éducation d'Arabie Saoudite.

Formation Sandwatch

La Commission nationale des Comores pour l'UNESCO, en collaboration avec le Ministère de l'Éducation et l'appui de l'UNESCO (Bureau Régional de Nairobi), a organisé, dans le cadre de son programme d'activité annuel, du 07 au 13 décembre 2019, un atelier de formation axé sur le projet « Sandwatch : s'adapter au changement climatique et éduquer pour le développement durable ». Ce projet, s'appuyant sur une approche scientifique et citoyenne, a pour principal objectif de « modifier les modes de vie et les habitudes des enfants, des jeunes et des adultes à l'échelle communautaire afin de les aider à s'adapter aux changements climatiques tout en renforçant la résilience des écosystèmes ». La pertinence d'un tel projet a fait ses preuves et les défis liés au changement climatique sont devenus des priorités nationales des différents gouvernements de l'Union des Comores. En sa qualité de pays insulaire, l'archipel des Comores composé de quatre îles, est « particulièrement vulnérable aux effets des changements climatiques, élévation du niveau de la mer et événements extrêmes ». Afin de mener à bien ce projet de lutte contre le changement climatique, certaines écoles primaires publiques de Ngazidja (Union des Comores), situées dans des zones côtières, ont été sélectionnées afin de bénéficier de la méthodologie du programme Sandwatch.

La Commission nationale des Comores pour l'UNESCO a ciblé, au sein des écoles sélectionnées, des « facilitateurs », en l'occurrence les directeurs d'école. Ces derniers seront ensuite chargés de transmettre les connaissances acquises, tout au long de la période de formation, aux enseignants et aux élèves de leurs établissements respectifs et de la localité.

L'objectif général est d'apporter ou renforcer les connaissances en matière d'environnement côtier afin de permettre aux participants d'augmenter leurs capacités à répondre aux changements environnementaux et climatiques dans le cadre de la méthodologie Sandwatch.



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Renforcement des mécanismes existants pour le suivi et l'évaluation des politiques, plans et stratégies en matière d'éducation. Le pays rend compte de ses réalisations concernant les objectifs nationaux du CESA et de l'ODD4, utilise les données factuelles pour améliorer le système éducatif et met en œuvre les mesures appropriées pour renforcer le système de suivi et d'évaluation existant.

Les projets et les activités que la Commission nationale souhaite réaliser en 2020 :

- Mettre en place le système AspNet dans les différentes régions des Comores ;
- Formation des coordonnateurs locaux et les chefs d'établissements de certaines écoles sélectionnées ;
- Élaboration de la Politique et stratégie d'Éducation au Développement Durable ;
- Élaboration du premier rapport national sur l'Objectif de Développement Durable 4 et la Stratégie continentale de l'éducation pour l'Afrique de l'Union Africaine 2016-2025 (CESA) ;
- Mettre en place le programme d'éducation à la Paix en collaboration avec l'ONG Heavenly Culture World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL)

CONGO

Commission nationale congolaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur

Secrétaire général : M. Gabriel Bokoumaka

ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale congolaise accorde une grande valeur à l'appartenance du Congo à l'UNESCO et, par la même occasion, encourage les institutions, les entreprises et individus de son territoire à participer aux réseaux et programmes de l'UNESCO. Composé d'un certain nombre de cadre de divers horizons du Congo, elle s'appuie sur la vaste expertise de ses membres pour tenir informé le public congolais des principaux programmes de l'UNESCO. La Commission nationale a un rôle encadré de conseil pour le Gouvernement du Congo en ce qui concerne sa relation avec l'UNESCO.

Le personnel de la Commission nationale utilise des outils de communication efficaces, notamment des lettres d'information et maintient un contact permanent avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Brazzaville.

Outre sa participation à la Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO (Paris, 12- 27 novembre 2019), le Congo siège actuellement parmi les membres du Conseil international de coordination du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), du Programme hydrologique international (PHI) et du Programme Gestion des transformations sociales (MOST).

La Commission nationale, en collaboration avec le Bureau de Brazzaville, a organisé du 18 au 20 décembre 2019, le séminaire de la 1ère école sur la Gestion des Transformations Sociales sous le thème « Genre et Migration ». Ce séminaire avait pour but de soutenir un développement durable de long terme, dans des contextes où les lacunes en matière des capacités sont des contraintes majeures pour l'articulation entre la recherche et l'action. La cérémonie de clôture de la formation, a été faite sous la présidence du Ministre de la santé, de la population, de la promotion de la femme et de l'intégration de la femme au développement.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des projets approuvés dans le cadre du Programme de Participation de l'UNESCO 2018-2019, la Commission nationale congolaise, en partenariat avec Edmond Hôtel et le Ministère de la promotion de la femme et de l'intégration de la femme au développement, a organisé une formation dans les métiers de l'hôtellerie pour 90 jeunes filles déscolarisées. Cette formation, qui s'est déroulée du 24 juillet au 24 novembre 2019 dans les structures d'Edmond Hôtel, un établissement de renom sur la place de Brazzaville, a dispensé des activités théoriques et pratiques dans différents services aux 86 stagiaires sur les 90 admis au départ. Deux journées ont été consacrées à des échanges sur des thématiques majeures du moment sur les questions de genre : le concept genre et le thème de la violence faite aux femmes.



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Le suivi de la mise en œuvre de l'Objectif de Développement Durable 4 (ODD4) et la mise en place d'un cadre sous régional ;
- Le renforcement de la culture de la paix et de lutte contre les phénomènes sociaux de violence urbaine de même que la mise en place d'un cadre de travail du Comité national du Programme MOST.
- Le cadre du suivi/évaluation de l'ODD4 qui est une exigence dans l'atteinte de l'ODD à l'horizon 2030 implique la mise en place des cadres nationaux ad hoc et la formation des animateurs capables d'effectuer les tâches de recueil, de traitement, de diffusion et de publication des données, d'aide à la décision concernant les orientations des politiques éducatives. Il faut en conséquence, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'ODD4, commencer par renforcer les capacités des planificateurs et responsables en politiques éducatives, dans un espace régional d'échanges et d'enrichissement des expériences. Ainsi donc, le projet sous régional « Suivi de l'ODD4 éducation pour tous et de qualité pour 2030 » Programme de participation 2018-2019 et qui vient d'être exécuté par la Commission nationale congolaise avec des représentants des deux pays de la sous-région, le Gabon et la RDC, débouchera certainement sur la mise en place d'un cadre sous régional de suivi de l'ODD4 et offrira des possibilités de travail conjoint.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Kandia Kamissoko Camara

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

EDUCATION

- Dans le domaine de l'Éducation complète à la sexualité (ECS) : Participation en relation avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à l'atelier de formation des ONG partenaires en vue de l'extension du programme ECS et participation à l'atelier bilan sur l'ECS organisé par le bureau ;
- Dans le domaine de l'Alphabétisation : Le suivi de la mise en œuvre du projet Alphabétisation de 500 femmes à Dianra, dans le cadre du programme de participation ;
- Participation à l'atelier sur l'élaboration du Référentiel des Compétences des Acteurs en Alphabétisation à Jacqueville ; Deux ateliers de restitution de missions effectuées par des cadres ivoiriens sur invitation de l'UNESCO ;
- La Banderole de la PAIX : Le service en charge du programme a conçu une banderole de la paix pour recueillir les signatures et l'engagement des hommes politiques et des leaders d'opinion à la culture de la paix. Elle a été signée par la Directrice générale de l'UNESCO, lors de la 40e session de la Conférence générale ;

- Aide d'urgence de l'UNESCO à la Côte d'Ivoire : A la demande de la Commission, l'UNESCO a apporté une aide d'urgence en kits scolaires et en mobilier aux écoles sinistrées de Grand-Bassam lors des inondations de la ville en octobre 2019.

SCIENCES EXACTES ET NATURELLES

- Du 30 septembre au 3 octobre 2019, participation à Abidjan à la 6ème Assemblée Générale AfriMAB (L'homme et la Biosphère – Afrique) qui a porté sur le thème « Contribution des Réserves de Biosphère au développement durable dans le contexte du changement climatique » ;
- Du 16 au 17 décembre 2019, participation à Abidjan à l'atelier GMES Africa et GOOSAfrica (Global Ocean Observing System) sur l'océanographie opérationnelle en Afrique.

CULTURE

- Du 11 au 15 février 2019 : Participation de la Commission nationale à l'Atelier Régionale dans le cadre de la coopération transfrontalière pour une gestion efficace des sites du Patrimoine Mondial Africain ;
- Le 5 mars 2019 : organisation d'une table ronde sur la mise en œuvre des conventions ratifiées par la Côte d'Ivoire dans le domaine de la culture ;
- Du 1 au 2 octobre 2019 : Participation à l'atelier de réflexion sur les stratégies de sauvegarde et de promotion du Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel.

COMMUNICATION ET INFORMATIONS

- Du 4 au 6 juillet 2019, organisation d'un atelier dénommé dialogique direct entre les forces de l'ordre, les journalistes et les magistrats en prévision des élections de 2020.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Les 12, 13 et 14 mars 2019, s'est tenu à Grand-Bassam, en Côte d'Ivoire, un colloque régional portant sur « Les migrations irrégulières de l'Afrique de l'Ouest vers l'Europe : quels défis pour les pays de la CEDEAO ? ». Ce colloque, organisé par la Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO avec le soutien des autres Commissions nationales de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et des Bureaux de l'UNESCO d'Abidjan, de Dakar et d'Abuja, a enregistré la participation des Ministres de l'intégration africaine de la CEDEAO, des experts, d'ONG en charge des questions migratoires, d'organisations de jeunes, des enseignants-chercheurs et des chercheurs venus du Ghana, de la Guinée, du Mali, du Niger, du Nigeria, du Togo, du Sénégal, du Maroc, d'Italie, de l'Union européenne et de la Côte d'Ivoire. Ce colloque a eu pour invitée spéciale, Madame Nicolini Giuseppina Maria, ex : Maire de Lampedusa. Au terme des travaux, les participants en charge des questions de la migration, ont formulé des recommandations dans lesquelles ils ont invité les États à améliorer leurs politiques d'emploi, à susciter l'auto-emploi, à promouvoir l'autonomisation des jeunes et des femmes.



Cérémonie de restitution des missions de formation effectuées par des cadres ivoiriens
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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Redynamisation du réseau des Ecoles associées. Dans une vision de construire la paix dans l'esprit de tous les enfants de la Côte d'Ivoire, la Commission nationale désire débiter son action au sein du réseau des écoles associées de l'UNESCO ;
- La prévention de l'extrémisme et de la violence à l'école : cette prévention se fera par l'implication des organisations de la société civile actives en matière d'éducation (Syndicats d'enseignants et organisations de parents d'élèves) dans la sensibilisation et la mobilisation contre l'extrémisme violent et la violence, y compris celle basée sur le genre, en milieu scolaire ;
- Contribution à l'apaisement du climat social pré-électoral : organisation de campagnes de sensibilisation à l'endroit de la jeunesse, des journalistes et sur l'usage des réseaux sociaux.

DJIBOUTI

Commission nationale de Djibouti pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Moustapha Mohamed Mahamoud

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

2019 fut l'année de l'exécution des projets du Programme de participation. Dès l'approbation des projets soumis, la Commission s'est attelée à mettre en œuvre les séries d'activités de renforcement des capacités des acteurs de l'école. Et il faut le dire, les points focaux pour l'UNESCO ont joué un rôle central dans la préparation, l'élaboration des contenus de formation ainsi que la mise en œuvre des activités.

Concernant le projet, « Hygiène du corps, hygiène de vie », les sessions organisées par les membres de la Commission, appuyée par des médecins dans la capitale (Djibouti-Ville) et dans les régions ont permis l'atteinte des objectifs suivants :

- Identification des risques sanitaires;
- L'élaboration d'un listing des actes hygiéniques ;
- La détection des maladies récurrentes ;
- La définition des thèmes prioritaires à intégrer dans l'éducation à l'hygiène ;
- Le travail sur les affiches et prospectus à concevoir pour sensibiliser les élèves à travers les enseignants et le personnel des établissements.

Comme suite, il est prévu de transmettre les recommandations du rapport à la Direction Générale de l'Enseignement qui travaille

en ce moment avec le Centre de Recherche, d'Information et de Production de l'Éducation Nationale et l'Inspection générale, la révision des curricula de l'enseignement fondamental.

Pour le projet, « Décrochage scolaire », nous avons clarifié le concept avec les équipes formées avant de déterminer les causes du décrochage. A la fin de chaque série de formation (Djibouti-ville) et les 5 régions (Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah et Obock), des solutions ont été proposées. Un travail de suivi de la mise en œuvre des recommandations préconisées par les participants est déjà engagé.

Dans le projet de participation concernant « La vulgarisation des recommandations de la CEDEF », le travail de sensibilisation a touché plus de 80 participants à Djibouti-Ville (responsables des ministères concernés, les responsables de l'Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes), les responsables et membres des associations) et 10 participants au niveau des régions. Dans ces formations, nous avons insisté sur l'arsenal juridique sur la question disponible et les différentes dispositions administratives mises en place afin de protéger la femme djiboutienne et lui permettre de s'épanouir non seulement aussi dans la sphère privée que dans le domaine, public et professionnel.

Enfin, la formation dispensée aux encadreurs des Ecoles associées, dont les chefs d'établissements ont été formés en juin 2019, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du projet « Ateliers de renforcement des capacités des encadreurs au sein des Ecoles Associées », a permis à ces derniers de comprendre la philosophie qui sous-tend ce réseau et les types d'activités attendues des établissements pour prétendre appartenir au réseau. Ces formations se sont appuyées sur le travail concret de deux établissements qui ont intégré dans leur projet d'établissement des activités s'inscrivant dans les principes de l'UNESCO.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Un atelier pour jeter les bases d'une stratégie nationale pour la Politique Nationale pour l'Éducation au Développement Durable s'est déroulé du 23 au 26 juin 2019, au Palais du Peuple — en présence du ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle, du Ministre de l'Environnement, du Ministre de la Décentralisation, du ministre du Travail, du ministre de la Santé, de la Coordinatrice résidente du système des Nations Unies et de la Représentante de l'UNICEF, dirigé par Mme Bokhari Saba, du bureau de Nairobi.

Ces journées de travaux intenses ont permis aux participants (points focaux pour l'UNESCO au sein des ministères, cadres du ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle, les chefs d'établissements, les enseignants, les représentants de la société civile et les responsables des associations) de s'approprier le concept, de saisir le lien entre les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) et l'Éducation au Développement Durable (EDD), d'identifier les thèmes en relation avec le développement durable et constituer un groupe de travail multisectoriel pour l'élaboration de la Politique Nationale pour l'Éducation au Développement Durable.

Cet atelier s'inscrit dans la politique éducative du ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle alignée avec les cibles de l'ODD4. Le ministère s'est engagé à exécuter la feuille de route de l'ODD 4 issue d'une concertation nationale. La cible 4.7 de l'ODD4 est une des cibles prioritaires pour notre ministère. La révision des curricula engagée depuis 2017 qui met l'accent sur la dimension sociale des apprentissages (les compétences pour une citoyenneté active : respect de l'Autre, respect et protection de son environnement, participation etc.), à travers l'Éducation civique et morale et les compétences de vie, en témoigne. Le Ministère compte impacter, à travers les nouveaux curricula, non seulement les contenus mais également la pratique enseignante et in fine le comportement de l'élève. Avec cette réorientation des enseignements/apprentissages, à l'issue du cycle d'enseignement fondamental, l'élève aura été préparé pour mieux réussir et à devenir un être social conscient de son appartenance à la Nation Djiboutienne et sensibilisé sur les questions qui touchent à son univers immédiat et aux problématiques mondiales du moment.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Outre la mise en œuvre des projets dans le cadre de Programme de participation (2020/2021), la Commission nationale se focalisera sur les priorités du ministère en relation avec les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO :

- L'élaboration de la Politique Nationale de l'Éducation au Développement Durable ;
- Le mécanisme de suivi de l'ODD4 ;
- L'équité en favorisant l'émergence d'une école rurale encore plus contextualisée ;
- La politique du ministère en matière d'évaluation ;
- La participation au renforcement du mécanisme de coordination avec l'Autorité Intergouvernementale pour le Développement (IGAD) pour le développement de l'éducation des réfugiés ;
- La promotion de l'Enseignement Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle ;
- L'appui à l'élaboration de la politique de l'Observatoire de la Qualité des Enseignements/Apprentissages.

GABON

Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Patrick Mouguiama Daouda

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Jusqu'en 2019, la Commission nationale a toujours évolué dans un environnement particulièrement difficile. En effet, en dehors des contraintes budgétaires auxquelles elle est confrontée, il y a également la non-application du décret 288 du 04 avril 1995 portant attributions et réorganisation de la Commission nationale en vigueur. Ainsi, la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, en collaboration avec les ministères, membres de droit de la Commission nationale, a organisé sa première

Assemblée Générale dans le but d'une part, de répondre aux recommandations du décret 288/PR/MEN du 04 avril 1995 en vigueur qui stipule à son article 7 : « L'Assemblée Générale siège en session ordinaire une fois par an », et d'autre part, de sensibiliser les membres de la famille UNESCO du Gabon. Cette activité a été entièrement financée par le Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, le ministre agissant en tant que Président de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO.

En 2019, la Commission nationale a bénéficié d'un projet au titre du Programme de participation comptant pour le biennium 2018-2019. Ce projet a l'intention des élèves du réSEAU intitulé : « Sensibilisation à l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté en vue du Développement Durable des Ecoles associées du réSEAU du Gabon » avait pour objectif de sensibiliser et développer chez les apprenants les connaissances, les compétences, les valeurs et les qualités requises en faveur d'une éducation à la citoyenneté et d'une éducation en vue de contribuer au développement durable.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

De mars à novembre 2019 dans les établissements scolaires du réSEAU UNESCO de Libreville, dans la province de l'Estuaire, se sont tenues les activités liées au projet de sensibilisation à l'Éducation à la citoyenneté et l'Éducation au Développement Durable en vue du développement durable.

En effet, sous la coordination de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, la gestion d'un projet pays a été attribuée au département des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre de l'Inspection Générale des Services de l'Éducation Nationale chargé de la formation civique, pour la période de février à décembre 2019. Ce projet a pour titre : « sensibilisation à l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté en vue du Développement Durable des écoles associées du réSEAU du Gabon ». Ce projet vise à sensibiliser et à créer des clubs « Éducation à la citoyenneté » et « Éducation au Développement Durable en faveur du développement durable dans les établissements membres du réSEAU du Gabon ». Cette cérémonie a vu la participation du Secrétaire général sortant de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, Monsieur Jean-Claude Engo Bekui et celle de Madame la Ministre déléguée auprès du Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale chargé de la Formation Civique, Madame Gisèle Akoghe, qui a déclaré ouvert les travaux de l'atelier sur la sensibilisation des trente enseignants, points focaux des établissements cibles des Ecoles associées du réSEAU UNESCO.



De gauche à droite : le représentant de la FAO, M. Jean-Claude Engo Bekui, Secrétaire général sortant de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO, Mme Gisèle Akoghe, Ministre déléguée auprès du Ministre de l'Éducation nationale chargé de la formation civique, Mme Clarisse Anguezome Nguema, inspecteur pédagogique des sciences de la vie et de la terre à l'Inspection Générale des Services (IGS) du Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, le Directeur de cabinet du Ministre déléguée et Mme Nze, proviseur du Lycée Mandela. © T.D.R. Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission nationale gabonaise pour l'UNESCO souhaite renforcer sa coopération avec l'UNESCO via le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Libreville en vue d'améliorer son fonctionnement et de renforcer d'une part, le rôle de l'Organisation auprès des Etats membres et d'autre part, de s'arrimer à l'évolution et à la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO. Pour ce faire, elle doit prendre part aux différentes consultations régionales et interrégionales prévues en 2020. Dans cette optique, la Commission nationale entrevoit de développer ses capacités opérationnelles afin de remplir au mieux les missions relatives aux objectifs de développement durable qui lui sont assignées.

GAMBIA

The Gambia National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Claudiana A. Cole, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission promoted UNESCO ideals in the Gambia through connecting local partners to UNESCO. The following highlighted events were some of the Commission's major successful activities conducted in 2019:

- Training on the Development of Youth Employability in the Gambia through Synergy of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Literacy and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was conducted from 16 to 17 May 2019. The National Commission coordinated this with funding from UNESCO field office in Dakar, Senegal.

30 participants from technical training institutes, universities, government ministries, and youth organizations were trained on how to develop virtual resources to facilitate effective and efficient teaching and learning through the Synergy of TVET, Literacy and ICT;

- With funding from UNESCO Dakar, the Commission, in partnership with local organizations, celebrated the International Day for Universal Access to Information in the Gambia on 28 September 2019. The conference created a national dialogue on universal access to information, which was well attended from, amongst others, civil society organizations, members of parliament, government officials, academics, media practitioners, and youth groups;
- An event of international scale was the Third African Youth Forum held in Banjul from 29 to 30 October 2019. The Gambia National Commission co-organized this two-day event with UNESCO Dakar and other partners, with the objective of engaging young African leaders in achieving the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. The event hosted more than 150 young people from 22 African countries and provided a platform for sharing experiences on the roles and place of young African men and women in accelerating positive social transformations for a democratic, prosperous, inclusive, and peaceful Africa.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the Gambia National Commission for UNESCO implemented projects in all areas of UNESCO's competence. Among these, the most striking and successful project was the "Family and Intergenerational Literacy and Learning Project" (FILL). The project aim was to provide a joint learning environment for adults and children, in essence to promote lifelong learning as stipulated in SDG4. The project was funded by the Foreign Office of the Federal Government of Germany with technical support from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and jointly implemented by National Commission and the Ministry of Basic Secondary Education in collaboration with its partners in the literacy sub-sector.

The project was implemented in five educational regions in the Gambia with direct beneficiaries being both children, youth, and adults from low income backgrounds. Literacy sessions were conducted from September to December in Community Literacy Centres run by literacy providers and school-based centers under the auspices of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. In total, 240 participants, comprising of 120 children of both genders and 120 adults of both genders, were trained together to read, write, perform basic arithmetic and skills for income generation in English and three National Languages: Mandinka, Pulaar and Wolof.

In addition to the overall positive outlook on the concept of parents and children learning together in the communities, FILL has fostered greater social cohesion. In her evaluation, Mrs. Binta Camara, one of the beneficiaries, noted, that thanks to the FILL, she is able to read and write, and most importantly: "I am now engaged in supporting my child's education through the learning environment that brings children and their parents together". As an innovative model, the FILL approach has been well-publicized and the government has expressed political commitment towards mainstreaming the approach in literacy mission of the country.



Ms. Camara and his child demonstrating the concept of parents and children learning together in the communities. © A.R.R. Gambian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will continue to give high priority to the issue of youth engagement through supporting existing and emerging youth organizations. There are plans to increase the participation of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in the Commission's activities, events and work programmes. Global Citizenship Education and the teaching of 21st century skills are major areas of interest that the Commission plans to introduce in the education system in the Gambia in partnership with relevant authorities. In view of the framework of the partnership agreement signed in 2012 between NatComs Gambia, Senegal and Mali, the Commission will continue to foster joint initiatives in all UNESCO priority areas, notably youth and women. In partnership with the Department of Water Resources, the Commission is setting up the first International Hydrological Programme Committee. This initiative also plans to lead regional transboundary management of shared wetlands and transboundary aquifers. The Commission also aims to improve its communication strategy with more focus on increasing UNESCO's visibility in the Gambia.

GHANA

Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In the quest to contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO Kazan Action Plan (Sports for All), the Ghana National Commission in collaboration with the UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement (UNESCO ICM) trained children of school-going age in Taekwondo and Capoeira during the 3rd Martial Arts Open School. The training took place from 24 June to 16 August 2019 for the Taekwondo and 24 June to 2 August 2019 for the Capoeira. The Open School is a means of providing self-defence skills to students, especially females, as well as facilitating physical and emotional development through martial arts.

Again, the Ghana National Commission, in collaboration with the Bureau of Ghana Languages observed on 21 February,

the International Mother Language Day with an event dubbed "Sanegbaa" (conversation), which provided the opportunity for the youth to engage with societal icons.

In addition, with support from the UNESCO Accra office, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO observed the International Day of Women and Girls in Science with a one-day workshop on the theme "Investment in Women & Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth" on 12th February, 2019 at the University of Ghana, in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service Greater Accra Regional Science, Technology, Mathematics and Innovation Education Unit, the National Society of Black Engineers Ghana, the Ghana Women in Science & Engineering Committee and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences of the University of Ghana.

Also, the Ghana National Commission in partnership with the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board commemorated the 2019 edition of the International Day of Light on 16 May 2019, on the theme "Stimulating Young Minds in Ghana, particularly women, to study Science and Engineering through the Light Sciences".

Furthermore, the Ghana National Commission observed the International Youth Day on 12 August with students from the Accra Girls Senior High School. The day was marked with a sensitization programme on the Sustainable Development Goals, Leadership Skills and Communication Skills.

SUCCESS STORY

The UNESCO International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement (UNESCO ICM) in collaboration with the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, organized the 2nd edition of the African Regional Congress on Martial Arts from 25 to 26 September, 2019 in Accra.

This Congress, which was on the theme "*Cultural Unity in African Self-Defense Tradition*", convened over 60 Martial Arts practitioners, experts as well as non-practitioners across the African continent. The Congress presented a platform to dialogue on current issues for safeguarding and promoting martial arts in West Africa as well as empowering youth, especially young women in martial arts, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5.



Photo credit: Board Breaking session by young practitioners. © A.R.R. Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Ghana looks forward to effectively contributing to the roll-out of UNESCO programmes to increase the visibility of the Organization with its renewed mandate to serve on the Executive Board for a four-year term and through her Category II Centres. The Ghana National Commission, in its bid to strengthen its operations, will continue to improve the work of its National Committees. Capacity development continues to be one of the Commission's priorities. The Commission therefore looks forward to the commencement of staff exchange programmes particularly with sister National Commissions, beginning with the Namibian National Commission in 2020.

GUINÉE

Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Abdoulaye Yéro Balde

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

En 2019, la Commission nationale guinéenne a réalisé des activités d'un intérêt évident pour notre pays. Elles ont permis à l'UNESCO d'atteindre la société civile et à accroître sa visibilité sur le plan national. Ces activités incluent:

- La session de formation par l'ONG – DABAKA – VISION 2025, intitulé « Appui à l'entrepreneuriat communautaire

des femmes et des jeunes de DABAKA». Tenue à Maré, Sous-Préfecture de Bintimodia, Préfecture de Boké, du 25 février au 6 mars 2019, cette formation a permis aux 50 participants provenant des structures des niveaux central et déconcentré de DABAKA d'être formés sur les Activités Génératrices de Revenus, afin de rendre les jeunes et les femmes plus aptes à participer activement au changement de leur statut économique et social et au processus de développement de DABAKA dans le pays.

- La Session de formation par l'ONG ASIFAM, intitulé « Appui à la conservation et à la confection culturelle et traditionnelle des bandes de cotonnades à travers la formation des jeunes (filles et garçons) déscolarisés ou non scolarisés dans la filature (VOMULLO en langue Kissi) », tenue à Ouéndé – Kènéma, Préfecture de Gueckédou du 25 au 28 Septembre 2019. 25 participant(e)s ont bénéficié de cette session de formation axée sur le montage de projets, l'éducation et la formation des jeunes filles et garçons au leadership et à l'entrepreneuriat féminin.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Session de Formation par l'ONG ASIFAM, intitulée « Appui à la conservation et à la confection culturelle et traditionnelle des bandes de cotonnades à travers la formation des jeunes (filles et garçons) déscolarisés ou non scolarisés dans la filature (VOMULLO en langue Kissi) », a été organisée par la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO avec l'appui de l'UNESCO. Cette session de Formation avait pour thème : « Formation des jeunes filles et garçons déscolarisés ou non scolarisés dans la filature des bandes de cotonnades ». Elle a permis aux jeunes filles et garçons guinéens en général et ceux de Ouéndé – Kènéma en particulier, de connaître leurs rôles dans le processus de développement, d'être outillés au montage de projets, au leadership et à l'entrepreneuriat féminin, à la connaissance avancée du processus de confection du tissu traditionnel (KOLA MA KISSIO), à l'importance et aux avantages que ce tissu traditionnel apporte au pays en général et à la préfecture de Gueckédou en particulier.

Elle a favorisé la prise en compte des préoccupations majeures dont :

- Le renforcement des capacités des jeunes en élaboration des outils et techniques de confection du tissu traditionnel ;
- La connaissance des méthodes de gestion, de conservation et de préservation du tissu traditionnel « VOMULLO » en langue kissi;
- Le suivi-évaluation des activités de l'ONG ASIFAM et ses démembrements en vue de la conservation et la pérennisation de la cotonnade kissi, patrimoine traditionnel et culturel très prisé.



Le Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO en compagnie des participants à la Cérémonie d'ouverture de l'Atelier de l'ONG - ASIFAM Photo de famille © T.D.R. Commission nationale guinéenne pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des ODD et du Plan National de Développement Economique et Social (PNDES), la 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 Fabriquer quelques petits outils 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 (boîte 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 tous.

Par ailleurs, 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.

KENYA

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission undertook the following activities:

- Training ASPnet patrons on small scale food production;
- Sensitizing Ministry of Education officials on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-25) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Leading an investigation on the *Impact of Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage on Girls Transitioning from Primary to Secondary School Education in Kajiado and Narok Counties*;
- Organising scientific mentorship camps for secondary school students and trained teachers in pedagogy and the use of Information and Communication Technologies in instruction

to enable them to be change makers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) promotion;

- Conducting research on *Water Safety and Security* in Marsabit County in Kenya;
- Initiating research on *the Situation on Young Migrants in Africa: the socio-economic resilience of young refugees in Kenya and Somalia* in liaison with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC);
- Sensitizing stakeholders from the public and private sectors on the importance of MOST schools and UNESCO Category II Centres, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa;
- Training and holding a dialogue session with targeted communities on peace and the culture of non-violence and tolerance in collaboration with World Vision – Kenya;
- Conducting sensitization on the works of the General History of Africa and its importance in promoting Pan Africanism, gender equality, human rights and Africa's contribution to global civilizations, in liaison with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa;
- Establishing the Legacies of Slavery National Committee as well as mapping and documenting the Slave Sites in Kenya;
- Developing the draft Physical Education Policy in liaison with the Ministry of Education supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ;
- Training Hospital Ethics Committee members (HECs) on bioethics and conducted a sensitization workshop on the ethics of environment, journalism and health.

SUCCESS STORY

The National Commission continued implementing initiatives on the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence through peace building programmes in Baringo and Laikipia counties. Baringo and Laikipia are conflict-prone counties, characterized by inter-community and resource-based conflicts, which have resulted in not only loss of lives but livelihoods as well. These conflicts have also adversely affected education outcomes. It is in light of this and incidences of conflict that the Education and Social and Human Sciences programmes implemented peace building activities targeting learning institutions and communities.

The programmes were implemented through a collaboration with World Vision-Kenya, Arigatou International-Geneva, Groots Women Group, American Friends Service Committee, Government Ministries and Agencies as well as local Community Based Organizations. In addition, the activities targeted learners, teachers, education officials, community leaders, youth and women. Through such collaborations and the diversity of stakeholders, a multi-disciplinary and practical approach was utilized in the training and dialogue sessions. In addition, the Commission ensured that people representing the conflicting communities were well represented in all the trainings.

Specific activities included psychosocial intervention; training of teachers and community members on school/community-based projects; sensitization on climate change and its impact on peace; peace building strategies and the use of peace building pedagogical and transformative approaches in learning. One of the key Promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence through peace building programmes in Baringo and Laikipia counties outcomes was the joint commitment made by representatives from learning institutions and communities who pledged to work together for peace in the communities surrounding schools. At the school level, learners were empowered to work collaboratively with community members to address local issues.



© A.R.R. Kenyan National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Kenya National Commission is partnering with other National Commissions of the Lake Victoria Basin countries to establish a Lake Victoria Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. Lake Victoria, an African Great Lake, is a unifying ecosystem that stretches across the five East African Community countries as well as the continent's largest lake and the world's largest tropical freshwater. It is also well known as the source of the White Nile, the longest branch lake in the world, and the second largest of the Nile River. With a basin area of 193,000 km² with Tanzania occupying 44%, Kenya 22%, Uganda 16%, Burundi 7% and Rwanda 11%, the size of the lake makes it a critical determinant of weather and climate in the region.

The ecosystems of this lake basin face major threats, which include, among others, depletion of natural resources due to the rising population, expansion of human activities, over-exploitation, unsustainable agricultural practices, pollution, and rampant conversion and destruction of wetlands. As such, Lake Victoria is considered a dynamically fragile ecosystem. The National Commissions invite relevant interested parties to participate and promote this noble venture that will affect millions of lives.

LESOTHO

Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In the fields of education and science, the National Commission undertook the following activities in 2019:

- In collaboration with the Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre and Lesotho Association of Non-formal Education, the National Commission organized a successful Literacy Day Event in Mokhotlong District in October 2019;
- Facilitated a Girl's Tech Talk Conference aimed at empowering women and girls to involve in STEM subjects, attended by 50 schools, which presented their technology projects;
- In celebration of the Mole Day, the National Commission held a seminar to raise awareness on the pollution generated from a local dumping site, in collaboration with the National University of Lesotho (Faculty of Science and Technology),

Ministry of Science and Technology, Lesotho Science and Maths Teachers Association, and science experts;

- Participated in a peaceful march in protest against the killings of school learners and parents in a village outside of Maseru town, together with local chiefs, government officers, the police, school children, parents, and local residents;
- Celebrated Africa Code Week together with the Ministry of Science and Technology, local schools and Technology NGOs, during which more than ten thousand students were trained.

In the field of Culture:

- The Government of Lesotho has received funding from UNESCO to implement a project on "Strengthening Sehlabathebe Community Conservation Forum". Under the auspices of UNESCO, the project aimed to enhance community involvement in conservation and management of the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site.
- Lesotho took part in a Sub-Regional Training of Trainers and Peer Learning Workshop on participatory monitoring for 2005 UNESCO Convention, in September 2019.
- Lesotho was represented at the "Workshop on Illicit Trafficking of Works of Art Cultural Heritage" organized in collaboration with the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO), in Eswatini.
- The National Commission has sensitized relevant stakeholders on the 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity Cultural Expressions, in preparation for the country's very first Quadrennial Periodic Report to be done in 2020.

SUCCESS STORY

With the financial support from the Regional Office of Southern Africa (ROSA), Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) held a workshop on 9-10 May 2019 targeting Stakeholders' Culture Working Team, District Culture Officers from MTEC and the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee. The Director of Culture and the Secretary General for Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO attended the workshop. During the opening, the Secretary General highlighted the mandate of the National Commission and its assignment to establish collaboration with various government ministries. She also appreciated on behalf of the Government of Lesotho the support received from UNESCO through the Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA). In her speech, she highlighted that under the current National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II), Culture and Creative Industries are placed as priority sectors for economic development. What's more, she expressed her wish that the workshop would equip the participants with the knowledge and tools to help them make informed decisions for the development of the country's Culture and Creative Industries.

The outputs of the two-day workshop:

- Participants received capacity building on all the UNESCO Conventions to which Lesotho is a signatory;
- The National Intangible Cultural Heritage (NICH) Committee was revitalized.



Workshop targeting stakeholders and culture working team © A.R.R. Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Capacity building for teachers in the ASPNet schools on Education for Sustainable Development;
- Strengthen collaboration with relevant technical institutions to make education provision more inclusive and gender sensitive by empowering more girls in STEM subjects;
- Develop programmes and activities geared towards addressing climate change in partnership with relevant stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally;
- Capacity building of 3 existing community radio stations in the country in collaboration with Media Institute in Southern Africa in Lesotho and the establishment of at least 2 new ones;
- Ensure a more profound implementation of the 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity Cultural Expressions in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.

MADAGASCAR

Commission nationale Malgache pour l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Iarintsambatra Rijaso Andriamanana
Josoa Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique et Professionnelle

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale s'est investie dans plusieurs activités, notamment en collaborant avec les parties prenantes engagées dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO ou encore en travaillant en partenariat avec le Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique de l'Est. Parmi ces activités, on peut relever :

- La mise en œuvre du Programme STEM qui, grâce à l'appui de l'UNESCO et le partenariat de quatre associations, a pu être implanté dans 3 régions à travers la création de Clubs scientifiques au niveau des 13 établissements, l'identification de femmes marraines et d'enseignant(e)s-encadreurs mais également à travers la réalisation d'un concours « Projet-STEM » ;
- La mise en place du réseau d'échange Malagasy sur l'ECM dans le cadre du Programme de participation. Actuellement, les 22 régions de Madagascar disposent chacune d'un Ambassadeur de l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté Mondiale ;
- Le développement du Programme SANDWATCH avec l'appui de l'UNESCO et le partenariat de plusieurs parties

prenantes (Ministères, OING, ONG, secteur privé) ayant permis, entre autres, l'organisation d'un atelier régional de formation de formateurs, un renforcement de la sensibilisation au changement climatique et à l'élévation du niveau de la mer ainsi qu'une intégration de thématiques relatives au changement climatique dans les nouveaux programmes scolaires ;

- La renaissance des collections du Musée du Palais de Manjakamiadana, monument historique malgache, grâce au programme d'appui de l'UNESCO financé par le gouvernement japonais. Ce projet a été mis en œuvre par l'Antenne de l'Organisation à Antananarivo, en collaboration avec des experts internationaux ;
- La mise en place d'un système numérisé au service de l'éducation permettant l'accessibilité et la valorisation des résultats des travaux scientifiques de l'Académie Malgache, soutenue par le Programme de participation ;
- Les journées portes ouvertes étatiques dans le cadre de la 4ème édition de la célébration de la Journée internationale de l'accès universel à l'information. Avec le soutien de l'Antenne de l'UNESCO, à travers le partage des 5 numéros du Magazine d'investigation « Trandraka ».
- La réalisation du projet de formation, suivi de dotation de livres, d'enseignants et de responsables des bibliothèques scolaires au niveau du Système des Écoles Associées et Clubs UNESCO (SEA/CU). Ce projet est le fruit de la collaboration de plusieurs partenaires (Ministère, Agence de coopération internationale) ;
- La redynamisation du SEA/CU à travers l'organisation de plusieurs sessions d'information portant sur différents thèmes (ECM, éducation sexuelle, genre), la promotion de la diversité culturelle via les JST et le renforcement des capacités des membres en matière de reboisement.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La première Conférence régionale des Ministres africains sur la mise en œuvre en Afrique du Plan d'Action de Kazan (PAK) s'est tenue en septembre à Antananarivo, Madagascar. Cet événement organisé par le Gouvernement Malgache et l'Union Africaine avec le soutien de l'UNESCO, le Conseil International pour l'Éducation Physique et la Science du Sport, la Conférence des Ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie, et la Représentation permanente du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite auprès de l'UNESCO, a consisté en une réunion d'experts suivie par une réunion ministérielle. 35 États africains étaient représentés.

Cette Conférence avait pour objectif de mobiliser les Ministres et les Hauts Responsables africains et internationaux en charge de l'éducation physique et a abouti à l'élaboration des recommandations pour l'adoption d'un Plan d'Action sur la mise en œuvre du PAK en Afrique.

Lors de la clôture, S.E.M. Andry Nirina Rajoelina, Président de la République de Madagascar, a lancé de façon officielle l'Alliance de Haut niveau pour le Sport et l'Éducation Physique de Qualité en Afrique et a indiqué que le PAK était un plan humanitaire et fédérateur, qui permettrait de changer le visage de l'Afrique.



Première Conférence régionale des ministres africains sur la mise en œuvre en Afrique du Plan d'Action de Kazan, Antananarivo. © A.R.R. Ministère de la jeunesse et des sports malgache

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Pour l'année 2020, la Commission nationale a prévu l'exécution des projets suivants :

- La mise à l'échelle du Programme STEM dans d'autres régions et l'élaboration de référentiels dans le domaine du THA via le fonds BEAR II ;
- L'appui à l'élaboration de politiques et stratégies sectorielles d'éducation inclusive de qualité ;
- La création d'une Chaire UNESCO dans une université publique ;
- La mise en place d'une École MOST suivant la programmation prospective de « Tany vao Mada » ;
- La mobilisation du réseau d'échange Malagasy sur l'ECM ;
- Le développement du Programme SANDWATCH pour d'autres zones côtières ;
- La promotion de la diversité culturelle à travers l'élaboration du RPQ à la Convention de 2005 ;
- La réactualisation de la Politique Culturelle Nationale ;
- La promotion de la culture de la paix par la mise en œuvre du projet intitulé « Donnons la place aux jeunes pour prévenir les conflits et consolider la paix à Madagascar » ;
- La promotion de l'égalité des genres et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles avec le développement du programme d'Éducation aux médias et à l'information par le projet « Les filles font l'info en classe » ;
- Le développement du numérique au niveau du Centre de documentation et d'information de la Commission nationale ;
- L'adhésion au réseau et renouvellement des membres, et renforcement des capacités des encadreurs des écoles associées ;
- L'opérationnalisation des Comités nationaux de programme.

MALI

Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Mahamoudou Famanta, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique.

Secrétaire générale : Mme Diallo Kadia Maiga

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO a évolué en 2019 dans un climat difficile, caractérisé par une tension de trésorerie et une insuffisance de personnel. La Commission a dû faire des heures supplémentaires pour mettre en œuvre plusieurs activités, pour faire progresser les objectifs de l'UNESCO et les Objectifs de Développement Durable. On peut noter l'organisation de :

- L'atelier de formation et de sensibilisation des jeunes dans la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et la radicalisation au Mali,

du 4 au 6 février 2019 au Centre Gabriel CISSE de Ségou. Cet atelier dédié aux jeunes, financé par le Programme de participation de l'UNESCO, a regroupé environ 80 jeunes filles et garçons provenant de toutes les régions du Mali. Un réseau des jeunes a été mis en place à la fin de l'atelier.

- L'atelier de formation sur la restauration et le catalogage des manuscrites, du 5 au 9 mars 2019 Bamako. Cet atelier financé par l'UNESCO, avait pour objectif de former dans les domaines du catalogage, de la numérisation et de la conservation des manuscrits anciens. Il a regroupé 30 participants.
- L'atelier sous régional de concertation et d'échanges sur la création et la gestion des réserves de biosphère transfrontalières en Afrique de l'Ouest, du 27 au 28 mai 2019 à l'hôtel Radisson Blue à Bamako. Il a été financé par le programme de participation et avait réuni des acteurs de réserves de biosphère transfrontalières du Mali, de la Guinée, du Sénégal et du Burkina Faso.
- L'atelier national sur la contribution de la communication et des médias dans la consolidation de la démocratie et la paix au Mali, du 26 au 28 décembre 2019 à Bamako. Il a été financé par le Programme de participation et a regroupé 60 participants.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO a organisé le Concours National Miss Sciences 2019 du 5 au 26 septembre 2019 en coopération avec les Ministères de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique et le Bureau UNESCO de Bamako. L'objectif de ce concours est de susciter l'intérêt des filles pour les sciences et de les orienter vers des carrières scientifiques, afin de valoriser les Sciences, Technologies, Ingénierie et Mathématiques (STEM). Les activités du Concours National Miss Sciences 2019 ont été lancées le 5 septembre 2019 à l'hôtel Radisson Blue de Bamako.

Les examens du Concours National Miss Sciences 2019 au Mali se sont déroulés les 24 et 25 septembre 2019 sous la supervision du Comité de Coordination Scientifique et de l'Inspection générale de l'éducation. Les lauréates du concours, Miss, dauphines et les autres candidates ont reçu des prix et des cadeaux, lors d'une cérémonie le 26 septembre 2019 au Centre International de Conférences de Bamako. Au sein du Comité de coordination et de gestion, la Commission nationale malienne pour l'UNESCO a travaillé en partenariat avec la société civile et le secteur privé. Cette collaboration a permis de mobiliser plusieurs millions de francs qui ont contribué notamment à l'achat d'ordinateurs portables, de tablettes, de fournitures scolaires et d'autres cadeaux pour les lauréates. Les partenaires financiers clés du concours étaient l'UNESCO et l'UNICEF.

Les quatre Miss et leurs huit dauphines ont reçu des ordinateurs, des tablettes et des fournitures scolaires ; les autres soixante-huit candidates ont toutes reçu des tablettes et des fournitures scolaires. La Miss dixième année a déclaré être satisfaite de la mise en place de ce concours qui lui a permis de s'intéresser et de s'impliquer davantage dans les matières scientifiques afin de contribuer au développement de son pays.



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Le renforcement des capacités des encadreurs de la petite enfance aux techniques d'initiation à la lecture et à l'écriture ;
- Le renforcement de capacités des jeunes filles déscolarisées et non scolarisées aux activités régénératrices de revenus (teinture, henné, transformations de produits maraîchers) ;
- La réalisation de points d'eau au niveau de certaines Écoles associées de l'UNESCO au Mali à travers le projet KOICA dans le cadre de l'autonomisation des filles et des jeunes femmes par l'éducation ;
- La mise en place et l'opérationnalisation du Comité « Programme Gestion des transformations sociales » (MOST) du Mali ;
- Le renforcement du Comité national l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB) du Mali ;
- La création des réserves de biosphère transfrontalières de Bafing et du Gourma
- Le projet régional sur les savoirs endogènes au service de la bonne gouvernance, la cohésion sociale et la paix en Afrique de l'Ouest ;
- Le lancement du Rapport mondial sur le suivi de l'éducation 2019/2020, en juillet 2020 à Kita (Kayes) ;
- L'organisation du Concours national Miss Sciences 2020 au Mali ;
- La formation des nouveaux cadres de la Commission ;
- La réhabilitation et le renforcement de la bibliothèque de la Commission.

MAURITIUS

Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

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

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Higher Education

- In 2019, Mauritius participated in the deliberations and drafting of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications, in favour of fairer and more transparent education.
- Mauritius ratified the Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States. The Convention provides a platform for advancing SDGs for equitable access in the region. Mauritius has put in place a National Qualifications Framework as well as two regulatory bodies which have well established procedures and processes for the recognition of international qualifications.

Workshop on UNESCO project to support the cultural and creative industries in Mauritius: Re-Shaping Cultural Policies for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

- The UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture organised a three-day training workshop in 2019 on Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR). This workshop was organised within the framework of the Project "Reshaping Cultural policies for the promotion of fundamental freedoms and diversity of cultural expressions". The workshop congregated governmental and civil society actors engaged in policy making and monitoring process

of the promotion of cultural expression diversity, and representatives from the UNESCO Regional Office.

Slavery Museum

- An international workshop on Slavery Museums was held at the University of Mauritius, as part of History Week, from 13 to 15 September 2019. Staff from Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture, Iziko Museums, and UNESCO Slave Route Project amongst others attended the workshop. The workshop was organised to assess the global impact of the slave trade and the legacies of slavery in the 21st century on health, education, political, economic and religious status and to exchange the experiences and best practices on interpreting and representing slavery from different regions of the world.

Pamplemousses Slave Heritage Trail

- The UNESCO Slave Route Project agreed to the listing of selected sites in Pamplemousses Village relating to the history of slavery. A ceremony was held to publicise the Slave Route label for these sites, and to launch the trail in presence of members of UNESCO Slave Route Scientific Committee, scholars, officers of the Ministry of Arts and Culture and Mauritius NATCOM.

Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

- During the preparation of the re-nomination dossier of the Black River Gorges-Bel Ombre Biosphere Reserve, an awareness workshop was held on 9 May 2019. The purpose was to raise awareness and increase knowledge of the stakeholders on the obligations, implications and benefits of the proposed Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Thomas Schaaf, former Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, Man and Biosphere and Prof. Jeong Dia Yuen, Director, Asia Climate Change, Jeju Special Self Governing, Republic of Korea. Around 50 representatives from the private sector, civil society, NGOs and government institutions related to the proposed Biosphere Reserve participated in the workshop. The re-nomination dossier was submitted to the UNESCO MAB Secretariat in September 2019.

SUCCESS STORY

On 11 December 2019, Mauritius was proud to mark another milestone — the Segha tambour Chagos of Chagos Archipelago was inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The inscription was endorsed at the 14th Session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, on 14 December 2019.

The main theme of Segha Tambour Chagos was born from slavery and sung in Chagossian Creole. Segha Tambour Chagos lyrics consist of everyday experiences, including narrations of sadness, nostalgic past, happiness, rebellion, and motherland. It is the torch light to guide young people not to lose their roots and pride.

Chagossian people were rewarded by the recognition of Segha Chagos inscribed on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the world at large acknowledges their hard work to nurture rooted traditions alive, through the trials of exile, displacement, and disadvantage.



Segha Chagos © A.R.R. Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

An Intercontinental Slavery Museum will be built near the port area in Mauritius. The conceptualization of this museum will be a mirror of the history, taking stock and to illustrate the deep scars of the ignominious parts of history at the time of colonization.

Countries with a past history of slavery could contribute to the above.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO

President: Ms. Conceita Ernesto Xavier Sortane, Minister of Education and Human Development

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Funded by the Government of Mozambique, the National Commission in partnership with the Directorate of Education and Human Development of Maputo City (DEDHCM) held the 1st Edition of the Portuguese Language Competition for Grade 6 Public School Students from May to August 2019.

About 400 Grade 6 students from 20 public schools participated in the Contest, assisted by 20 teachers and 5 technical experts assigned to the District Education and Culture Directorates, in addition to technical experts from DEDHCM and the National Commission. The Contest consisted in assessing students' proficiency in the Portuguese Language by reading and interpreting a text concerning the problem of road accidents in Maputo City. Overall, Maxaquene B Primary School ranked 1st, having received a total of 4 Winners, followed by Imaculada Primary School and Unit 18 both with 3 winners and lastly Alto Maé, Lhanguene Piloto, Mahotas and Unit 30 hosted 2 winners each.

With the support of the German Government through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Commission for UNESCO, Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO organized the 2nd Sub-Regional Meeting of Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committees in Southern Africa. The meeting was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development and UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.

The German Government support is aimed at establishing new Biosphere Reserves, fostering the implementation of the MAB Lima Action Plan in the Sub-Region, strengthening capacities and the exchange of know-how. Amongst the 40 participants are stakeholders responsible for the national MAB implementation from respective Line Ministries, MAB National Committees, National Commissions, and relevant organizations in the 9 Southern African countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The event was attended by international experts as well. The objectives included to raise awareness on the concept of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as model regions for sustainable development; to share best practices to enhance a strategic implementation of the Lima Action Plan in the partner countries; to evaluate the effectiveness of the various approaches to implement the MAB concept, and identify successful examples; and to establish National Coordination Mechanisms as well as a Regional Coordination Mechanism among the 9 countries for planning and implementing the MAB concept in the existing Biosphere Reserves.

SUCCESS STORY

The Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO and the German Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and the UNESCO Office in Maputo, organized a Consultative Meeting of the Secretaries General and Officials of the National Commissions for UNESCO in the Southern Africa Region, from 26 to 28 August at Matola City, Maputo Province. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Reflect on the effective functioning of National Commissions;
- Train the Secretaries-General, Deputy Secretaries-General and Programme Officers;
- Improve programme coordination and implementation;
- Share knowledge, experiences and best practices;
- Create synergy in the sub-region on topics related to the UNESCO General Conference, Executive Board Meetings and other bodies;
- Build and sustain partnership as well as mobilize resources.

The meeting was attended by Secretaries-General and Programme Officers of the National Commissions that are part of the Regional Office for Southern Africa (namely, South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), representatives from the German National Commission, the Director of the Regional Office for Southern Africa, the UNESCO Representative in Mozambique, the Regional Office for Southern Africa Programme Officers, and national representatives from institutions working in UNESCO's areas of competence, namely Education, Youth and Sports, and Information and Communication.



The Maputo City Education & Human Development Director handing over medals
© A.R.R. Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

With support from the Participation Programme:

- Roundtable on *"Impact of Literacy and Adult Education Initiatives for Girls and Women's Empowerment"* in Marracuene District, Maputo Province;
- Ensure Access to Quality Education for Local Community Students through Science – Based Innovation Methodologies;
- Empowering Youth Associations for the Challenges posed by SDGs in Mozambique.

With Government support:

- Promotion of Portuguese Language Contest for Primary School students in Maputo City – Phase II;
- Educating with Organic Garden Programme;
- Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Intercultural Dialogue Programme.

NAMIBIA

Namibia National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Despite a staff shortage in the Executive Committee and Secretariat, the Executive Committee governed the National Commission effectively during 2019. In collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of Namibia to UNESCO, the National Commission successfully secured the support of UNESCO from the Emergency Assistance Fund for drought relief to ensure quality and inclusive education.

During the past year, in light of UNESCO's Strategic Transformation, the National Commission adopted more programmatic implementation, strengthened partnerships and increased visibility.

In terms of Governance, the Annual General Assembly, under the theme of "Indigenous languages matter for sustainable development", brought various partners together, ranging from academics to ASPnet teachers and learners, and community members.

Strategic direction and policy recommendation were provided by the members of the Commission through the hosting of a National Consultation on the Programme and Budget (40/C5), Medium Term Strategy (41/C4) and Programme and Budget (41/C5), in preparation of the 40th session of the General Conference. The Commission contributed to Namibia's successful election to the Executive Board (2019-2023), and the declaration of 4 March as World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. Moreover, the Commission contributed to the plan to host the Artificial Intelligence Conference in 2020 and the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration in 2021.

In terms of external relations and public information, the Commission and the UNESCO Windhoek Office embarked on joint planning in various key programmes and activities to advance UNESCO's objectives and Sustainable Development Goals — for example, activities to promote and advance Information and Communication Tools in Education, STEM, innovation and technology; survey of teachers in pre-primary education; implementation of the 1972 Convention; translation of basic texts of the 2003 Convention; and training of SDG 4 focal people. Partnerships have been established with NGOs, other ministries and agencies to advance the SDGs through the World's Largest Lesson and practical lessons at schools.

Two major challenges remain: firstly, to ensure that the Programme Committees take full charge of their oversight responsibilities; secondly, that the Commission further increases its visibility and enhances its communication strategy.

SUCCESS STORY

In partnership with the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, the dream of opening another Centre focusing on Urban Sustainability became a reality for the Namibia Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET). After months of efforts, on 22 October 2019, the Centre welcomed its first visitors, a diverse group of guests who attended the opening event in Swakopmund, represented by international and national government agencies, local partners of Education for Sustainable Development, NaDEET supporters, and media houses. The guests had an opportunity to get a first insider's view of the facilities and services the Centre will offer to the local and international visitors. The importance of this Environmental Education Centre for Namibia is manifested in its role to bridge the gap between the local and national efforts on environmental protection.

In his keynote speech, the Secretary-General of the Namibia National Commission, Mr Roderick April, emphasized the significance of such initiative which aligns with the National Development Goals and teaches citizens how to protect the environment and natural resources as stipulated in the Constitution. He also highlighted its value to advance UNESCO's goals in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), stressing the upcoming framework for ESD 2030.

The Centre is well aligned with the town's plan to become more sustainable and create an initiative addressing developmental issues associated with growing urban areas. It also complements the National Curriculum in the respect of environmental education. Some attendees also pledged to assist school teachers and learners to be involved in some of the programmes that the Centre will offer.

NaDEET was awarded the UNESCO-Japan Prize for ESD in 2018 for its transformative work on the NamibRand Nature Reserve in Southern Namibia. This new Centre was in part made possible with the grant from the award, which has enabled NaDEET to reach greater public.



Secretary-General, Mr Rod April (Centre) officially opening the Centre, flanked by Ms. Viktoria Keding, Director of the Centre and Mr. Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhumi, Director of UNESCO Windhoek Office © A.R.R. Namibian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Noting the importance of UNESCO's Strategic Transformation, the Executive Committee and Secretariat of the Commission need to be exposed to capacity development to advance governance. Since the Commission has established a Committee on the Memory of the World, it is of paramount importance that the Commission reaches out for capacity development with other Commissions who have advanced in this area. The Commission started with a staff exchange programme with the Mozambique National Commission and will continue staff exchange with the Ghana National Commission. The Namibia National Commission remains committed to support the sub-regional capacity development meeting for National Commissions, and to partner with the German Commission on youth volunteering in designated sites programme, in *naturweit* and *kulturwei*.

NIGERIA

Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Mallam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr. Idowu L. Olangunju

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with UNESCO line Ministries and Agencies, the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, and civil society organisations to promote the ideals and programmes of UNESCO in Nigeria during the year under review.

In collaboration with UNESCO line Ministries and Agencies and the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, the Commission co-organized a one-day workshop on “Fair and Transparent Reporting: Key to Sustainable Peace and Conflict Resolution” on 13 February 2019, in commemoration of 2019 World Radio Day. The workshop aimed to improve the professional skills of media practitioners and sensitize them on inherent dangers of fake news.

Towards promoting peaceful co-existence among youths, the Commission held a one-day workshop on “Imperatives of a Peaceful Co-existence in a Multi-Ethnic Society (Nigerian Youth in View)” on 20 February 2019, in Abuja.

To promote skills acquisition and self-employment, the Commission organized a one-day workshop on “Cultural Creativities for Youth Skills Development” on 14 March 2019 in Abuja, to strengthen national capacities for the development and promotion of cultural and creative industries in Nigeria.

Also, the Commission organized a workshop to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in the field of education to minimize the threat towards the out-of-school children.

The Commission was present at the Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development in Africa Forum, from 14 to 15 March 2019 in Harare, Zimbabwe, under the theme, “Information For All Programme Priorities and Public Domain Content in Africa”; as well as a symposium to review the right to education and inclusion held from 22 to 24 May 2019 in Côte d’Ivoire.

To ensure evidence-based policymaking, the Commission participated in the Workshop on Science Technology and Innovation Indicators and Technology Audit of selected economic sectors in Nigeria, organized by Federal Ministry of Science and Technology from 13 to 16 May 2019.

In the area of the UNESCO Fellowship Programme, Mr Adejoh Bank Sunday and Mr Uzaifa Mohammed were awarded UNESCO/China (The Great Wall) Co-sponsored Fellowship Programmes in Computer Mathematics and Software Engineering, respectively, from September 2019 to July 2020. Ms. Effiong Victoria Odokwo was also selected to undertake the UNESCO/Poland Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme in Engineering Cycle at AGH University of Science and Technology in Poland.

In 2019, the Commission facilitated the establishment of UNESCO Chair on Peace and Citizenship at Afe Babalola University, to enhance knowledge and build capacity in the field of peace and citizenship.

In the bid to establish National Bioethics Committee in Nigeria, the Commission, in collaboration with National Biotechnology Development Agency held a two-day meeting from 21 to 22 August 2019, aimed at the harmonization of the National Bioethics Committee Framework and Policy Documents.

SUCCESS STORY

The Commission, in collaboration with the International Academy for the Gifted, organized a 2-week Camp on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for gifted girls, from 1 to 15 December 2019, under the theme: “Girlcrackthecode - Capacity Building in STEM for the Girl Child”. The programme provided the participants training in STEM beyond the usual secondary school classroom teaching, to encourage them to choose a career path in STEM. It also provided an avenue for the students to be guided on how to pursue careers in STEM, by exposing them to several stimulating projects. Participants were selected from Gifted and Federal School of Science and Technology and private secondary schools in Senior Secondary School One across Nigeria.



Cross section of the Girls using Abacus to calculate during the “Girlcrackthecode - Capacity Building in STEM © A.R.R. Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Commission, in collaboration with the National Committee on Memory of the World plans to organize a workshop for Committee members and stakeholders in order to create further awareness on the need to identify and submit notable works of arts for enlistment in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

Working with the UNESCO line Ministries and Agencies in 2020, the Commission plans to hold another stakeholders’ meeting towards the establishment and inauguration of a National Bioethics Committee.

The Commission is also planning to organize a train-the-trainer workshop on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence to enhance effective teaching and learning.

The Commission plans to explore opportunities of exposing the teachers to trainings on methods of preventing violent extremism through education in schools.

RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

Commission nationale centrafricaine pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

- Suivi des projets soumis à l'UNESCO au titre du biennium 2018-2019 Suite à une incompréhension survenue entre la Direction Générale de l'UNESCO et la COMNAT-RCA sur l'exécution d'une étude réalisée en 2017, une délégation s'est rendue à Paris pour une concertation technique qui a permis de lever l'équivoque ;
- Apurement des arriérés de cotisations : La République Centrafricaine (RCA) a réduit ses arriérés de cotisations et soldé ses arriérés de loyer ;
- Mise en œuvre des projets du biennium 2018-2019 : les quatre projets approuvés pour le biennium 2018-2019 ont été exécutés. Il s'agit de :
 - L'appui au Centre d'alphabétisation et de formation en braille pour les aveugles ;
 - L'analyse des risques sanitaires liés à la consommation des légumes, fruits et tubercules cultivés sur les dépôts d'ordures et autres sols pollués ;
 - L'organisation d'une semaine du patrimoine culturel centrafricain ;
 - Une campagne nationale de sensibilisation pour la prévention des violences faites aux femmes et aux filles en République Centrafricaine.
- Participation à la 40ème Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO : La République Centrafricaine a pris part à la 40ème Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO. Elle était aussi présente au Forum des Ministres de la Culture ainsi qu'à celui des Ministres de l'Enseignement Supérieur ;
- Mise à jour du Comité National Man and the Biosphere ;
- Participation au deuxième forum des jeunes du programme MAB ;
- Facilitation de la mise en œuvre des projets Biosphère et Patrimoine du Lac Tchad (BIOPALT) et Réflexion sur l'état des lieux de l'Enseignement et la Formation Technique et Professionnelle (EFTP) en RCA ;
- Création du Comité Programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental (PHI) ;
- Appui à la ratification de la Convention de Ramsar sur les zones humides assortie de deux Sites Ramsar : Le Parc National Manovo-Gounda Saint Floris et le Parc National Mbaéré-Bodingué ;
- Appui à l'élaboration de la demande de création d'une Réserve de Biosphère de Bamingui-Vakaga au Nord de la RCA, transfrontalière avec le Tchad ;
- Participation à l'atelier de renforcement des capacités des personnels des Commissions Nationales d'Afrique Centrale organisé à Yaoundé ;
- Appui technique à l'élaboration de la Politique Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation Technologique.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Une étude menée sur l'analyse des risques sanitaires liés à la consommation des plantes cultivées sur les dépôts d'ordures et autres sols pollués a confirmé une contamination généralisée notamment aux métaux lourds, plomb et mercure. Cela constitue un risque grave de santé publique et de sécurité alimentaire susceptible de compromettre la réalisation des Objectifs de Développement Durable 2 et 3. La radio nationale s'est engagée à réserver une tranche d'antenne pour sensibiliser la population à de meilleures pratiques environnementales.

A cette occasion, le Directeur Général du Développement Durable a confirmé les risques de santé publique en énonçant les résultats d'un dépistage positif au mercure réalisé sur la délégation centrafricaine en 2013 à Minamata : « Le Ministre de l'Environnement et le Point Focal de la Convention ont été dépistés positifs au mercure alors qu'ils n'ont jamais mis les pieds dans une zone d'exploitation du mercure... »



Présentation des résultats de l'Étude par Dr Lucie ABA-TOUMNOU © G.F. KOYT-DEBALLE

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Suite aux évaluations du programme l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB) d'une part, de la liste indicative des sites du patrimoine culturel et naturel d'autre part, il serait intéressant de poursuivre les efforts à travers les objectifs suivants :

- Renforcer l'opérationnalisation du concept « l'Homme et la Biosphère » en s'appuyant sur l'émergent projet BIOPALT de l'UNESCO et de la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT) pour la mise en œuvre effective de la Stratégie MAB (2015-2025) et du plan d'action de Lima (2016-2025) aussi bien dans les deux Réserves de Biosphères que dans les sites du patrimoine naturel. Il peut s'agir spécifiquement de :
 - Appuyer la désignation, le renforcement des capacités et le fonctionnement d'un gestionnaire par Réserve de Biosphère et par patrimoine naturel ;
 - Sensibiliser, impliquer effectivement les communautés riveraines et élaborer un plan participatif de gestion par Réserve de Biosphère et par patrimoine naturel ;
 - Identifier des thématiques de recherche et établir un partenariat relatif avec des institutions de recherche et/ou de formation.

RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

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

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

Secrétaire Permanent : M. Lazare Liema Ibongo Botie

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

2019 a été l'année de redynamisation de la coopération entre la Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Kinshasa, à travers un atelier d'évaluation de la coopération entre ces deux structures et de discussion sur les actions communes à mener dans le futur.

L'année a permis la sensibilisation d'administrations dans 11 Provinces de la République démocratique du Congo sur la mise en œuvre des ODD dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO, ainsi qu'une année de prévention contre l'extrémisme violent à travers des campagnes dans les milieux scolaires et universitaires.

Enfin, 2019 a été une année de renforcement des capacités du personnel de la Commission nationale à travers un stage de perfectionnement à l'Institut Occitan Aquitaine/Pau, dans le cadre du programme profession culture du Ministère français de la culture.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

En partenariat avec le Ministère des Affaires Humanitaires et Solidarités Sociales et le réseau des Écoles associées de l'UNESCO, la Commission nationale de la République démocratique du Congo a conduit une importante mission de soutien dans la cité de YUMBI, dans la Province de Mai-Ndombe, du 29 mai au 05 juin 2019, où des affrontements intercommunautaires ont endommagé et/ou causé la destruction de plusieurs écoles. La mission a consisté à la remise de fournitures scolaires aux écoles affectées par ces conflits. Au total 10 écoles dont 6 primaires et 4 secondaires ont bénéficié de cet appui qui leur a permis de reprendre leurs activités scolaires. Cette mission a été conduite avec l'appui de l'UNESCO dans le cadre du programme d'aide d'urgence.

A la suite de cette mission, un Chef d'établissement bénéficiaire a déclaré : « YUMBI en quête de paix a reçu le signe son objet de quête par l'UNESCO... Vive la paix à YUMBI...Vive l'UNESCO ».



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En 2020, la Commission nationale prendra part à la 7ème Réunion Interrégionale des Commissions Nationales.

La Commission nationale prévoit de renforcer sa coopération avec d'autres Commissions nationales de la Sous-Région d'Afrique centrale ainsi que d'Amérique du Sud, en l'occurrence la Commission nationale cubaine, afin de faire aboutir le processus d'inscription de la Rumba congolaise sur la liste représentative de la Convention 2003 de l'UNESCO. Kinshasa compte organiser dans ce sens un séminaire-atelier sur le montage de candidature dans le cadre de ladite Convention, en collaboration avec la Commission nationale sœur de la République du Congo.

La coopération avec la Commission nationale belge pour l'UNESCO sera également redynamisée dans le secteur de la culture, à travers les conventions culturelles du patrimoine culturel de l'UNESCO.

RWANDA

Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO

Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Marie Christine Gasingirwa

Secretary-General: Mr. Albert Mutesa

Website: www.unesco.rw

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

All along 2019, the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO has organized or contributed in the celebration of different International and World Days dedicated by UNESCO to philosophy, teaching, radio and press freedom, water, biodiversity, etc. CNRU has also executed various activities in its four departments.

- In education, a platform of discussion has brought together UNESCO Associated Schools Headmasters, aiming at enhancing quality education in particular and stressing their role in achieving the SDG4 in general. The participants shared their best practices highlighting on how a good leadership in their education domain can help to improve quality education and a smooth adoption of the promising pedagogical approach of competency-based curriculum.

- In culture, social and human sciences, different historical and cultural sites related to the King RUGANZU NDOLI have been promoted in partnership with local youth clubs. Two main sites have been identified so far; we have "Inzoga za Rubingo" site on Jari Hill, in Gasabo District and in the South Province of Rwanda, the site of the famous Nyagakecuru. These sites are managed by the Districts and IBISUMIZI Mount Club, which is seeking all sites related to this heroic Rwanda Monarch.
- In sciences, Rwanda NATCOM in conjunction with the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management and local partners organized a one day consultative meeting on the opportunities to improve the risk reduction of floods and storms which affect Rwandans every year. This meeting was held in Kigali on 15th October 2019 on the theme "Build to last, my responsibility for disaster resilience."
- In communication, a successful five days campaign was initiated on the theme: "Radio, a tool to fight against drug addiction among youth" while celebrating the 2019 International World Radio Day which was combined with the World Drug Day celebrated 26th June each year. This campaign was organized in four Districts in partnership with Women in Media Platform and the Rwanda Biomedical Center to discuss about the use of drug, its causes and consequences in order to establish strategies to avoid them and how to help those addicted to recover the normal life.

SUCCESS STORY

Rwanda NATCOM has organized a one day workshop on "Africa code week" with global objective of providing young Rwandan generation digital literacy and sustainable learning impact. Its specific objective was to give to young girls the opportunity to be introduced to coding and to create awareness on the importance and benefits of coding. 30 students from different schools participated to this workshop held at Hotel Hilltop in Kigali City on 30th October 2019.

During the opening ceremony, Albert Mutesa, the Secretary General of Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO (CNRU), announced that education is one of UNESCO main field of interest and that Rwanda was recently named East Africa's number one Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) nation by the United Nations Conference on trade and development (UNCTAD). "It is important to continue the work in this field to support Rwanda's journey to become an information society, enabling every citizen the same access to ICT services and coding skills, hence creating a more equal and just society," he added. Rwanda has initiated since 2007 "One Laptop per Child" program in primary and later the smart classrooms in secondary to facilitate children and teachers in their daily work, to open up their mind and facilitate their access to the world knowledge in every field.

Africa code week is the digital skills development initiative that was introduced by the software corporation SAP in 2015. Its objective is to drive sustainable growth in Africa and already reached over 4 million young Africans since its implementation.



Group photo with the CNRU Secretary General, Albert Mutesa, sitting in middle, after the opening ceremony of the workshop. © A.R.R. Rwandese National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the context of strengthening cooperation in Eastern African Region towards the achievement of sustainable Climate Change adaptation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, UNESCO National Commissions of Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania are working together and engaging other mandated institutions to conduct a preliminary baseline information for nomination of the Lake Victoria basin ecosystem as a multi-state transboundary biosphere reserve of UNESCO.

At the national level, the Gishwati-Mukura Land scape new National Park has recently been proposed by the Rwanda Government to be nominated as UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve. The nomination project has been submitted and is now in process of evaluation and in good pathway to become the second BR of the country, after the Volcanoes Biosphere Reserve.

After a UNESCO successful training for Sciences Technologies Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Teachers from Anglophone eight countries, organized in July 2019 at Kigali, Rwanda NATCOM in collaboration with Rwanda Education Board is planning to extend this training to many more Rwandan teachers to ensure the improvement of quality education and the gender-responsive quality STEM education in particular.

SEYCHELLES

Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO

President: Ms. Jeanne Simeon, Minister for Education and Human Resource Development

Secretary-General: Ms. Marie-Reine Hoareau

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Seychelles demonstrated its commitment to the development of Higher Education on the African continent on 16 October 2019, when it ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Qualifications in African States (2014). Seychelles handed over this instrument of ratification during the 40th session of the General Conference to the UNESCO Director-General.

Seychelles held three national workshops in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for the Eastern Region:

1. Training for media professionals on media diversity and their role as a promoter of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (May 2019);
2. The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects in Seychelles (July 2019);
3. The Capacity Building workshop for Managers of Memory Institutions of documentary heritage (September 2019). Furthermore, A UNESCO Regional Workshop on Quality

Assurance in TVET Qualifications Process for Eastern Africa was held in July 2019.

Under the Communication and Information Sector, Seychelles recently created a National Committee to establish a national register for the Memory of the World Programme. This will bring greater visibility to its documentary heritage for peace, access to information and sustainable development through cultural tourism.

In February 2019, the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), in collaboration with IBE UNESCO, organized the Second International Biennial ECCE Conference which brought together ECCE experts from all over the World.

In addition, Seychelles was present at the following meetings:

- 10th World Congress on Neuroscience in Daegu, South Korea (September 2019)
- UNESCO 2019 Forum for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship in Hanoi, Vietnam (July 2019)
- SDG4 CESA workshop on monitoring and reporting mechanisms Nairobi Kenya (December 2019)
- The Assistant Secretary General of the Seychelles National Commission attended the East African National Commissions meeting for UNESCO in Nairobi, Kenya (July 2019).
- A strong Seychelles delegation attended the gender responsive Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education in Anglophone countries (July 2019) in Rwanda. The objective was to develop trainers' capacity to foster gender sensitivity along with knowledge and skills to advance the quality of gender equality in STEM Education.

SUCCESS STORY

Seychelles acceded to global recognition as a leader in the field of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), on November 15, 2019 when the 40th session of the General Conference unanimously approved the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) as a UNESCO Global Category II Centre for ECCE. The IECD can now proceed with its work towards enhancing the quality of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Seychelles, in the implementation of SDG 4.2. This follows hard work, commitment and resources invested by Seychelles in ECD since its participation in the UNESCO World Conference in 2010. Over the years, our country has fully committed itself to the provision of quality ECCE. With transformational leadership characteristics, diagnostic monitoring strategies, result-based planning, and partnership building approaches, the IECD has become the focal point for ECCE interchange, sectorial interaction and international collaboration.

In 2017, the IECD was recognized as the IBE-UNESCO Best Practice Hub for ECCE. Since then, Seychelles has been hosting an International Biennial Conference on ECCE bringing together International experts to share best practices and discuss ECCE issues. Moreover, the UNESCO accreditation allows IECD, now turning into a UNESCO Global Category II Centre, to provide leadership, coordination and strategic direction on a regional and international level.



IECD recognized as a UNESCO Cat 2 Institute Category II Centre © A.R.R. IECD Seychelles

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Setting up a statistical matrix for the collection of cultural statistics on Seychelles and to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise;
- Strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education at all levels of the education system to promote STEM related jobs;
- Capacity building and support for the development and implementation of CBA curriculum in schools;
- Development of a new Education Policy, "Learning, Innovation and Sustainable Development", to include TVET and teacher management and development;
- Capacity building both to develop and review its system of tertiary educational indicators;
- Monitoring and evaluation of tertiary education notably in using educational indicators and in the undertaking of institutional audits;
- 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;
- Knowledge and experience sharing mission and exchange visits for the Institute's officials at an established International Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
- Child Care Training and Professional Development for Registered Service Providers and Inspectors on standards, regulation and enforcement for young children's holistic development.

SÉNÉGAL

Commission nationale sénégalaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Mamadou Talla

Secrétaire général : M. Aliou Ly

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Concernant les violences de Genre en milieu scolaire, une session de formation des formateurs a été organisée du 3 au 7 décembre 2019 à Thiès et deux sessions de formation des enseignants de l'élémentaire ont été organisées du 26 au 29 décembre 2019 à Dakar, dans l'Académie de Pikine-Guédiawaye.

Ces formations, organisées en collaboration avec le Bureau de Dakar, visaient le renforcement des capacités des enseignants et l'intégration de la problématique de l'égalité filles-garçons ainsi que l'éducation à la santé reproductive dans les curricula pour lutter contre les violences de genre en milieu scolaire.

Un atelier de validation de l'étude "jeunes et espaces de liberté en Afrique de l'Ouest" a été organisé le 26 décembre 2019 en collaboration avec le Bureau de Dakar. Conduite entre décembre 2018 et août 2019, cette étude fait suite au plan d'action et aux recommandations issus du dernier Forum des jeunes de Banjul (2017) et a pour objectif général de documenter et d'analyser les expressions émergentes des jeunes en Afrique. Sa finalité est de mobiliser les connaissances des jeunes pour éclairer les politiques publiques et accélérer les transformations sociales en Afrique. Plusieurs consultations ont été directement conduites au Sénégal, au Burkina Faso, en Gambie, au Niger, et au Mali et l'EMR a utilisé des méthodes novatrices qui ont permis de mener des investigations sur plusieurs sites couvrant des pays africains.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Un programme d'alphabétisation et de formation professionnelle des groupements de promotion féminine a été mis en place en février 2019, dont la première phase était axée sur la gestion administrative et financière et la deuxième sur la formation professionnelle. L'objectif de ce programme était de promouvoir l'autonomisation des femmes et la réduction de la pauvreté à travers l'alphabétisation et la formation professionnelle. Plus de 40 femmes néo-alphabètes ont été formées dans des programmes d'alphabétisation de qualité dans les langues nationales et leurs capacités ont été renforcées en vue d'améliorer leurs activités socio-économiques et leur environnement.



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PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Dans le cadre du Programme de participation, la Commission souhaite renforcer la collaboration des Écoles associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Elle souhaite également mener une réflexion avec les femmes pour la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et avec les jeunes dans le cadre de l'éducation au développement durable.

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone National Commission for UNESCO

President: M. Aiah Gbakima, Minister of Technical and Higher Education

Secretary-General: M. Mohamed Combo Kamanda

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Commission organized several programmes in 2019 and participated in many others during the course of the year.

In the first quarter, the Commission produced a handbook that offered insights into the parent body, UNESCO as well as the National Commission. This includes a background, roles and structure of the National Commission, and a reflection of the programmes undertaken in the recent past and plans for the immediate future.

In July 2019, the Commission was actively engaged in the planning and implementation process for World Literacy Day celebrations. These included a symposium and Radio/TV discussions programmes. Commission Staff also participated in Radio/TV discussion programmes marking International Day of Peace.

The rejuvenation and reactivation of UNESCO School Clubs: the Commission organised an Orientation Workshop for Teacher Coordinators in Freetown, and also in the regions. In October 2019, UNESCO School Clubs started intra-school debates, and in November 2019, the inter-school debates for UNESCO School Clubs commenced. Regional winners took part in the final debate in February 2020.

Also in October 2019, staff at the National Commission were amongst invited guests to Bunce Island, a key historical site which is on UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Currently, the Commission is working in partnership with the National Council for Civil Education and Development (NACCED) to develop a National Civil Education Curriculum, which will incorporate Peace Education.

SUCCESS STORY

In collaboration with the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO's Regional Office in Abuja, UN Women, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the University of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone National Commission for UNESCO successfully implemented two related and complimentary programmes:

- A One-day Workshop on Mentorship Exchanges between Sitting Members of Parliament and Councillors at the Cabenda Hotel in Freetown. The purpose was to explore the relationship between MPs and Councillors and to share ways of addressing the persevering tension between these political players.
- The launch of countrywide public screening of *Salamatu* in Freetown, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, on 30 May 2019. *Salamatu* is a documentary produced by the Social and Human Sciences Sector of the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, in collaboration with Sierra Leone National Commission for UNESCO, to promote women's participation and gender equality in the national political process.

The Official Video Launch was a tremendous success, attended by stakeholders and other development partners in the peace development process, including the Country Directors of UN Women, UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme, members of Civil Society Organisations, members of the media, and above all, the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. After screening the video in Freetown and all five regions, the feedback from the audience highlighted two points: on advocacy for political inclusivity should be a long term process, not a one-off activity; and on the need to maximize its effect, the *Salamatu* Video should be translated into the national languages and be disseminated more widely.



A group photo of the participants, including Secretary General of the NatCom, Deputy Secretary General of the NatCom, UNESCO West Africa Regional Office Representative and others © Sierra Leone National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Sierra Leone National Commission for UNESCO is collaborating with relevant state actors on National Peace and Civic Education Programme to be incorporated into the national curriculum of Primary, Junior and Senior school education.

The Commission has re-activated the UNESCO School Clubs in the country. It is now working on strengthening the capacity of National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association for regional interfacing. The Commission will continue to solicit support and technical assistance from the regional office in Abuja to facilitate training programmes for UNESCO staff and the National Federation of the UNESCO Clubs and Associations (NAFUCA).

When funding is available, the Commission will seek to establish a Resource Centre/Learning Hub for secondary school pupils and students of colleges and universities.

SOUTH AFRICA

South African National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Ihron Rensburg

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, South Africa completed its four-year term on the Executive Board, and continued serving in the following UNESCO subsidiary bodies, the International Bureau of Education (IBE), Man and Biosphere (MAB), Information for All Programme (IFAP), and chairing the Council of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Educational and Sport (CIGEPS).



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theme, "Tracing the Roots and Routes of African Jazz," includes discovering, through jazz music, African identity and the creative potential of Africa to inspire global music making. The day will pay tribute to the art form of jazz, its capacity to bring people together, and its power to promote dialogue, freedom of expression, as well as respect for human rights and diversity.

The 2020 All Star-Global Concert will unite the most popular and iconic jazz musicians from Africa and around the world, and will be organized alongside school programmes, master classes, and local, national and regional music and educational events.

SUCCESS STORY

The Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, announced that the International Jazz Day Global Host City for 2020 will be Cape Town, in South Africa, marking the first time the celebration is hosted by an African city. The Director-General saw the decision as recognition of South Africa's strong commitment to cultural diplomacy through a high degree of creativity and an outstanding diversity in its programming, supported by large network of partners.

Cape Town's annual International Jazz Festival, launched in 2000, has rendered the city a world class jazz destination. As the 2020 Global Host City, Cape Town will showcase a unique jazz history and heritage. Jazz in Cape Town is seen as more than music – it is the story of slavery and the struggle against apartheid.

The 2020 Global Host City event

FUTURE PRIORITIES

South Africa continues to give priority to the work of the 14 UNESCO Chairs at the country's different universities, supporting the work of the country's 10 biosphere reserves, promoting education for sustainable development, science, social cohesion, and freedom of speech.

TCHAD

Commission nationale tchadienne pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Aboubakar Assidick Tchoroma, Ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Promotion civique

Secrétaire général : M. Abdelkerim Adoum Bahar

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale travaille en collaboration avec tous les Ministères concernés par les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO et avec les Organisations des jeunes et des femmes.

Avec le Ministère en charge de l'Éducation, la Commission a aidé à la mise en œuvre de l'ODD 4 en particulier en ce qui concerne l'Éducation inclusive. Alors que des efforts sont consentis pour l'éducation des filles et des femmes, des programmes d'éducation à destination des personnes handicapées n'ont pas encore été élaborés. C'est ainsi qu'avec l'équipe du Ministère, la Commission nationale s'est inspirée des écoles religieuses pour malentendants et malvoyants pour proposer au Ministère de former un corps enseignant composé de professionnels en langue des signes et en braille ainsi que

de commencer une sensibilisation auprès des parents sur les opportunités éducatives qui s'offrent aux enfants handicapés.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne le secteur de la Culture, la Commission a obtenu l'appui du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé pour la formation des cadres dans la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 1972 concernant la protection du patrimoine culturel et naturel et la Convention de 2003 sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Cet appui a permis de préparer avec succès le dossier de candidature du Parc national de Zakouma pour son inscription sur la liste indicative.

La Commission nationale est également membre des Comités nationaux l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB) et Programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental (PHI) et participe à la mise en œuvre du projet « Biosphère et Patrimoine du Lac Tchad » chargé de préparer l'inscription de ce site transfrontalier comme Patrimoine mondial de l'Humanité.

La Commission est également membre du Comité national de Bioéthique.

Dans le domaine de la Communication et de l'Information, la Commission, avec l'appui du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé, a organisé un atelier de renforcement des capacités des journalistes des médias publics et privés dans la couverture médiatique des élections.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Commission nationale tchadienne, en coopération avec l'École normale supérieure et l'appui technique du Centre régional de Catégorie II en micro-science de Yaoundé, a organisé en avril 2019 un atelier de sensibilisation des lycéennes aux matières scientifiques (sciences, technologie, ingénierie et mathématique). Grâce aux démonstrations utilisant des kits pédagogiques en micro-science apportés de Yaoundé par Dr Nazaire Bewole, Directeur du Centre et grâce à l'expérience pédagogique de M. Karagoun Mahamoud Kouno, enseignant et laborantin à l'École normale supérieure, cet atelier a été une véritable réussite.

L'atelier répondait véritablement à un besoin. En effet, l'état des lieux des filières scientifiques dans l'enseignement secondaire et supérieur tchadien a fait ressortir des déséquilibres en ce qui concerne la présence des filles dans les séries scientifiques.

Un certain nombre de facteurs affectent et freinent l'accès des filles aux filières scientifiques, entre autres, des préjugés sociaux qui excluent les filles de certaines branches professionnelles ainsi qu'un manque de structure d'orientation scolaire. Pour encourager les filles à s'impliquer dans toutes les spécialités souhaitées, sans tenir compte des préjugés, la Commission nationale a invité quatre femmes scientifiques, une pédiatre, une microbiologiste, une paléontologue et une écologiste, pour un atelier afin qu'elles puissent partager leurs parcours et les expériences qui leur ont permis de faire face aux défis propres à leurs sociétés.

Pour donner un exemple historique aux filles, la Secrétaire d'État à l'éducation qui dôturait à l'atelier à la cité Antoine Lavoisier, le père de la chimie moderne qui disait : « Rien ne se perd, rien ne se crée, tout se transforme » rappelant ainsi aux filles les 17 Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) destinés à « transformer le monde d'ici 2030 ». « C'est vous qui transformerez le monde en commençant par votre pays » a-t-elle conclu.



Des filles en pleine manipulation des kits scientifiques dans un atelier électricité.
© T.D.R. Karagoun Mahamoud Kouno enseignant et laborantin à l'École normale supérieure de N'Djamena

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Au cours de 2020-2021, la Commission nationale propose, en coopération avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé et le Centre régional de catégorie II en micro science, de poursuivre la sensibilisation des filles aux filières scientifiques compte tenu du succès des activités qui ont été organisées dans ce domaine au cours de l'année 2019, particulièrement dans les grands lycées du pays y compris en province. Dans ce cadre, un travail d'information des autorités gouvernementales se fera avec l'appui du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Yaoundé en vue d'une meilleure connaissance du Centre de catégorie II et des possibilités de formation scientifique qu'il offre en Afrique.

Compte tenu de l'environnement d'insécurité et de l'afflux des réfugiés aux frontières du Tchad avec la RCA, à l'Est (Darfour), dans région du Lac Tchad, la Commission va organiser courant 2020, à la demande de plusieurs radios communautaires, un atelier de renforcement des capacités des journalistes. Cet atelier comprendra des formations aux techniques de collecte, de production et de diffusion des émissions en langues locales sur la culture de la paix, le dialogue interculturel, le règlement pacifique des conflits, mais également des émissions sur la jeunesse, la santé, l'agriculture et l'éducation. Les radios demandent également la formation de leurs techniciens dans l'entretien de leur matériel de diffusion

TOGO

Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Koffi Akapagana

Secrétaire général : M. Michel Koffi Agboh

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO a été au centre de plusieurs activités, soit en organisant de nombreux ateliers et formations soit en étant impliquée dans des activités avec d'autres partenaires intervenant dans les domaines de compétence de l'UNESCO.

La première activité concerne un projet de conservation, de protection de la biodiversité, "Développement durable grâce à des moyens de subsistance respectueux de la biodiversité : soutenir les communautés rurales près du parc national de Fazao-Malfakassa." Financé sur le fonds ONU-Inde, l'objectif est de réduire la pauvreté et de contribuer au développement local des communautés riveraines à travers la mise en place des activités économiques liées à la conservation de la biodiversité, en mettant l'accent sur les femmes et les jeunes entrepreneurs. La Commission nationale a également organisé, en juillet 2019, l'atelier de sensibilisation près du

parc Fazao Malfakassa, qui a officiellement lancé le projet. Il en a été aussi pour la création de jardins botaniques dans deux établissements secondaires, le lycée moderne de Sokodé et celui de Blitta, pour servir de site pédagogique de conservation de la biodiversité. C'est un projet mis en œuvre sous la direction du bureau de l'UNESCO à Abuja.

La seconde activité concerne le projet, « Promotion de l'égalité fille-garçons et la santé sexuelle et reproductive pour les adolescents scolarisés et non-scolarisés ». Il est exécuté sous la direction du bureau de l'UNESCO à Dakar grâce au fonds de solidarité prioritaire et innovations (FSP-i). Le FSP-I contribue à un environnement favorable à la santé de la reproduction pour les adolescents scolarisés et non-scolarisés au Togo au travers de deux composantes programmatiques : Renforcer l'accès aux services de Santé Reproductive des Adolescents et des Jeunes (SRAJ), diminuer le taux de grossesses adolescentes et les besoins en contraception non satisfait ; et Intégrer les problématiques d'égalité filles-garçons et l'éducation à la santé de la reproduction dans les curricula pour sensibiliser sur les pratiques à risques, lutter contre les violences de genre en milieu scolaire et doter les jeunes d'informations fiables sur la santé de la reproduction.

La Commission nationale a supervisé, en décembre 2019, la formation des formateurs et celle des enseignants sur la lutte contre les violences en milieu scolaire et l'éducation complète à la sexualité, au total vingt formateurs et quatre cents enseignants.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Commission nationale a organisé, du 18 au 25 août 2019, la cinquième édition de camp des sciences pour les jeunes filles scolaires. L'objectif n'a pas changé : orienter les jeunes filles vers les filières scientifiques, de technologie, de l'ingénierie et des mathématiques (STEM).

Toutefois, il y a eu des innovations avec l'ajout de thématiques nouvelles notamment l'engagement citoyen et civique des jeunes, l'éducation au développement durable, la bonne utilisation des réseaux sociaux à des fins scolaires. Par ailleurs, la Commission nationale a développé des partenariats avec l'UNICEF et le Plan international au Togo et un laboratoire scientifique mobile au profit des jeunes.



Equipe de filles en pleine présentation de leur travail de fonctionnement de circuit électrique. © T.D.R. Commission nationale togolaise pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

En 2020-2021, la Commission nationale prévoit de mettre l'accent sur l'éducation au développement durable par la formation des enseignants. Elle travaillera également avec les réseaux nationaux du système des Écoles associées et des Commissions nationales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest sur l'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale, les enjeux environnementaux, les droits humains, le dialogue interculturel et la protection du patrimoine culturel.

UGANDA

Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

President: Ms. Janet K. Museveni, First Lady, Minister of Education and Sports

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission achieved the following:

- The new Commission Board held several planning and advocacy meetings including one with the First Lady, Minister of Education and Sports to advocate for funding for the Commission and support for UNESCO-related activities and conferences;
- Participation in a GCED workshop in Nairobi, organized and funded by the UNESCO Nairobi Office;
- Initiation of regular UNATCOM/UNESCO/MoES joint meetings, funded by the Government;
- The successful organization, with UNESCO-Nairobi, of the first-ever MOST school in Uganda hosted by Makerere University for representatives of Member States from Eastern

Africa, IGAD, central and western Africa funded by the UNESCO Nairobi Regional Office;

- Conducting a consultative meeting on improving Science Education and performance in the Natural Science with the funding from the Government;
- The Commission facilitated and hosted a multi-stakeholders' meeting during the joint UNESCO-IUCN Reactive Mission to Rwenzori World Heritage Site in December 2019;
- The Commission supported the World Culture Day festivals and the World Press Freedom Day celebrations;
- The Commission supported a female youth from one of the Biosphere Reserves to participate in the MAB Youth 2019 in China;
- The Commission established and trained the Memory of the World Committee (MoW) that initiated the MoW National Register;
- Participation in the 40th session of the General Conference (November 2019), supported by the Government of Uganda, during which, Uganda got elected into the IHP and MOST International Councils.

At the same time, the Commission faced challenges such as the continued misunderstanding of the mandate of UNESCO and the role of the National Commission in the Member States, the coordination weaknesses between UNESCO Field Offices and the Commission, inadequate funding of the Commission activities, and inequity in funding of programme activities by UNESCO (i.e. no extra budgetary funding for activities in Natural Sciences).

SUCCESS STORY

The National Commission expanded on an existing partnership with the NGO, Conservation Effort for Community Development (CECOD) by including the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation as part of what became a tripartite partnership. CECOD, a lead agency for a Network of Climate change Action network of Eco-Schools and district Communities, signed a formal partnership agreement with the National Commission and four District Local Governments in 2016. The purpose was to establish partnership and mutual cooperation between CECOD and UNATCOM to promote joint localization and implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD in Uganda, using the innovative approaches of Eco-Schools and related strategies, for delivery of the SDGs and National development policy frameworks, including the National constitution (1995), Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan 2015/16-2019/20, among others.

The CECOD has translated the principles of ESD into practice through the Uganda Eco-School approach, covering more than 450 primary schools and 6 Primary Teachers Training Colleges in seven districts in south-western, central and eastern parts of Uganda, as well as in Mbarara University of Science and Technology as an Eco-Campus programme.

In the middle of 2019, the National Coordination Committee of the Eco-Schools Network together with Uganda Commission held a joint conference with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Subsequently, the top management of the Ministry met with the Uganda Commission and agreed to establish a 13-member Joint Task Force (JTF) for the implementation of the National Action Plan of ESD, using the Eco Schools approach. Members of the JTF included representatives from the Ministries of Education, Sports, Science, Technology and Innovation, CECOD, the National Coordination Committee, the NEMA, and the Commission.



Officials of UNESCO Nairobi Regional Office with other participants including Uganda's representative at a GCED workshop. © A.R.R. Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission aims to support the following activities:

- Implementation of the national and international educational initiatives and priorities in line with the Education 2030 programme;
- UNESCO-ASPnet schools programme;
- Strengthening of national capacity to develop and implement STEI policies and the management of natural resources and ecosystems for sustainable development;
- Promotion of intercultural dialogue, human rights education, physical education and sports, and MOST for inclusive development;
- Development of Local Content for provision of Communication and Information Services.
- Promotion of UNESCO Clubs, Chairs and Centres of Excellence;
- Promotion of Youth activities: Sports and Physical Education for Peace, heritage and entrepreneurship, and inclusive development for the male and female youth;
- Mainstreaming gender equality and HIV/AIDS issues in the Commission Programmes;
- Effective Programme execution and administration of technical and support services and strengthen international relations and coordination with UNESCO.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Amon Murwira

Secretary-General: Ms. Margaret Chirapa

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 was a busy year and the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO was not spared by the harsh economic environment that the country survived through. Despite economic hardships, several activities took place with the support from Treasury. The National Commission was represented at most of the sub-regional, regional and international conferences. Several local events were held with support by the Regional Office for Southern Africa.

The National Commission for UNESCO also got financial support from the German Commission for UNESCO in conducting the Ten-Year Periodic Review for the Middle Biosphere Reserve. The funding was used to engage a consultant to carry out the exercise. The Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa also provided technical support during the drafting of the periodic review.

The Great Zimbabwe University also successfully applied for a UNESCO Chair on African Heritage, a product of the Heritage Conference for Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa that was held in April 2018 near the Great Zimbabwe World Heritage site.

Zimbabwe hosted an Information for All Programme Sub-regional Meeting. The Memory of the World (MoW) National Committee created a National Database on documentary heritage. Some of the nominations will be forwarded for consideration to be included in the MoW International Register. Furthermore, Zimbabwe for the first time commemorated the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the Culture Sector commemorated the Africa World Heritage Day at the one of the five UNESCO Heritage Sites in Zimbabwe, on 10 May 2019. The event was attended by key stakeholders from local leadership to senior government officials. This was made possible by financial support provided by UNESCO under the Participation Programme.

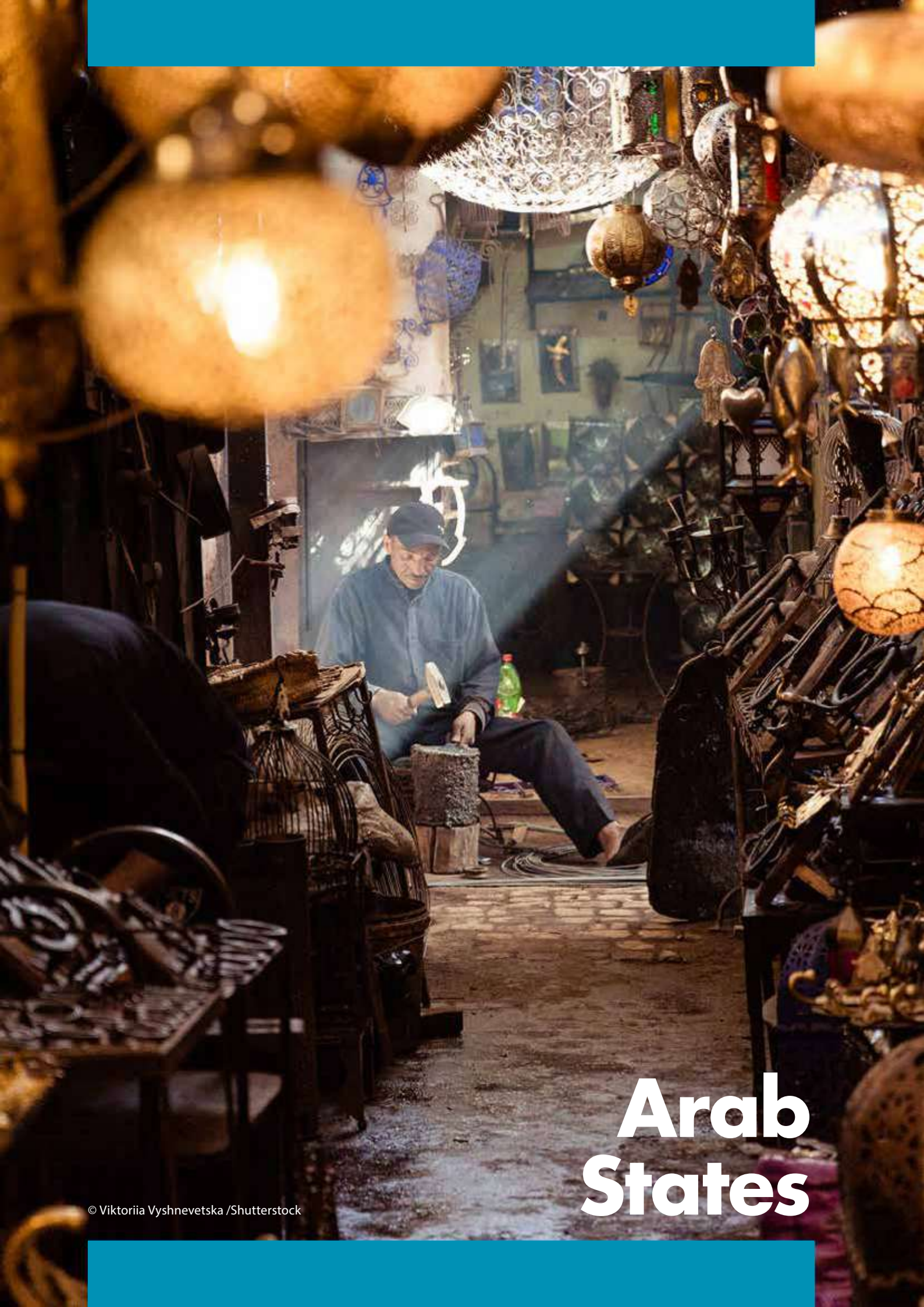
The main commemorations were preceded by a symposium held at Great Zimbabwe University on 9 May 2019. The symposium attracted papers aligned to the 2019 theme, focused on the protection and preservation of Zimbabwean heritage. A Journal on these papers is now being finalized for publication. It is hoped that the Journal will provide valuable reference material for heritage and cultural studies students.



From left Mr F. Mbetsa, Provincial Administrator Masvingo, Ms M.J. Chirapa, Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO and Honourable E. Chadzamira Masvingo, Minister of State © A.R.R. Zimbabwean National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Zimbabwe National Commission looks forward to hosting, in collaboration with the German Commission, the next annual meeting for National Commissions in Southern Africa. The Zimbabwe National Commission, in collaboration with UNESCO, is also anticipating hosting the Sub-Regional Training of World Heritage Experts in tentative listing and preparation of nomination dossiers of sites for possible inscription on the World Heritage Site List. There are also plans to host the 3rd African Regional Martial Arts Congress in collaboration with the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts in Republic of Korea. During the second quarter of 2020, the National Commission also has plans to host the National Tentative Listing of World Heritage Properties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.



Arab States

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ALGÉRIE

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

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Le thème générique ayant guidé l'orientation du plan d'action de la Commission à travers ses six Comités techniques a été axé sur la dimension du développement durable. Ainsi, des conférences ont été programmées à l'occasion de la Journée nationale du savoir et ont porté sur « Le système éducatif algérien et les défis de l'Objectif de Développement Durable 4 » et « Les normes d'aptitudes minimales en lecture dans l'Objectif de Développement Durable 4 ».

La Commission a pris part à l'atelier de formation pour les nouveaux Secrétaires généraux et à la sixième réunion interrégionale des Commissions nationales tenus lors de la 40ème session de la Conférence générale.

L'année 2019 a été marquée par des missions en Algérie, de la Directrice du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO à Rabat. Elles visaient particulièrement le suivi de dossiers dans le domaine du patrimoine culturel en relation avec les Conventions internationales.

En matière d'éducation, vingt écoles ont été inscrites officiellement sur la liste du réseau international des écoles associées de l'UNESCO. Ces écoles ont célébré la Journée internationale du vivre ensemble en paix.

Dans le domaine de la culture, des ateliers animés par des experts de l'UNESCO ont été organisés et ont porté sur les Conventions du patrimoine culturel. Un Centre de catégorie 2 pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel en Afrique, placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO fut inauguré à Alger.

Dans le domaine des sciences, la Commission a entrepris des démarches en vue de mettre en place une Chaire UNESCO à l'université de Constantine sur le thème : « Formation en ingénierie pédagogique et en éducation au développement durable ». Elle a soumis, également, une demande dans le cadre du Programme de bourses du Programme de l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB) pour jeunes scientifiques 2020.

Dans le domaine de la communication et de l'information, des conférences ont été organisées (Yannayer : nouvel an amazigh et intelligence artificielle).



ONAEA – Algérie 2019

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de 18 mois pour adultes dans les deux langues officielles, ce qui souligne combien il est important de commencer des études dans sa langue maternelle. Environ 90 % des apprenants sont des femmes, issues des régions rurales, y compris les nomades. En permettant aux locuteurs du Tamazight de bénéficier d'un enseignement de l'arabe qui s'appuie sur la langue maternelle et aux arabophones d'apprendre le Tamazight, la démarche adoptée vise l'autonomisation personnelle et professionnelle d'une part, et la cohésion sociale et le développement d'autre part. Les contenus d'alphabétisation dispensés couvrent la lecture, l'écriture et le calcul dans les deux langues officielles du pays. Un apprenant qui réussit une évaluation sommative peut poursuivre sa formation en s'inscrivant à des cours à distance, à une formation professionnelle, et mener des activités génératrices de revenus.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

L'Algérie a participé, pour la deuxième fois, au Programme des Prix internationaux d'alphabétisation de l'UNESCO. Elle a remporté le Prix d'alphabétisation UNESCO-Roi Sejong 2019, grâce à la mise en œuvre de la « Stratégie nationale d'alphabétisation multilingue » par l'Office national d'alphabétisation et d'enseignement pour adultes (ONAEA) du ministère de l'éducation nationale. Ce succès a été couronné par une cérémonie au Siège de l'UNESCO, le 9 septembre 2019, à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de l'alphabétisation.

La stratégie nationale d'alphabétisation est une expérience unique en Algérie. Cette stratégie est reflétée par les chiffres réalisés sur le terrain, du fait que l'Algérie a réussi à réduire son taux d'analphabétisme, passant de 22.3 % en 2008 à 8.7 % à la fin 2017. Le programme multilingue de l'ONAEA a été lancé en 2008 suite à l'adoption du Tamazight en tant que langue nationale officielle en plus de l'arabe. La stratégie consiste en un stage d'alphabétisation

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Réaliser un projet de formation au niveau national des personnels pédagogiques encadré par des experts de l'UNESCO visant à : Initier les personnels éducatifs à l'usage du référentiel de compétences de l'UNESCO ; Renforcer les capacités des enseignants à intégrer les technologies de l'information et de la communication à leurs pratiques professionnelles ; Encourager les enseignants à élaborer et utiliser les ressources éducatives libres dans l'éducation ; Identifier les meilleures pratiques et fournir une expertise en matière de production et d'usage de ressources éducatives libres ;
- Disposer de formations, stages pratiques ou séminaires dans les domaines suivants : Data journalisme ; Fact-checking ; Intelligence artificielle appliquée aux médias ; Technologies de traduction ; Réseaux sociaux ;
- Être associée à toute démarche de l'UNESCO ou de tiers associés à l'UNESCO, s'inscrivant dans le cadre des valeurs éthiques de l'intelligence artificielle ;
- Organiser une formation au profit des représentants et coordonnateurs départementaux des écoles associées de l'UNESCO en Algérie ; un séminaire au profit des clubs d'éducation au développement durable.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

Chairperson: Mr. Majid Ali AlNoaimi,
Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Ms. Lubna Khalifa Selaibeekh

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- 24 students from UNESCO Associated Schools participated in the "Second Environmental Forum to Preserve the Ozone Layer", on the occasion of the International Day for Preserving the Ozone Layer, under the theme "32 years on the protocol and ozone recovery" in cooperation with the Supreme Council for the Environment;
- Increase in the number of schools joining the ASPnet Associated Schools network; the number of schools

reached 92, including 19 private schools and 73 public schools from various educational levels;

- In cooperation with Gifted Students Care Centre, the Bahrain National Commission Associated Schools organized an artistic competition, called by UNESCO under the theme "My School Protects Me", with the participation of more than 100 talented students in the field of art from 25 UNESCO Associated Schools, from both public and private schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The aim was to stimulate critical thinking and creative expressions among students and encourage them to express how they feel safe in their learning environment;
- The Bahrain National Commission initiated a twinning project with Okayama Ryukoku School, Japan, for the first time. The project aims to enhance cultural exchange and constructive communication between the two countries through direct contact;
- In cooperation with Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and the University of Bahrain, 30 male and female students from Bahrain ASPnet Schools (public and private), from secondary and middle levels, participated in an Art Workshop entitled "Carbon Footprint", which lasted for two days.



Dr Majid Ali Al-Noaimi, Minister of Education and the student Leen Al Khalifa
© A.R.R. Bahrain National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

Through efforts carried-out by UNESCO Associated Schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain and its distinguished work in implementing activities to advance the sustainable development goals and working against climate change, Bahrain gained UNESCO's selection to represent the UNESCO Global Network of Associated Schools. Leen Hamad Al Khalifa, a student from Ibn Khuldoon National School, was chosen to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain in the panel discussion organized on the sidelines of the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris.

Leen Al Khalifa started her words with *"It is a great honour to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain in various international and global forums. One UNESCO associated school has been chosen to represent the UNESCO global network of UNESCO associated schools, which consists of more than 11,500 schools across the world in 182 countries. ... My school planted the love of knowledge and caring about climate change issues in me. It also contributed a lot to environmental matters, by planting through its education and activities the mentality of preserving the environment and seeking to solve the problems facing the environment in our world today"*.

Leen considered the twinning experience between ASPnet schools as an important opportunity to enhance the fundamentals of the educational process through the exchange of experiences, which is also one of the most important factors that contribute directly in improving the quality of teaching and learning.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

ASPnet schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain receive great attention from the Ministry of Education, to advance the sustainable development goals by making available all educational possibilities and materials to school coordinators, by training and encouraging them to innovate ideas and initiatives that contribute to build generations capable of facing future challenges, as well as by giving them the opportunity to explore new ideas to use the latest scientific solutions, innovation and technology.

In addition to the twinning with Japanese schools, a new twinning will be held between the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, to share successful experiences in implementing the UNESCO project. In the context, the Ministry of Education in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding, to implement the project and activate its mechanisms during the specified period, while strengthening communication mechanisms through information technology, to supervise and present projects periodically, and to share results according to the agreed mechanisms, as well as to train project supervisors on both sides.

EGYPT

Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

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Secretary-General: Ms. Ghada Abdelbary

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The Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO, in its quest to strengthen operations at both managerial and programmatic levels in order to effectively deliver on its mandate, has embarked on a drive to revamp its organs: reconstituting its General Assembly (GA) and its Technical Bureau.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO undertook several successful activities in 2019. These activities were aligned to UNESCO's main areas of competence and geared towards enhancing the attainment of SDGs under the 2018-2019 participation program as follows:

- **Education Programme:** a project entitled "Enhancing healthy living for students, especially teenagers, with special needs for sustainable development and gender equality" targeting both adults and teenager students of UNESCO ASPnet (13-18 years). The final output of the project was a guide for teachers on this topic with the aim of distributing it to all schools through the Ministry of Education;
- **Social and Human Science Programme:** a project on "Promoting the role of youth in establishing sustainable

participatory societies to enhance intercultural dialogue." Implemented on two phases: the first phase was to identify the outlines of a study on "Monitoring and evaluation of national policies that support the participation youth in social work and policy-making. The second phase was a round table on "Strengthening the role of youth in building sustainable participatory societies to foster dialogue between cultures";

- **Cultural Programme:** a project entitled "Operationalizing 2001 Convention, Evaluation Study on the role of UNESCO in protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage in Egypt". After Egypt joining the 2001 convention in 2017, it was implemented on two phases: the first was a round table in April 2019 for experts in UCH to present the status quo, challenges and opportunities; the second phase was a training workshop in November 2019;
- **Communication Programme:** a project entitled "The Future of Open Source Software and its Role in Reinforcing the Information Society in Developing countries for Sustainable development". The first phase was a national seminar. The second was a training course, in September 2019, in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, targeting 30 participants. The third was the application phase where the trainees create websites using open source software applications.

Within the framework of cooperating with NGOs, Art d'Egypt Foundation got the patronage of UNESCO for its activity in 2019 entitled "Narratives Re-imagined", where Al-Mu'izz Street, Old Cairo turned into an open museum for modern art, embracing new art forms in a WHC Site.

Egypt won the presidency seat of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States in Kenya on March 2019.

SUCCESS STORY

The Regional meeting for Arab National Commissions gathered representatives of 14 National commissions: (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Oman Sultanate, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) and two European Commissions (France, and Switzerland) with the participation of Mr. Firmin Edouard Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO; Mr. Mohammed Djelid, Deputy Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO; Dr Ghaith Fariz, Director of UNESCO Regional bureau for sciences in Cairo; Mr. Hamed Al Hammami, Director of UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut; and Ms. Golda Al-Khoury Director of UNESCO Office in Rabat, in addition to representatives from ALESCO and ICESCO. The working sessions were held over first two days with the aim of building capacities and exchanging good practices. They concluded by recommendations on enhancing cooperation between the Arab National Commissions. Field Offices as well as with UNESCO Secretariat. The other two days were dedicated to a Regional consultation meeting on the preparation of UNESCO Medium Term Strategy 41C/4 (2022-2029), and its Programme and Budget 41C/5 (2021-2022). The consultation tried to draw the outlines of the next strategy from the perspective of the Arab region, with an emphasize on the sustainable development goals that should be focused on coordination between UNESCO and the Arab countries.



Regional Project: "Regional meeting for Arab National Commissions, capacity building and enhancing the role of Arab National Commissions, held from 24 to 27 February 2020 in Cairo. © A.R.R. Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The organization of a Pan Africa Conference on Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development in Egypt in early 2021 will bring together scientists and researchers, government representatives and industry representatives. The conference will also serve as a platform for the regional launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

For the period 2020-2021, the Egyptian National Commission has planned the implementation of projects/activities in the field of: Advanced Photonic Training Program for African Graduated Students, Raising awareness of Silk Roads-UNESCO Programme, Documentation of heritage, GOSPIN, and open science.

JORDAN

Jordan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

On the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Jordan National Commission, in cooperation with Jordan ASPnet, prepared three short films. Proudly, one film was chosen and played during the "Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" event held in UNESCO HQ on 20 November 2019.

The Jordan National Commission, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, prepared the first national report on monitoring the progress to achieve the SDG4 from 2016 to 2019. UNESCO Beirut and Amman Offices provided strong support and guidance during the preparation process.

The Ministry of Education, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Commission, has developed a "Guideline to integrate the 21st Century Skills in Curricula and School-Textbooks

for the first three classes", with support from the UNESCO Participation Program 2018/2019.

The Jordan National Commission organized an awareness-raising campaign in Jordan's two cultural cities for 2019, Theban and Kofranjeh, targeting students and local community, to advance UNESCO's ideals and objectives related to the safeguarding and protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Local community and students were encouraged to participate in traditional handicraft exhibitions and traditional folkloric dances and rituals, all of which presented tangible and intangible elements from Jordan.

Within the framework of UNESCO Bioethics Program and the strategic plan of Jordan National Commission for Ethics of Science and Technology (2016-2020), the Jordan National Commission held two workshops on the "Concepts of the Ethics of Science and Technology for teachers and supervisors" in the north and south regions. The aim was to sensitize educational supervisors and teachers about concepts related to the Ethics of Science and Technology.

The Jordan National Commission held a training workshop on "New Technological Solutions and Applications" for the Ministry of Education administrative employees.

On the World Arabic Language Day, a cultural event was organized for Arabic Language teachers and supervisors in Amman to celebrate. Poems were recited followed with an informative discussion about the importance of celebrating Arabic language. The UNESCO Chair of Bioethics was established at the Hashemite University.



Water conservation by integration of permaculture concepts in rural communities in Jordan
© A.R.R. Jordan National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

Within the framework of UNESCO Participation Programme 2018/2019, the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO implemented the project on "Water Conservation by Integration of Permaculture Concepts at Rural Communities in Jordan". The objectives are to introduce school students in rural areas to the concept of permaculture, to raise awareness among school students about the importance of conserving water resources and to prepare non-systematic activities for students in rural areas to introduce the concept of sustainable agriculture and conservation of water resources. The outcomes of this project are consistent with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), namely poverty eradication (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Jordan National Commission for UNESCO will continue its efforts to advance on SDG4, working on activities and projects to reach Targets in cooperation with the National Team of Education 2030, the Education Indicators Committee and all concerned bodies.

In addition, tangible and intangible cultural heritage will be on the top list of priorities for 2020 by conducting awareness workshops or specialized meetings with all stakeholders. In addition, more activities will be organized to empower youth and women for the future.

KUWAIT

Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Saud Al-Harby, Minister of Education

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Based on the action plans and strategic directions of the relevant international, regional and Arab organizations and the support received from government, community and community institutions, during the year 2019, the National Commission implemented and participated in many programs, activities and events in the fields of education, culture, communication and information including, most of all:

- **April 2019:** a national workshop on the foundations and approaches of integrating pre-school education into the educational system, held in cooperation between the Kuwaiti National Commission and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).
- **September 2019:** a sub-regional workshop on promoting dialogue and community cohesion was organised within the framework of joint Islamic cultural work, held in cooperation between the Kuwaiti National Commission and ICESCO.

SUCCESS STORY

The UNESCO-Associated Schools Division, represented by the Kuwaiti National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, increased the number of its schools in the current academic year (2019/2020) to 77 schools associated globally to UNESCO, which all excelled in their work and were chosen on the basis of UNESCO standards and objectives.

A national program was developed to promote the capacity of the "Women's Rights" programmers, being implemented in the United States. A number of Associated Schools participated and gained first places, with the aim to educate students about the preservation of the environment and the importance of recycling.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Guided by UNESCO's current priorities and its global orientations, the National Commission focused on education, motherhood and childhood, ensuring equal educational opportunities, all to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Commission proposes to strengthen efforts in the following priority areas:

- Gender equality in vocational and technical education and training;
- Education for Sustainable Development Family Community School;
- Early childhood care and education;
- Building national capacity to preserve and protect the heritage of Kuwait;
- Workshops and training courses in the context of sustainable development and global citizenship.

LIBAN

Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Henri Awit

Secrétaire générale : Mme Tala Zein

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Au cours de l'année 2019, la Commission nationale libanaise a mené plusieurs activités 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, le Conseil national pour la recherche scientifique, les universités et les écoles, ainsi que les organisations de la société civile.

De plus, la Commission nationale libanaise a accordé un intérêt particulier au patrimoine culturel immatériel, organisant une série d'activités sur le thème « Apprendre avec le patrimoine culturel immatériel pour un avenir durable », à l'adresse des enseignants du réseau des écoles associées pour l'UNESCO, du réseau des écoles de Saida et de ses environs, ainsi que le Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, et le Centre de Recherche et de Développement Pédagogiques. Des activités ont été réalisées à l'adresse des jeunes pour les sensibiliser au développement durable.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Lancement de l'Observatoire national pour la femme dans la recherche « DAWReK'n ».

Financé par le Programme de Participation pour 2018-2019, l'Observatoire national pour la femme dans la recherche a été lancé par la Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO et le Conseil national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS-L) en mars 2019, et a pour objectif d'appuyer les chercheuses libanaises dans leur démarche vers l'égalité et l'équité entre les genres, ainsi que vers leur autonomisation dans les milieux de la recherche scientifique, et ceci dans toutes les disciplines traitées par la recherche (sciences basiques et ingénierie, sciences médicales, sciences environnementales et agriculture, sciences humaines et sociales...). Son nom évocateur : DAWReK'n, pour « Dynamic Actions for Women in Research and Knowledge », signifie « votre rôle » au féminin pluriel en arabe.

L'observatoire ne se contente pas du monitoring de la situation de la femme libanaise dans le monde de la recherche scientifique, ou uniquement de l'émission des recommandations pour l'amélioration de leurs conditions, mais vise à réaliser des actions pour améliorer la visibilité des chercheuses libanaises à travers la diffusion de leurs recherches et travaux, et encourager les doctorantes à poursuivre l'aventure à travers des ateliers pour le développement des compétences ou l'élaboration de schémas spécifiques pour le financement de la recherche.

Une des activités réalisées en collaboration avec la Commission nationale libanaise a été l'organisation des « Dardacha Talks » dans plusieurs universités libanaises, des événements ouverts (dans le style de « Ma thèse en 180 secondes » ou des « TED Talks ») au cours desquels de jeunes chercheuses partagent avec le public le contenu et les résultats de leurs recherches en seulement cinq diapositives (PowerPoint) et dans la langue de leur choix. Le but des « Dardacha Talks » est la valorisation de la recherche faite par des femmes, la prise de conscience de la société vis-à-vis de la recherche « féminine », et la promotion de l'égalité des genres dans la recherche scientifique.



« Dardacha Talks » © T.D.R. Commission nationale libanaise pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission nationale libanaise s'engage à organiser en 2020 des projets et activités en rapport avec les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) et les 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 :

- Séries d'activités dans le cadre de l'Observatoire national pour la femme dans la recherche : Dardacha Talks, conférences, formations ;
- Atelier régional pour le Réseau des écoles associées de l'UNESCO dans la région arabe « Approche globale de l'Éducation au Développement Durable (EDD) et du changement climatique à l'école », dans le cadre du programme d'action global sur l'éducation au développement durable ;
- Cafés des sciences sur des thèmes en rapport avec les ODD ;
- Ateliers de lecture sur les droits de l'homme dans différentes régions libanaises ;
- Promotion de l'éducation pour la citoyenneté et le développement durable ;
- 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.

LIBYA

Libyan National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Muhammad Ammari Zaid, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr. Abdulmunem Abulayha

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Libya National Commission adopted several priorities and programs in its strategic plan in 2019. In this regard, the National Commission made efforts to cooperate with official institutions and non-governmental organizations to activate some educational, cultural, and scientific activities and programs at the national level. The National Commission also participated in several regional and international events to present Libya in all relevant forums and events.

The National Commission participated in the General Conference in November 2019. In his speech, the Secretary General of the National Commission reported on major challenges facing the education sector due to the conflict situation, which resulted in the continuous displacement of families' and students' inability to attend schools. He also emphasized the consequences of the war in Libya that resulted in damaging cultural properties, including the distortion and theft of museums and archaeological sites. In his context, the Libyan Delegation also held side meetings with a number of

officials and experts at UNESCO Headquarters to exchange experience and ideas.

As the education sector in Libya is not included in international reports and rankings, the Libyan National Commission funded a technical team to complete the statistical forms of the UNESCO Institute for statistics (UIS) in education in July 2019, for the first time in several years. The National Commission also supervised a team from different sectors in order to collect data and write out the national report on the progress towards the Targets of SDG 4. The report was submitted to the UNESCO Beirut Office.

A meeting was held in July 2019 between the National Commission and the Antiquities Authority and the UNESCO Regional Office in Rabat. It was agreed to accelerate the transition of the Dependency of Programmes and Activities of the Antiquities Authority with UNESCO to its Regional Office in Rabat.

The National Commission participated in the UNESCO Global Forum on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, which was held in Vietnam in July 2019. It participated also in the African Forum on Quality of Early Childhood Education and Teachers' Professionalism, held in December 2019 in Morocco.

Libya participated in the Conference of Ministers of Education in the Arab World during its eleventh session, which was launched in Bahrain in July 2019, reviewing educational policies in the Arab world and achieving SDG 4. In addition, Libya participated in the Planning Workshop on monitoring progress towards SDG4 Targets, held in Jordan in July 2019.



SUCCESS STORY

The Arab Cultural Heritage Prize for Adolescents was launched under the auspices of the Regional Center for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab World (ICCROM-Sharjah), and in cooperation with the Callaway Maria Creedi Association and the National Commissions for UNESCO in the Arab Region. The National Commission participated in this competition (June 2019), which revolves around heritage and sustainable development under the title "Our heritage unites us". The contest focused on drawing, folkloric dance, and trailer, and seeks to raise the level of interest in the tangible and intangible heritage, customs and traditions, and share them with the future generations. It also seeks to familiarize students with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically SDG 11 related to sustainable cities and communities.

The Arab Cultural Heritage Prize for adolescents, June 2019, Tripoli – Libya © A.R.R. Libyan National Commission for UNESCO 2019.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2019, the Libyan Commission held a series of national workshops. A training workshop was launched in October 2019 to evaluate the Libyan archaeological sites recorded on the list of endangered world heritage. In support of Libyan women, a training workshop on sustainable development took place in December 2019 in partnership between the National Commission and the Women's Empowerment Unit of the Presidential Council.

- The Libyan National Commission plans to develop areas of cooperation with Commissions from the Arab Maghreb countries.
- A training workshop to provide women with experience and knowledge to advance social development and becomes decisionmakers in the Libyan society.
- A regional workshop to study the role of youth in Libya and how can they contribute in peace building during this period.

MAROC

Commission nationale marocaine pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Said Amzazi, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale de la Formation Professionnelle, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

Secrétaire général par intérim :
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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale marocaine s'est engagée durant l'année 2019 dans un certain nombre d'activités en partenariat et coopération avec l'UNESCO et d'autres organismes internationaux comme l'ALECSO et l'ICESCO.

Ainsi l'année en cours a été marquée par les activités suivantes :

- L'UNESCO a organisé « L'Atelier régional Emploi des jeunes dans la région méditerranéenne (*Youth Employment in the Mediterranean : YEM*) sur les compétences numériques et l'entrepreneuriat au sud de la méditerranée » dans le cadre de son programme d'aide à la recherche d'emploi pour les jeunes de la région méditerranéenne qui s'est tenue à Beyrouth les 16 et 17 Octobre 2019. En coopération avec les autorités concernées, la Commission nationale a œuvré pour que soient désignés des participants pour représenter le Maroc à cet Atelier ;
- La Commission a réussi à obtenir la désignation d'un participant marocain pour le programme de l'UNESCO pour

une culture du dialogue et de la paix, et en partenariat avec l'Académie Al-Hawar pour la formation en Arabie Saoudite et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Rabat sur l'extrémisme violent, qui s'est tenu du 30 avril au 2 mai 2019 ;

- La Commission nationale marocaine a assuré la représentation du secteur concerné dans une réunion régionale pour discuter de « l'Atlas Régional sur la Résilience des Ecosystèmes et la Préparation des Sociétés à faire face aux Risques de Catastrophes Naturelles, » qui s'est tenue les 10 et 11 juin au siège du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO au Caire. La Commission nationale a également été présente à l'Atelier sous régional pour la présentation des outils développés dans le cadre du programme de développement des Capacités pour l'Éducation (CAPed) à Rabat, le 20 mars 2019.

La Commission nationale marocaine a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec ses partenaires en veillant à disséminer toutes les informations relatives aux appels à candidature pour les différents Prix UNESCO :

- Prix-TIC Éducation –UNESCO-Roi Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa;
- Prix UNESCO-Sharjah pour la culture arabe ;
- Prix UNESCO-Japon d'éducation au développement ;
- Prix Sultan Qabus pour la conservation de l'environnement 2019.

La Commission nationale a présenté deux candidatures de Chaire UNESCO : « Éducation à l'information, aux médias et humanisme numérique », de l'Université internationale de Rabat, et « Chaire UNESCO pour l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie », au sein de l'Université Sidi Mohamed ben Abdellah. La Commission a eu le grand honneur et le plaisir de recevoir une réponse favorable pour ces deux candidatures de la part de l'UNESCO.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Commission nationale marocaine a organisé, le 6 mars 2019, au Siège de l'Académie du Royaume du Maroc, un atelier de sensibilisation à la Convention de La Haye de 1954 et à ses deux Protocoles (1954 et 1999). Cette activité a été menée en coopération avec le Secrétariat de la Convention de La Haye de 1954 (UNESCO). Son objectif visait à fournir des renseignements détaillés sur les principes majeurs de la Convention de La Haye et de ses deux Protocoles, les instruments juridiques les plus importants face à la destruction des biens culturels lors des conflits armés qui continuent de se produire dans le monde entier, malgré un cadre juridique international complet visant à protéger le patrimoine culturel contre les dommages causés par les guerres.

Les animateurs de l'atelier ont notamment abordé la politique du Maroc en matière de protection des biens culturels et ont présenté les instruments internationaux dans la promotion et la protection du patrimoine culturel face aux conflits armés.



6ème Session du Forum Arabe pour la Recherche Scientifique et le Développement durable, organisée par la Commission nationale en partenariat avec l'ALECSO. Académie du Royaume du Maroc les 17-19 décembre 2018. © T.D.R. photographie de l'Académie du Royaume du Maroc

MAURITANIE

Commission nationale pour l'Éducation, la Culture et les Sciences

Président : M. Sidi M'Hamed Ghaber, Ministre de la Culture, de l'Artisanat et des Relations avec le Parlement

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale est l'interface entre les différentes organisations travaillant dans le domaine de l'éducation, de la culture, des droits de l'homme et des sciences en général. Son action touche à tout ce qui est promotion, entreprise et réalisation des activités œuvrant dans les domaines précités.

Dans le cadre des ODD pour la promotion de la jeunesse en matière de résilience contre tous les facteurs à même de freiner le développement et le plein épanouissement de la société, un atelier sur la thématique, « *Luttons contre toute forme d'extrémisme par la mobilisation des jeunes au service*

de l'éducation de la tolérance et du dialogue interculturel pour une véritable intercompréhension », a été organisé en février 2019 au bénéfice des Clubs UNESCO, des Ecoles Associées et d'une partie de la société civile. Cette action a permis à la Commission nationale d'accompagner l'élan national en matière de lutte contre le racisme, la xénophobie, les discours haineux et l'antisémitisme.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La Commission nationale est placée sous tutelle du Ministère de la Culture et, à ce titre, encourage et supporte toute la politique culturelle du pays. Elle travaille en étroite collaboration avec plusieurs Organisations Internationales et entretient une coopération particulière avec l'UNESCO.

En décembre 2018 et janvier 2019, elle a réalisé deux ateliers au bénéfice des filles et des femmes rurales à Aleg et à Aioun ; ces deux ateliers ont mobilisé deux cents filles/femmes autour de la thématique « L'Éducation des filles et des femmes rurales aux Droits humains, pour leur participation active aux développements économique et démocratique en Mauritanie ». Par cette action, avec l'appui du Ministère des Affaires sociales, de l'Enfance et de la Famille, à travers les Coordinations régionales, la Commission a contribué à la réalisation de certains aspects des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) dans le pays, par la promotion de la Priorité globale Égalité des genres. Cette activité a été financée par l'UNESCO, dans le cadre du Programme de participation 2018-2019.



Atelier « *Luttons contre toute forme d'extrémisme par la mobilisation des jeunes au service de l'éducation de la tolérance et du dialogue interculturel pour une véritable intercompréhension* » © T.D.R Commission nationale mauritanienne pour l'UNESCO

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission réitère le souhait que son expérience, en matière de protection et de promotion de la résilience des jeunes contre toute forme d'extrémisme, soit partagée dans la sous-région par une coopération étroite avec les Commissions nationales des pays du G5 Sahel, soutenue par l'appui de l'UNESCO, par sa capacité de mobilisation.

Pour l'instant, les défis majeurs demeurent de prémunir, « vacciner », voire « immuniser » les jeunes contre l'extrémisme violent qui fait des ravages au Sahel, afin de faire ceux-ci de véritables citoyens au service de la paix dans le monde. Ensuite, il faut renforcer les capacités des filles et des femmes rurales, en leur donnant envie de s'instruire à tout âge et en les dotant d'outils, d'expériences nécessaires à leur insertion sociale, en les accompagnant dans la quête de leurs droits, mais aussi dans la réalisation de leurs devoirs. La Commission est prête à développer des pans de coopération avec toute autre Commission qui souhaiterait une collaboration sur ces questions.

OMAN

Oman National Commission for Education, Sciences and Culture

Chairperson: Ms. Madiha Al-Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Oman National Commission pursued the goal to become more engaging and visible. In the field of science, the ONC joined forces with the Environment Society of Oman in September 2019 and launched the Green Schools Competition where several public schools from various governorates of the Sultanate participated. The on-going competition will select three winners in three areas – water management, energy management and waste management – with results announced in March 2020.

In the field of culture, the Oman National Commission succeeded in joining the World Heritage Committee which

compliments the Commission's greatest achievement this year, which is the inclusion of the Omani poet, Abu Muslim al Bahlani, in UNESCO's list of anniversaries. Moreover, the Oman National Commission hosted the Regional Workshop on Education and Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development in cooperation with UNESCO's regional office in Doha, in order to promote cultural heritage to achieve SDG 4 and promote its importance in community and school practices.

In the field of Education, the continued efforts towards achieving the targets of the 2018 SDG4 AR-MED III meeting lead the Oman National Commission to participate in a follow up workshop from 17 to 19 June 2019 in Beirut, along with 11 Arab countries and six African countries, as well as regional and international education experts. The Secretary General, Mr. Mohammad Al Yaqoubi, who is National Coordinator of Education 2030, participated in a regional workshop to launch the process of monitoring and reporting on national commitments to SDG Education 2030 Agenda, held in Jordan from 25 to 27 June. Regarding in-country activities, the Oman National Commission's Education Department welcomed officials from the World Food Program Regional Bureau in Cairo, who came in July 2019 to explore the Sultanate's experience in school feeding programs. The National Commission also welcomed a delegation from the Educational Measurement and Evaluation Center in Syria, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office, to explore Omani experience in the field of measurement and evaluation.



Promoting cultural heritage to achieve SDG4 © A.R.R. Oman National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONC) organized the "Our Heritage is Our Future" Initiative for Oman UNESCO ASPnet Schools. The objective was to put into practice the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of culture within the ASPnet community. A great example of results was the activities of Al Amal School, an ASPnet school, which started a student's club that prepared school plays, video clips and competitions that focused on Omani heritage as well as visits to historical sites. The school also cooperated with the Omani Women Society branch of their local area, to conduct handicrafts workshops where students learned to make and use local products, which were later showcased in exhibitions attended by the local community. Moreover, the school cooperated with the Agriculture and Research Center, which taught the students about dates and honey production using traditional methods.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020 the National Commission will cooperate with UNESCO's Regional Office in Cairo to hold a teacher training workshop on water management, to equip teachers with tools to raise awareness among students regarding water issues and challenges as well as encourage students to conserve water resources and combat the causes of water pollution.

Moreover, the National Commission will conduct a training workshop on multicultural competencies funded by the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Foundation and in cooperation with UNESCO in order to enhance the rapprochement of cultures by improving the ability to understand each other better and use dialogue to maintain peace. Along with the Omani ASPnet teachers as a target group, the workshop will welcome specialists from the General Directorate for Curriculum Development, the Professional Institute for Vocational Training for Teachers and 10 ASPnet teachers from Kuwait. Lastly, the National Commission will continue validation and customization activities of the ED-ALIGN (Aligning curriculum/learning, teacher policies and practices, and assessment) in 2020.

PALESTINE

Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Mr. Ali Zedan AbuZuhri

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science implemented and coordinated a variety of activities in the educational, scientific, and cultural sectors through 2019, including training workshops and events funded by UNESCO, ALECSO and ICESCO.

The Palestinian National Commission implemented two projects through the Participation Programme (2018-2019), with the Ministry of Education, (towards global school leadership and Project-based learning training), to emphasize the importance of hiring highly qualified teachers, which aim to achieve SDGs 2030 particularly SDG 4. In addition, an Education Committee 2030 was formed to align the goals of Education and Training strategic plans with SDG 4 Targets.

The Palestinian National Commission and the Ministries of Education, and Tourism and Antiquities inaugurated the Mobile Palestinian Museum project under the slogan "The museum will visit you wherever you are", funded by the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science, presenting Palestinian history for students in schools and universities through a collection of artifacts from the stone ages to the British Mandate. This project aim to protect the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people, both tangible and intangible, and to enhance the culture of visiting museums among students, to enhance students 'creative thinking, and to contribute to creating a generation aware of the importance of its heritage and history.



The Mobile Palestinian Museum project. © A.R.R. Palestine National Commission for UNESCO

wood, reusing plastic, paper, and cardboard. Clubs and institutions that participated in the network will continue coordinating and cooperating with the institutions who established the environmental clubs.

SUCCESS STORY

The Environment and Natural Heritage Clubs- Environment's Protection and Conservation Activities project was implemented in the framework of UNESCO's Participation Programme (2018-2019) in partnership with the most distinctive of all UNESCO Clubs (Palestinian Child Club/Kufr Ni'meh). This is considered one of the best projects implemented in partnership with stakeholders from the governmental sector and civil society, with many success stories paving the way for community partnerships and holding seminars by the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority. As a result, the Palestinian Commission has established a network of environmental clubs in Palestine. More than 100 children participated in the project, including training in the recycling of glass, flowers made of coloured paper, car wheels, painting of

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The accession of Palestine to the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and its membership in the World Heritage Committee, have led to the continuation of cultural and archaeological activities on topics related to history and both tangible and intangible human heritage.

The Palestinian National Commission will hold the 10th Cultural and Educational Forum in 2020, under the patronage of the President of State of Palestine Mr Mahmoud Abbas, the Commission, inviting Palestinian youth from the diaspora across the world and inside Palestine to participate.

The Palestinian National Commission will follow up the nomination files of tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites and elements to UNESCO lists, as well as the establishment of UNESCO Chairs. In addition, there are plans to organize awareness workshops and meetings on Man and Biosphere Programme, bioethics, tangible and intangible cultural heritage

QATAR

Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science

Chairperson: Mr. Mohammed Abdul Wahed Ali Al-Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education

Secretary-General: Ms. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti

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

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Qatar National Commission, in collaboration with relevant actors in the country, organized a range of training workshops and events, including:

- Launching the awareness campaign, “Don’t Leave Me, Help Me Learn”, in collaboration with UNESCO Associated Schools and relevant stakeholders, as part of SDG4;
- The 10th Theatrical Arts Forum, in collaboration with Abdul Rahman bin Jassim Preparatory School for Boys, to develop students’ artistic and creative skills;
- Organizing several awareness seminars, workshops and discussion panels in UNESCO Associated Schools on intercultural dialogue, media awareness, patriotism, practicing sports, UNESCO ambassadors, green school, and twinning with Oman’s schools as part of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Honoring the first three students who won the Alliance of Civilizations Award, attended by H.E. Undersecretary of Education and Higher Education, and Secretaries-General of the Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, and the Qatar National Committee for UNESCO;
- Celebrating world/international days, in collaboration with the UNESCO Associated Schools and relevant stakeholders, including: International Day of Women and Girls in Science; International Women’s Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, World Teachers’ Day: Young Teachers, the Future of the Profession, International Day of Education;
- Launching the Global Education Monitoring Report 2019: Migration, Displacement & Education: Building Bridges, Not Walls;
- Harvesting activity for the Green School project;
- Workshop on implementing SDGs 2030 in Qatar, in collaboration with the Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations;
- 4th Youth Hobbies Conference 2019, with the participation of the Qatar Commission;
- 17th Session of the Al-Bairaq Program, “I am a Researcher”;
- Regional workshop on updating Qatar’s official statistics, held on 4-5 November 2019;
- Training workshop on SDG4, held on 7 November 2019 at Qatar University;
- Holding ‘Qatar: Where Civilizations Converge’, an event highlighting the role of culture through intercultural dialogue, as part of activities for the academic year 2019-2020;
- Awareness workshop on “Environmental Culture” highlighting the role of environment and sustainable development in preserving rare trees;
- Meeting about the role of higher education institutions in achieving the SDGs at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, on October 23, 2019;
- Meetings of experts from UNESCO Beirut and Doha Offices with the national drafting team to review Qatar’s report on SDG4, on October 31, 2019;
- Celebrating the International Day of Arabic Language, in collaboration with Qatar University;
- Attending the 2nd Orientation meeting for joining the Global Network of Learning Cities;
- Forming a joint committee between Qatar National Commission, the Department of School Affairs, and school principals, to develop an implementation plan to implement the programs of the National Committee of Associated Schools;
- 3rd orientation workshop on the Junior Professional Officer Programme on December 9, 2019;
- Submitting two files for UNESCO Chairs, in the field of marine science, and in the field of environmental law and sustainable development.



a. Students meet at the table of various popular dishes; b. The cultural meeting of the students of Qatar, Spain and Brazil © A.R.R. Qatari National Commission for UNESCO

versa. The Initiative has helped students become acquainted with different cultures, through field visits to Msheireb Museums. The Initiative has also enabled young people to create activities and organize events themselves. Such activities were presented to other schools. The event ended with students gathering around a table featuring a range of popular dishes.

SUCCESS STORY

The Qatar National Commission, in collaboration with Qatar Youth Hostels, organized three editions of “Sufrah Ghayr” (Unique Cuisine). The Initiative aims at fostering understanding and sharing knowledge about different cultures, as well as encouraging Qatari youth to learn about different cultures, visit and explore the world. The first edition was an opportunity to bring together Qatari and Spanish youth. In the second, Qatari female students met with Brazilian counterparts. In the third, Qatari female students were introduced to the Indian culture and vice

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Listing ‘Sloughi’ hunting on UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- Youth Forum, held annually by initiative of Qatar National Commission with Qatar University and other stakeholders, and Oman hosting. In 2020, it will be held under the theme of “Identity and Cultural Tourism: Towards Sustainable Heritage”;
- Partnership with College of the North Atlantic;
- Additional programs and activities in areas related to the UNESCO Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Chair;
- Partnership with Al-Wakra Municipality on an exhibition to showcase activities of UNESCO Associated Schools;
- Continuing implementation of the Plan of SDG4–Education 2030.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson:

His Highness Prince Bader bin Farhan Al-Saud,
Minister of Culture

Secretary-General: Mr. Hattan Muneer Bin Samman

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Saudi National Commission underwent a dramatic reformation that saw its transition under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. A new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary General were appointed, to adopt an exhaustive revamp strategy that is in line with the kingdom's clear vision towards the future. Though formed in just recent months, the new National Commission has taken upon itself to ensure progress in the kingdom's standings with regard to the

Sustainable Development Goals. In this light, only in the last quarter, the Saudi National Commission facilitated with the following:

- The establishment of the category 2 Centre for "Regional Center for Dialogue and Peace in the Kingdom";
- The approval of two Saudi women into the global network of facilitators, namely, Ms. Ebtisam Alwehaeby and Ms. Rehaf Gassas;
- The signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO pertaining to culture and heritage.
- Submitting the Dumat Aljandal 'Gateway to Arabia' element proposal to the World Heritage Center;
- Joining the World Heritage Committee for the first time;
- Facilitating the proposal of inscribing of Arabic Calligraphy on the list of intangible culture heritage, as a joint proposal with 16 other countries in coordination with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (NGO);
- Organizing the 'Art for Al Balad' Christie's Auction at Historic Jeddah District, Gate to Makkah;
- Organizing a National competition to document Saudi Arabia's industrial heritage.



Saudi National Commission chairperson heading to the stage to address the 40th session of the General Conference. © A.R.R. Saudi National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

2019 was a unique year for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the establishment of a new Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (SNC) under the leadership of the Kingdom's Minister of Culture, along with the restructuring of its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, which culminated in the appointment of its first Saudi female Permanent Delegate, Princess Haifa bint Abdul Aziz Al-Muqrin. One success story that stood out amongst national achievements was the inclusion of culture and arts in the Kingdom's male/female public and private schools' curricula. This unique multi-sectoral partnership reflected the impetus of the National Commission's diligent alignment efforts with the 2030 Agenda, namely SDG4 and SDG5. The initiative is set to provide the Ministry of Culture with the necessary jurisdiction to grant licenses/permits to institutes, universities, colleges, and private schools for newly created programs and activities in the fields of arts and culture.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The newly formed National Commission will strive towards making meaningful headway on all fronts with focus on the following areas:

- Aligning national governmental and non-governmental entities towards optimum achievements pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals;
- Creating a dedicated task force to break new ground on indicators framework and accompanying technical aspects related to 2030 Agenda Thematic Indicators for culture;
- Working closely with NGOs and relevant governmental entities to submit high quality tangible and intangible cultural heritage proposals to UNESCO;
- Cooperating with regional and international National Commissions on capacity-building and mutual/cross-cultural initiatives;
- Hosting a Conference on the work of the Saudi National Commission with the participation of UNESCO and all related entities and partners while providing other National Commissions 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.

SUDAN

Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture

Chairperson: Mr. Mohamed Elamin Ahmed Eltom

Secretary-General: Mr. Abdulgadir Muhammad Hassan Nureddin

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

To increase the efficiency of the National Commission 4 staff had been seconded. The Ministry of Finance approved 40% increment in the budget of the Commission for the financial year. The Commission implemented many projects and workshops in UNESCO fields of competence in collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO National Office in Khartoum, the Regional Offices in Cairo and Beirut, as well as UNESCO Chairs.

Despite the political situation in 2019 that affected all institutions, the National Commission had implemented many projects aiming to achieve UNESCO's objectives and the SDGs, including:

- A study on impact of internal youth migration on rural development in Sudan;
- Report on improvement of science education in Sudan;
- Training course for teachers in UNESCO Associated Schools on SDGs;
- Implementation of Sudan Eco informatics Initiative;
- Accession of the Convention against Discrimination in Education;
- Training workshop on Inquiry Based Science Education;
- Tangible cultural heritage protection and development;
- Community radio workshop;
- Support to the Sudanese Society for Library and Information Training Center;
- Review of media sector policies and laws;
- Inscription of date palm tree on the list of World Intangible Heritage;
- Celebration of International Days in collaboration with relevant institutions, IGOs and NGOs: World Radio Day, World Water Day, World Press Freedom Day, World Oceans Day, World Day to Combat Desertification, International Literacy Day, World Peace Day, International Day for universal access to information, World Day of Arabic Language, International Day of culture diversity.



Source: ASPnet Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO
© A.R.R. Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

Heritage in Young Hands: The Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, in coordination with a number of governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with the support of the Presidency of the Republic, organized a tour for 70 students and 18 teachers to the Cultural Heritage Site of Jabel Albarkal. This project seeks to inculcate patriotic spirit in the minds of the students, by broadening their knowledge about their cultural heritage and relics, dating back to 2500 – 3000 BC. Participants were from 18 States, including 36 female students, 34 male students, 18 coordinators in addition to the Sudanese ASPnet Coordinator. The tour has been co-financed by MTN Communication Company and Sudan National Commission since 2013, with every year a visit to a specific State planned with the goals of enhancing the skills of students, preparing them to respect and coexist peacefully with others, to establish inclusive dialogue and exchange between different States, to support knowledge of their culture and history and to create a network: Let's Know our Sudan, through UNESCO Associated Schools.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Future activities will concentrate on achieving SDGs including such action as:

- Aligning SDG 4 with National Goals;
- Mainstreaming pre-school education;
- Enhancing technical and vocational education;
- Improvement of science education;
- Gender equality and empowerment in the Natural Heritage Site;
- Gender mainstreaming in Integrated Water resource management in Sudan;
- Enhancing role of cultural industry in national economy;
- Study of the impact of climate change on museums and archaeological sites;
- Entrepreneurship and decent work for women;
- Enhancing role of youth in peace and justice;
- Youth policy review;
- Dissemination of commitment to professional responsibility in media;
- The use of free and open source software for institutional work;
- Review of media policies and laws.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Syrian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Emad Mouafak Al Azeb, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr. Nidal Hassan

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Within the framework of cooperation between Syria and UNESCO, and in a context of conflict with deep consequences, national bodies concerned with UNESCO competences focused on building national capacities. Highlights in 2019 aimed at raising the scientific and practical knowledge of staff, to keep pace with reconstruction. This included the active participation of the National Commission, as well as Syrian experts, in international conferences and workshops, such as the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in China, World Press Freedom Day Celebration Activities in Ethiopia, the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan, the Global Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in Vietnam, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental

Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, the 40th UNESCO General Conference in Paris, the Regional Meeting on SGD 4 in UAE, and the meeting on Safeguarding of Underwater Cultural Heritage, as well as the technical training workshops held in Lebanon on work and life skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), ethics training, Curriculum / Learning and Teacher Policies and Practices, artificial intelligence and the Meeting of the Arab Academy for Sciences on Arabic University Governance.

In addition, cooperation with UNESCO and its Beirut Office resulted in qualitative training in such areas as: journalists in Syria, Ethics Teaching, Youth Sport for Social Cohesion, Educational Programs with Digital Content, Doping Risks, Control and Response to their Spread, Introducing the General Framework of the Syrian National Curriculum, Scientific Research to Support Development and Reconstruction, as well as the First Psychological Health Conference on "Rehabilitation of the Syrian Citizen Affected by War".

In April 2019, a delegation from the UNESCO Beirut Office and the "Education Cannot Wait Programme", working under the auspices of UNICEF, visited schools in Eastern Ghouta, which had applied the program of 'second education chance,' as well as a school in Damascus that applies the integrated school information management system. Dr. Hamed Al-Hammami, Director of the UNESCO Beirut Office, visited Syria from 27 July to 3 August 2019 to follow up the 'second education chance' program. Dr. Anas Bohilal, an expert of higher education programs at the UNESCO Beirut Office, visited from 2 to 8 October 2019 to evaluate the infrastructure of universities and research centers.



SUCCESS STORY

A key success story was the inscription of the practices and craftsmanship associated with the Damascene Rose in Al-Mrah Village on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This inscription will enhance the role of women in sustainable rural community development and show international recognition of the richness and importance of the Syrian cultural heritage for humanity.

In addition, Syrian cadres obtained two scholarships within the framework of the UNESCO / Poland Scholarship Programme in the field of science, technology, and engineering and in the field of archaeology and conservation for 2019.

© A.R.R. Syrian National Commission for UNESCO, Taken by Syrian Space Channel /Ministry of Education

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The national authorities will seek active cooperation with UNESCO in the areas of policy formulation and capacity building in all educational, cultural and scientific fields, with a focus on preserving Syrian cultural heritage and its archaeological sites, especially those inscribed on the World Heritage list. In the field of Education, efforts will be made to follow up the recommendations of the National Educational Development Conference, "A future Educational Vision to Enhance Building Man and Country", from 26 to 28 September 2019, and other topics to advance the SDGS.

TUNISIE

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

Président : M. Hatem Ben Salem, Ministre de l'Éducation

Secrétaire général : M. Mohamed Bouhlel

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

En 2019, la Commission nationale tunisienne n'a pas économisé ses efforts pour conseiller nos partenaires nationaux et régionaux et accompagner les différents projets et activités visant à mettre en lumière et promouvoir les objectifs et valeurs de l'UNESCO.

Dans le domaine de la culture, la Commission nationale tunisienne a joué un rôle primordial dans la préparation de la Première Réunion Internationale sur la Protection du Patrimoine Culturel Subaquatique aux Bancs de Skerki. Cette réunion a

constitué une occasion de mettre en œuvre l'un des principes majeurs de la Convention 2001 de l'UNESCO engageant les pays membres à coopérer et partager les informations favorisant la promotion du patrimoine culturel subaquatique et la formation en archéologie sous-marine.

En sciences exactes et naturelles, grâce aux efforts de la Commission nationale, cette année a vu naître un comité national tunisien pour les Parcs Géologiques, structure indispensable à la mise en place et le suivi d'un dossier de projet de Géoparc dans le sud-est tunisien actuellement en cours de préparation. Ce comité aura pour tâche d'accompagner, d'étudier, de suivre et de gérer d'autres projets de Géoparcs potentiels dans le futur.

Grâce au soutien de la Commission nationale, une nouvelle Chaire UNESCO, unique en son genre dans la Région arabe, « la Chaire UNESCO de prospective, anticipation et décision stratégique » à l'Université de Carthage a été créée, et ce, dans le cadre de la promotion du partage de connaissances et le renforcement de la coopération entre les différentes composantes du réseau UNITWIN.

En 2019, la Commission nationale a aussi activement participé à une campagne fructueuse à la suite de laquelle la Tunisie a eu l'honneur d'être élue au Conseil Exécutif de l'UNESCO.



Cérémonie d'ouverture du Forum. De gauche à droite: Le Secrétaire général de la Commission nationale libyenne, l'ALECSO, la Commission nationale tunisienne, Ministère de l'Éducation, ICESCO, UNESCO © T.D.R. Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'UNESCO

participants des trois réseaux ont souligné l'engagement de leurs adhérents et responsables à exécuter des projets et des activités au cœur des objectifs du développement durable au niveau local et national. Dans le cadre de la coopération régionale, la Commission nationale libyenne pour l'UNESCO était l'invité d'honneur de ce Forum ; une opportunité pour les collègues libyens d'avoir une idée sur le fonctionnement de ces réseaux en Tunisie et de l'impact que leur travail peut avoir sur les communautés locales.

Cette rencontre entre les participants s'est révélée d'une grande importance au niveau des échanges sur les expériences passées, les projets futurs, ainsi que sur les difficultés affrontées lors de la mise en œuvre de leurs projets. Le renforcement des partenariats entre la Commission nationale, ces réseaux nationaux, l'UNESCO, et aussi nos différents partenaires internationaux tels que l'ALECSO et l'ICESCO, permettra de prêter main forte à ces réseaux, afin de mener à bien les activités et projets au profit de la paix et du développement durable. Suite à cet événement, l'ALECSO a décidé de créer un réseau similaire de Chaires au niveau arabe.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Un Forum national des réseaux UNESCO, ALECSO et ICESCO a été organisé à l'initiative de la Commission nationale tunisienne pour l'éducation, la science et la culture sous le titre « Le rôle des réseaux UNESCO – ALECSO – ICESCO dans le renforcement de la culture de la paix et du développement durable ».

Cette rencontre, financée par les organisations partenaires ICESCO et ALECSO, a eu lieu au mois de mars au siège de la Commission nationale et a réuni les responsables des chaires, des clubs ainsi que les coordinateurs du réseau tunisien des Ecoles associées à l'UNESCO. Cet événement a permis d'échanger sur les mécanismes potentiels de coopération entre ces différents réseaux et les organisations partenaires telles que l'UNESCO, l'ALECSO et l'ICESCO. Les

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Dès le début de l'année 2020, la Commission nationale tunisienne s'est activement engagée à l'élaboration de projets communs avec les pays de la région, et ce, en proposant des activités régionales et des actions conjointes sur des dossiers d'intérêt communs.

Notre objectif principal de 2020 est de renforcer la coopération entre les cinq Commissions nationales de la région du Maghreb Arabe à travers l'élaboration d'une feuille de route détaillant les priorités de la région en matière d'éducation, de culture et de sciences.

La Commission nationale continuera ses efforts constants afin d'assurer la coordination avec les instances nationales et internationales au profit des valeurs universelles de l'UNESCO. Pour réaliser nos objectifs de préservation et mise en valeur du patrimoine culturel et naturel, d'appui aux efforts de la Tunisie visant à réformer l'enseignement, la promotion de l'égalité des genres et l'implication des groupes vulnérables et marginalisés. Nous envisageons également des projets ciblant la lutte contre l'abandon scolaire, l'éducation non formelle, ainsi que la mise en valeur du patrimoine immatériel tunisien.

La Commission continuera aussi d'aider à représenter au mieux la Tunisie lors de ses participations aux événements et activités de l'Organisation ainsi que lors des célébrations et des journées mondiales de l'UNESCO.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

United Arab Emirates National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Chairperson: Ms. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development

Secretary-General: Ms. Salma Al Darmaki

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The United Arab Emirates National Commission was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Culture in January 2019. A new Chair and Secretary-General were appointed, to establish a team and develop the National Commission's strategy and structure. In under a year, rigorous research was undertaken to develop a clear understanding of the mandate and Programmes of UNESCO and determine how best the United Arab Emirates could actively participate through its National Commission and Permanent Delegation. The newly mandated Commission facilitated and coordinated the following:

- The Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation was granted official partnership status with UNESCO;
- Support to the Hamdan Foundation in hosting the 12th Policy Dialogue Forum of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030;
- The Commission reviewed heritage files and prize applications for submission to UNESCO on behalf of the UAE. In 2019 the Date Palm file, an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) joint file coordinated by the UAE, was placed on the UNESCO representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition, Falconry, an Intangible Cultural Heritage joint file coordinated by the UAE and previously listed, is being rewritten to include six additional countries and will be resubmitted in 2020;
- The establishment in the UAE of a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Centre for Capacity-building in Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Arab States, at the Sharjah Institute for Heritage;
- The city of Sharjah was designated as World Book Capital;
- In partnership with UNESCO, the UAE-UNESCO Global Tolerance Leadership Programme was established to support social inclusion by developing the capacities of young leaders to foster tolerance, inclusion and intercultural dialogue;
- The UAE was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board;
- Strengthened partnerships with local actors in the cultural field;
- Focused on building friendly partnerships with other UNESCO delegations and finding synergies.



Visit of a site during the completion of the needs assessment for the development of the capacity building educational program.
© A.R.R. ICCROM-Athar Centre in Sharjah

SUCCESS STORY

In 2018, the United Arab Emirates and UNESCO partnered to rebuild and restore Mosul's historic landmarks, the Al-Nouri Mosque and its Al-Hadba Minaret. In 2019, the project was expanded to include the rehabilitation of the Syriac Catholic Al-Tahera Church and the Latin Al-Saa'a Church. Through the addition of other religious landmarks, this project aims to strengthen tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the region. Some 1,000 Moslawis and Iraqis will be employed and receive training to further develop skills that can be used beyond the scope of the restoration, impacting the economy and human resources of the city. Furthermore, educational and community spaces adjacent to the mosque will be built to enhance community life and generate tourism. Other key partners in Iraq are the Sunni and Christian Endowments, the Ministry of Culture/State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, and the Governorate of Nineveh/Mayorality of Mosul. This project contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 11, Target 4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage; and Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The UAE National Commission will prioritize the establishment of strategic partnerships locally to support active engagement with UNESCO. It will work closely with its local and global partners in aligning with the 2030 Agenda to achieve the following:

- Launch the first cohort of the UAE-UNESCO Global Tolerance Leadership Programme;
- Support the establishment of the International Centre for Capacity-building in Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Arab States;
- Support Arab Culture by co-hosting the 22nd Conference of Arab Culture Ministers and the Arabic Language Summit at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai;
- Support the next phase of restoration for the Mosul project and the launch of a formal capacity building educational program for Iraqis;
- Strengthen partnerships with the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah and ICCROM Headquarters;
- Submit files for inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists;
- Participate effectively in the committees of which the UAE is a member.



Asia and the Pacific

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Mirwais Balkhi, Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Mr. Shakir Habibyar

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- Coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting of the participation program project under the title of Establishment of three Children Public Libraries;
- Nomination and introduction of eligible candidates from various government agencies to attend the seminars, workshops, conferences and training programs outside Afghanistan;
- Coordination and nominations of eligible candidates from Afghanistan for international prizes and awards;

- Keeping durable and regular working relation and contacts with other regional and global National Commission of UNESCO member states;
- Maintaining sustainable and close working relations with UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO office in Kabul;
- Coordination and response the Educational, Cultural, Scientific and related questionnaire of UNESCO;
- The ANCU sought to implement the Annual Operational Plan, but due to financial restriction in the Ministry of Education couldn't implement all activities;
- Holding the first High Council Meeting of ANCU with the participation of the Minister of Education and Sectorial Ministries Deputies (Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Women Affairs, Justice, Culture affairs, Foreign Affairs, chancellor of Kabul university, Commissioner of Human Right Independent Commission and others related agencies);
- Sharing information and explaining UNESCO goals and objectives in Governmental and Non- governmental organizations, such as with Ministries of Information and Cultural, Women Affairs, Higher Education, Human Rights Independent Commission, Afghan women's network.

SUCCESS STORY

According to the UNESCO mandate, National Commissions are responsible to run seminars, workshops, meetings related to the activities and program of UNESCO in their countries, with a focus on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this light, the Afghanistan National Commission for UNESCO (ANCU) organized an SDG4 workshop to determine the indicators and targets needed in high schools.

For the first time, the National Commission implemented a two-day workshop on the nationalization and localization of SDG4 for 100 Schools' Principals in Kabul and launched media and public awareness campaign. In the workshop, specialists shared the indicators and targets of SDG4. The workshop was designed in close cooperation and coordination with various agencies related to the SDG4, such as Afghanistan SDGs Committees, Planning Department of the Ministry of Education and the Education Directorate of Kabul city. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mohammad Shakir Habibyar played a significant role in organizing and conducting the workshop, as well as efforts were made by all staff of ANCU to participate actively.

The ANCU appreciates sincerely all organizations and agencies that paved the way and assisted the National Commission in organizing and conducting the SDG4 workshop.



Inauguration of children public library. View of children public library. SDG4 Workshop © A.R.R. Afghan National Commission for UNESCO

AUSTRALIA

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Australia was one of the founding members of UNESCO in 1946 and has had a National Commission advisory body since 1947. The Commission provides a portal for the Australian community to access and understand UNESCO's programs, advocates for UNESCO's goals in Australia and the region, and advises the Government on all matters related to UNESCO. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosts the Secretariat for the National Commission. Representatives of other Australian Government agencies (in the fields of

culture and communications, archives, environment, education, science and technology) are ex officio members of the Commission. The Commission's Chair and six Commissioners are non-government experts who use their influence and networks to support UNESCO's goals and to raise awareness of its programs in Australia.

In late 2019, UNESCO awarded the Australian science educator, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science, following his nomination by the Australian National Commission. The Commission was also proud to support the successful bids in 2019 by two Australian cities (Bendigo and Ballarat) to join UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, and the entry to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities by Circular Head and Wyndham.

The National Commission collaborates with the UNESCO Pacific Regional Office to support UNESCO's work and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific region. The National Commission values being part of a global community of National Commissions, sharing best practice and lessons learned in supporting UNESCO's mandate.



Photo: Deborah Cheetham AO (photo by Wayne Quilliam) © Australian National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

Support for, and celebration of, the International Year of Indigenous Languages was a priority for the Australian National Commission in 2019. Efforts to revitalize and build understanding of Indigenous languages will be a long-term undertaking. The Commission has been proud to support efforts across Australia to stimulate this important work.

An innovative example of the Commission's support for Australian Indigenous language revitalization in 2019 was its partnership with the acclaimed Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on their Musical Acknowledgements of Country project, 'Long Time Living Here'. Working with Yorta Yorta soprano Deborah Cheetham AO and Short Black Opera, the Orchestra developed and performed Musical Acknowledgements of Country for 11 Indigenous language groups across the state of Victoria. The program also provided training and performance opportunities for Indigenous singers in classical vocal music and opera. The music and recordings were gifted back to each Indigenous community, for use by schools and community groups.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Australian National Commission will deepen its engagement with UNESCO's Creative Cities Network through Australia's six designated cities (Bendigo, Ballarat, Sydney, Geelong, Melbourne and Adelaide) in six creative fields (Gastronomy, Craft and Folks Arts, Film, Design, Literature and Music, respectively). Strengthening connections between Australian Chairs and UNITWIN members will also be a focus.

The Commission welcomes the announcement of an International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032 and looks forward to continued focus on support for Indigenous language preservation in Australia and the Pacific region. The Commission will also be considering how it can contribute to global efforts to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Dipu Moni, MP, Minister, Ministry of Education

Secretary-General: Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Enjoying the successful inception of the 'INTEGRITY' corner in 2018, the BNCU was very busy in 2019, with many initiatives in UNESCO fields of competences.

2019 started with the celebration of the first UNESCO declared International Day of Education on 24 January 2019. With the presence of the Ministers of the line ministries and other dignitaries, the discussion had a very positive effect on the journey of achieving SDG 4.

Another discussion meeting was held on 7 March 2019, on the inscription of the "Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahma", the Father of the Nation, on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.

The Bangladesh Delegation attended the Executive Board Meeting in April 2019 followed by the General Conference in November 2019. The approval of the Celebration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with National Commission countries, was a great initiative, to which the BNCU extended its all-out technical and logistic support.

The successful implementation and completion of the five projects in Bangladesh under the UNESCO participation Programme 2018-19 were accomplished by the BNCU.

With the support of UNESCO Dhaka, the BNCU organized the launch of the Global Monitoring Report 2019 at the International Mother Language Institute on 10 October 2019.

The BNCU and UNESCO Club of Bangladesh arranged an Ikebana Competition on the BNCU premises on 4 November 2019.

The BNCU arranged a workshop on 1 December 2019 on the Future Monitoring of the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers, with the relevant stakeholders.

SUCCESS STORY

The Sustainable Development Goal 4 Strategic Framework for Bangladesh was developed with a view to providing strategic guidelines for the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh regarding the implementation of SDG4. Under the leadership of Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and with the support of UNESCO Dhaka Office, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU), and the Campaign for Popular Education, the framework was developed using a consultative and participatory approach. It was a success story on the part of BNCU to hold series of consultation meetings and coordination among all stakeholders and support the members of the Technical Committee and the Steering Committee for their guidance, feedback and responses in the process.

The collaborative work for developing the Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapED) and SDG4 Strategic Framework for Bangladesh has been exemplary in terms of building partnership for the implementation of SDG4 in Bangladesh. Education stakeholders included policy-makers, academics, researchers and education practitioners, all who are able to explore and utilize the framework as a reference for planning, implementation and monitoring in the context of achieving SDG4 in Bangladesh.



CapED steering committee meeting 2019 © A.R.R. Bangladeshi National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The BNCU is keenly interested to explore possibilities of collaborative work in relation to the SDGs within UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence. Since education is key to the SDGs, the first priority of the BNCU is to align programmes and priorities with SDG 4 implementation process in Bangladesh, to make education work for everyone, with inclusion and equity. For this, SDG 4 needs a surge in global cooperation and collective action to be implemented locally. The BNCU is willing to seek international collaboration in this field as in the previous year.

The ASP Network has been one of the major areas of concern for the BNCU, notably to update the Online Tools for ASPnet (OTA) directory. The UNESCO coupon service mechanism has to be developed. In addition, developing expertise in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage activities and the World Heritage Convention remain areas of concern. The BNCU will conduct its coordinating roles with different government and non-government agencies in the areas like Man and Biosphere.

BHUTAN

Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO conducted activities in line with UNESCO and Bhutan's priority areas. Bhutan hosted the Ninth South and Central Asia Man and Biosphere Network meeting, "Citizen Science in Biosphere Reserves" which focused on an introduction to Man and the Biosphere (MAB), sharing of experiences and opportunities from the network along with a field visit to Bhutan's proposed MAB site at Royal Botanical Park in Lamperi, Thimphu. The Regional Capacity Development Workshop on "Preservation of Disaster Reduction and Management" was also organized, one of the first initiatives on the preservation of documentary heritage in Bhutan.

The National Commission coordinated and implemented significant activities in the field of education: the Development of iSherig-2 Education ICT master plan 2019-2023; Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education Project in a pilot programme with schools to introduce Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in context to Gross National Happiness; participation in various UNESCO organized seminars/meetings/conferences; and the review of the ASP Network Programmes in Bhutan. With support from RoK National Commission, the 2019 Bridge Bhutan Project was successfully

implemented with first ever National Level Community Learning Centre Fair and launch of documentary on Non-Formal Education dedicated to the founder, His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

In the field of culture, the workshop on "Management of heritage building of national importance – Punakha Dzong and associated landscapes" was organized by Department of Culture, and the document "South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives – Experience in Bhutan" was launched. The third volume of Spring Blossoms magazine, entitled 'Culture: Living in Harmony', was published with an aim to promote the role of youth in promoting and preserving them.

The Participation Programme 2018-2019 supported Capacity Development of Primary and Secondary Teachers on Formative Assessment Techniques; Enhancement of Skills for Cluster Lead Teachers; National Approach to Revive and Strengthen Health and Physical Education; National Workshop for ASPnet Coordinators on Using Online Tool for ASPnet (OTA); study on Gender Sensitivity in Curricula and Pedagogical Practice in Bhutanese Middle and higher secondary schools and tertiary institutes; and Ambiguous Learning Pathways: Preventing a national crisis.

The National Commission office received the Directors from the UNESCO Delhi Office, UNESCO Bangkok Office, the Secretary General of the RoK National Commission and other key officials from UNESCO Field Offices, to further strengthen collaboration between Bhutan and UNESCO.

The Bhutan National Commission office will be working closely with the RoK National Commission to enhance adult literacy and skills development under the UNESCO National Commission Partnership Programme for Sustainable Development Goal 4. The office intends to make ASP Network vibrant, as an effective tool for reaching Target 4.7 on Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development of SDG 4.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the years, through successive Five-Year Plans, Bhutan has made a commendable progress in expanding access to education. With the increasing role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the knowledge-based society, Bhutan saw the need to leverage ICTs to accelerate socio-economic development. Fueled by the emergence of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the need to incorporate ICTs as an integral part of development has become imperative.

Education is a key agent to bring about such changes. The integration of ICT in education is a critical means to impart transferable skills and improve the quality of education. To harness their potential and benefits, the Ministry of Education has developed and rolled out Education ICT Master Plans, providing a roadmap for the pervasive use ICT in education. In its second iteration, the Education ICT Master Plan 2019-2023, iSherig-2, aims to make teaching and learning engaging and inclusive, and students informed and able to participate in the digital world. This has been approached through three thrust areas: iAble, iBuild and iConnect, focusing on competency development, content development and information systems development respectively with special emphasis on Non-Formal Education and Special Education Needs.

iSherig-2 provides a clear roadmap to implementing agencies, such as the Royal Education Council, Colleges of Education, Dzongkhags and Thromdes, and relevant departments and divisions within the Ministry of Education. It also serves as a vetting tool to the Ministry of Education to rationalize any major ICT initiative planned for schools. iSherig-2 is the outcome of technical assistance from UNESCO Bangkok and financial support from Japanese-Funds-in-Trust to facilitate the achievement of SDG4 in the Asia-Pacific member states under the "ICT to Facilitate Sustainable Development Goals 4 in South Asia" project.



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CAMBODIA

Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Cambodia National Commission for UNESCO was one of the eligible candidates to participate in the international team for evaluating the implementation of conservation and site management works at Cambodia's World Heritage Sites: Angkor Park, Preah Vihear and Sambor Prei Kuk site. As an ongoing project, the Cambodia National Commission has to assist the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in revising the tentative lists, which have been submitted since 1992.

Under the Participation Programme 2018-2019, the National Commission successfully implemented five different projects: (a) the seven-days workshop on "Youth and Heritage Management", (b) the "Program to Enforce the Women's Capacity in Angkor Area for Sustainable Development", (c) the workshop for "Training in the Field of Preventive Heritage Conservation", (d) the index for KAMBUJA SURYA Magazines, to revive and enhance an exceptional heritage fund of Cambodia, (e) the digitization of national library collections for the preservation of literary and scientific heritage.

As an initiative in promoting mutual cultural exchange and literacy in Asia, the National Commission organized a contest of children's drawings, named "The Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa 2019-2020", with cooperation of Japanese NGOs and the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport. The Commission supported the engagement with a range of programmes for promoting lifelong learning policy in Cambodia.

SUCCESS STORY

The Cambodia National Commission for UNESCO has organized an international seven-day workshop entitled "Youth and Heritage Management" from 13 June to 21 June 2019 in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia. The objective was to raise the awareness and facts of existing the similarly of practicing the conservation methodology, site management plan and challenges at world cultural heritage sites in the region. Some 23 persons, international and young experts, engaged in the conservation work at the World Heritage Sites, which



© A.R.R. Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

involved Cambodia, from APSARA Authority, Preah Vihear Authority and Sambor Prei Kuk Authority; Laos experts on Vat Phou, Thai experts on Sukhothai, and Viet Nam experts on My Son. They all were invited to share information based on their own experiences in the same field. The workshop was an important opportunity those experts to get to know each other more, exchange experiences and contacts, and deepen cooperation among experienced and young experts, as well as for all the participants. The workshop was successfully conducted with fruitful results, giving Cambodia greater insightful views and new concepts in the field.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Cambodia National Commission will focus on the following priorities:

- Work closely with the related Ministries, specifically the Ministry of Environment, to promote biofuels in the mountain zone "Cardamom" and lead a survey on the potential of the site in order to include it in the tentative lists;
- Engage in developing an action plan for Cambodia's lifelong learning policy, strengthen and promote digital education initiatives, participate in quality education programs for women and children, with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women's Affairs and UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh;
- Under the presidency of the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, the Commission will extend the projects in the field of culture by focusing on 5 main activities:
 - Continue to assist in revising the tentative lists;
 - Introduce the guidelines and legislative framework to relevant actors on themes of cultural heritage protection;
 - Introduce the concept of cultural industry at the grassroots level by supporting the Community Learning Centre;
 - Create the programme on the youth and heritage; youth and technology; youth and environment;
 - Organize capacity building workshops for young experts and local staff on documentation for the culture property and museum curating.

CHINA

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, witnessed continued high-level exchanges and deepened cooperation between UNESCO and China.

Several major events were successfully co-organized, including the Special Session on Girls' and Women's Education at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris on March 26, which Professor Peng Liyuan, the wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education attended together with Director-General Audrey Azoulay and delivered a speech; the 3rd International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads in Changsha and Nanjing from 31 March to 6 April; the Forum on Safeguarding the Diversity of Asian Civilizations within the framework of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in Beijing on 15 May, which Director-General Audrey Azoulay

made a speech; the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Education in Beijing from 16 to 18 May to which Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter; the UNESCO-Africa-China Forum on World Heritage Capacity Building and Cooperation in Paris from 3 to 4 June; the 2019 Dujiangyan International Forum on Education for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development in Chengdu from 25 to 26 July; and the Awarding Ceremony for the 14th UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy in Qufu on 27 September.

In addition, China cooperated with UNESCO to organize the Award Ceremony for the 4th UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education at UNESCO's Headquarters on 11 October to which Professor Peng Liyuan sent a congratulatory message, the Capacity-building Workshop for the Development of Lifelong Learning Oriented Education System in Shanghai from 28 October to 8 November, a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the Great-Wall Fellowships Programme at UNESCO Headquarters on 13 November, and the Wenhui Award Ceremony for Asia-Pacific Educational Innovation in Jinan on 14 December. These events successfully enhanced the visibility of UNESCO and contributed to the fulfillment of the mandates of this Organization.

China also actively participated in UNESCO's major programmes in its five domains of functions, and Chinese stakeholders contributed to the noble cause of UNESCO. The World Heritage Committee decided that Fuzhou would host the next session of the World Heritage Committee.

SUCCESS STORY

The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Education took place in Beijing from 16th to 18th May 2019. It was co-organized by UNESCO, the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and Beijing Municipal Government. The conference brought together over 300 international representatives from more than 100 countries and over 10 international organizations, and more than 200 local participants.

President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to this conference. Xi noted that AI is an important driving force to lead the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation. It is an important mission for education to foster ranks of high-level personnel in this regard who have both creative capabilities and teamwork spirit. China pays high attention to the impact of AI on education and has been making vigorous efforts to promote further integration of AI and education, foster the educational innovation and creativity, bring into play the advantage of AI to accelerate the development of an equitable lifelong education, suitable education, and open and flexible education for all.

Vice-Premier SUN Chunlan attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. She noted that China will focus on the cultivation of innovation spirits and practicing skills and is willing to cooperate with other countries in collaborative innovation in AI Education and talents cultivation. Mr. Lee Byong-Hyun, Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, and Ms. Stefania Giannini, the Assistant Director-General for Education delivered speeches. An exhibition on AI and education and field visits were organized. The Beijing Consensus, the first international document on AI and education, was released in six languages as the outcome of this landmark conference, which will create a far-reaching influence on the world education development.



Vice-Premier SUN Chunlan attended the opening ceremony of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Education and delivered a speech. © A.R.R. Chinese National Commission for UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, China will continue to support UNESCO to fulfil its mandates and implement its major strategies and programmes, and further deepen cooperation with UNESCO and other Member States under this umbrella.

China will actively participate in the strategic transformation of the Organization and contribute to the improvement of its visibility and working efficiency, as well as the deliberation on the next Medium-Term Strategy. In addition, China will continue to actively participate in the major works of the Organization, including the implementation of Education 2030, join hands with UNESCO to implement the China-UNESCO Fund-in-Trust phase III, and co-organize the Award Ceremony for the 5th UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education and the meeting on AI and education. China will also closely cooperate with UNESCO to organize the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Fuzhou and build a platform for Member States to exchange good practices and promote the preservation of World Heritage.

COOK ISLANDS

Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Several International Days were observed and celebrated throughout the Cook Islands, in collaboration with both government agencies and NGO's. We are most proud of the following observations: the International Day of Women and Girls in Science; the International Mother Language Day; International Women's Day; Autism Awareness Day; the International Day of Biological Diversity; World Environment Day; World Oceans Day; the International Day of Yoga; Human Rights Day and World Teachers Day.

In 2019, the Commission provided financial assistance to the Toku Reo Foundation, with the publishing and distribution

of Dream Journals to every school-age child throughout the Cook Islands. Toku Reo, meaning "my voice," is a non-profit organization founded by Reihana Koteka-Wiki, Miss Cook Islands 2018-2019. The Foundation aims to attack the stigma of mental health by encouraging dialogue about issues and creating awareness around the importance of understanding mental health. The Dream Journals serve as a resource specifically for Cook Islands children and aims to introduce and promote positive mental maintenance and coping strategies at a young age. 11,000 copies will be made available in 2019.

In 2019, Ms. Teiiti Paio (BEng) was awarded a fellowship under the joint sponsorship of UNESCO and the International Centre of Sustainable Energy Development. The fellowship enabled Ms. Paio to undertake postgraduate studies on renewable energy between September and October. As an Assistant Engineer for the Te Aponga Uira Cook Islands, the national power utility, Ms. Paio provides performance and strategic planning expertise towards transforming the Cook Islands power system to a highly complex renewable energy system. It was a successful fellowship for Ms. Paio and a notable achievement for the Pacific as the only participant from the Pacific region.

The Commission continued to provide support to 2018/2019 Participation Programme recipients – Korero o te Orau, Autism Cook Islands and Lokal Magazine.

SUCCESS STORY

With Participation Programme funding, the Commission was fortunate to support and advice organizations and groups who were successfully awarded financial assistance as part of the 2018/2019 round.

One organization is Korero o te Orau, a local NGO focusing on environmental and indigenous issues in the Cook Islands. Korero o te Orau utilized UNESCO funding to deliver the intensive school holiday programme, Atui'anga ki te Tango, to 12-18-year-old students from 19 July – 3 August, on Rarotonga. Teaching student's life skills and traditional practices, with a focus on sustainable lifestyles, conservation and language and leadership, was the main focus. As a result of Atui'anga ki te Tango, a reef-life booklet has been produced, along with a short documentary.



Onboard Titi-ai-Tonga, a traditional Cook Islands Canoe, Atui'anga ki te Tango students learn and practice the traditional voyaging skills of our ancestors. Photo Credit – Korero o te Orau (2019). © A.R.R. Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Commission will continue to support Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development and culture initiatives in 2020, alongside the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and NGO's.

World Heritage Convention applications for sacred sites (Avana and Maungaroa) will continue to be explored, including potential MABS recognition.

Ongoing partnerships and networks with other Pacific Commissions will be priority.

A'u'anga i te manako 'au no te tane e te vaine – Building peace in the minds of men and women.

INDIA

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- An Indian delegation led by Sh. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, attended the 40th General conference;
- The UN declared the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability 2021-2030, to which India is contributing to the preparations. The Director, NIOT of India, is a nominee to the Executive Planning Group of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). This involved inviting

the global ocean community to jointly prepare an implementation plan for the Decade to deliver, together, 'The Ocean We Need for the Future We Want'. This Plan will be submitted for approval to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in 2020;

- Inscription of Jaipur City on the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- Inscription of Mumbai as Creative City of Film and Hyderabad as Creative City of Gastronomy in the Creative Cities Network of UNESCO;
- Addressing the safety of journalists, several steps have been taken from Press Information Bureau's side, including defining of special parameters and guidelines to be followed by reporters, prepared with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting;
- Contribution to UNESCO statistics/ standards/ concept/ definitions: Department of Science & Technology of India actively participates and contributes in the UNESCO Institute of Statistics meetings for the development and revision of standards/concepts/definitions used for collection of Science Statistics and development of Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators.

SUCCESS STORY

Since 2017, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been working as the Regional Mentor for a Baseline Study on the Status of Women Professionals in the Media Industry in 9 South Asian countries, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Baseline Study, entitled "Women for Change : Building a Gendered Media in South Asia", is a part of the initiative by UNESCO and South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) that aims to fulfil the obligations as drafted in the Gender-Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia (GSGWMSA) in 2016 based on UNESCO's Gender-Sensitive Indicators for the Media (2012).

In this process, the following tasks have been undertaken by the Indian Institute as Regional Mentor, including:

- Development of the Research Proposal for the Baseline Study including detailed study methods, sampling and directions for analysis.
- Development of Secondary and Primary Research Guidelines and Instruments and sharing them with all countries to conduct the study.
- Training Regional Teams on the research process during 2 workshops / conferences in Kathmandu, Nepal (2017) and in New Delhi, India in (2018).
- Review of Secondary Research submitted by Regional Teams and presentation of key regional research findings at a conference in New Delhi in 2019.
- Ongoing mentoring and support to regional teams on primary research which includes data collection and analysis & Visits as and when required.

The ultimate aim of this highly relevant initiative is to engage relevant stakeholders in advocating for equal rights for women media professionals in South Asian countries, including India, and advocate for gender-sensitive guidelines and policy directives by all participating countries. Given the magnitude of the Study, it is imperative that continued support from UNESCO and SWAN contribute to its continuation and conclusion, which promises to have far-reaching positive implications for gender-equality in the media industry in South Asia.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the Digital Heritage Space, the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India through its 'Indian Digital Heritage Project' worked towards digital documentation and interpretation of our tangible and intangible heritage. The project highlighted the art, architecture and cultural legacy of the world heritage site of Hampi in Karnataka, the medieval capital of the Vijayanagara dynasty. It extended the power of digital technologies to well beyond these monuments to art, architecture, and all forms of cultural and historical knowledge by use of emerging technologies in computer vision, graphics, audio and video technologies and help preserve, use, and experience India's vast heritage in digital form.

The Department of Science & Technology is exploring enhanced S&T based engagements with some UNESCO organizations such as with International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy and The World Academy of Sciences for the Developing Countries.

India is also interacting closely with UNESCO New Delhi towards a Category II UNESCO Centre, 'Regional Centre on Water and Environment for South Asia "at Roorkee, which will be discussed in the next Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) in June 2020.

The National Commission will ensure completion of UNESCO-SWAN-Indian Institute of Mass Communication project, "Women for Change: Building a Gendered Media in South Asia (2017-2022)".

INDONESIA

Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Indonesian National Commission organized the National Workshop on "Coexistence between National Development and Conservation and the Implementation of Sustainable Tourism in the UNESCO Designated Sites", discussing management, governance, and development plan, as well as partnership initiatives of private and public sectors in the UNESCO-designated sites.

The National Commission, in partnerships with the Directorate-General for Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture, organized the World Heritage Camp in Indonesia 2019, on the inheritance of knowledge about Cultural Landscape of Bali

Province: the Subak System to the young generation. It also explored knowledge and management initiatives to protect the World Heritage.

In addition, the National Commission implemented crosscutting projects on education for sustainable development, honouring the UNESCO-Designated Sites by organizing the discussion on the role of education for sustainable development in the UNESCO-designated sites of Gunung Sewu Global Geopark, Komodo Biosphere Reserve, dan Sangiran Early Man Site.

Three nominations were recognized and accepted by UNESCO. UNESCO inscribed Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto on the World Heritage List, the city of Ambon was designated as a member of UNESCO Creative Cities Network under the category of Music, and the Traditions of Pencak Silat were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2018/2019, the National Commission received grants for two projects. The first consists of two workshops in cooperation with Arigatou International, the Training Workshop on Learning to Live Together involving ASPnet secondary school teachers and the Training of Pre-primary Teachers supported by five facilitators of five religions. The second project concerns Management Training for Indonesian Biosphere Reserve Managers, under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

SUCCESS STORY

The Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, and the government of West Nusa Tenggara Province, organized the 6th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network, from 3 – 6 September 2019 in the Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. This was an opportunity for UNESCO Global Geoparks and the National Geoparks from Asia-Pacific countries to share knowledge and aspirations for the sustainable development of Global Geoparks in the region, guided by the spirit of networking, collaboration, innovation and creativity for all.

The Governor of the West Nusa Tenggara Province highly appreciated the decision to hold the 6th Asia Pacific Geopark Network (APGN) 2019 in Lombok. "This agenda is a historic event that will be remembered by the people of West Nusa Tenggara Province, it becomes one of the drivers to unlock and continue the development of the potential of the region", he emphasized. Although several large earthquakes hit the area the year before, the people of West Nusa Tenggara Province continue to rebuild their area. With the hosting of the APGN, Lombok showed to the world that the West Nusa Tenggara Province people are and will remain strong.

The 6th APGN Symposium 2019 explored the theme of "UNESCO Global Geoparks toward Sustaining Local Communities and Reducing Geohazard Risk". It aimed to convey the strong message of the importance of nature conservation including its local community, as well as the importance of the knowledge of risk reduction management from disasters. Five topics were discussed: 1) Empowering local socio-economic for sustainable development, 2) Engaging Communities, geohazard risk and recovery, 3) Popularizing scientific knowledge for public education, 4) Promoting aspiring global geoparks, and 5) Networking volcanic landscape global geoparks.



Opening of the 6th Asia Pacific Geopark Network Symposium 2019 in Mataram, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara symbolized with the beating of Lombok's traditional music instrument, Gendang Beleg (Big Drum), by the Governor of West Nusa Tenggara; Executive Chairman of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO; Senior Programme Specialist for Water and Environmental Sciences of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta; and the Representatives from Ministries and Networks. © A.R.R. Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will work with the Secretariat to organize the Global Launch of the 2020 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Government is preparing the organization of the 3rd World Culture Forum in 2021 on "Inclusive Culture for the Future We Want". Under the patronage of UNESCO, the 1st Forum, "The Power of Culture in Sustainable Development", was held in 2013 and the 2nd Forum, "Culture for an Inclusive Sustainable Planet", was held in 2016, both in Bali, Indonesia. The 3rd Forum 2021 will be an international platform to strengthen the linkage between arts and culture festivals in the world, to facilitate exchange of cultural actors on global scale, and to facilitate the cooperation of cultural actors to create a more just global cultural value-chain and to broaden public access to cultural diversity.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In addition to activities in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO in the Member State, highlights of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO during the period include: Organizing three consecutive international events on the Silk Roads in cooperation with HQ and the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office in Hamedan of Iran; the annual organization of a regional event on “the World of Nowruz”; organizing quarterly to commemorate the activities of prominent personalities with a significant role in popularizing culture and science in Iran; organizing an Oscar-like event on an annual basis, screening long-, and short-films, and documentaries with valuable content in line with the programme and objectives

of UNESCO, also nominating an active personality of the Iranian cinema, prompting competition between producers to make films in line with UNESCO’s objectives; harnessing the potential of art for education by supporting the construction of a physically, mentally and environmentally healthy school house following indigenous and international standards of architecture in the earthquake-torn city of Kermanshah; awareness-raising on various types of literacy defined by UNESCO, using the potential of the arts and by organizing festivals and competitions for school pupils; the inclusion of two new Iranian cities to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network; the inclusion of four new Iranian cities to the Global Network of Learning Cities; organizing, in cooperation with the French National Commission for UNESCO, a joint training workshop for the learning cities of Mashhad and Mantes-la-Jolie, at Mantes-la-Jolie; simplifying Suhrawardi for adolescents (in the framework of the 850th anniversary of the active life of Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi); and setting up an only-youth symphony orchestra on the occasion of World Peace Day.

Other activities carried out in response to the rising symbolic capital of the National Commission include:

- Issuance of the “Mayor of The Creative City” and the “Mayor of The Learning City” decrees;
- Preparation of a golden plaque for the Creative and Learning Cities for installation in central squares; and
- Establishing a governing board for Creative Cities, for national exchange of experiences and awareness-raising.

SUCCESS STORY

The “Respecting Water” certificate is awarded by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to factories, cities and towns that have achieved major progress in controlling and limiting water consumption and improving water resources management. The project is a joint activity of the Iranian National Commission and the Iranian National Specialized Committee on Water (with members from academia, government, related ministries, NGOs, specialized institutions and experts). The symbolic capital of the Iranian National Commission its name and national credit) has created great incentives among those eligible to seek to earn the Certificate. In this trend, the Iranian city of Isfahan organized the “1st National Competition on Improving Water and Wastewater Skills”. A similar event is envisaged to be held at a regional level with neighboring countries, in 2020 or early 2021 (exact date pending due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The main objectives sought in organizing the event at a wider scale is to exchange experiences and best practices and to promote “dialogue for water and peace” – to build peace in the region in line with national and international priorities.



“Pars” Youth symphony orchestra © A.R.R. Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Iranian National Commission highlight for the future is to contribute to regional, hence international peace, specifically by promoting joint inscriptions of intangible and documentary heritage, in cooperation with national and regional authorities and specialized committees.

In this trend, the National Commission envisages to publish a coffee table book on the intangible cultural heritage of Iran and regional countries. Additionally, education for peace and sustainable development and ensuring equitable access to education, especially in times of natural disasters and outbreaks of epidemics is a top priority, to harness the potential of Information and Communication Technologies, thus focusing on communications as well.

The National Commission also places great emphasis on promoting UNESCO’s Silk Roads project in which regard a grand one-week international calligraphy exhibition on “Peace-writing along the Silk Roads” is envisaged to be held in Mashhad of Iran. This will include an international conference to further contribute to the development of the “calligraphy theme” of the Silk Roads Atlas.

In the sciences, the National Commission will focus on activities aimed at reducing energy consumption.

All of the above provides opportunities for joint cooperation with other National Commissions and Member States.

JAPAN

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

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

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In order to contribute to the upcoming stages of UNESCO's activities, such as the implementation of the new framework "ESD for 2030" and the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and to consider the way forward for UNESCO's activities in our new era of an increasingly complex international community and rapid technological innovation, in October last year, JNCU formulated a proposal "the Revitalization of UNESCO Activities in Japan" and submitted it to the Government. The proposal comprises various items, including the advancement of ESD, the promotion of efforts for the UN Decade for Ocean Science, and the building of platforms for strengthening collaboration of stakeholders.

Key UNESCO activities in Japan last year include the following:

- In the field of education, in September 2019, MEXT jointly sponsored with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNESCO, and the United Nations University, the holding of many education-related side events under the theme of "Education Policy in the 21st Century" at the G20 2019 Summit related event on Education. Among them, JNCU was in charge of the symposium's second session, "Education for Sustainable Development for 2030," and held a pre-launch commemorative event for the upcoming international framework, "ESD for 2030". Throughout Japan, the more than 1,100 UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan, equivalent to ten percent of all Associated Schools worldwide, were very active as "hubs for the promotion of ESD."
- In the field of science, in preparation for the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, MEXT and the Japanese National Committee for Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), through Japanese funds in trust, supported the Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas (July 31 – August 2, 2019, Tokyo), which was co-organized by IOC-WESTPAC (IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific) and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES). Around 160 participants from 18 countries in the region attended the workshop.

SUCCESS STORY

In anticipation of the launch of "Education for Sustainable Development: Toward Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Education for Sustainable Development for 2030)," the new international framework that will run from 2020 to 2030, the "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD): Learning toward Climate Action Change" meeting was held on September 22, 2019, at the United Nations Headquarters as a side event of the UNGA High-Level Week. The event was conducted through Japanese funds-in-trust, based on an agreement reached at a meeting between then Ministry of Education Culture Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT) Minister SHIBAYAMA and UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay in July 2019. Participants from the Japanese side included high school students from UNESCO Associated Schools and university students, in addition to representatives from the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU). Four young participants and a policy official held a panel discussion on the role of education for the issue of climate change. After that, the nearly 100 participants in the hall exchanged views with each other on this and related issues. The meeting confirmed the importance of ESD for contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and combatting global problems.



A comment from Mr. MAKIMOTO: "I learned so much through the discussion with the meeting participants. I would like to contribute to encouraging many more young people to collaborate across borders, as I have had the opportunities to do, with those from various countries and regions." © A.R.R. Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The following are among key priorities to boost UNESCO's activities based on JNCU's proposal "Revitalization of UNESCO Activities in Japan".

First, in regard to ESD, the resolution for the new international framework "ESD for 2030" was adopted at the 40th Session of the General Conference in 2019 and later at the 74th UNGA Session in December of the same year. With this international consensus, Japan is working to enhance UNESCO's activities inside and outside of Japan through efforts commensurate with its status as one of the proposing countries for the Decade of ESD.

In regard to UNESCO's strategic initiatives, beginning with the "Futures of Education" initiative, Japan will study further its utilization of its funds-in-trust so that its contributions make the most of Japan's knowledge.

On top of that, there are many stakeholders in Japan that have been engaged in achieving the SDGs. MEXT just launched the Platform for Future Co-Creation of UNESCO activities, with the aim of sharing knowledge and expertise of these stakeholders in order to boost UNESCO's activities, contributing to solving global and regional problems.

KAZAKHSTAN

National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ICESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Aktoty Raiymkulova, Minister of Culture and Sports

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ICESCO conducted its activities in UNESCO priority areas according to the National Action Plan adopted during the National Commission General Assembly's annual meeting in 2018. The National Commission mainly delivers its mission by means of promoting UNESCO ideals in Kazakhstan and the region of Central Asia and by participating in the sessions of Governing bodies of UNESCO and other key events. In the process of implementation of its activities, the National Commission works closely with UNESCO Cluster office in Almaty, the UNESCO Secretariat as well as with UNESCO advisory bodies and other representatives of UNESCO family.

During the reported period, the National Commission contributed to the implementation of UNESCO priorities in the field of education, science, culture, communication and information.

The National Commission participated in meeting for the preparation of multinational nomination, "Traditional Intelligence

and Strategy Game: Mangala, Togyz Kumalak, Tokuz Korgool", which was convened in February 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Key events attended by the National Commission included the sub regional training for facilitators on intangible cultural heritage from Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan; the 4th Global capacity Building Workshop on Global Citizenship Education in Seoul, Republic of Korea; as well as the 14th session of the ICH Committee in Bogota, Columbia, where the National Commission participated as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2018-2022).

In November, the National Commission, in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat, held the International Moscow Conference on Great Migrations of Peoples. This was the 7th of the series of conferences co-organized by the National Commission in the framework of the 2013-2022 International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures for which UNESCO has the lead role within the UN system. The previous international conferences took place in France, USA, Spain and the Republic of Korea.

According to the 40th session of the General Conference resolution, the National Commission's proposal on the 1150 anniversary of al-Farabi and 2200 anniversary of the city of Shymkent were included in the calendar of the International commemorations observed by UNESCO in 2020-2021. Several activities will be organized by the National Commission to celebrate these anniversaries at national, regional and international level.

The National Commission participated in UNESCO Secretariat's special events for National Commissions during the 206th session of the Executive Board and the 40th session of the General Conference.

SUCCESS STORY

On June 25, 2019, the Director General, Mrs Audrey Azoulay and Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Ms. Gulshara Abdykalikova signed the Agreement between Kazakhstan and UNESCO on the establishment of the International Center for the Rapprochement of Cultures in Almaty as a category 2 center under the auspices of UNESCO. This initiative was approved by the 39th General Conference in 2017.

The objectives of the center are the promotion of scientific research, the preparation of publications, the organization of conferences and educational activities on the history and practice of intercultural interaction in Central Asia and beyond.

While underlining the constructive contribution of Kazakhstan to the work of UNESCO, Director-General Audrey Azoulay expressed confidence that the new Center would facilitate intercultural dialogue on a global and regional scale.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the National Commission will be involved in organization of several national, regional and interregional events to mark 75th anniversary of UNESCO. In particular, there are plans to implement international activities in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Man and the Biosphere Programme. The Kazakhstan National Commission strongly supports contributing to capacity building and to strengthening relationships and network of partners between Kazakhstan and UNESCO.

KYRGYZSTAN

Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO coordinated and implemented several programs in line with UNESCO's priority areas, in cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, national cultural, educational and scientific foundations.

The National Commission supported the 7th Education Festival, "The Digital Generation of Kyrgyzstan: ICT in Education and IT Education", in April 2019. The goals were to contribute to the achievement of SDG4 by promoting ICTs in educational institutions and by sharing experiences. The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education also took part.

The National Commission, jointly with the Almaty Cluster Office, organized the Sub-regional meeting, 'Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education

in Central Asia'. The goals were to facilitate joint reflection between the Education and the Culture Sectors in Central Asian countries and to generate knowledge on existing experiences of integrating ICH safeguarding in existing school programmes and extra-curricular activities.

The National Commission works in close cooperation with Association of Community Media of Kyrgyzstan, which has launched the University-based Learning of Community Media Specialists project, supported by the International Programme for the Development of Communication in 2019. The project contributes to the development of pluralistic media and communication for sustainable development goals (SDG16) and set standards for teaching and training community media reporting in Kyrgyzstan.

During the year, the National Commission organized several meetings with the Directorates of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Kyrgyzstan in order to prepare the periodic review and to strengthen the management strategy for the better implementation of the SDG14 and SDG15.

In close cooperation with UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Kyrgyzstan, the National Commission organized a conference for the celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, contributing also to the implementation of SDG 5.

During the 40th session of the General Conference, the Kyrgyz Republic was elected as a member of the Executive Board for the term 2019-2023.

SUCCESS STORY

The National Commission and the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office collaborated to organize several events, including an Exhibition, Round table and Master classes for the promotion and safeguarding the knowledge and skills of Kyrgyz traditional felt carpets "Ala-kiyiz" and "Shyrdak" manufacturing. The focus fell especially on reaching young people and to draw the general public's attention to the problem of safeguarding this element, which was inscribed in 2012 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

The exhibition and master classes was attended by more than 1,500 people from different schools, colleges and higher educational institutions of Bishkek. Moreover, children with disabilities from the Rehabilitation Center 'Umut-Nadezhda' also attended, along with tourists from around the world (China, Finland, Russia, Great Britain and the Republic of Korea). Seven craftswomen from seven regions of the country, who are the bearers and practitioners of traditional knowledge and ornaments in manufacturing the traditional felt carpets "ala-kiyiz" and "shyrdak", demonstrated techniques and gave lectures. In addition, a map of Kyrgyzstan (2 by 3 meters) depicting the natural and cultural World Heritage sites located in different regions, was presented. Children were asked to stick different colored felts on the map. Activities were carried out within the framework of the European Union and UNESCO project, "Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran – International Dimension of the European Year of Cultural Heritage".



Children sticking different colored felts on the map of Kyrgyzstan depicting the UNESCO Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites
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FUTURE PRIORITIES

- As co-chairman of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Serial World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, Kyrgyzstan will continue to work with other Member States to strengthen the existing monitoring process, to protect and promote World Heritage sites along the Silk Road. Moreover, joint efforts on preparation of Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor nomination in cooperation with Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be continued.
- The National Commission is actively working with the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism, National Academy of Sciences, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and experts of geological society in order to join the Global Geoparks Network in the nearest future.
- The integration of ICH into the education system will remain the priority, and the National Commission, in cooperation with other Central Asian countries, is planning to develop a Manual for teachers on ICH integration to existing school programs and extra-curricular activities.
- In 2020, the National Commission will actively participate in the work of UNESCO Executive Board (2019-2023) as well as of the World Heritage Committee (2017-2021).
- In 2020, the National Commission plans to strengthen existing and develop new partnerships for the effective implementation of SDGs.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Lao National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Lao National Commission for UNESCO implemented significant activities throughout 2019, including:

- The Dissemination Workshop on the Concept of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in teaching-learning to the principals and teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools in Huaphan Province (Gender Objective List Funding Source);
- The National Dissemination and Consultation Workshop on Global Citizenship Education for Educational Planners, Curriculum Developers and Educators in Lao People's Democratic Republic (UNESCO Funding Source, resource person from UNESCO Bangkok);



Participants learned about how to build kiln by using bricks and other local materials. © A.R.R. Lao National Commission for UNESCO

by using bricks and local materials, utilizing a kiln properly and maintain a kiln for making pottery and ceramics products. The skills and knowledge of the participants have been improved, and they are able to integrate their new knowledge into their daily production.

Mr. Vonxay DUANGCHALERN, one of the participants, said that "Not only my knowledge and skills in ceramics production have been improved, but also the quality of my family's life is better due to the participation in this program".

In the coming year, KNCU and Sangmyung University plan to organize another workshop on modern ceramics production which will focus on sourcing quality clay in local areas. After implementing this project for a long time, LNCU and KNCU always take into account that promoting and safeguarding cultural heritage in Laos is crucial, particularly to engage younger generations, to build their awareness of the importance of cultural heritage for sustainable development.

- The Training on Whole Institution Approach to Climate Action for ASPnet Schools and Xayabouly Educational Institutions in Lao People's Democratic Republic (UNESCO Funding Source);
- The National Launch of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report (UNESCO Bangkok Funding Source);
- Partnership with UNESCO Bangkok to coordinate the Happy School Project in Lao People's Democratic Republic (UNESCO Bangkok Funding Source);
- Partnership with KNCU to implement the UNESCO National Commissions Partnership Programme for Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Bridge Laos Programme, KNCU Funding Sources);
- Joining the Educational Quality Assurance Center to implement the Lao People's Democratic Republic Quality Systems Initiative (LQSI) Project (UNESCO- International Bureau of Education Funding Sources);
- Partnership with Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) to implement the 2020 Korea-Laos Teacher Exchange Programme;
- Participating in the 40th session of the General Conference (Gender Objective List Funding Source);
- The inscription of the Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on World Heritage List.

At the same time, there have been challenges — due to budget constraints, the staff of the National Commission have had fewer opportunities to attend regional and international meetings as well as trainings related to UNESCO fields.

SUCCESS STORY

The Lao National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU) has been supported by Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and Sangmyung University to implement the Craft Design for Sustainable Development Program – Workshop on Modern Ceramics Production for pottery craftsmen and youth in Ban Chan village, Chomphet District, and teachers and students from Luangprabang Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Luangprabang province since 2015. This program aims to contribute to sustainable development of the local community by expanding its economic capacities through the provision of basic facilities for the production of ceramics, sharing the knowledge and skills that Korea has in crafts and related fields, and assisting the community to use local crafts in innovative ways to create new products.

During this program, different types of workshops have been organized annually, such as improving ceramics production techniques and utilizing modern facilities, including electric and gas kilns, pottery wheels, electric pug mill and other facilities, which were provided by KNCU and Sangmyung University. In 2019, the workshop provided knowledge and techniques for participants for constructing a ceramics kiln

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Organize the Training Workshop on Youth Engagement in Heritage Preservation in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luang Prabang Province;
- Disseminate the Concept on Global Citizenship Education to Principals and Teachers from Secondary Schools in Bolikhamxay and Vientiane Provinces;
- Organize consultation Meeting on GEOPark Development in Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- Organize the Workshop on Modern Ceramics Production in Luang Prabang Province (Craft Design Project).
- In addition, the Lao National Commission for UNESCO would like to join work with UNESCO Bangkok on a Plastic Waste Project, to promote using zero plastic in schools.

MALAYSIA

Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Government of Malaysia continues its unwavering supports to the MNCU in bringing society closer to UNESCO works and priorities. Through the MNCU Contribution Grant, the government via MNCU supports implementation of various programme pertaining to UNESCO's competencies and/or related national priorities. These include promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the ambit of UNESCO. In 2019, the MNCU, with various implementing partners, jointly organised and supported 22 programme and activities related to UNESCO's field of competence, ranging from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

(STEM) education, scientific symposium, mental health, youth to cultural and heritage.

A key event was the National Symposium on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education 2019 (NSPVE-E 2019). A total of 139 participants and 25 speakers from various local and international organisations participated in the symposium under the theme, "Building the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence through Education". The symposium reaffirmed the importance of education as a tool to help prevent terrorism and violent extremism and the importance for education institutes to provide a safe space to nurture and empower youth as agents of positive change. The discussions were important in identifying and examining concrete and comprehensive education sector responses to the threats of violent extremism. More importantly, the participants acknowledged the crucial role of education as a systematic tool to prevent violent extremism. In this regard, the event promoted human-rights-based global citizenship education in line with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 Strategic Objective 2 – Empowering Learners to be Creative and Responsible Global Citizens as well as SDG 4.7. The initiative also supported the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism.

SUCCESS STORY

Since the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP) started in 2011, the Government of Malaysia has provided financial contributions and technical expertise to support the implementation of a total of 36 projects to enhance South-South Cooperation under the project framework. Until now, MUCP has pool of expertise from nearly 90 countries, established cooperation with at least 160 institutions worldwide, and worked with at least 15 UNESCO offices and institutions. At least 6,870 people worldwide have been engaged in MUCP projects across Asia Pacific and Africa, with 30 Major Implementing Countries from the Global South.

To highlight this contribution, the MNCU, together with UNESCO and the Malaysian Permanent Delegation Office, organised the MUCP Roundtable Discussion on 15 November 2019, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference. The roundtable was attended by

around 100 participants, gathered to discuss how capacities and expertise of the solution providers from the south could match with the needs of the solution seekers through practical exchanges of South-South solutions and experiences in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The event highlighted the results of MUCP in stimulating potential South-South cooperation champions. For instance, a representative from the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation, a UNESCO Category 2 centre in Malaysia, complemented MUCP for helping her institution reaching countries previously not accessible.

In the words of then Minister of Education of Malaysia at the opening of the Roundtable: "We must stop looking at ourselves as countries with challenging identities and interests. Instead, we must look at ourselves as one BIG family of humanity, with a common purpose".



Panellists presenting the outcome of MUCP during the MUCP Roundtable Discussion
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FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the MNCU will continue to work closely with UNESCO and various partners towards attaining the 2030 Agenda. Particular attention will be given to the series of consultations in 2020 for the preparation of the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-29 (41C/4), as the only full term Medium-Term Strategy left before the 2030 deadline. With the conclusion of the MUCP project by the end of 2020, the next Malaysia-UNESCO partnership project could be considered in setting the stage to further advance the 2030 Agenda in the context of the South-South Cooperation within the remaining timeframe.

At the national level, MNCU is looking forward to be more inclusive, by having more partners from the civil society organisations and the private sector to participate in MNCU activities in promoting the SDGs, especially the general public, and also to increase the participation from the non-government sectors in SDG reporting. The Malaysia UNESCO Day will be another big event in 2020, focusing on youth and the SDGs. With the city of Kuala Lumpur being conferred the UNESCO World Book Capital for 2020, on the same year as Visit Malaysia year, 2020 will be busy for MNCU at both the national and international levels.

MALDIVES

Maldivian National Commission for UNESCO/ ICESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Currently, the Maldives is unable to conduct programs under the Participation Program due to some technical issues which need to be solved. Still, important programs were conducted during 2019 in association with UNESCO. These include training workshops that were conducted by the National Institute of Education (NIE) under the Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNESCO.

- As part of UNESCO's technical assistance to Member States to implement competency-based teacher training reforms to facilitate Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-pedagogy integration, the first workshop was an ICT Competency Standards Development Workshop held in the capital city, Male', from 28 April to 3 May 2019. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Maria Melizza Tan and Ms. Auken Tungatarova from UNESCO Bangkok Office. A mix of around thirty professionals from government and educational institutions, as well as principals and teachers from various atolls, participated. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to reflect the existing professional framework for teachers in the Maldives and to incorporate and align the ICT-SCT standards for teachers in providing a quality all-round education to students. The workshop provided proper guidance in formulating successful teacher standards in integrating ICT based teaching. This enhanced the teachers' capacity to guide and support their students' learning.
- The second workshop was the national workshop for developing ICT in Education Master Plan, held in the capital city, Male' (September 2019). The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Jonghwi Park and Mr. Jian Xi Teng from UNESCO Bangkok Office. A representative group of 30 participants from all the stakeholder groups participated. This included representatives from relevant departments of the Ministry

of Education, Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, NIE, teacher training institutions, school teachers and principals. The main aim was to increase the national capacity to develop an ICT in education policy that is integrated with the newly implemented Education Sector Plan 2019-2023. It was a joint effort between UNESCO and the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education, to collectively develop a shared understanding of the 2nd ICT in Education Master Plan and to draft the narrative, covering the important themes of the 2nd Master Plan.

- In addition, a four-day workshop on capacity building on community-based inventorying of ICH was conducted at the National Art Gallery from 28 April to 1 May 2019. Dr Shubha Chaudhari facilitated and participants were from among various NGOs, government officials and individual researchers. The purpose was to discuss methodological challenges faced during inventorying, to provide training on community based inventorying and to formulate a plan to carry out the work.
- The Language Academy under Heritage Ministry conducted many programs in 2019 to mark International Mother Language Day. The Academy of Dhivehi language did the pre-planning and preparations in coordination with all schools of Maldives, which included the delivery of the message sent by UNESCO. A variety of activities were carried out in schools, such as speaking on the significance of marking the day as such, disseminating historical and literary information, role plays, various forms of poetry, exhibitions to display items used by forefathers in the olden days and enlightening the students on the how such items were used by our forefathers in the olden days.
- In 2019, Maldives stood for election at the 40th session of the General Conference as a member of the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on MAB and, with the support of more than 100 countries, Maldives became a member of the International Coordinating Council on MAB.
- Pursuant to the Director-General's call to Member States and Associated Member States to nominate candidates for the 2019 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education, the National Commission for UNESCO of Maldives nominated the project: Feydhoo School Virtual, S. Feydhoo, Maldives.
- The Secretariat of UNESCO-UNEVOC has welcomed the Maldives Polytechnic as a UNEVOC Centre, member institution of the UNEVOC Network and individual practitioners of TVET.

SUCCESS STORY

The Environment Ministry, in collaboration with the Maldives National Commission included two big atolls of the Maldivian Archipelago, namely Addu Atoll and Fuvahmulah Atoll, which were proposed as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. This is a significant step to accomplish the long-term goal of Maldives to declare the whole of our nation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The Environment Ministry of Maldives did a praiseworthy job with their relentless work to meet the seven general criteria set to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve. In order to prepare the dossiers, two main methods were adopted. One was the door to door visits made to the people of the two atolls to get their views for the core areas, to fulfil the social component of the dossiers. Secondly, focus group discussions were held to collect the views of the people to complete the ecological surveys that were required to be conducted. These working sessions were conducted in August 2019 in Bandos Island resort of Maldives.

Participants from line Ministries attended and worked in groups, based on the sections of the dossiers, after which presentations were given to agree on the sections of the dossiers, such as Biography, land use, population, governance, management and coordination, conservation, development, logistics, Biophysics, ecosystem services, etc. Having completed the requirements, the two dossiers were proposed to UNESCO in September 2019. In February 2020 Comments were received from UNESCO, based on which we have responded to fulfil the missing parts to meet the requirements. It is expected to receive the final confirmation from UNESCO MAB in June 2020.



Participants were involved actively
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Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In view of the present status, the Maldives National Commission has no specific plans yet to co-organize regional activities in 2020. However, we have interest in doing so wherever necessary.

MONGOLIA

Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO achieved 31 goals it set for 2019 and successfully implemented numerous projects within all fields of UNESCO's competence in collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters, the UNESCO Beijing and Bangkok Offices, Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO and relevant national institutions. We would like to highlight the following activities:

- We organized a national forum and consultation on TVET sector, in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office and UNESCO TVET Section, to discuss the policy review of the professional education and training sector and further actions; and the workshop on incorporating performance indicators of Information and Communication Technology-Competency Standards for Teachers (ICT-CST) into teacher training curriculum and developing training modules for teachers' professional development. Furthermore, in education sector, we organized the launch of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) with different stakeholders and introduced the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education in Mongolian language, in collaboration with the Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture, Sciences, and Sports, United Nations Fund Population Fund Mongolia (UNFPA), World Health Organization Mongolia (WHO) and UNESCO Beijing Office;
- We organized the fifth Model UNESCO Mongolia youth conference; Management of Social Transformations (MOST) School on "Reducing Intersecting Inequalities: From Knowledge to Policies"; celebrated World Philosophy Day

and organized the third sub-regional consultation for the National Coordinators of UNESCO Associated Schools Network; a training on "Mass media and disability" using the training module developed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia under the guidance of UNESCO Beijing Office;

- The capacity-building workshop, "Strengthening inclusive and gender transformative Science Technology and Innovation (STI) systems in Mongolia through Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) and STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) Methodologies" and the international workshop, "The Khuvsgul lake basin, a future biosphere reserve and ecohydrology demo site", were the significant activities in the natural science sector;
- In line to the implementation of the 2005 Convention and the preparation of the Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR), the national consultative meeting on "Supporting Diversity of Contemporary Cultural Expressions and Creativity", and the workshop on "Cultural Expressions and Diversity of Mass Media", were organized with relevant stakeholders under the UNESCO-SIDA funded project. In addition, the Create 2030 Talks were held several times;
- We conducted trainings for local communities and site managers of the World Heritage Sites, under the project "Mobile training at the World Heritage Sites in Mongolia" under the UNESCO's Participation Programme. Moreover, a total of 4 projects concerning gender, education and culture were successfully implemented within the Participation Programme;
- In the field of communication and information, the focus was on reporting and monitoring the SDG 16, as well as promoting freedom of expression and strengthening the community media sector. We also organized a two-day Disability Equality Training workshop; and a two-day workshop on the preservation and digitization of documentary heritage for officials from memory institutions with support of UNESCO Beijing Office. The Mongolian National Committee for International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) cooperated actively towards the capacity building of officials from prosecutor office and media organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

In the framework of the project, "Promoting Cultural Heritage – Petroglyph", initiated by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, "The Inverted Triangle" ethno dance performance and "Million Days of Mongolia" photo exhibition took place on 12 December 2019, at UNESCO Headquarters. This performance is closely linked to the cultural heritage of Mongolia. The creation of this choreography was inspired by rock paintings from 5000 years ago found at the Del mountain, in Dundgobi province of Mongolia.

The project is a major contribution to the implementation of the 1972, 2003, and 2005 Convention, as well as the national programme Stone Heritage and Action Plan of the Government. The project promoted innovative ways to engage with cultural heritage, the development of young artists and a demonstration of how we preserve and develop our cultural heritage.

The project was successfully implemented with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, the Permanent Delegation of Mongolia to UNESCO, the Government Implementing Agency – Arts and Culture Authority, the Capital City Mayor's Office, the State University of Arts and Culture, Embassy of France in Mongolia, the Swiss Development Agency, Mongolian National Broadcaster, the Cultural Envoy Ts. Gerlee and many more.



"Inverted Triangle" ethno dance performance,
12 December 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters
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FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Mongolian National Commission is expected to host the "Model UNESCO Mongolia 2020" subregional youth conference in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office, UN Youth Advisory Panel of Mongolia, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and other National Commissions for UNESCO; the International Youth Green Games, under the auspices of the President of Mongolia, which will help to promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions; and the celebration of the 800th anniversary of Kharkhorin city, within the UNESCO Anniversaries Programme.

NEPAL

Nepal National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr Girirajmani Pokharel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NNCU) implemented seven UNESCO Participation Programmes, focusing on: Sustainable Development Goal 4, Global Citizenship Education, sustainable development, enhancing access on mass media of socially excluded women, dalit and minorities group, awareness and capacity development program on disaster risk management, social transformation through women empowerment, paving the way for functional inclusion by strengthening basic education of children with disability in community schools, and the preservation of cultural heritage and museum outreach program.

The NNCU heavily engaged in various activities, focusing mainly on the enabling system for implementing SDG4, promoting Global Citizenship Education through strengthening schools, as well as orientation about innovation of UNESCO especially at local level, capacity building, the celebration of UNESCO and UN days, and local initiatives on climate change education. The National Commission also led its Annual General Meeting and participated in the 40th session of the General Conference.

The different Subject Committees of the NNCU were involved in creative activities in the areas of Education, natural science, culture, mass media, social science, Man and Biosphere and the International Hydrological Programme.

The NNCU published a trimester bulletin and led a study on contemporary issues and activities related to the priorities of UNESCO and Government of Nepal.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) developed and approved the SDG 4 National Framework. The process for developing the framework was led by the NNCU. Now, the Government, MoEST has given priority to disseminate the National Framework at provincial and local level. Likewise, the NNCU worked on issues of Global Citizenship Education, Climate Change Education, Disaster Risk Management, and the Protection and Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritages.

SUCCESS STORY

While selecting the project, Enhancing Access on Mass Media of Socially Excluded Women, Dalit and Minority, by the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NNCU), one of the community based NGOs was interested in launching the programme in collaboration of NNCU. So twenty young people from Kavre District of Nepal (Women, Dalit, Ethnic minorities and Khasarya) were selected and supported in conflict-sensitive reporting and news writing on identified issues, pertaining to their specific social groups. These young people benefited from internship opportunities also in different media houses, to improve their journalism skills and knowledge.

Thereafter, the district level media houses have adopted some of the issues identified during project in their reporting and journalism. Twelve young people have been involved (employed) in the profession of journalism in different local and national media in Nepal as full-time reporters, news readers and columnists. Issue-based news articles relating to women, dalit and ethnic minorities have been published and broadcast through different media agencies. Issues of women, dalit and ethnic minorities have been adopted in local governments. Local government has committed to mainstreaming such types of programme in their regular and annual work.



Participants and Resource Persons of the Basic Training on the selected issue © A.R.R. Nepalese National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

NNCU is planning to prioritize on the new areas of Artificial Intelligence, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Lab/Innovation centers in seven provinces, a feasibility study on Geoparks, the establishment of cultural museum, centers for senior citizens, sport for disabled people, a youth parliament for UNESCO's priorities areas, and civic education through community learning centers.

NNCU is planning to support the Government and provincial and local level stakeholders. In this context, financial and technical support is expected from international development partners for the capacity building of provincial and local government, through training, workshops, awareness raising programs, advocacy, experience sharing and building sustainable networks.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Robyn Baker

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Indigenous languages and knowledge, oceans, diversity, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and youth leadership have been the focus of much of 2019.

We have supported indigenous knowledge sharing by supporting the Te Paepae o Tangaroa conference, which brought together kaitiaki (guardians), scientists, voyagers and environmental leaders to share ideas for ocean preservation and new proposals to legally recognise the life and voice of the Pacific Ocean. We worked alongside the Māori Language Commission – Te Taura Whiri on the International Year of Indigenous Languages and supported their attendance at the Let Languages Live conference in Canada.

UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders also supported Te Taura Whiri's hui (meetings) across Aotearoa, which brought together over 500 rangatahi (youth) to consider te reo Māori revitalisation efforts and planning for the Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The national Youth Diversity Forum that we ran in partnership with The Human Rights Commission and local iwi Ngāi Tahu supported young people to work together, share experiences across culture, religion and ethnicity and to set the agenda for challenging conversations about race relations in Aotearoa. It was successful in connecting youth leaders around the country; the result is an appetite for ongoing, public discussions on the issues of religious and cultural expression.

We commissioned discussion papers on GCED from a range of New Zealand perspectives and presented them at a panel discussion in August.

Wellington became New Zealand's most recent Creative City – of Film. It is the third city to be added to UNESCO's Creative Cities network (Auckland, City of Music and Dunedin, City of Literature).

New Zealand submitted its application for its first UNESCO Global Geopark – Waitaki Whitestone in New Zealand's South Island. The bid was developed with the support of the Waitaki community who look forward to sharing the unique geology of their region with the world under the UNESCO banner.

SUCCESS STORY

In response to the Christchurch mosque attacks of 15 March, the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and mana whenua Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāi Tahu, held a national Youth Diversity Forum in Christchurch involving 90 youth leaders from around the country.

In line with UNESCO's mandate of building peace through dialogue, the focus of the forum was on the future of race relations in New Zealand/Aotearoa. The young leaders participated in cross-ethnic discussions, addressing racism, education and spirituality. Education was a central theme, with participants saying the education system is instrumental in initiating change in New Zealand/Aotearoa. UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Shahin Najak said the group wanted to see a shift in education.

"We want to see a change in the way history is taught in our country. We want to look at an unbiased perspective, to see both pre-colonial and post-colonial – to allow more youth around the country to have a better understanding of where they come from."

Youth leaders came from all backgrounds and religious and cultural conversations were at the centre of the forum – spanning spirituality in Aotearoa and the role of social media in young people's lives.

At the closing ceremony, youth presented their key messages to 35 leaders from a wide range of organisations. These messages then fed into New Zealand's position at the 11th UNESCO Youth Forum and the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris. Youth leaders called for diversity to be celebrated and welcomed, to have more open conversations with members of parliament, and to learn from conflict to overcome struggles peacefully and with compassion.

"Our vision for Aotearoa is that everyone will accept, respect and understand each other – regardless of their difference and that will only happen through courageous conversations," said youth participant Sakhr Munassara.



Youth leaders learning the history of local iwi Ngāi Tahu ahead of planting 100 native kahikatea trees. © A.R.R. New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the National Commission will be working to support and leverage opportunities for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in New Zealand and the wider Pacific region. Oceans are hugely important to Pacific nations and their people. The National Commission has a particular interest in Decade activities that will recognise the importance of indigenous knowledge, beliefs and cultural lore about Oceans.

Indigenous languages and knowledge sharing continues to be an area of focus for the National Commission, with this area being of pertinence to our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders who have been proactive in representing us in this work, and whose dedication we will continue to encourage with new opportunities to collaborate with experts and indigenous organisations in 2020.

The National Commission will continue to act as a catalyst for Global Citizenship Education collaborations in New Zealand. The second reiteration of the GCED Award will be given in recognition of outstanding projects by individuals, institutions and organisations promoting global citizenship education.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU), under the administrative control of Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, has actively pursued its aims and objectives during 2019. The PNCU successfully implemented various activities in accordance with UNESCO's priorities, in collaboration with relevant stake-holders, with also an increase in programme funding and technical support under the Participation Programme 2018-19. The PNCU implemented these programmes through different departments and ASPnet Schools, contributing immensely to education, financial management, reduction of poverty, fostering sustainable development and promotion of socio economic and cultural development. Pakistan was elected as a member of UNESCO Executive Board for 2019-2023

To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Government of Pakistan nominated Mr. Muhammad Saleem Ahmed Ranjha,

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training as spokesman and Focal Person for Sustainable Development Goals at National level. The Ministerial Roundtable at the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) was held in Doha, Qatar, 20th November 2019. Syed Umair Javed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, participated. World Teachers Day was celebrated. On International Literacy Day, the PNCU coordinated with Provincial Governments for activities to create awareness of the importance of literacy. The message of Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, was circulated in the Provincial Education Departments and ASPnet Schools. The 4th International Conference on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 3-4 September, 2019 included the Pakistan Representative, Dr. Misbah Javed Kiyani. The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Education was held in Beijing, China, 16-18 May, 2019, with Syed Javed Hassan, Chairman of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC). Two Pakistani student were selected for UNESCO/People's Republic of China the Great Wall Co-sponsored Fellowship Programme cycle 2019 and are studying in Universities of China. The National Commission arranged activities also in ASP schools at the National level.

Pakistan also participated in the following:

- Executive Board Sessions at UNESCO Headquarters;
- UNESCO General Conference at UNESCO Headquarters;
- Facilitating UNESCO Islamabad in the Girls Right to Education, Malala Fund Programme;
- Collaborating with the UNESCO Country Office in various programmes and activities.

SUCCESS STORY

The Community Development Trust on non-governmental organization organized a one-day Seminar on Promoting Interfaith Harmony and Equal Opportunity for Everyone as a Pakistani. This event was organized in order to initiate a social debate on interfaith harmony, to introduce tools of human rights and peace, and to practice them between minority communities.

People of different cultural and faith backgrounds (Muslim/Hindu/Christian) participated in an agenda that sought to raise awareness at social, community, and individual levels of the importance of living in harmony and the power of diversity, to promote social acceptance and respect, for interfaith harmony. Participants shared and exchanged viewpoints. All agreed that everyone has equal rights to religious freedom, and is entitled to practice fundamental human rights, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and guaranteed in the constitution of Pakistan. However, discriminatory legislation, and social division between 'haves' and 'have nots,' provide social space to do harm against the religious minorities.

Once discrimination is allowed to grow systematically (supported by institutions and legislations), it has no boundaries.

In the seminar, social awareness was created through theatre, which highlighted that every citizen has a role to play, along with civil society organizations, to create a peaceful society. To promote human rights, community-driven actions are imperatives, and government/community cohesion is vital, along with effective participation of civil society organizations in the national development process, to create a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda and equal human rights for all. At the end of the seminar, pigeons and balloons were set free, as a metaphor to set the society free from discrimination and religious intolerance.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

- The PNCU will continue cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat (HQs) and its field offices;
- The PCNU will submit proposals/projects under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2020-2021;
- Celebration of International Literacy Day in September 2020;
- Celebration of World Teachers Day, in October 2020;
- Strengthening ASP-net in collaboration with UNESCO, to disseminate information and coordinate for purposes of sharing best practices.

PHILIPPINES

Philippines National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission continues bridging the Philippines with the 2030 SDGs through UNESCO initiatives and programs. In particular, the young people involved in the 500 or so organizations that partner with the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines and the Associated Schools Network. These clubs have been effectively mobilized for the promotion and cascading of UNESCO programmes, projects and advocacies.

The Commission, together with the Philippine Biosphere Reserves Network, supported UNESCO/UNESCO Jakarta and the Albay Biosphere Reserve in the hosting of the 12th Southeast Asian Biosphere Reserves Network Meeting. Guidelines related to the management of Biosphere Reserve were launched. In July and November 2019, the Philippine National Commission forged partnerships with multi-stakeholders, including the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology, for the International Conferences on Biosphere and Sustainability that showcased current and possible biosphere reserves as learning laboratories for sustainability.

The Philippines, through the Department of Education, sits as part of the Steering Committee with the support and guidance of the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, United Nations

and International Organizations, and the Philippine National Commission. The Commission, together with Bangkok's Field Office, Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding, Philippine Normal University and Associated Schools Network, organized a Global Citizenship Education Roadshow that involved almost a hundred educators in the country. In November 2019, the Philippine National Commission facilitated the formation of a Philippine team for the Shanghai Lifelong Learning Capacity Building Workshop, spearheaded by the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning. The team produced a document, Operationalizing Lifelong Learning in the Philippines, expected to be mainstreamed in the updated Philippine Development Plan.

The Commission worked alongside efforts to safeguard Philippine cultural heritage through mounting the 1st International Conference on Capacity Building Series for World Heritage Sites and Tentative Lists with the UNESCO Category II Center World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia-Pacific, continuing efforts in organizing awareness-raising workshops for the Memory of the World Programme, and supporting local initiatives such as the 1st International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Arts hosted by Baguio City, a UNESCO Creative City. The National Commission continued to perform its facilitative and supporting roles through multi-stakeholder efforts, namely the recognition of the City of Cebu as a UNESCO Creative City of Design and the inscription of Buklog, a Subanen ritual, in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Safeguarding in 2019.

Finally, the National Commission contributed to steering policies that put some sectors at the margins towards inclusivity, such as "The Filipino Youth and Violent Extremism" that tackled radicalism in Southern Philippines and Gender and Development project with Indigenous Peoples of Luzon islands, using the UNESCO Management of Social Transformation - Inclusive Policy Lab principles, with the support/guidance from Bangkok and Jakarta Field Offices.

SUCCESS STORY

Driven by the universal mandate for ocean science and capacity development, the Philippines hosted the 12th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC-WESTPAC in Manila (April 2019). The hosting, supported by UNESCO/IOC-WESTPAC, is a joint project of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office and the National Commission, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines-Marine Sciences Institute, with the guidance of the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and the National Committee on Marine Science. More than a hundred representatives from 22 countries discussed strengthening institutional frameworks at the regional level to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. Among its milestones is the signing of Letters of Intent, respectively between IOC and the University of the Philippines-MSI, concerning the establishment of a Regional Training and Research Center (RTRC) on Reef Management and Restoration; and between IOC and the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology concerning the establishment of RTRC on Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety.

The event culminated in a collective agreement of all countries and partners to actively contribute to and engage in the implementation of the action plan for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

As a member of the UNESCO-IOC, the Philippines has actively participated in international and regional scientific programmes and activities of the IOC and IOC-WESTPAC. Filipino experts participated in various scientific conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses, etc., organized by UNESCO-IOC, IOC-WESTPAC and/or its partners. Formerly, several Filipino scientists/experts were recognized internationally and led the IOC and became members of its subsidiary bodies. Today, the Philippines, represented by the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and Dr. Gil Jacinto of the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), joins 39 other members on the IOC Executive Council for the period 2019 to 2021.



The signing of Letter of Intent © A.R.R. Philippines National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

For 2020, the National Commission will continue to align its programmes and priorities with the trajectory of UNESCO and the SDGs, while weaving these with the Philippine Development Plan and contributing to nation building through need-based capacity development; grassroots-inspired cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation and protection; multi-stakeholder partnership for the promotion of the SDGs and UNESCO Programmes in all the sectors; empowered women and youth engagement; and pro-active facilitation, coordination and knowledge sharing.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the KNCU organized a number of programmes to increase the impact and visibility of UNESCO at national, regional and global level.

One example is the 2019 East and Southeast Asia Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, which was co-organized by the KNCU and the city of Jeonju, and held in August, in the Republic of Korea. The meeting was financially supported by the Ministry of Education. Participants identified achievements and challenges in the regional implementation of the SDGs.

In the education sector, the KNCU published a report on the implementation of SDG4 in South Korea, following joint research conducted in cooperation with the National Network for SDG4-Education 2030.

In the culture sector, the KNCU held a series of colloquiums on the 2005 Convention, involving in-depth discussions on the current status and challenges of implementing the 2005 Convention in Republic of Korea and the Asia-Pacific region.

In the communication and information sector, the KNCU hosted the 2019 International Conference on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in cooperation with seven local organizations. Around 400 people attended the conference, which aimed to promote MIL partnerships and share good practices. In celebration of International Mother Language Day and the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the KNCU launched a project called 'The Little Prince Global Read-Aloud,' gathering excerpts from The Little Prince read aloud in over 30 different languages.

The KNCU continued to promote cooperation with other NatComs. In September, with the help of the Maltese NatCom, the KNCU hosted a training workshop to help seven Arab states in identifying documentary heritage and preparing applications to inscribe it on the International Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. The KNCU also continued to work with partner NatComs in Africa and Asia on the 'Bridge Programme', to promote the right to education for educationally marginalized people.

SUCCESS STORY

The proposal to establish the Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas under the auspices of UNESCO was approved by the 40th session of the General Conference. The island of Jeju was chosen as the proposed site for the centre, as it features all four types of internationally designated area (IDA)— biosphere reserves, world heritage sites, global geoparks, and Ramsar sites. The KNCU cooperated on the preparation of this proposal by providing technical advice to the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

As a pilot project of the proposed centre, the KNCU organized a Capacity-Building Workshop for Managers of IDAs in September 2019, with the Ministry of Environment and the Jeju Government's financial support. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of managers of all types of IDA through the sharing of good practices, discussion of challenges, and field visit.

Twenty participants were selected to attend, following recommendations from National Commissions for UNESCO in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions. The participants shared experience and learned from the achievements and different perspectives of others, to help them find new and better solutions to challenges, such as managing sustainable development and ecotourism, common to all IDAs.

Following this success, the KNCU was asked to organize another workshop in 2020. Given the growing role of IDAs in promoting sustainable development, KNCU will work closely with National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat to organize a workshop that will further contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in IDAs around the world, especially in Africa and Asia-Pacific.



Field Visit to Jeju Geo-trail at Capacity-Building Workshop for Managers of Internationally Designated Areas, Jeju, Republic of Korea. © A.R.R. Korean National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the Republic of Korea's accession to UNESCO. To celebrate this milestone, the KNCU, together with relevant government ministries and institutes, will organize events to showcase the history and achievements of cooperation with UNESCO over the last 70 years. The KNCU will assume the role of secretariat for all the commemorative events.

In 2020, the KNCU will hold an Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting on AI Ethics in cooperation with relevant ministries and UNESCO in Seoul, to review the draft Recommendation on Ethics of AI and provide feedback from the perspective of Asia-Pacific Member States.

The KNCU will also, together with UNESCO, host the 2020 Global MIL Week Feature Conference and Youth Agenda Forum in Seoul during Global MIL Week. These events will provide platforms for stakeholders around the world to review and share progress towards media and information literate societies. The Bridge Programme Phase 2 is also scheduled to begin in March 2020. Through this Programme, KNCU aims to promote inclusive and equitable quality education in Asia through partnership with NatComs in Bhutan, Laos, and Timor-Leste.

SINGAPORE

Singapore National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 was a fruitful year for the Singapore National Commission. In March 2019, Singapore submitted hawker culture in Singapore as its first nomination for inscription on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.

At the 40th session of the General Conference, the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and SNC Chairperson, Ms. Grace Fu emphasized Singapore's commitment to safeguard our ICH and profiled Singapore's achievements and contributions in the UNESCO domains of science, education and culture.

In conjunction with Singapore Design Week 2019, Singapore hosted 33 delegates from 15 Creative Cities of Design. Design Singapore Council, in its capacity as Singapore's UNESCO Creative City of Design Office, also organized the Creative Cities of Design Public Forum for cities to exchange ideas on the importance of design to business, communications, policy and education, as well as an exhibition of all 31 Cities of Design at the International Furniture Fair Singapore.

Singapore continues to play an active role in strengthening international and regional cooperation in the area of education. Temasek Polytechnic became a member of UNEVOC Network in May 2019 and the National University of Singapore proposed to host a UNESCO Chair on Architectural Heritage Conservation and Management in Asia. When formally appointed by UNESCO, the Department of Architecture will work towards improving interdisciplinary knowledge, skills and research on architectural conservation and management in Asia through its role as the UNESCO Chair.

Mr Charles Lim, Singapore's Representative to the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) and Rapporteur of the IGBC, and Chief Judge (ret.) Richard Magnus, one of the four Vice-Chairs of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), participated in the Annual Sessions of the IGBC and the IBC, held in Paris and Bangkok respectively.

SUCCESS STORY

Singapore undertook various initiatives in 2019 to safeguard and promote awareness of our intangible cultural heritage (ICH). We established an ICH Recognition Scheme to recognize individuals/groups who are dedicated to the promotion and transmission of ICH, and who have made outstanding contributions in their fields. Singapore also organized an ICH Symposium in October 2019 and co-organized a panel discussion on ICH with the Steering Committee of the ICH NGO Forum, in conjunction with the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH in Bogota in December 2019.

In March 2019, Singapore submitted the nomination of Hawker Culture in Singapore for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the ICH of Humanity. The nomination is widely supported by Singaporeans and is a milestone in Singapore's journey to better safeguard our ICH and share it with the international community.

According to the recently released Heritage Awareness Survey 2019¹, 88% of Singaporeans agreed that it was important to preserve our ICH relating to everyday life, an increase from 74% in 2014. Through the various initiatives to promote and safeguard our ICH, we can further raise awareness and appreciation among Singaporeans on the importance of safeguarding and transmitting ICH.

1. The Heritage Awareness Survey is a regular study conducted by the Singapore National Heritage Board to assess the level of interest, awareness, participation and attitudes towards heritage among Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents.



People from diverse age groups, genders, ethnicity and religions dine in and socialize at the Ayer Rajah Food Centre in Singapore. The photograph was submitted for the #OurHawkerCulture photography contest, a campaign launched to celebrate Singapore's rich hawker heritage, and support Singapore's nomination for Hawker Culture on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. © A.R.R. Terence Tan Peng Hor, Contestant of #OurHawkerCulture Photography Contest 2019

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Singapore will continue efforts to promote and safeguard its tangible and intangible heritage. We are committed to preserving the universal value of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, our UNESCO World Heritage Site and will continue to adopt innovative approaches to manage the landscape, so that it remains relevant to the changing needs of the communities it serves. Singapore will also continue to build on its inventory of ICH elements and engage the community on other possible nominations for inscription on the Representative List.

Singapore's Bioethics Advisory Committee will continue to offer full support to the work of UNESCO's Bioethics Programme through the IGBC, including nominating an expert to serve on the IBC for the 2020-2023 term.

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. We will do this by forging and deepening inter-city engagements and partnerships, particularly in the Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia, and through efforts to raise awareness and develop a better appreciation of the value of design to the economy, community, city and workforce.

TAJIKISTAN

National Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Tajikistan had particularly fruitful year in 2019. In the framework of the Participation Program for 2018-2019 a round table was conducted on "Domestic violence: experience, research and prevention" and the "Road to an Inclusive Society, the development of inclusive education and its implementation in secondary schools", which targeted rights of women and disabled in the modern society of Tajikistan.

On June 11-12 2019, in Guliston of Sughd region, with the initiative of the National Commission and in cooperation with Cluster Office of UNESCO in Almaty, a regional meeting of experts was held on school health and healthy lifestyle among schoolchildren in Central and Eastern Europe. Experts from international organizations and representatives from

11 countries participated and exchanged views on the proper educational process in the field of development of healthy relationships, sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and discrimination of people living with HIV.

On August 16, the National Commission led a conference on "UNESCO Geoparks: Potential Nominations in Tajikistan", that provided an opportunity for local stakeholders to protect the country's environmental reserves by promoting them.

On September 2019, with the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust, the National Commission and International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) organized in the city of Khujand a workshop on the documentation the cultural heritage, and the practical knowledge on sites on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan that are planned for the nomination to the World Heritage List of UNESCO as part of the Serial Transnational Nomination, "Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor". Training sessions included all stages of the documentation processing.

On October 1-4, a training was conducted within the project, "Silk Road Heritage Corridor in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran", organized by UNESCO and the European Union in partnership with the National Commission. The purpose was to preserve and promote the cultural heritage sites of the World Heritage Site, as well as to develop and improve a plan for the management of historical sites.

SUCCESS STORY

On 3 December 2019, the second meeting of the working group on the development of the joint traveling exhibition dedicated to the common cultural heritage along the Silk Roads took place in Dushanbe. The event was implemented by the National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty and the European Union. This was the second meeting of the working group, which consists of the representatives of the national museums of Central Asian countries, international experts from International Council of Museums (ICOM), Terms of Reference for Evaluations (ToRS) and UNESCO. The aim was to strengthen capacities for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage; raise awareness and promote the common cultural heritage on the Silk Roads; use the heritage as a foundation for sustainable development, including through the development of sustainable heritage-based tourism

It is great achievement for the National Commission to gain cooperation of the significant entities in order to bring together countries of Central Asia, to discuss promoting the exchanges of good practices along the Silk Roads and promoting common understanding about the Silk Roads heritage as a bridge between the East and the West.

An exhibit will be displayed at the closure of the project, in the fall of 2021, at a museum of a participating country of Europe, and made available for display in each of the participating countries.



© A.R.R. Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission, in close partnership with UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, is planning to work in the fields of vocational education, and invite international experts of UNESCO in the field of education in order to provide expertise for the development strategy of education in near future.

In the field of sustainable tourism, the National Commission, with active participation of UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, is planning several trainings for the staff of the country museums and guides, to build capacity and quality of specialists in the industry.

The National Commission will continue to protect monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List and work to include other sites that represent the joint transnational nomination along the Silk Road with the National Commissions of neighboring countries.

TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

TLNCU has four main programs; Education, Science, Culture, Communication and Information, the outlines of the programs are as follows:

- **Education:** TLNCU is implementing ASPnet program since January 2019, supported from the Participation Program Fund. The activity focused on Global Citizenship and Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Furthermore, the Education division conducted a comparative study with Tokyo-Japan, to improve the knowledge and skills and learn how to implement GCED and ESD in Timor-Leste. TLNCU also organized a teacher training on GCED and ESD for 30 teachers of 11 schools that were selected as pilot schools for the ASPnet program;
- **Science:** within the Science division, TLNCU celebrated the World Science Day, hosting more than 700 participants. The students participated actively and really took this opportunity to learn from each other during the 3 nights camping. Supported by ConocoPhillips Company, the event involved government bodies, institutions and the National

Parliament such as Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture, Secretary of State Art and Culture, the President and the Vice President of Commission from the National Parliament, Institutions of Petroleum and Geology, National institutions for science and technology;

- **Culture:** Culture division conducted a quantitative research on culture heritage entitled "*Preservation and safeguarding of Timor-Leste Traditional House*". The project had been implemented since the beginning of August 2018 and covered the municipalities of Lautem and Viqueque. This study has two main objectives: the first one to identify statistically culture Data Base concerning culture heritage of Timor-Leste traditional houses. The second one is to identify statistically those houses that are being abandoned by local communities and destructed due to post conflict background, including globalization and modernization impacts such as architectural changes. This quantitative research project was supported from Headquarters Participation Program Fund;
- **Communication and Information:** within the division of communication and information, TLNCU undertook annual promotion on UNESCO program in Ainaro Municipality to promote all activities to the community, to sensitize about the significant role of UNESCO in Timor-Leste. Among the participants were the community, students, and government's institutions. The activities were divided into seminars, exhibitions and traditional dances performances from youths and students. The division of communication and information conducted a seminar on the signification of world heritage memory to the university students and youths to teach them how important are the archives and written heritage in the country and in the world. These events were supported from Headquarters Participation Program Fund.

SUCCESS STORY

To celebrate the 2019 International Year of indigenous language, the TLNCU organized a highly successful event.

With the collaboration of the Secretary State of Arts and Culture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture and National Commission, a broad range of activities were displayed. Among them were a seminar on the importance of preserving indigenous language, a Talk show, a traditional clothes exhibition, storytelling of indigenous people, poem readings and traditional dances. Many university students and young participants wrote stories by using their own local languages, in order to preserve the local languages and traditional costumes of the Timorese people. Elderly men shared stories and knowledge with the young generations to develop the indigenous languages.



Native Speakers telling the stories on Bekais local language, and the Secretary State of Art and Culture of Timor-Leste delivered opening speech in the seminar
© A.R.R. Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

TLNCU work is based on an annual work plan and a 5 years strategic plan:

- Teacher trainings on Global Citizenship Education and ESD to the lecturers, university students, school administrators and teachers, in order to improve their knowledge and skills;
- Empowering girl students throughout the research assignment and practicing to improve their knowledge and skills on natural science, engineering, technology science;
- Preserve and safeguarding Timor-Leste Traditional Houses, based upon the Convention 2003 and Convention 2005.

UZBEKISTAN

National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Aziz Abduhakimov, Deputy Prime Minister

Secretary-General: Mr. Sayidafzal Mallakhanov

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Successful projects included in 2019:

- The First Bakhshi Art International Festival was organized in Termez from 5 to 10 April 2019 by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The Festival was organized with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of Sciences, Union of Composers, Union of Writers, Municipality of Termez, and Municipality of the Surkhandarya Region. It was aimed toward safeguarding folk epics and storytelling oral traditions, promoting intercultural storytelling exchange, encouraging the diversity of the bakhshi art performance and its transmission to

future generations. The objectives were in line with provisions of the 2003 Convention. The Festival was initiated in order to promote oral traditions an invaluable source of living heritage, to manifest creativity and diversity of storytelling arts worldwide, to motivate youth interest in the bakhshi art, and to develop networking among ICH bearers internationally;

- The First International Festival of Handicrafts was held in Kokand on September 10-15, 2019, in close cooperation with the following organizations of Uzbekistan: the Association "Hunarmand", the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Culture, State Committee for Tourism Development, the Academy of Art, the Academy of Sciences and the Ferghana Regional Municipality. The Festival aimed to promote handicraft traditions as an invaluable source to motivate youth interest in safeguarding heritage and support the diversity of craftsmanship. The ancient city of Kokand brought together more than 370 guests from around 78 countries and around 1,200 local handicrafts. The International Scientific and Practical Conference, "Prospects for Development of Handicraft and Folk Applied Art", along with exhibitions of handicrafts, folk art, fine art, a defile of national clothes, and demonstrations of tightrope walkers, comedians, and folk groups – all were organized within the framework of the Festival.

SUCCESS STORY

Being a Crossroads of Cultures, Samarkand is committed to develop and maintain peace and amity in the region, and to promote preservation of traditions and cultural heritage of humanity.

The 12th "Sharq Taronalari" International Music Festival was held in 26-30 August 2019 in Samarkand by the Government of Uzbekistan under the patronage of UNESCO. As always, this festival aims to support the promotion of oral traditions, as an invaluable source of living heritage, a manifestation of creativity and diversity of arts worldwide, a motivation for youth interest in art, and the development of networks among Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) bearers internationally.

The Festival provides visibility to UNESCO ideals not only in the country but across in the world, as seen in the rising number of participants every year.

The 2019 festival was devoted not only to the promotion of intangible cultural heritage but also to preservation aspects of tangible cultural heritage. Within the framework of the Festival, the International Conference on "Protection of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Strategies" was held with internationally recognized scholars and experts. Sessions provided a platform for discussion of vital issues like Cultural Heritage and Urban planning, Legal and Regulatory Mechanisms in the World Heritage Conservation, and Safeguarding ICH in Education with Information and Communication Technologies.

Together with Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, representatives from UNESCO Headquarter, ICESCO, Permanent delegates to UNESCO, as well as Ministers of Culture from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, participated in the festival, where many youth participated as volunteers. The Festival contributed to the implementation of the 1972, 2003 and 2005 UNESCO Conventions, notably through public-private partnerships for the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as its transmission to the future generations.



Opening ceremony of Sharq Taronalari. © A.R.R. Uzbekistan National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission plans to implement interregional, sub-regional and international activities in 2020, including:

- The 2nd Maqom Art International Forum in Shakhrysyabz (Autumn 2020);
- The 5th "Atlas Bayrami" International Festival in Margilan (September 2020);
- The International Conference on Global Geoparks in Uzbekistan in cooperation with local respective organizations and UNESCO (second half of 2020);
- The Organization of the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education in 2020 in Tashkent.

With regard to regional activities, the National Commission will maintain a fruitful cooperation network with the UNESCO Offices in Tashkent, Almaty and Bangkok.



Europe and North America

ALBANIA

Albanian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission engaged, along with other structures, in concluding the process of awarding UNESCO a

gift within the framework of the 60th anniversary of Albania's membership to UNESCO. This gift is already on display at UNESCO Headquarters.

The National Commission also led 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 every 4 years, displaying traditional cultural and spiritual values of the Albanian people.

Following up on the joint administration of the registered property, "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe," is a joint commitment of 12 European countries, with the important contribution of National Commissions.

SUCCESS STORY

A success for the Albanian National Commission to UNESCO, like for all Albanian institutions involved, was the inscription of the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid cultural and natural heritage to the World Heritage List, joining the earlier inscribed site in North Macedonia. This decision is a contribution to protecting such a rich and unique trans boundary area, and another example in cross border cooperation between two neighbouring countries. Albania and North Macedonia share Lake Ohrid, a superb natural resource of particular importance for both our countries and beyond. Our countries are bound by the Lake, which is only a part of an ever-stronger network of ties at all levels.

In 2005, our countries concluded an agreement creating a joint management committee composed of representatives of local and central power, to deal with all issues related to the protection of the Lake Ohrid, including water quality and fishing. This joint Committee was re-vitalized and lead efforts to meet the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

We are committed to put in place effective integration and implementation of planning processes at various levels to deal with vulnerabilities and threats, to develop cross-sectorial cooperation, and to improve community participation and trans-boundary conservation in order to ensure the successful long-term management of Lake Ohrid. To this end, we will fully operationalize a joint coordinating body and joint management planning, to ensure that both the natural and cultural values of the property are conserved in a fully integrated manner. This builds on annual government meetings since 2018 between the Governments of Albania and North Macedonia.



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

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The priorities of the National Commission include:

- The inscription of the "Gjirokastra National Folk Festival – 50 years of best practices in preserving the Albanian intangible heritage" on the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices;
- Following the reporting process on the conservation and protection of sites on the World Heritage List — specifically, to address issues related to the transnational assets of the Ohrid Lake Region and the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, as an important aspect also of cross-border and regional cooperation;
- Following implementation of the four-year DIKTAS Project, on Dinaric Karstic Water Management, with the involvement of Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, given its importance both nationally and regionally and for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Ensuring implementation of the UNESCO-funded project to compile a national register of intangible cultural practices. 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;
- Implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO Education Policy Review Paper, drafted as a contribution to the development and improvement of education policies in Albania;
- Working with relevant Albanian institutions to prepare and promote inscription on the World Heritage List of such sites as the "Venetian Fortresses", "The Ancient City of Apollonia" and that of "Bylis" on the Tentative List;
- Including sites on the UNESCO Global Geoparks' List, where Albania is not yet a part.

ANDORRE

Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO

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Secrétaire général : M. Jean-Michel Armengol

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La 3e édition de l'Art Camp de Malte s'est tenue du 24 octobre au 5 novembre 2019. Cet Art Camp est inspiré de l'Art Camp Andorre « Des couleurs pour la planète ». Il est organisé par la Commission nationale maltaise en collaboration avec le Ministère des Affaires étrangères de Malte. Malte soutient pleinement le projet, en accordant une importance particulière à la diplomatie culturelle promue par le projet. Les artistes participant sont, essentiellement, originaires de pays méditerranéens.

En juin 2019 ont été exposées les œuvres de l'Art Camp Andorre 2018 au siège de l'UNESCO. Certains artistes ont pu faire le déplacement afin d'assister au vernissage qui a été organisé en présence de la Directrice générale, Mme Audrey Azoulay. Parallèlement pendant toute l'année a eu lieu une exposition itinérante en Andorre avec les œuvres de l'édition 2010.

Collaboration avec différentes activités des Écoles Associées d'Andorre : conférences, ateliers et participation à rencontres internationales. Parmi les activités proposées on travaille particulièrement les ODD à travers des conférences et des ateliers sur le patrimoine, la diversité culturelle, l'environnement, l'égalité de genres et la réduction des inégalités.

Une traduction en catalan de la Recommandation de l'UNESCO concernant la science et les chercheurs scientifiques, en partenariat avec la Commission nationale canadienne.

Autres activités dans lesquelles la Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO a collaboré :

- Festival de cinéma « Ull Nu » ;
- Semaine de la diversité culturelle ;
- Journée internationale des montagnes.



Campus international pour jeunes ibéro américains / Auteur : Jean-Michel Armengol
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UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Du 1 au 15 juillet 2019, nous avons organisé un Campus international pour jeunes ibéro américains dans la vallée du Madriu-Perafita-Claror, inscrite au Patrimoine mondial dans la catégorie paysage culturel depuis 2004. Ce projet s'inscrit dans le cadre du secrétariat pro tempore d'Andorre dans la Conférence ibéro américaine pour 2019-2020 et qui accueillera le prochain Sommet ibéroaméricain fin 2020.

Cette initiative fait partie de la valeur que la Conférence ibéro-américaine accorde à la culture comme axe stratégique du développement humain. Les ateliers pratiques et théoriques qui ont été menés pendant le Campus favorisent la sensibilisation des jeunes à la reconnaissance, à la protection et à la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel latino-américain, ainsi qu'à la biodiversité et aux questions environnementales. D'autre part, le Campus fait partie de l'objectif 11.4 de l'Agenda 2030. Enfin, le campus est aussi un outil de diffusion de la vallée de Madriu-Perafita-Claror, de ses valeurs universelles et

exceptionnelles, ainsi que du reste du pays. Les invitations ont été envoyées aux ministères responsables du patrimoine culturel des 21 pays de la région ibéro-américaine et aux commissions nationales, à la fois pour faire connaître le projet et pour sélectionner les participants. Enfin, le campus a bénéficié de la présence de 13 participants âgés de 18 à 30 ans du Costa Rica, Cuba, Espagne, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Venezuela et Andorre.

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

- Organisation de la septième édition de l'Art Camp Andorre « Des couleurs pour la planète » du 14 au 25 juillet 2020 ;
- Exposition itinérante en Andorre des œuvres de l'Art Camp Andorre 2012 ;
- Traduction et édition en catalan du « Courrier de l'UNESCO » ;
- Activités avec les écoles associées telles que conférences et ateliers et participation à la rencontre de jeunes scientifiques organisée à Santarem (Portugal) et la rencontre sur le Patrimoine qui aura lieu à Olympia (Grèce) ;
- Collaboration avec d'autres organismes d'Andorre pour la réalisation du festival de cinéma « Ull Nu » ; La semaine de la diversité culturelle (mai 2020) et la journée internationale des montagnes (10 décembre) ;
- Développement du modèle Art camp « des couleurs pour la planète » dans d'autres pays et régions du monde ;
- Célébration de la Journée internationale de l'art (15 avril).

ARMENIA

Armenian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The President of the National Commission, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan met with Director-General Audrey Azoulay to exchange views on future initiatives and joint programs on the preservation of universal cultural heritage.

On the sidelines of the 40th session of the General Conference, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated at the first-ever high-level panel "Rethinking multilateralism with young change-makers", which gathered young changemakers and Heads of State, to explore multilateral solutions to global problems. Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Director General Azoulay to discuss priorities of cooperation.

The Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Arayik Harutyunyan addressed the 40th session of the General

Conference and emphasized Armenia's strong commitment to the ideals and goals of UNESCO.

The National Commission, jointly with Tehran Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Centre, co-organized a Workshop on Community-based Inventorying, to raise the awareness of ICH within Armenia.

Representatives of Armenia contributed to the Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications.

The National Commission supported the 6th Meeting of the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning and Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4, held in Yerevan, Armenia.

The National Commission hosted a Needs Assessment Mission on implementation of 2003 Convention, by the Sofia ICH Centre, in the framework of the UNESCO global capacity-building strategy for ICH safeguarding.

The National Commission co-organised cultural events held in Armenia and worldwide, dedicated to the 150th anniversaries of the birth of Armenian poet Hovhannes Toumanian and composer Komitas Vardapet.

The National Commission hosted a mission of UNESCO's Emergency Preparedness and Response Team, to assess the state of preservation of historical buildings in the city of Gyumri.

The "Armenian letter art and its cultural expressions" element was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

SUCCESS STORY

The National Commission co-organized a concert dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the composer and singer Komitas Vardapet, and an exhibition entitled, "Discourses through Time", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of poet, translator and writer Hovhannes Toumanian. Both anniversaries are included in UNESCO list of anniversaries of historic events and eminent personalities. The concert and opening ceremony of the exhibition took place on 18 October 2019, with the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education and the Permanent Delegate of Armenia to UNESCO delivering welcoming remarks. The concert was performed by the National Chamber Choir of Armenia and included various compositions of Komitas.

Some 1000 spectators, including members of the UNESCO staff and diplomatic corps, representatives of French ministries, municipality authorities, the Armenian community and other distinguished guests attended the concert. The exhibition, from 18 to 22 October, presented translations of Toumanian's books into 36 languages. Hovhannes Toumanian was an all-Armenian poet, and also a humanist, who spared no effort to help refugees and orphans during stormy events of his times.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Armenia will continue to support UNESCO for the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, by providing relevant support to the "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" Initiative.
- Armenia will continue to enhance the cooperation with the Tehran and Sofia Regional Research Centers for Safeguarding of ICH. Joint photo exhibitions and cultural events with Member States are being envisaged.
- The National Commission, with the World Heritage Centre, will implement the upstream process in order to update the Tentative List.
- The National Commission will seek to bolster the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme and ASP Network in Armenia.
- The National Commission will support the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policy reform process, supported by UNESCO.
- The National Commission will deepen cooperation with UNESCO to explore the establishment of Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves and to lead reforms of water strategy.
- As a newly-elected member of the International Bureau of Education (IBE), Armenia will contribute to ensure quality and relevance of education and learning.
- In association with UNESCO, Armenia will hold events for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Henri Verneuil (Ashot Malakian), film director, screenplay writer and producer (1920-2002) (supported by France and Italy) and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Spendiryan, music composer and conductor (1871-1928) (supported by Georgia, the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran).

AUSTRIA

Austrian Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Austrian Commission operates as an association, advising the federal, state and local level as well as NGOs on the implementation of UNESCO objectives. It establishes and maintains contacts between UNESCO and national partner institutions and informs the public of UNESCO's goals and programmes. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underly all projects and programmes of the Commission.

The Austrian Commission is entrusted by the government with the implementation of the 2003 Convention. Next to the compiling and maintaining the National Inventory of the

Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Commission also supported the Living Heritage Entity of the Culture Sector of UNESCO i.a. with the organisation of training workshops. Within the context of the 2005 Convention, we developed work in the field of artistic freedom, successfully involving a wide range of national stakeholders. Moreover, the Austrian Commission produced an animation short on World Heritage, successfully presented during the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and now available on the WHC website.

The Austrian Commission coordinates the Austrian ASPnet, comprising 95 schools, focusing in 2019 on 'Learning through engagement – Start the Change'. A Youth Representative has been in place in 2019 for a period of two years and has been involved in the organisation of the event 'Turning point. Youth for sustainable development'.

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

This year, a public event in Vienna, hosted by the Federal Chancellery and the Austrian Commission will further engage in the global discussion, linking artistic freedom, press freedom and academic freedom and involving experts from Austria as well as international guests.



"Walking the Indigo Walk" © A.R.R. Austrian National Commission for UNESCO

profile of traditional craftsmanship as a driver of sustainable development and intangible cultural heritage, and reaching a wide audience from across the world, including ministers and the general public – it was a particularly nice surprise to welcome the students from the agricultural vocational school Andorf, Austria who had helped preparing the artwork. Overall, the exhibition was a great success and the feedback was very positive.

"Walking the Indigo walk" was an honourable artistic experience for me." – Daniela Frumuseanu, Romanian artist.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2018, a multinational nomination 'Blaudruck/Modrotisk/Kékfestés/Modrotlač – resist block printing and indigo dyeing in Europe', submitted by Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Following this, the Austrian Commission for UNESCO initiated an international exhibition of indigo designs, to celebrate a beautiful craft as a symbol for human creativity and cultural diversity, to strengthen the visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and to foster international cooperation and dialogue.

"The exhibition has been set up so beautifully and we witnessed the groups of schoolchildren on the street, who seemed to enjoy the exhibition a lot." – Margit Siim, Estonian National Commission.

The exhibition, "Walking the Indigo Walk", showcased 34 blue-dyed designs from all around the world at UNESCO Headquarters during the 40th session of the General Conference in November 2019, raising the visibility and

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Austrian Commission actively engages in activities focusing on artistic freedom, including as a member of the Arts Rights Justice Austria network, and is planning workshops in three different Austrian cities to enhance public awareness on the importance of monitoring as a tool to combat restrictions on artistic expression.

Within the framework of the project, "Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Sudan", the Austrian Commission has agreed to grant the use of Austrian software on inventorying intangible cultural heritage to the Republic of Sudan and allow its adaptation to its national context.

Starting with 2020, the Austrian Commission actively engages in the promotion of SDG 4.2 – quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education through publications and stakeholder involvement. The Commission will publish a guide for teachers and caregivers targeting Austria's national and local challenges.

AZERBAIJAN

National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

On June 30, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay paid her first visit to Azerbaijan to attend the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. The Director-General was received by the President of the Republic, Ilham Aliyev, and the First Vice-President, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mehriban Aliyeva. A meeting was held between the Director-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the National Commission for UNESCO, Elmar Mammadyarov.

In 2019, the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO celebrated its 25th anniversary. The National Commission organized events at national and international level, including the commemoration at UNESCO Headquarters in the framework of the 40th session of the General Conference.

2019 was also marked by the following achievements:

- In February, the Azerbaijan National Committee on World Memory Program was established and launched its activities;
- In May, for the first time, a roundtable on the topic "The role of National Commissions for UNESCO in promoting intercultural dialogue" was organized within 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue by the initiative of the National Commission of Azerbaijan, in close partnership with UNESCO;
- In October, Baku was designated a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Design;
- On the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Imadaddin Nasimi, events were organized locally and internationally with the support of the National Commission;
- The 100th anniversary of the establishment of Baku State University was celebrated at UNESCO Headquarters with the support of National Commission, in the framework of Commemoration of historic events and anniversaries of eminent personalities program;
- In 2019, the first 4 UNESCO Clubs in Azerbaijan were established, and a presentation of the UNESCO Clubs was held at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The National Commission celebrated, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, the International Days observed at UNESCO – including World Radio Day, International Mother Language Day, International Day of Novruz, World Book and Copyright Day and World Philosophy Day.

SUCCESS STORY

2019 saw the inscription of Azerbaijan's nomination of the "Historic centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace" on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The decision was adopted on July 7, 2019, at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku. The President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated the Azerbaijani people on this historic event.

For centuries, the historic city of Sheki, located at the foot of the Greater Caucasus Mountains and divided in two by the Gurjana River, has been known as one of the ancient and cultural centres of Azerbaijan. While the older northern part of the city is built on the mountain, its southern part extends into the river valley. Its historic centre, rebuilt after the destruction of an earlier town by mudflows in the 18th century, is characterized by a traditional architectural ensemble of houses with high gabled roofs. Located along historic Silk Road, the city's architecture reflects various building traditions. The Khan's Palace located in Sheki is a historical and architectural monument of world importance. It reflects the wealth generated by silkworm breeding and the trade in silk cocoons from the late 18th to the 19th centuries. The protection of the historical part of the city of Sheki has always been a priority for the state authorities.



Sheki Khan Palace © A.R.R. Azerbaijanis National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, UNESCO is celebrating its 75th anniversary and, on this occasion, the National Commission intends to organize relevant events.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Azerbaijani writer, playwright and public figure, Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev, and the 850th anniversary of the birth of the philosopher and writer, Ahi Evran (jointly with Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran), are included in the Commemoration of historic events and anniversaries of eminent personalities program. The National Commission will take part in organizing events commemorating those anniversaries, in Azerbaijan and internationally.

In 2020, the National Commission, with relevant stakeholders, will commemorate 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, as well as the 10th anniversary of the inscription of "Traditional art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving" on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In the field of education, the National Commission will explore the possibilities of relevant cities joining the Global Network of Learning Cities and consider increasing the number of educational institutions which are members of the ASP Network.

The National Commission will continue work on the establishment of a first geopark and biosphere reserve. Joint activities are planned with the National Committee on World Memory Program, the National Committee on Information For All Programme (IFAP) and other National Committees. The National Commission also intends to continue cooperation with other National Commissions.

BELGIUM/ BELGIQUE

Commission belge francophone et germanophone pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission a confié le traitement des dossiers dont elle s'est saisie, à des sous-commissions thématiques (Éducation, Culture, Communication, ...), et ne conserve qu'un pouvoir de décision et d'orientation des travaux de celles-ci. Leur présidence a été intentionnellement confiée à des représentants de la société civile et leur composition, ouverte, a été laissée à la libre appréciation de leurs Présidents. Ses membres siègent donc sur une base volontaire et consensuelle (système de cooptation) faisant une large place à la société civile.

Parmi les activités menées en 2019 par la Commission, on mentionnera l'initiative l'associant au Délégué Général aux Droits de l'Enfant et à l'Agence belge de développement, à l'occasion du 30ème anniversaire de la Convention internationale relative aux droits de l'Enfant, soit l'organisation d'un colloque sur le thème « Les moteurs de l'émancipation dès l'enfance : éducation, culture et participation ». Cette réunion, au cours de laquelle l'accent fut mis sur l'intégration des enfants en situation de handicap, se déroula sous une forme participative, favorisant la prise de parole (classes d'élèves y comprises) et les échanges de bonnes pratiques.

On citera aussi la tenue d'une soirée-débat, sous l'intitulé général « Élémentaire, Docteur Turing ! », consacrée à traiter des enjeux de l'intelligence artificielle dans notre société et dans la pratique médicale.

Cet événement a associé la Commission, le centre cinématographique et audiovisuel Quai 10 et le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Charleroi.

Concrètement, après une conférence de prestige sur le thème « Intelligence artificielle et décision médicale : de la démission au partage d'autorité » de M. Dominique Lambert, Dr. en Sciences (Physiques) et Dr. en Philosophie, membre de l'Académie royale de Belgique, fut projeté le film de l'UNESCO « Connaissez-vous l'IA mieux qu'elle ne vous connaît ? – Penser l'éthique de l'IA ».



UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

Il convient de mentionner l'organisation à Binche, au Musée international du Carnaval et du Masque, le 25 novembre 2019, d'une après-midi de débat autour de la question des limites à la liberté d'expression dans un contexte carnavalesque ou de traditions folkloriques. Pour mémoire, le Carnaval de Binche a été consacré par l'UNESCO, en 2003, « Chef d'œuvre du patrimoine oral et immatériel de l'Humanité ». Cette initiative, associant la Commission, le Musée de Binche et le Centre pour l'égalité des chances et la lutte contre le racisme, se situait dans le contexte des polémiques nées au lendemain du défilé de chars du carnaval d'Alost, jugés antisémites, ou encore à la lumière de la remise en cause du personnage iconique de la Ducasse d'Ath, le « Sauvage ».

Il a dès lors paru nécessaire, à travers cet événement, de favoriser un dialogue, de manière dépassionnée et objective, de sorte que soient mieux compris les ressorts, les fondements, la signification profonde, la nature tout simplement, de ces grandes fêtes, ces liesse donnant lieu souvent à exacerbations, à outrances. Ayant rassemblé des membres de différentes communautés (locale, juive, d'ascendance africaine, ...), cette journée aura constitué un moment de partage, d'échange et, conformément aux idéaux de l'UNESCO, de compréhension mutuelle.

Débat autour de la question des limites à la liberté d'expression dans un contexte carnavalesque ou de traditions folkloriques.
© Marien Faure

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission compte s'atteler à l'étude et au développement d'un programme destiné à la mise en valeur du Patrimoine Documentaire Remarquable, dans l'optique de l'instruction et du soutien des dossiers d'inscription au Registre international de la Mémoire du Monde. Se tiendra au Parlement de la Wallonie, le 2ème de ses 3 Forums consacrés à la question de la prévention de l'extrémisme violent, sous l'intitulé général « Identités, cultures et violences », débat ouvert mené avec des responsables politiques, des représentants institutionnels et des acteurs travaillant « sur le terrain » avec des jeunes. Car, malgré l'ampleur des moyens dévolus et des politiques menées dans le domaine de la cohésion sociale, dans l'éducation, demeure un sentiment d'échec et d'exclusion qui semble n'avoir pas été suffisamment rencontré et qui ne peut s'exprimer que dans le cadre d'un dialogue restauré.

La Commission a entrepris de relancer le Réseau des Ecoles associées de l'UNESCO.

Enfin, la Commission entend jouer pleinement son rôle consultatif auprès de l'UNESCO, qu'il s'agisse des travaux entourant « Les futurs de l'éducation », ou de l'élaboration par l'UNESCO d'un instrument sur les dimensions éthiques de l'intelligence artificielle.

BELGIUM/ BELGIQUE

Flemish Commission for UNESCO in Belgium

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, we focused on developing more and better communication materials. This included the development of a coherent graphic design for all our communication materials, templates for a newsletter, roll-up banners and brochures amongst others. Steps were taken for the development of a new website in collaboration with 'UNESCO Platform Vlaanderen' club, to be launched in 2020.



National Commission's youth representatives. © Belgian National Commission for UNESCO

We remain committed to supporting existing UNESCO networks and programmes in Flanders, as well as encouraging initiatives for additional UNESCO denominations. We invested particularly in the ASP Network in Flanders and Brussels, growing steadily over the last years. 2019 proved to be successful for UNESCO Chairs, with a new Chair on 'Rights to Education' (University of Antwerp) and approval of the establishment of a Chair on 'Images of the futures and co-creation' (Erasmus University College in Brussels). We also offer advice and take care of the appropriate follow-up of initiatives for aspiring Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves. In addition, our youth representatives participated actively in several UN and UNESCO Youth Forums, with particular attention to natural heritage and climate change.

The commission was also involved in many other initiatives linked to UNESCO's priorities, in collaboration with relevant partners in civil society and public administration. These include the celebration of anniversaries of the recognition of World Heritage sites in Flanders, the selection and award ceremony for scholarships 'For Women in Science', the Difference Day event focusing on press freedom and the African Film Festival.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, we organised a very first 'UNESCO Day' in Flanders (Belgium), bringing together stakeholders in UNESCO's programmes and priorities, ranging from teachers at UNESCO schools, to UNESCO chair holders, scientists working on UNESCO programmes, as well as cultural organisations involved in UNESCO conventions on heritage and cultural diversity, and civil servants from various administrations. The objective was to raise interest in the broad UNESCO agenda, beyond one's own expertise on a specific theme, spurring cross-sectoral networking and collaboration. The event was hosted in the City Hall and Belfry of Mechelen (a World Heritage site) on 17 May, and welcomed attendees to parallel sessions on participation in UNESCO schools, UNESCO's cultural conventions and UNESCO's natural science programmes, followed by a general session with short presentations on various UNESCO topics, and a concluding network reception.

In the words of Professor Dr. Maurice de Greef (UNESCO Chair of Adult Education – Vrije Universiteit Brussel): "The UNESCO Day in Flanders was a great success. Especially due to the fact that different fields of expertise could be combined. Eventually new project ideas have been developed. To sum up a beautiful day of innovation and integration of expertise in different fields next to networking based on the foundation of the Sustainable Development Goals."

FUTURE PRIORITIES

We are keen to nurture the growing interest in Flanders in establishing UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves, with an information event for policy makers and stakeholders in 2020. We will organise also a second edition of UNESCO Day and improving our external communication will remain a key objective as well.

We are engaged also in the informal collaboration among the European National Commissions, sharing experiences and good practices. For 2019-2020, we are committed to two specific international projects — a traveling photo exhibition, 'Culture in Armed Conflict' in collaboration with the colleagues of the Dutch Commission for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the 2nd Protocol to the 'Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict'; and a second project to co-fund a video on an EU-UNESCO pilot project on 'Integrating intangible cultural heritage in school-based education' in which a school from Flanders is participating.

BELARUS

National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The International Mother Language Day is an important opportunity to emphasize that steps to support native languages contribute to linguistic diversity and multilingual education, and strengthen solidarity based on mutual understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

In Belarus, it has become a tradition to celebrate this holiday annually in the form of an exceptional meeting which attracts

a wide range of participants, including diplomats and youth, representatives of cultural and educational institutions, media. In 2019, the National Library of the Republic of Belarus hosted a solemn event dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO proclamation of International Mother Language Day and the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus. Members of the National Commission for UNESCO, representatives of the diplomatic corps and governmental bodies, as well as artistic intellectuals participated in the event. More than 20 foreign diplomats read extracts from national constitutions in their native languages, which most clearly embody the norms and principles on which the state system and policies of their countries are based.

During the event, the guests got acquainted with the exhibition "Constitutions of Different Countries". The vocalists of the Belarusian State Academy of Music performed a number of musical compositions.

Such an activity reminded all the guests of the remarkable significance of mother language preservation and development.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the National Commission for UNESCO continued to promote UNESCO's ideas and objectives throughout the country.

Ceremonial meetings were held in Belarus and abroad to mark the 65th anniversary of Belarus' membership in UNESCO.

Members of the National Commission were included in the Belarusian delegation to participate in the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

The National Commission organized concerts, festivals, conferences celebrating the 200th anniversary of Stanislaw Moniuszko, composer and conductor (Anniversary with which UNESCO was associated in 2019).

UNESCO Associated Schools carried out many projects with the participation of the National Commission, to raise the awareness of children and youth on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The National Commission monitored the quality of work of 40 Belarusian UNESCO clubs. The winter University of UNESCO clubs was arranged to enhance the leadership and creative potential of UNESCO clubs members.

In December, a youth forum "Friendship forever" was held, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs.

The National Commission coordinated the implementation of seven projects under the Participation Programme, the most prominent of which was the Republican Forum on "Science, medicine and education: the role of a woman", which highlighted the role of women in science and their professional activity.

The National Commission supported activities implemented by the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, including an international conference on "Current issues of healthy lifestyle formation and HIV prevention among young people in the educational environment"; production of a feature film "II" about adolescents, bullying and HIV, which was acknowledged at several international festivals.

The National Commission gave its patronage to initiatives undertaken by the UNESCO Chairs in the fields of ecology and renewable sources of energy, bioethics, culture and heritage protection, inclusion in education.



© A.R.R. The International Mother Language Day 21.02.2019, from the archive of the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the National Commission will actively assist the work of Belarusian delegation to the UNESCO Executive Board.

Our Commission will make considerable efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating the dedication of the Republic of Belarus to sustainable development.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Ferdynand Ruszczyc, painter, graphic artist, theatre designer and educator, is noted as an Anniversary with which UNESCO is associated in 2020 and the National Commission has a wide range of planned activities for its celebration. During the year, numerous exhibitions, international conferences and plein-air paintings will take place in different cities of Belarus and abroad.

In 2020, the National Commission will place further emphasis on the involvement of youth in activities related to the UNESCO mandate, with activities notably planned in the area of Intangible Cultural Heritage (preparation of nomination).

The National Commission will continue to enhance the visibility of UNESCO in Belarus and contribute to the partnership between UNESCO and local authorities in Belarus.

In 2020, the Commission will strengthen its collaboration with other National Commissions in order to promote partnership and joint work.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

During the Plenary Debate of the 40th session of the General Conference, the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed support for the draft Programme for the upcoming period and emphasized its commitment to cooperate with UNESCO towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued its work as a member of the World Heritage Committee, with aim to contribute to the conservation, protection and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage of the world.

The City of Živinice was designated, as the first city from Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in July 2019.

The Strict Nature Reserve – Primeval Forest Janj was nominated as a component part of the extension to the World Heritage site, “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe”.

In cooperation with competent ministries and institutions, the National Commission prepared and submitted the periodic report on implementation of the 1970 Convention.

The expert of the National Commission participated in the symposium on “The Future of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean in the context of Climate Change: a UNESCO perspective” held in Venice and organized by UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and scientific programmes (Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, Man and Biosphere and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission).

The National Commission continues its successful collaboration with the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo. UN Agencies, in partnership with Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, are implementing the second phase of the project, “Dialogue for the Future: Promoting Social Cohesion and Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, which seeks to enhance the inclusiveness of local level governance by undertaking joint assessments of common problems and creating local dialogue platforms, bringing together local leaders as well as civil society, youth, religious leaders, women’s organizations and relevant local level authorities.

SUCCESS STORY

Sarajevo was designated a new member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Film. This built on wide consultations with various stakeholders, including public authorities, professional associations, production companies, Academy of Performing Arts, the Sarajevo Canton Tourism Association, and primarily the Citizen’s Association “Obala Art Centar” – the manager and organizer of the Sarajevo Film Festival, as its main partner. Recognizing culture and creativity as drivers of economic development and sustainability, drawing from the experience of the Sarajevo Film Festival as the region’s premier film festival, and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s rich film tradition, Sarajevo is committed to capitalizing on the City’s creative assets and potential, in turn to bring new business and partnership opportunities to generate cultural and economic development beyond the film sector.

As a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Sarajevo will focus on increasing production volumes and project activities, to create jobs and training for young people, increase access to film and film culture for citizens, and create infrastructure for stronger cross-sectoral collaboration in the creative industries, building also on opportunities for collaboration with other creative cities.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Through the Dialogue for the Future project, the Educational Resource Kit for Teachers, “World Heritage in Young Hands”, will be published and distributed to schools. This contributes to the SDG 4 as well to SDG 11. Furthermore, within this project, the reform of the statistical system in the field of education is being undertaken, to adjust the statistical system to the requirements in accordance to 2030 Agenda, and to enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to respond to obligations in this field.

Within the “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey” project, a strategic framework for integrating media and information literacy into formal and non-formal education will be developed, contributing to SDGs 4, 16 and 17.

Activities to establish the National Man and Biosphere Committee and the first transboundary biosphere reserve in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be undertaken.

BULGARIA

National Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Supporting UNESCO's priorities took a leading part in the work of the National Commission in 2019. The Bulgarian National Commission played a key role during the preparation of the Bulgarian participation in the 40th session of the General Conference and contributed significantly to the exceptionally successful official visit of the Director-General in May 2019.

The active work of Bulgaria, as a member of the Executive Board, was also supported, by providing expert opinions, proposals and initiatives from the National Commission. Due to the consistent efforts of the National Commission, Bulgaria was elected to two important intergovernmental bodies — the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). Throughout the year, the National Commission supported many of the active national committees related to various UNESCO programs (Man and Biosphere, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Memory of the World program), as well as the Network of more than

50 Associated Schools in Bulgaria. Support was provided also to the Regional Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Category 2 centre). The Agreement between the Bulgarian Government and UNESCO on the activities of the Bulgarian Trust Fund to the Organization, signed in September, is an important contribution to the UNESCO program activity. During the period, there was an excellent cooperation with the BRESCE.

In addition, in different ways, the National Commission contributed to:

- Regional cooperation, by organizing a meeting of the Ministers of Culture in the region of Southeastern Europe on "Promoting Culture for Sustainable Development" with the participation of the ADG of the Culture Sector;
- Gender equality, by holding an International seminar on the participation of women in engineering fields;
- Education, by printing three textbooks on "Education for Global Citizenship" and participating in a national seminar;
- Basic and applied Sciences, through the International Seminar "Karst – the last white spot on the planet" and a regional seminar in the field of phytochemistry;
- Immovable cultural heritage, through an international conference dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the inclusion of the Boyana Church on the UNESCO World Heritage List; and participating in an International Conference on Digital Presentation and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage;
- Intangible cultural heritage, through an International Conference on "Current Issues in the study of the Intangible cultural heritage", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of BAS;
- Library affairs, through an International Conference on "Libraries Today and the Challenges of the 21st Century".



SUCCESS STORY

The UNESCO Summer University was held in the largest biosphere park in Bulgaria – "Central Balkans". The goal was to attract and train young professionals from around the world on topics related to the development of biosphere parks. More than 30 young experts, PhD students and local community representatives from three continents participated. The program included plenary sessions, visits to organic farms, eco-hotels, wineries, eco-trails, cultural and natural landmarks. Many good practices were demonstrated. The successful organization was a result of excellent cooperation between the National Commission, the Ministry of Environment and Waters, the "Biodiversity" Foundation, and the local authorities in the region of the biosphere park and Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE).

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FUTURE PRIORITIES

Key priorities in 2020 for the National Commission include:

- Enhancing cooperation with other National Commissions in the region of South-eastern Europe, as well as improving bilateral relations with National Commissions in Europe and improving cooperation within the framework of international cooperation;
- Strengthening joint work with the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice;
- Special emphasis on projects related to education, education for sustainable development, science, sustainable technologies, artificial intelligence, women's participation in science, fundamental research, climate, biodiversity, and waters;
- Implementation of two projects to be funded by Bulgaria's UNESCO Trust: "Promoting Gender Equality in Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through teacher training in sub-Saharan countries", and "Preventing Violent Extremism through Education – Addressing Anti-Semitism" (one seminar in the Western Balkans and in the Eastern Partnership countries respectively);
- Communication with UNESCO on the preparation of a regional project on the impact of climate change on immovable cultural heritage and the development of sustainable tourism;
- Holding an international conference on phytochemistry;
- Creation of two new UNESCO Departments in Bulgaria, in bioethics and phytochemistry;
- Establishment of a National Geoparks Committee;
- Publishing of the "UNESCO Courier" Magazine in Bulgarian.

CANADA

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- Continued efforts for the Decade for People of African Descent and promoted the International Year of Indigenous Languages by producing videos and practical tools: please see Looking Back on the Year of Indigenous Languages and Spoken from the Heart – Indigenous Radio in Canada;
- Supported the outreach of our networks and the growth of the UNESCO Chairs in Canada: please see Shining a Light on UNESCO Chairs;
- Informed discussions and recommendations on Artificial Intelligence – published an innovative reflection document on Two-Eyed Artificial Intelligence;
- Advanced reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, including through the Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks networks and UNESCO associated

schools, and supported the development of the Wapikoni Teaching Guide: An introduction to the diversity of Indigenous cultures in Canada;

- Developed the relationship between the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICARR) and the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together; supported the publication of City Policies on Living Together and organized a session at UNESCO on May 16, the International Day of Living Together in Peace. Published three toolkits to support actions at the municipal level for including LGBTQ+ people, integrating newcomers and refugees, and reconciling with Indigenous peoples;
- Generated knowledge mobilization and published papers on priority themes for UNESCO, including Our Civic Relationship with the Ocean in Canada; Assessing Ecosystem Services in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves; and Best Practices for Indigenous Engagement;
- Published blogs on Connecting Culture and Sustainability; Reuniting Nature and Culture; Understanding Intangible Cultural Heritage; Reconciliation in Action: Building Meaningful Relationships in Canada's Biosphere Reserves; To Fight Fake News, Become Your Own Editor; and Understanding Indigenous Cultures, Traditions and Languages;
- Supported UNESCO with the publication and launch of Reporting on Violence against Women and Girls: a Handbook for Journalists.

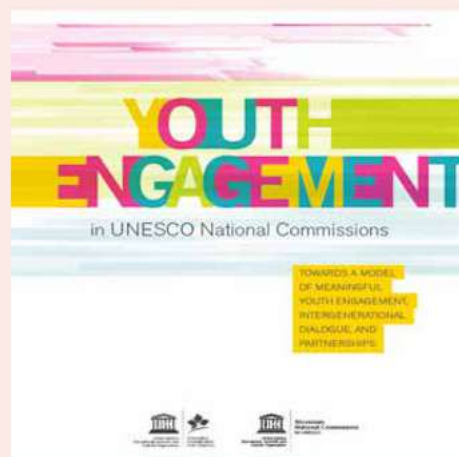
SUCCESS STORY

Youth Engagement Imperative: The Canadian Commission for UNESCO promotes initiatives for youth engagement. There is growing urgency, especially when responding to strong calls for intergenerational dialogue, to see youth as an essential institutional responsibility. Bushra Ebadi, Chair of our Youth Advisory Group and a global citizen and activist, wrote in her introduction to our new Youth Engagement Toolkit: "For far too long, young people have been marginalized from the spaces where decisions are made... If we are truly committed to finding sustainable, just, and inclusive solutions to the challenges we are facing around the world... we will need to work together across generations and cultures."

Developed with the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO – with input from global youth, over 50 other National Commissions, and UNESCO – the Youth Engagement Toolkit for UNESCO National Commissions establishes key principles and approaches for organizations to:

- Address barriers that prevent youth and marginalized communities from participating;
- Champion accessible and inclusive programming and governance;
- Mainstream youth and provide them with active roles in all activities;
- Invest in developing the leadership potential of youth.

Beyond supporting capacity-building within UNESCO, we are mainstreaming youth leadership and perspectives in our networks and initiatives. The 11th UNESCO Youth Forum was held concurrent with the recent UNESCO General Conference; Katelynne Herchak, a young Inuk woman and member of our Youth Advisory Group, represented Canada and sat on the steering committee. We were proud to join her call for appropriate and welcoming spaces for Indigenous Youth through UNESCO. We have also asked our Youth Advisory Group to determine the topic and design of our Commission's next Annual General Meeting. We are actively asking youth in our networks to inform our work and that of our collaborators through the development of reflection papers and other publications.



The Youth Engagement Toolkit

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Opportunities for future joint work include knowledge mobilization, tools for our networks, and promoting UN International Days, Years, and Decades. A significant priority is advancing the 2030 Agenda, especially through the cultural sector. Special focus will be placed on gender equality, the safety of women journalists worldwide, and the role of women in science.

We will enhance our networks by engaging in strategies to raise their profiles. Our rebranding strategy for the Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves will identify them as distinct from World Heritage Sites by creating a niche, promoting their value, and showing their contributions to sustainable tourism and local economic development. We will launch new resources to provide strategies for our networks, including toolkits for our Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities, and ASPnet teachers.

We will promote the International Decade for People of African Descent with a special issue of Canadian Diversity magazine and our campaign for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We will set up new expert groups to advance work relating to artificial intelligence, intangible cultural heritage and the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We will support efforts to advance the spirit of the Decade for Indigenous Languages.

CROATIA

Croatian Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Croatian Commission for UNESCO contributed in several ways to ensure that Croatia made a renewed and strengthened commitment to UNESCO.

In culture, the year saw the start with the Celebration of 40 years of the inscription of the Old City of Dubrovnik on the World Heritage List and 10 years of the inscription of the Festivity of St Blaise at the Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity, under the patronage of Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, held in

Dubrovnik on 1st February 2019. The Prime Minister announced that Croatia will participate in UNESCO Initiative, Revive the Spirit of Mosul, and will contribute to the reconstruction of the Latin church of Our Lady of the Hour in Mosul in Iraq.

The Commission also worked with the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar. The Centre hosted an international conference, "Conservation and restoration in underwater archaeology: experiences, methods and new discoveries", in Zadar, Croatia from 24-26 October 2019. Representatives from 11 countries took part (Slovenia, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Portugal, USA, Colombia, Republic of Korea and Croatia).

The Commission and the Ministry of Culture, together with L'ORÉAL ADRIA, organized and celebrated in 2019 the Annual National Award for Women in Science.

The Croatian delegation, headed by the Minister of Culture, Ms Nina Obuljen Koržinek and President of the National Commission, Academician Zvonko Kusić, took part in the 40th session of the General Conference. In her address, the Minister stressed Croatia's strong commitment to the ideals and goals of UNESCO and its willingness to continue its involvement in UNESCO's initiatives.

SUCCESS STORY

The European Young Heritage Professionals Forum took place in Zadar, Croatia, from 20 to 24 May 2019. Hosted by the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, the Forum was organized in the framework of the UNESCO-EU joint project, 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Engaging Youth for an Inclusive and Sustainable Europe. The Forum was developed in close cooperation with the NGO Diadrasis and is part of the World Heritage Education Programme.

The focus was on the 1972 UNESCO Convention and the 2003 UNESCO Convention. The Forum brought together 28 talented young heritage professionals to explore their heritage and how they could contribute to its safeguarding in Europe. In an innovative format, which addresses both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, through two local case studies from Zadar – the Art of Dry Stone Walling and the Venetian Works of Defence, the Forum participants had an excellent opportunity to experience this comparison in a direct manner. Through dialogue and sharing ideas during the Forum, young experts created synergies and reinforced their aptitudes, learned how to develop safeguarding plans, involve local communities in heritage safeguarding and design visibility campaigns.

The Forum encouraged the young heritage professionals to become active 'cultural heritage messengers' by spreading the message on the importance of cultural heritage protection and safeguarding in their own countries and beyond.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Croatian Commission and Stari Grad Plain Agency will participate in the World Heritage Volunteers Program. The volunteer camp will be held in 2020 in Starogradsko Polje on the island of Hvar. 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 has finalized the project Culture for Development Indicators and is planning a conference upon the finalization of the project with the support of UNESCO.

In arts education, the Croatian Commission, and the Ministry of Culture, 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 will organize international seminar in 2020.

A seminar for the new ASP Schools will be organized. In cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Education, new projects on Artificial Intelligence and Education for Sustainable Development will be developed.

CYPRUS

Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Commission formed strategic partnerships to deliver a series of activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNESCO 2003 and 2005 Conventions and the empowerment of UNESCO education networks in Cyprus.

In the field of intangible heritage, the Commission collaborated with experts, communities, associations, museums, and other bodies to inscribe six new elements on the National Inventory. The Commission supported also the preparation of multinational

nomination files for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, such as the "Byzantine chant" (2019 cycle nominations) and for inscription on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, such as the "Tocati: a shared programme for the safeguarding of traditional games and sports » (2020 cycle nominations).

In Education, the Commission supported the design and implementation of activities promoting culture, science and the SDGs, mainly through UNESCO Chairs and school networks. In 2019, a new UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Learning and Adult Education at Frederick University was established. ASPnet-Cyprus implemented activities on the topic of: "Global Citizenship and Heritage Education" and launched the CitiZEN! Programme. The South Eastern Mediterranean sea Project (SEMEP) organized its annual conference on: "Cooperation for water resources management, through culture and science, for sustainable development". On International Museum Day, the Commission and the A.G. Leventis Gallery co-hosted an event on "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums: The future of tradition". In the fields related to the 2005 Convention, the Commission continued its collaboration with the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth to promote contemporary creativity in Cyprus.



Joined performance by the Byzantine choirs of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos, "Saint Ioannis Damaskinos", "Romanos the Melodist" and "Cypriot Melodists", Nicosia Municipal Theatre
© A.R.R. 2020, Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO / Michalis Ioannou

and the spiritual and social life of Orthodox Greeks and Orthodox Christians at large. As a living art of unequalled lyricism and as a comprehensive music system, it constitutes a poignant combination of language and verse, music and rhythm, characteristics that render it a powerful cultural expression and an essential trait of the collective identity of the Orthodox Greeks. Most importantly, it has maintained the continuity of the Ancient Greek language with Medieval and Modern Greek and with the Greek Cypriot dialect, and has significantly influenced folk and popular music.

On 28 January 2020, at Nicosia Municipal Theatre, the Commission organised and sponsored a free concert of Byzantine music, with the participation of the Byzantine Choirs of Nicosia Music School, "Saint John of Damascus", "Romanos the Melodist", "Cypriot Melodists" and the Byzantine Choir of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos.

SUCCESS STORY

Reflecting on the realities of the region and the diversity of Cyprus' heritage, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO strengthened its efforts to safeguard the cultural landscape of the island and the region, by fully supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

At its Fourteenth Session, in Bogotá, Republic of Colombia on 9-14 December 2019, the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention unanimously approved the inscription of «Byzantine chant» («Byzantine music») on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The nomination was submitted jointly by the Republics of Cyprus and Greece and the file was prepared by the experts of the Cyprus National Commission and the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. The Evaluation Body commended the quality of the nomination file and the file was posted on the website of the Convention as exemplary.

A cultural tradition persevering for more than two millennia, Byzantine chant has a central role in the religious worship

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Cyprus National Commission is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda within its territory and in cooperation with partner countries. Key strategic priorities include:

- Providing a catalyst for Cypriots to engage in life-long learning and to be creative and responsible global citizens;
- Protecting, promoting and transmitting the heritage of Cyprus;
- Nurturing and disseminating diverse forms of knowledge, promoting the interface between science, policy and society based on ethics and scientific evidence for equitable sustainable development;
- Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions and promoting culture as a driver and enabler of peace and sustainable development;
- Furthering and enhancing the scope of UNESCO's work by strengthening relationships and engaging with UNESCO at the national, regional and international level through its work programme and by collaboration with stakeholders.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Czech Commission for UNESCO was established on 1st June 1994 as the Government's advisory and coordinating body in the matters concerning UNESCO and relations of the Czech Republic with this organization. At the end of its four-year term on 30 November 2019, the Commission substantially decreased the number of its members. As of 1 December 2019, the Minister of Foreign Affairs newly appointed 35 (instead of 59) regular and 5 honourable members.

In the context of the SDGs, the Commission, together with L'Oréal Czech Republic and the Czech Academy of Sciences, co-organized the 13th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO "For

Women in Science" national programme. The number of fellowships granted in life and physical sciences fields rose from two to three, and the age limit for entry has increased from 35 to 40 years. These changes were intended to better support the career development of talented women scientists and to promote their lifelong learning opportunities.

Furthermore, the Commission held the 25th annual General Assembly of the ASPnet schools in the Czech Republic. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for ASPnet focal points to present the most successful projects of their schools. Among topics approved for the UNESCO Associated Schools Week in 2019-2020 were the 350th anniversary of the death of John (Iohannes) Amos Comenius (commemorated in association with UNESCO) and the International Year of Plant Health.

In 2019, the Commission assumed patronage of 22 non-profit projects, including those related to implementation of the SDGs within UNESCO's mandate – for instance, the 24th season of the UNESCO/International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Postgraduate Course in Polymer Science.

During its 43rd session in July 2019, the World Heritage Committee inscribed two Czech cultural sites on the World Heritage List – the "Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruhy nad Labem" and the "Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří Mining Region" (together with Germany).



"Transboundary European World Heritage – Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří Mining Region"
© A.R.R. Czech Commission for UNESCO

"Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří Mining Region" is notable. In binational workshops, students and teachers reflected on their common history as a chance for global and intercultural understanding and discovered which themes link them, as well as which set them apart. In addition, they developed themes and questions regarding transnational heritage sites and learned to get over traditional learning methods by implementing strategies with new media technology. The students also identified important contents, prepared them in videos, which are now available on the project's platform.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the Czech Commission, through its role as the National Coordination of the UNESCO Associated Schools in the Czech Republic, took part in the project that aimed to familiarize students and teachers with the topic and potential of transboundary world heritage sites. The project was developed by the Institute Heritage Studies at the Internationale Akademie Berlin, in cooperation with National ASPnet Coordinators and UNESCO Associated Schools in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland, Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein.

The project had two objectives: 1) to raise awareness among student bodies of the importance and potential of their shared cultural heritage sites and, thereby, to transfer the ASPnet goals on democracy education and on intercultural and global learning; and 2) to mobilize students, to immerse themselves into the educational message of world heritage as expression of the Sustainable Development Goals. This was achieved through the collaboration with teachers and students in the development of curricula for the project and the implementation of modern learning formats.

In case of the Czech-German cooperation, the example of the

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation for the implementation of UNESCO's mandate in the context of SDGs, and therefore participates in the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO.

In 2020, the Czech Commission, as the National Coordination of the UNESCO Associated Schools in the Czech Republic, will take part in the project on the implementation of SDGs, namely how to achieve carbon or climate neutrality in the daily operation of schools and other educational institutions. The project will bring together ASPnet members from the Czech Republic and Denmark with schools from Germany, Slovakia and Sweden. Each participating institution will concentrate on one aspect of future school operation, such as carbon-free energy supply, sustainable catering, water recycling and wastewater reduction. The project will focus not only on the design of a climate neutral school building for 2050, but will also aim to inform the school community and wider public about the commitments stemming from the Paris Agreement and impacts of climate change.

DENMARK

Danish National Commission of UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Bo Manderup-Jensen

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Strategy for UNESCO – Danish Priorities 2019-2022 was launched. The substance was anchored in an inclusive process of making, with obvious benefits. This is paving the way for new partnerships as we have clearly defined our values and goals and they are known and shared by our stakeholders.

A highly sought-after booklet *Become a member of the Danish UNESCO-family* was published. This collects and presents all UNESCO-designations in Denmark – from global Geoparks to Chairs and Awards. The purpose is to promote to a wider audience the span of UNESCO and showing why UNESCO is

relevant and creates value in local communities. The publication supports the narrative of a national UNESCO-community in Denmark, creating a platform for collaboration for sustainable development across designations and categories.

Our major challenge is to meet the extensive demand for cooperation with UNESCO on a national level from civil society, foundations, municipalities, NGOs and stakeholders. We have to prioritize and find a way to navigate so that we do not lose momentum and use our very limited resources.

Other highlights include:

- Viborg municipality designated UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts;
- A UNESCO Chair on Urban Resilience was established at the University of Southern Denmark;
- Sønderborg municipality won the UNESCO Learning City Award 2019;
- Jelling Monuments in Denmark became the first winner of the Nordic World Heritage Award 2019;
- A Danish UNESCO-L'Oréal laureate selected as one of the 15 most promising women scientists among the 275 national and regional fellows of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women In Science programme.



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SUCCESS STORY

“The greening of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) could be the missing link that can connect school and society, and link society and employment,” said UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Ms. Stefania Giannini, at a high-level breakfast meeting organized by the Permanent Delegation of Denmark to UNESCO on 14 November 2019 during the 40th session of the General Conference. The meeting focused on strategic partnerships between TVET institutions and the private sector for greening TVET and was inspired by the guidance framework of UNESCO on Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO-UNEVOC's Greening TVET: a practical guide for institutions.

A report commissioned by the Danish National Commission for UNESCO shows that – based on research conducted in

Denmark – teaching students about sustainability makes them agents of change and increases their motivation to contribute to developing solutions. It also stresses that partnerships, especially involvement of the private sector, is key. UNESCO's global networks, including the UNEVOC Network, can help to reinforce these efforts.

The Association of TVET Providers in Denmark, Danske Erhvervsskoler og –Gymnasier DEG, through Ms. Nina Olsen, Deputy Director, provided remarks during the event: “We in Denmark are building a network of schools to work on Greening TVET.” She highlighted also that “greening TVET is a global agenda. It helps create a new narrative for TVET, make TVET more attractive.”

The greening TVET concept encourages stakeholders to reflect on how they can integrate sustainability in curricula and training standards, solve local issues through applied research projects, and engage communities, industries and enterprises to reduce their environmental impact through greener practices. More than 100 participants attended the meeting, including ministers, member state representatives and key TVET stakeholders. They also discussed the possibility of developing a concept for UNESCO's recognition of “Green TVET Champions”.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The newly gained Danish seat in International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) – along with a Danish representative in the Committee of the 2005 Convention – is a golden opportunity to focus on the obstacles that artists and journalists face and transfer knowledge and experiences in order to find solutions.

The National Commission is launching a strategy/guidebook on how to make partnerships with UNESCO in Denmark. The strategy defines UNESCO's strengths and types of value that we bring into partnerships. It also reflects what we stand for and expect from our partners, including also a checklist of do's, don'ts, and attention points. The strategy will support prioritizing and assessing future partnerships before engaging. We believe that many other National Commissions have similar reflections and need for a framework for partnerships. The Danish National Commission is open to cooperate and exchange on this matter. We are considering translating the strategy into English if there is an interest.

ESTONIA

Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

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 the context of the UN international year of indigenous languages, the Commission organized several information days at national level to introduce the objectives of the year and the work that Estonia was doing in the steering committee.

We were happy to contribute to the exhibition, "Walking the Indigo Walk", organized at the initiative of the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO as an interregional

cooperation project in order to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage.

Estonian experts participated in Man and the Biosphere-International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC) and MAB Advisory Committee and organized local meetings on West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve development program 2021-2030.

Estonia's global education peer review was carried out in cooperation with Global Education Network Europe, expert team from Finland, Slovakia and Poland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, our National Commission, CSOs, universities and others.

The commission continued to co-partner with L'Oréal Baltic and Estonian Academy of Sciences on the fellowship programme, "For Women in Science".

Together with NGO Mondo, Tartu Environmental Education Centre and youth, annual activities of ASPnet and youth were organized, such as Model UN Programme, seminars and trainings on SDGs, ESD and GCED, celebration of Philosophy Day – in 2019 thematically dedicated to Africa, Baltic Sea Project camps and campaigns. We engaged youth in our delegations to the General Conference and MIL Conference in Gothenburg. Estonian teacher and youth were selected to participate at UNESCO workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage integration in school-based education, part of UNESCO-EU project on youth engagement and education.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, Estonian and Eswatini National Commissions for UNESCO started cooperation and implemented a pilot project on interregional youth volunteering and ASPnet. During the project, a young Estonian volunteer participated in the work of both National Commissions with a focus on Eswatini. The programme started with three-week introduction and preparation phase at the office of Estonian National Commission, followed by ten-week volunteering period in Eswatini.

In the Eswatini National Commission, the Estonian volunteer assisted education programme officer, participated in education meetings, visited Eswatini ASPnet schools, organized together with Eswatini colleagues workshops for ASPnet teachers and introduced themes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED), and information and communication literacy. In addition, ASPnet cooperation and school links between Estonia and Eswatini were initiated, to encourage intercultural and intercontinental learning, exchange of experience and best practices.

This cooperation opens new perspectives, contributes to the work and strengthens the capacities of National Commissions. In the words of the Estonian volunteer, Laura: "I am truly thankful to UNESCO National Commissions, both in Estonia and Eswatini, who trusted me with such a big responsibility and provided invaluable experiences. The project pushed me to develop myself in professional as well as personal life and gave me a possibility to experience another culture in-depth. This programme fulfilled my expectations and opened future perspectives that I could not foresee before."

The cooperation between Estonia and Eswatini was encouraged by the example of German National Commission's programme Kulturweit. The insight of German colleagues have been highly appreciated.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the field of culture, priorities 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. The Commission is contributing to the preparation of the joint nomination of Ukraine and Estonia to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Model UN international event, co-led and co-organized by youth, will take place on Estonian island of Saaremaa, in Orissaare Gymnasium, in 2020. The committees will discuss topics driven by the 2030 Agenda, including sustainable consumption for climate action, women in peace building and conflict resolution, responsibility of media in reporting controversial global issues. The target group is students aged 15-19 and the working language is English. The organizers warmly welcome applications from international delegations. For more information, see Estonian Model UN Facebook page – www.facebook.com/EstonianMUN/ – or contact our ASPnet coordinator at unescoschools@mondo.org.ee.

FAROES

Faroese National Commission to UNESCO

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Secretary-General: Mr. Martin Næs

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Faroes celebrated its 10-year anniversary as an Associate Member of UNESCO.

In 2019, the National Commission participated in meetings with the Danish National Commission for UNESCO and the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces focusing on cooperation and capacity building. In June 2019, the Faroese National Commission attended the annual meeting of Nordic National Commissions for UNESCO, by kind invitation by the Swedish National Commission held at the venue of Biosphere Reserve Kristianstad Vattenrike in Sweden. The annual network meeting this year was a joint Nordic preparation for the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Since its foundation in 2012, the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO has established itself as a highly relevant foundation and partner for the Faroese international cooperation in UNESCO. The secretariat is situated in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture.



Transfer of intangible cultural heritage: Dvørgamoy, a traditional Faroese clinker-built boat being manned. Photo: Regin Debess. © A.R.R. Faroes National Commission for UNESCO

bearers and practitioners in the safeguarding and transfer of their intangible cultural heritage," said Herleif Hammer, Director of the Faroese National Museum, responsible for the national implementation of the convention from 2020.

SUCCESS STORY

By incentive of the Faroese National Commission for UNESCO in 2016 and the following unanimous Parliamentary Resolution, the Convention of the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into force in the Faroe Islands in October 2018.

In the first steps taken to implement the Convention during 2019, the Faroese National Museum and the University of the Faroe Islands were valuable partners. Collaboration included a provisional commission set to evaluate and discuss the forming of a national inventory of intangible cultural heritage.

In 2019, the National Commission supported the successful participation of Faroese boatbuilders, associations and museums in the joint Nordic cooperation aiming for a nomination of the Nordic clinker boat traditions to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

"The safeguarding of natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is at the heart of our mission, and we look forward to the collaboration with and support of communities, associations, tradition

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The SDGs are at the core of the future priorities set out by the Faroese National Commission. As an island nation heavily dependent on the resources of the ocean, the importance of SDG 14 on life below water and the important work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in this regard must be highlighted.

In the establishment of the Faroese National Commission and its development, the profound support of the network of Nordic National Commissions has been invaluable. As a next step, the Faroese National Commission is seeking to extend cooperation to the European Network of National Commissions.

FINLAND

Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

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The Finnish National Commission for UNESCO consists of a Chairperson and eleven members, nominated for a four-year term by the Government. The members represent high-level expertise in the fields of UNESCO's competence. They advise the Ministry of Education and Culture and contribute to the work and visibility of UNESCO. The mandate of the current Commission covers 2019-2022. Ms Henna Virkkunen, Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Education (2008-2011) acts as the Chair.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Commission convened five times. It was consulted on a regular basis and participated actively in forming the Finnish positions for the 206th and 207th sessions of

the Executive Board and the 40th session of the General Conference. The support of the Commission for Finland's work in the Executive Board was valuable. Several members of the Commission were included in the Finnish delegation for the General Conference.

In February, the Commission welcomed UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr. Moez Chakchouk (photo below). In addition to the Commission, Mr. Chakchouk met many members of the Finnish government and representatives of UNESCO related expert organizations. Many other members of UNESCO's Secretariat visited also Finland during the year and had meetings with Commission and UNESCO related experts.

In May, the National Commission was a co-organizer of two World Press Freedom Day discussion events: 1) "Media's freedom today", at the "Päivälehti" museum facilities in Helsinki, and 2) "Researcher's freedom of speech in Europe", at the Helsinki City Museum. Both gathered a large public and saw active discussion.

In September, most part of the Commission members participated in the Nordic coordination meeting in Kristianstad, Sweden, as a part of preparations for the General Conference. The meeting was a welcome gathering to the members of the new Commission, helping to widen their perspectives on topical issues, such as the strategic transformation process, preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy and their substantial relation to 2030 Agenda.



SUCCESS STORY

The Commission promoted actively the 2030 Agenda throughout the year. The Commission took part in the national preparations and the follow-up of the UN High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, in New York in July.

The same month, the Commission co-organized an event, "Through knowledge and innovation towards sustainable development", at Suomi Areena, an annual, public forum gathering all stakeholders of society, including decision makers, administration, academics, civil society and the private sector to discuss topical issues. The Arena was arranged in the city of Pori and reached nationwide publicity through the media.

In August, the Commission invited professor Eeva Furman, member of the UN Working Group for the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, to its meeting to share views on the future of our planet. A fruitful discussion and a profound exchange of views took place.

In February the NatCom welcomed UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr. Moez Chakchouk
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FUTURE PRIORITIES

In February 2020, the National Commission (2019-2022) will determine its priorities for the year. The outline includes, for instance, continued focus on human rights and promotion of Finland's campaign for the position in the UN Human Rights Council. In addition, the National Commission will be actively involved in organizing a World Press Freedom Day's side event in the Hague, Netherlands, on such questions as "How to increase trust into journalism?"

Promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda nationally, regionally and globally will remain a long-standing priority (particularly Education 2030, press freedom, safety of journalists, access to information etc.). The preparation of UNESCO instruments on open science and ethics of artificial intelligence will be followed and discussed with interest. In addition, the Commission will take part in the annual meetings of Nordic, regional and global UNESCO networks.

FRANCE

Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Yves Saint-Geours

Secrétaire général : M. Alexandre S. Navarro

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

2019 fut l'occasion de renforcement des relations entre la Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO (CNFU) et les autres Commissions nationales. Ainsi, plusieurs projets ont été menés conjointement avec la Commission roumaine dans le cadre de l'Année célébrant l'amitié France/Roumanie (2018/2019), dont la signature d'un accord de coopération des Commissions française et roumaine pour l'UNESCO, le 21 novembre 2019. La Commission française a participé à la réunion des Commissions nationales européennes en Slovénie (Bled, février), à la réunion consultative des Commissions nationales des membres du Conseil exécutif en Turquie (Istanbul, septembre), aux réunions célébrant respectivement le 70e anniversaire de la Commission suisse (Berne, juin) et de la Commission coréenne (novembre 2019).

2019 fut également une année de renforcement des relations entre la CNFU et les différents secteurs de l'UNESCO : participation accentuée de la CNFU aux travaux du Conseil exécutif et de la Conférence générale; soutien accru aux Comités nationaux en appui des programmes internationaux et intergouvernementaux de l'UNESCO (Management of Social Transformations (MOST), Mémoire du monde, Géoparcs, Man and the Biosphere (MAB), Programme Hydrologique Intergouvernemental (PHI), Comité Français du patrimoine mondial et du patrimoine culturel immatériel) ; La Commission française a constitué un groupe de travail sur l'éthique des sciences et de l'Intelligence Artificielle, notamment sur le Transhumanisme en partenariat avec la MGEN (groupe Mutuelle Générale Éducation Nationale) et participe activement aux travaux des trois comités du secteur des Sciences sociales et humaines de l'UNESCO chargés des questions d'éthique Commission Mondiale d'Éthique des Connaissances scientifiques et des technologies (COMEST), Comité international de la Bioéthique (CIB et CIGB).

Parmi les objectifs prioritaires, le pilotage et le développement des réseaux (Ecoles associées, Chaires, Clubs) et des labels (villes créatives, apprenantes, inclusives, centre de Catégorie 2) de l'UNESCO en France notamment par un travail d'inventaire de la présence de l'UNESCO dans les régions françaises.



Chœur national français des écoles associées de l'UNESCO à l'occasion de la cérémonie d'hommage à Charles Aznavour le 10 octobre 2019 © T.D.R. Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO

pour que le dessin de presse devienne l'un des marqueurs fondamentaux de la liberté d'expression. L'une des missions premières de l'UNESCO étant précisément de « faciliter la libre circulation des idées, par le mot et par l'image », comme stipulé par son acte constitutif, la Commission nationale française a diffusé cette déclaration à l'ensemble des autres Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

La CNFU a joué un rôle déterminant dans l'émergence de la « Déclaration d'Addis-Abeba pour la reconnaissance du dessin de presse comme un droit fondamental » qui a été proclamée par un collectif international de dessinateurs et de dessinatrices lors de la célébration de la Journée mondiale UNESCO de la liberté de la presse le 3 mai 2019 à Addis-Abeba en Ethiopie avec le soutien et la présence active de la CNFU. Lors de ces journées, et à la suite de la remise du prix mondial de la liberté de la presse UNESCO/Guillermo Cano, la déclaration a été remise à Madame Audrey Azoulay, Directrice générale de l'UNESCO et à Monsieur Moez Chakchouk, Sous-Directeur général pour la Communication et l'Information de l'UNESCO.

Pour les dessinateurs/dessinatrices de tous les pays, la Déclaration d'Addis-Abeba est une déclaration internationale sans précédent sur laquelle ils/elles peuvent désormais s'appuyer

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La CNFU a participé à la réunion 2020 des Commissions nationales européennes au Portugal (Février, Cascais). Par ailleurs, et dans le prolongement de la priorité Afrique, les coopérations s'amplifieront notamment en direction de l'Afrique dans la continuité du partenariat de la Commission française avec le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Bamako, à l'occasion des « Rencontres d'équations nomades » et la participation de Clubs pour l'UNESCO français.

Enfin, afin de renforcer les capacités des Commissions nationales dans le cadre de la transformation stratégique, la CNFU s'est proposé d'établir 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 et d'identifier, le cas échéant, les améliorations possibles au profit de l'ensemble du réseau. 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 Commission souhaitant s'associer à ce projet.

GEORGIA

Georgian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Georgian National Commission significantly contributed to ensuring country's participation in the 40th session of the General Conference as well as in UNESCO's programs and projects in its competence. The secretariat was as always, an important body for liaison and advice regarding

implementation of the approved projects in the Participation Programme 2018-2019.

Activities of the National Commission throughout the year focused on the elaboration of nomination files submitted to UNESCO. Among new initiatives, for the first time, Georgia nominated a Natural Heritage site to the World Heritage List. In close cooperation with relevant National authorities and the World Heritage Centre, in order to develop and maintain dialogue during the evaluation process, Georgian side hosted the IUCN World Heritage technical evaluation mission in October 2019.

2019 marked the 150th birth anniversary of Marjory Wardrop, who introduced Georgian literature and culture to the English-speaking world. The anniversary was celebrated in association with UNESCO in Georgia and the UK and contributed to raising the visibility of the Organization and its leading role in promoting intercultural dialogue for better mutual understanding and peace.

SUCCESS STORY

In May 2019, Georgia applied for UNESCO World Book Capital 2021. The file preparatory process was a good example of the Commission's cooperation with Tbilisi City Hall, relevant national authorities and associations, foreign partners, who kindly shared their experience as former holders of this prestigious title. The information and the country's approach to the policy development in the field of ICTs shaped the project's design. With a focus on innovation and the use of modern technologies, it is intended to have a positive impact on literacy rates among young people and instigate their interest towards books. In the end, after close examination and further to the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the Director General named the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, the World Book Capital for the year of 2021.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

Given that decisions on submitted nominations will be taken in 2020, the activities of the Georgian National Commission will focus on cooperation with National Commissions and Permanent Delegations of the States Parties, members of the WH and ICH Committees.

GERMANY

German Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 was a momentous year of transformation for the German Commission. We received unprecedented support from federal parliament and government. The annual members' assembly adopted a new constitution and the Secretariat moved to a new office building; longtime Secretary-General Dr Roland Bernecker was succeeded from January 2020 by Dr Roman Luckscheiter.

The 2030 Agenda strategically unifies the Commission's work. The Commission successfully prompted a commitment of the German ministers of education for the Education Agenda 2030. We organized international workshops on fair trade in cultural goods and on gender in cultural policies. For the 4th time, 100 pioneers received an award for their ESD whole-institution approach. Most importantly, the Commission

supports all UNESCO networks in Germany to work as implementers and multipliers for the 2030 Agenda. One 2030 Agenda conference or workshop was organized each for German World Heritage sites, Global Geoparks, ASPnet schools and Chairs. Further, the Commission worked intensively on quality assurance of these networks, co-authoring a non-paper on reform suggestions for the Global Geoparks Programme.

The Commission's international youth volunteering programme, "kulturweit", celebrated its 10th anniversary. It again supported more some 500 Germans aged 18 to 27 in volunteering abroad for 6 or 12 months. Some 25 of them work with other National Commissions worldwide as their hosts and 40 in Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks and World Heritage sites. Additionally, young women from three Arab countries were supported to volunteer in Germany. The Commission continued cooperation with Eastern African and Southern African National Commissions. Its successful entrepreneurship training Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) was again implemented in South Africa and the Philippines. Support was provided to several initiatives for Biosphere Reserves in Southern Africa.

As in previous years, outstanding visibility was created through German-language versions of both the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report) and the World Water Report Executive Summaries and high efforts in public relations around the World Heritage Committee (WHC) session.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2018/2019, the German Commission for UNESCO launched a participatory transformation process of the national coordination of the ASPnet, bringing it to the next level. The basis of that transformation were, in addition to the global UNESCO guidelines, "Guide for National Coordinators" (2018) and "Guide for Members" (2019), a German "Quality Assurance framework" adopted by the National Commission in 2015 and an external evaluation commissioned by the National Commission in 2018.

The National ASPnet coordination at the German Commission works together with the ASPnet Coordinators of each of the 16 German federal states and the 16 ministerial ASPnet focal points. Together, they coordinate the roughly 220 designated ASPnet schools in Germany, plus the about 80 schools already cooperating at national or regional level, with the aim of achieving a designation.

The following measures were taken by the National Commission in 2019: 1) Significantly strengthening the National ASPnet Coordination (5 FTE staff, up from less than 2 FTE) with a shared leadership; 2) Participatory revision of the 2015 "Quality Assurance framework" until December 2019; 3) Launch of a 3-year project to further strengthen the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Whole School Approach in more than 30 ASPnet schools, building on the results of the global "Climate Action Project"; 4) Establishing a web-based communications platform for the German ASPnet schools; 5) Hosting the second 2-day conference of ASPnet principals at the German Federal Foreign Office; 6) Hosting the annual conference of ASPnet school coordinators on democracy and citizenship education; 7) Preparing a new process of quality assurance, focused on the future quantitative growth of the German ASPnet network.

Altogether, 2019 saw the most important steps ever in terms of quality improvement of the German ASPnet. "With the new staff, structure and content promoted by the National ASPnet Coordination, a major step has been taken towards meeting the challenges facing a school network in the 21st century." Lars Junghanns, Saxony State ASPnet Coordinator.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

The German Commission is fully committed to implement its portfolio focused on heritage, education and youth in robust cooperation with other National Commissions, beyond its main domestic space. This international commitment, focused on but not limited to Africa and Europe, has been demonstrated and upheld for more than 10 years. It will be further strengthened in 2020, focusing on: 1) Optimizing the engagement of National Commissions with UNESCO networks in their countries such as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, ASPnet schools, Chairs, or elements of Intangible Heritage; 2) Using such networks to foster cross-border understanding at the (sub-)regional and inter-regional level, in particular through joint (e.g. serial) nominations; 3) Strengthening quality assurance in these networks and their orientation towards UNESCO objectives such as peace, sustainable development and global citizenship; 4) Strengthening the impact-orientation and mandate of National Commissions themselves; 5) Strengthening (sub-) regional and inter-regional cooperation of National Commissions; 6) Articulating insights from the work of the National Commissions at the global level, also informing UNESCO's strategic transformation.

GREECE

Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Throughout 2019, the Hellenic National Commission led a wide range of activities for the promotion of UNESCO's programs and priorities, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

In the Education sector, the 4th "Educational Awards for the Contribution in Primary Education in Border and Remote Areas of Greece" were presented in Athens, by the Assistant Director General for Education, Mrs Stefania Giannini. Furthermore, a new Greek UNESCO Chair was established at the University of the Aegean, entitled "Geoparks and Sustainable Development of Insular and Coastal Areas", raising the total number of UNESCO Chairs in Greece to 14 and promoting SDG 15.

In the Culture sector, the National Commission co-organized the 2nd World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium, in Ancient Olympia, Greece. The Conference brought together students, teachers and young people from all over the world to debate issues related to peace and resilience, as well as the protection of UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage, contributing significantly to the promotion of SDG 4, 16 and 17.

Concerning the Sciences, the National Commission co-organized with the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO the "2nd International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus". The Conference strengthened collaboration at a sub-regional level on the International Geoscience and Geoparks Program of UNESCO and contributed to the promotion of SDG 15 "Life on Land". Furthermore, the National Commission co-organized with the UNESCO Category II Center for Integrated and Interdisciplinary Water Resources Management, a Conference on Water Management in the area of the South Eastern Europe. Representatives from water supply agencies, sewerage agencies and relevant Ministries from 11 countries participated, promoting SDG 6, on ensuring the access to clean water and sanitation for all.



The European Project "Film Festivals and Movie Tourism across UNESCO Sites" © A.R.R. Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO.

seeks market viability and effective measurable results on target groups and destinations. Within this framework, five workshops, "Movie Travel Labs", were organized in Athens, Genoa, Barcelona, Nicosia and Valletta, in order to acquaint them with the project and to provide them with the opportunity to getting involved.

SUCCESS STORY

The Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with partners from five other countries, namely Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta and Spain, implemented the project, "Film Festivals and Movie Tourism across UNESCO Sites" (FAMOUS). The project developed a storytelling that links UNESCO World Heritage Sites to films, which unfolds across different platforms in a media strategy focused on delivering high-quality curated content. Film commissions, travel bloggers, media creators and tourism offices from all over Europe have been involved to deliver an innovative app that invites the visitor to discover the very best of UNESCO Sites in Europe through the lens of the camera of charming, intriguing and artistic movies. Through the collaboration of public and private actors, making them both relevant to a shared product framework, the project

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Hellenic National Commission will organize in 2020 a regional 2-day Conference on Global Citizenship and Democracy, with the participation of high-level representatives from the UN and UNESCO, ministers, ambassadors, professors from UNESCO chairs, teachers from UNESCO ASPnet Schools and other relevant stakeholders. The Conference will be implemented in the framework of the Teachers4Europe Project (T4E), which aims at creating a cross-border, sustainable and long-lasting teachers' network. T4E network will elaborate a bottom-up and student-centred approach to motivate students and teachers towards active citizenship and democratic values not only as a pedagogical procedure, but, above all, as a way of living and worldview. This project is the product of the collaboration among the National Commission, the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the University of Piraeus Research Center and partners from Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Malta, Romania. Furthermore, the National Commission is planning to implement, in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat and UNESCO Venice Office, a regional conference of UNESCO Chairs, with a focus on their contribution to the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals.

HUNGARY

Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Hungarian National Commission continues to see its role as the connection between UNESCO, national government, civil society, academic and professional communities to translate UNESCO's ideals into action on the ground in partnership with stakeholders. We established partnership agreements for specific projects with civil organisations and academic communities, whose mission and activities fall within UNESCO's mandate. A useful way of coordinating national efforts has been the anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated. The 100th anniversary of the death of Roland Eötvös, physicist, geophysicist and innovator of higher education (1848-1919), was a truly national event.

The 5th edition of the World's Largest Lesson focused on biodiversity. The Commission partnered with half a dozen organisations to make this a nation-wide event, with webinars and trainings for teachers, diverse activities and competitions for students. With more than 600 schools and a 100 thousand

students participating, this was the largest lesson so far. We also partnered with the Sustainability Week, which mobilised more than 1500 schools and focused on the Sustainable Development Goals with special regard to transportation and water.

The 5th Interreligious Dialogue Conference, "Common reflection on our future – Expanding circles of our responsibility", was held in the Benedictine Abbey of Tihany (Hungary) in June, organised by the National Commission with support from the Prime Minister's Office. The focus was on our personal, communal and planetary responsibility in the context of the global ecological crisis. Participants included leaders of various religious communities in Hungary, as well as specialists in ecology, political sciences and pedagogy.

In partnership with the UNESCO Chair on Cultural heritage and Sustainability, the first UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) School took place at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Kőszeg, with 23 participants from 17 countries. The topic was Intercultural Heritage and the Complexity of Sustainability – A Future-Oriented Central European Approach.

Veszprém was designated as a UNESCO Creative City for Music.

Five countries (Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia) submitted an application for inclusion of the region Mura-Drava-Danube as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in the Man and Biosphere Program. If accepted by the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme, this will be the first five-lateral biosphere reserve in the world.

SUCCESS STORY

In the context of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO organised a program series called Intercontinental bridges for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. This included the digitalisation of the recordings of traditional music and dance collected by Hungarian researchers in Ethiopia in 1965. During the engagement with tradition bearers, 3220 metres of film, 41 hours of sound, 1014 photos were recorded, as well as 200 pages of notes taken by György Martin and Bálint Sárosi. The Institute for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences digitalized this valuable collection, which was handed over to the Ethiopian government and other relevant Ethiopian institutions, in the form of a professional workshop and a ceremony held in Addis Ababa in June 2019. This included also a capacity-building seminar in Hungary for intangible cultural heritage experts from sub-Saharan African countries. Participants were acquainted with two safeguarding models inscribed on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices: the "Táncház method: a Hungarian model for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage" and the "Safeguarding of the folk music heritage by the Kodály concept" as well as other safeguarding measures and institutions. The program was implemented by the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Directorate of the Hungarian Open Air Museum.



From left: Eszter Csonka-Takács PhD, Director of ICH Directorate of the Hungarian Open Air Museum; Shimeles Tayu, Director of Public Relations at NALA; Selamawit Aragaw Erkihun, Director of Saint Yared Music School; Ahmed Zekaria PhD Ethiopian Studies; Ethiopian National Theatre, 14th June 2019. Photo: Dawit Haileeyesus / © Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Commission will provide professional advice to Hungary's membership of the Executive Board (2019-2023).

The second UNESCO MOST School will be held under the title, "In What and Whom Do We Trust? The Sustainability of Ideals and Re-evaluation of Values Across Continents".

In the context of Hungary's membership of the Bureau of Council of Information For All Programme (IFAP), we envisage to organize a workshop in Budapest on the possibilities of creating a joint online platform to manage scientific research projects of scholars, teachers and students, based on micro-tasking.

After consolidating our ASP Network, in line with the guidelines published by UNESCO, we will seek to enlarge its membership. We would be happy to exchange good practices in this regard and also to connect interested schools.

We shall facilitate 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).

ICELAND

Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission 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, and 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, which are underlying all projects and programmes of the Commission. In 2019, the Icelandic National Commission actively worked towards promoting and informing UNESCO partners in Iceland about the SDGs.

The Commission supported the agreement between Iceland and UNESCO for the establishment of GRÓ – the International Center for Capacity Development, Sustainable Use of Natural

Resources and Societal Change, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Centre focuses on areas where Iceland has valuable expertise – geothermal energy, gender equality, fisheries and land restoration. This is the first multidisciplinary Category 2 Centre in UNESCO's network, bringing together four areas of expertise and training. The goal is to enhance the capacities of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean in the four fields, strengthening their abilities to attain international and national targets with respect to the SDGs, and linking them to UNESCO's mandate and global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality.

Vatnajökull National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The natural environment of the area, which covers 14% of Iceland, that is now added to the World Heritage List, is magnificent – with incredible lava formations, black sands, rare oases, unique wilderness, remnants of catastrophic floods and glaciers that store an incredible history and at the same time reflect the current climate crisis. It is highly unusual that such a large part of a country is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The National Commission and the Permanent Delegation participated in the annual Nordic UNESCO coordination meeting in Sweden. The meeting focused on the Nordic preparations for the 40th session of the General Conference and 2030 Agenda. All members of the National Commission participated in the 40th session of the General Conference, attending commissions, holding statements and writing reports during the session.



UNESCO Partners in Iceland meeting with the National Commission, Ministry and Delegation.
(Photo copyright: The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) © A.R.R. Iceland National Commission for UNESCO

The seminar was attended by the Minister of Education, Science and Culture and the Icelandic Delegation for UNESCO. All the UNESCO partners in Iceland were very happy with the initiative and expressed their interest in making the seminar of UNESCO partners in Iceland an annual event.

SUCCESS STORY

In August, the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO arranged a seminar, bringing together for the first time all UNESCO partners in Iceland, representing the wide variety of UNESCO designations and other relevant stakeholders in Iceland. The seminar focused on the connection UNESCO partners have with the 2030 Agenda and how they work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Icelandic National Commission also focused on synergies among World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Memory of the World, Creative City, ASP- net schools, UNITWIN Network, Category 2 Centres and Geoparks 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 Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Network. The Commission will also put emphasis on supporting UNESCO networks in Iceland to adopt the 2030 Agenda as a reference framework. The ASP-schools in Iceland seek more cooperation with ASP-schools in other parts of the world, mainly on the topic of global citizenship education.

Close and well-established cooperation exists between the Nordic countries on UNESCO related issues. The National Commissions are an essential part of this cooperation, and the coordination is conducted by each Nordic country in turn. In 2020, the Icelandic National Commission will take part in the Nordic meeting in Norway. The Commission will also take part in the work of regional and global UNESCO networks through sharing information and participating in meetings.

IRELAND

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Dublin Learning City Project is a collaboration between five higher education institutes, Dublin City Council and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board. In April 2019, Dublin held its first learning festival, with over 140 learning events happening across the city, showcasing Dublin as a city committed to lifelong learning. The Project has joined an all-island network of learning cities, including Cork, Limerick, Belfast and Derry-Strabane, with the cities signing a Learning City Charter in May 2019. In June 2019, Dublin's application for membership of the Global Network of Learning Cities was approved by UNESCO.

In November 2019, the Department of Education and Skills held the 5th National Forum on Education for Sustainable

Development, which focused on Sustainable Development Goal 4. The forum was held under the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (2014-2020), to ensure that education contributes to sustainable development by equipping learners with the relevant knowledge, skills and values that will motivate and empower them throughout their lives to become informed active citizens who take action for a more sustainable future.

A new state-of-the-art Visitor Experience at the Brú na Bóinne centre was officially opened by the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works (OPW), in December 2019. It followed a major investment of €4.5m by Fáilte Ireland, OPW and Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The building on the banks of the Boyne River, near Donore in Co. Meath, has become famous as the entry point for the renowned Neolithic Passage Tomb complexes of Newgrange and Knowth. The new visitor experience showcases the heritage of Brú na Bóinne in a way that is evocative, absorbing and entertaining for visitors while increasing capacity. It will tell the story of how the Neolithic Passage Tomb at Newgrange was constructed around 3,200 BC, and the way it aligns with the rising sun at the time of the Winter Solstice on 21 December. New information on the World Heritage Site around Newgrange will also be brought to life at the centre, with exciting discoveries made during the summer of 2018, since investigated by the National Monuments Service.



Image courtesy of Cruit Éireann © A.R.R. Irish National Commission for UNESCO

Irish culture with others, while also showing the importance of Ireland's engagement with UNESCO. Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland, the organization that practice, promote and safeguard Irish Harping, were deeply involved in securing this important inscription.

SUCCESS STORY

In July 2019, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched Ireland's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), which includes over 30 inscribed ICH practices. The National Inventory recognizes and safeguards Ireland's ICH on a State level. Applications for inscription on Ireland's National Inventory of ICH continue to be received and reviewed by the State. Further details can be found at <https://nationalinventoryich.ch.gov.ie/about/>.

In 2019, Ireland was delighted to have the practice of Irish Harping inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Harp is Ireland's national emblem and is synonymous with Ireland. The playing of the harp in Ireland dates back over 1,000 years. By achieving this international recognition, this key element of Ireland's living heritage will be safeguarded for future generations. It also presents a wonderful opportunity to share this cherished aspect of

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Ireland continues to receive applications from ICH practitioners requesting inscription on our National Inventory of ICH. Following review by our Expert Advisory Committee on ICH and approval by the Minister, those practices meeting the criteria set out are inscribed on the list. This process ensures that more of Ireland's intangible culture heritage is being recognized and safeguarded for future generations. In 2020, Ireland is also working with other State Parties to the UNESCO 2003 Convention to enhance cooperation by examining the scope to join a number of existing multinational files, where the practices are included on Ireland's National Inventory.

In 2020, Irish schools will, once again, take part in the World's Largest Lesson, which is run in conjunction with UNICEF and UNESCO. The lesson plan will have an emphasis on SDG16. Schools will be visited by Irish Ambassadors and peacekeepers as part of the 'Global Schools' programme. This aims to bring a deeper understanding of how UN membership has been central to Irish foreign policy and has played a significant role in Ireland's history. Each school will be presented with a UN flag and a copy of the preamble of the UN Charter, in recognition of Ireland's contributions to addressing the biggest challenges facing our world today through peacekeeping, international development, human rights and disarmament. It is the intention that all post-primary schools in Ireland will be visited over the next number of years.

ITALY

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

UNESCO objectives and the SDGs guided the Commission's participation in the IV UNESCO World Forum on "Culture and Food, innovative strategies for sustainable development", held in Parma, and in the UNESCO XIII Annual meeting of UNESCO network of Creative Cities, in Fabriano at the presence of the Italian President of the Republic.

The focus on the SDGs was maintained by the Commission also on the occasion of its participation in the international

meeting, "The future of South East Europe and Mediterranean in the contest of climate change", organized by the UNESCO Regional office in Venice and during the presentation of the Italian translation of the UNESCO publication "Behind the numbers: ending school violence and bullying", organized by the Club for UNESCO of Lucca with the support of the National Commission.

The Committee on Sustainable Development of the Commission organized educational projects on health and climate change in over 100 schools. The Commission was also involved in the second edition of the Monviso Man and the Biosphere Youth Camp focused on the 17 SDGs and dealt with the topic of World Heritage and sustainability on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Dolomites as a World Heritage site. The UNESCO Regional office in Venice and the Commission collaborated for the translation in Italian of the "Ocean Literacy Toolkit". In addition, the Commission established an ad hoc Committee on secondary and upper secondary vocational training, to submit concrete proposals for the improvement of this sector of the Italian school system.



In bici tra Parchi e siti UNESCO / ©A.R.R. Italian National Commission for UNESCO

One of the participants stated that "as research fellow at E-scapes research lab, based at Polytechnic University of Milan, the event represented a great opportunity to test the effectiveness of a territorial strategy aiming at improving sustainable tourism. Such a strategy shifts the focus from the main highlights that usually attract most tourists (major cultural and natural heritage) enlarging the vision to the whole surrounding landscape, including inner areas, small villages and local communities of the in-between territories. The spatial strategy allowed to test a richer, slower way to experience the territory, by integrating sustainable intermodal mobility (bicycle and train) to access cultural places, so to allow better connections between heritage sites and, at the same time, to revitalize the inner areas where spatial, environmental and cultural assets of great value are also present".

SUCCESS STORY

Together with the Polytechnic University of Milan and the regional coordination office of the UNESCO's World Heritage sites of Apulia and Basilicata, the Italian National Commission organized a 5 days sustainable and cultural cycling tour connecting the World Heritage sites, cultural and natural, of the two regions. The tour has been open to the participation of students and professors dealing with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -related topics, such as World Heritage conservation and promotion, sustainable tourism, sustainable access to World Heritage sites through dedicated infrastructures. At the end of each day, meetings on major challenges concerning sustainability and World Heritage were organized with mayors and councillors dealing with tourism, culture and World Heritage sites.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Promoting the Italian translation of the "Ocean Literacy Toolkit" among Italian schools and institutions dealing with SDGs will be a Commission priority in 2020, in order to put a stronger focus on education.

As 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of the inclusion of the Mediterranean diet in the list of the UNESCO's Intangible Heritage, the Commission will engage in the organization of several events promoting the Mediterranean diet as a healthy life style and as a cultural contribution to the SDGs.

LATVIA

Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, two Latvia's anniversaries were celebrated in association with UNESCO – the 150th anniversary of linguist, ethnographer and sinologist Pēteris Šmits and the 100th anniversary of Latvian national institutions for culture, education and science.

Academic organisations and memory institutions organised vast commemoration programme for the P. Šmits anniversary, which included an exhibition of his documentary heritage, an international scientific conference gathering historians,

ethnographers and linguists from Europe and Asia, and other events.

The 100th anniversary of Latvian national institutions for culture, education and science was celebrated with travelling exhibition "Alphabet of Latvian Culture", exhibited also at UNESCO Headquarters and at the University of Latvia in Riga, Latvia.

To share UNESCO's vision with Latvian citizens, in the summer of 2019, the conference, "Care, Share, and Sustain: UNESCO Networks in Latvia for Sustainable Development", was organized with librarians, teachers, museum workers and representatives of other institutions involved with UNESCO. Providing a comprehensive training programme for professional development, this focused on strengthening the capacity and synergy between UNESCO Networks in Latvia in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 4.

2019 marked the 15th anniversary of the L'ORÉAL Baltic Fellowship "For Women in Science". Since the implementation, 49 female scientists have received the award. To communicate the achievements of women scientists, the theme of UNESCO Week 2019 was "Bright Minds: Women in Science". People were invited to research and share stories about local women scientists and their families. The feature event was a discussion of four successful women working in different fields of science who shared their career paths to an audience of young girls.



Photo_Baltic Youth Forum "Going Further along the Baltic Way" © Ilze Dalbina, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO.

common values and challenges in the region today – human rights, environmental sustainability, and preservation of cultural heritage –keeping in mind their importance for the SDGs.

SUCCESS STORY

2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the Baltic Way – a peaceful demonstration where people in all three Baltic countries joined their hands in efforts towards freedom. The Baltic Way proved that faith in democratic ideas, a sense of brotherhood and unity can bring together inhabitants of Baltic States for political participation and social activism. The demonstration of Baltic Way also gained UNESCO recognition, as supporting documentary evidence – photography, audio and video recordings, letters and other documents – are included in the Memory of the World International Register.

A Baltic Youth Forum, "Going Further along the Baltic Way", was organized on this historical event not only as a commemoration of the past, but as an inspiration for civic participation in the future. The main audience was youth – as the next generation of decision makers – namely students (15-19 years old) from UNESCO Associated Schools in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia covering different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, urban and rural schools, as well as minority schools. The Baltic Youth Forum engaged over 100 young high-school students in discussions on

FUTURE PRIORITIES

To further the SDGs in 2020, the National Commission, in cooperation with the National Library of Latvia and the Library Association of Latvia, will continue implementing the project, "Sustainable development of libraries and society: We create this world ourselves". By recognizing and appreciating the potential libraries have in becoming community centres for sustainable development and encouraging society to explore the relationship between local and global challenges, the aim is to advance SDGs relevant to specific community challenges, to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and to promote the professional development of librarians.

The project was launched in 2019, with an interactive seminar. To broaden the scope to other regions of Latvia, four regional seminars are planned, two in 2020. The project will conclude in September with a conference of librarians from different regions in Latvia, providing them with a platform to share experience in working with the SDGs.

LITHUANIA

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Commission, together with the National Memory of the World Committee, organized the procedures of selecting and a ceremony for inscribing six new objects of national documentary heritage onto the National Memory of the World Register. The ceremony took place on 20 September on the occasion of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, at the Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library, together with the opening of an exposition.

On 6th May, the Commission welcomed a new UNESCO Chair on Media and Information Literacy for Inclusive Knowledge Societies at the Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy.

The Commission continued cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Learning on further introducing the Open Badge standard in new learning environments, as the Global Network of Learning Cities. In 2019, the Vilnius City of Learning was created, and the model presented at the 4th Conference of the Global Network in Colombia.

The Commission was actively involved in the process of drawing the Guidelines for the Curricula Revision (published in 2019), which set the Lithuanian general education system on a way to curriculum reform. In a broader scope, the relevance of education to holistic, inclusive, just and sustainable development is promoted in line with Education 2030 / Sustainable Development Goals 4 in particular.

The Commission continued taking an active role in the preparation of the nomination file of Kaunas modernism architecture, and, with Kaunas city municipality, organised a significant international modern cities forum, "From Modern to Contemporary: Practices in Preserving Architectural Legacy of the 20th Century, based on Tel Aviv Document for the Modern Cities", on 12-13 of September. This brought together experts to discuss the protection, conservation and management of modern legacy inscribed on World Heritage list, referring to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.



SUCCESS STORY

In 2019-2020, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with the Vilnius Ethnic Culture Centre, has been implementing a pilot project, "The Catalogue of Non-governmental Organisations of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Vilnius County", financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The project was initiated to encourage the sector of non-governmental organizations (professional unions, associations, folklore groups, local communities, charity and support foundations, other societal organizations and entities), active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to

share information, search for partnerships for national and international projects. An electronic database (<https://www.nematerialuspaveldasno.lt/>) provides information in Lithuanian and English languages on the NGOs in 8 municipalities of the Vilnius county. In 2019, during the first stage of the project, 85 organizations joined the database, introduced themselves as well as listed some previously implemented projects or activities (educational activities or workshops, trainings, traditional festivities, celebrations, events, etc).

In 2020, during the second stage, it is foreseen to organize a meeting for both registered and not registered organizations, to encourage those active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to join the shared platform, create networks, associations uniting organizations of the same field and with similar objectives. After the final event, the database will be administrated by the Vilnius Ethnic Culture Centre, which will take the responsibility to update the database and organize annual meetings. This pilot project will stimulate similar databases in other counties.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Commission is planning to bolster the national ASPnet in cooperation with National Agency for Education, by planning common activities and discussion on possible transmission of coordination. The Nordic-Baltic sub-regional conference on the quality of education, in cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers, is planned to be held in autumn, resulting in long-term networks and reporting platforms.

The Commission will continue involvement in the L'Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship Programme by planning activities on science for society, lectures, discussions, workshops for pupils.

In order to celebrate the 2020 National Year of UNESCO Heritage in Lithuania, the Commission will develop a unanimous publicity programme and coordinate implementation. An interactive exhibition, with the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts, is to be installed in the gallery of the Commission, along with an exhaustive programme of educational events.

The Commission is planning to renew the National Memory of the World Committee, elect its Chairperson and set its action guidelines for the next term of 4 years.

LUXEMBOURG

Commission nationale luxembourgeoise pour l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Simone Beck

Secrétaire générale : Mme Catherine Decker

Courrier électronique : info@unesco.lu

Site web : www.unesco.lu

ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Les travaux de la commission ont continué à mettre l'accent mis sur le partage de l'information relative aux programmes de l'UNESCO et l'engagement des acteurs nationaux autour de thématiques chères à l'UNESCO. Des échanges réguliers avec les responsables des désignations UNESCO au Luxembourg permettent à la commission de faire le suivi de leur gestion journalière et de sensibiliser aux objectifs de l'UNESCO et du développement durable (ODD).

De nombreuses interactions avec les responsables nationaux du patrimoine culturel, mobilier et immobilier, matériel et immatériel ont eu lieu en vue de faire aboutir le projet de loi relatif au patrimoine culturel. Ce projet de loi prévoit la transposition en droit national des engagements internationaux issus de conventions UNESCO. De plus, une séance de concertation avec le Conseil International des Monuments et des Sites

(ICOMOS) Luxembourg a permis d'identifier les objectifs communs : transmission des savoir-faire, sensibilisation et jeunesse.

Une partie importante du travail de la commission fut également la mise en place des structures de gestion du site et la préparation en vue de la célébration du 25e anniversaire du patrimoine mondial « Ville de Luxembourg : vieux quartiers et fortifications ». Le choix d'une approche inclusive a permis de travailler en concertation étroite avec les organisations gouvernementales, communales et la société civile. Ensemble avec les onze écoles associées de l'UNESCO, un concours de dessin du site du patrimoine mondial « Ville de Luxembourg : vieux quartiers et fortifications » a été organisé. De futurs plans impliquent l'élaboration d'outils électroniques, pour encourager un tourisme sensible et de qualité. Un UNESCO Visitor Center a été inauguré au musée d'histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg.

Le cycle de conférences « Les Rendez-Vous de l'UNESCO » a été poursuivi avec les thèmes suivants: Through the Looking Glass : Reflections and Stories on Women and Photojournalism; Digitization & Human Rights; Pour une culture plus scientifique... et une science plus Culturelle; Ewige Ruhe ? Was Tote über ihr Leben verraten; Chrëschtids- a Kleeserchersladder (patrimoine musical luxembourgeois autour de Noël et de la St Nicolas).

La commission a participé à la passation des pouvoirs de la chaire UNESCO en Droits de l'Homme organisée par l'Université de Luxembourg. Par ailleurs, la commission est engagée dans l'élaboration d'un projet luxembourgeois en vue de l'accueil de défenseurs des droits humains.



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terrain. Les interactions avec les habitants ont permis de développer une candidature réaliste et basée sur les informations réelles recueillies en amont de son dépôt.

A partir de l'identification des initiatives contribuant au développement durable, différents groupes thématiques se sont formés : biodiversité, produits du terroir ou encore patrimoine industriel. Le dernier groupe a permis la naissance d'une association sans but lucratif sous le nom de « Centre national de la culture industrielle » chargée par le Ministère de la Culture d'élaborer un concept d'un centre de documentation et de recherche sur le passé industriel du Luxembourg. Par ailleurs, la Commission a été à l'origine de la mise en place du Comité MAB national et en assure le secrétariat.

« Le dossier de candidature MAB a été validé à majorité absolue dans les onze communes, nous avons une opportunité de propulser la région sud vers l'avant. Les étoiles sont alignées ! », selon Gaëlle Tavernier, Coordinateur de la candidature MAB.

SUCCESS STORY

L'année 2019 a été fortement marquée par l'accompagnement et le développement par la Commission luxembourgeoise pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO (ci-après la « commission ») de la candidature luxembourgeoise du Minett au programme « L'Homme et la Biosphère » (ci-après « MAB ») de l'UNESCO.

Tout en se basant sur les préparations des années précédentes, cette expérience a trouvé son point culminant dans l'organisation de consultations citoyennes dans chacune des communes composant la future biosphère. Les consultations avaient pour objectifs : (i) d'informer sur le programme MAB de l'UNESCO, (ii) d'anticiper les implications du programme sur la région en question, ainsi que (3) d'identifier de projets et initiatives soutenant la mise en œuvre des objectifs du développement durable. A travers ces consultations, des partenariats ont pu être noués avec les responsables politiques locaux et avec les organisations non-gouvernementales sur le

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Dans le cadre de la collaboration entre les commissions nationales germanophones, le Luxembourg a accueilli les quatre commissions (CH, ALL et AU) pour l'élaboration d'une contribution commune à la transformation stratégique de l'UNESCO. La commission luxembourgeoise restera impliquée dans l'élaboration de la prise de position commune du réseau des commissions nationales.

Un des défis majeurs pour l'avenir de l'UNESCO consistant en l'activation des réseaux jeunes, la commission serait reconnaissante pour la création d'une communauté de pratiques d'experts en programmes jeunesse.

MALTA

Maltese National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Raymond Bondin

Secretary-General: Mr. Philip Cassar

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Website: www.unescomalta.org

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In September 2019, the Maltese National Commission was asked by Korean National Commission to assist in holding in Malta, a Memory of the World Workshop for Arab states. The MNCU was involved in the organisation of all the logistics in Malta for the event. The experts which attended the workshop included: Mr. Ray EDMONDSON, Mr. Jan BOS, Ms. Joie SPRINGER, Mr Joachim Gierlichs, and Mr. Kyung-ho SUH. The workshop, which proved to be very successful, attended by participants from eight Arab States and also by a Maltese participant. On the last day, the experts and participants were taken to a tour of Valletta – a UNESCO World Heritage site – and also visited the Maltese National Archives and the Maltese National Library.

In November, a MNCU representative participated at the first UNESCO International Centre for Documentary Heritage Workshop 2019, held in Cheongju, Republic of Korea. The Workshop focussed on capacity building in the field of documentary preservation.

In October, the MNCU, together with office of the UNESCO Schools coordination, held the third edition of Art Camp Malta. The concept for Art Camp Malta 2019 was to create a temporary Artists' Village at il-Villaġġ tal-Fanal in the village of Għasri, with an artist-in-residence programme providing

the opportunity for participating artists together with local artist, a time and space away from the usual environment and obligations. It is the aim for Art Camp Malta (Gozo) to provide participants, a time of reflection, research, presentation and production related to the central theme of "Colours for Peace."

The Art Camp was spread over eleven days and saw the participation of 21 artists from various countries around the Mediterranean. During their stay, the artists produced three pieces of art each, and were given the opportunity to explore their creativity within the local community; meeting new people, using new materials and experiencing life in a new location. The MNCU made sure that this art residency programme, based on the beautiful island of Gozo, delivered a message to the participating artists on the importance of meaningful and multi-layered cultural exchanges and immersion into another culture. The Art Camp was held with the full cooperation of the National Commission of Andorra and also had the pleasure to host its Secretary General, Mr Jean-Michel Armangol. Ms Hedva Ser, UNESCO Special Envoy for Cultural Diplomacy, who is the Special Patron of the project, presented the participation certificates to the artists at the closing ceremony of the event. The project was mainly funded by the Ministry of Gozo, the Malta Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Education.

The Maltese National Commission, together with the Malta ASPnet Coordinator, are happy to inform that two new schools have become members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network – the Dun Manual Attard, Young Adult Education Resource Centre and the Gozo Gollege, San Lawrenz Primary School.

The National Commission is still in a position where it needs to have staff in its Secretariat and greater funds to plan and cooperate with other entities and implement new projects. For this reason, the National Commission is still working hard and planning meetings with local authorities in order to seek a way forward.



The closing ceremony of the 3rd Edition of Art Camp Malta 2019. In the picture are Mme Hedva Ser together with H.E. Dr Joe Vella Gauci, Malta Ambassador to UNESCO, H.E. Dr Ray Bondin, Chairman of the Maltese National Commission, Mr Jean-Michel Armangol, Secretary General of the Andorran National Commission, and Mr Philip Cassar, Secretary General of the Maltese National Commission and the various artists who participated in the event. © Maltese National Commission for UNESCO

MONACO

Commission nationale monégasque pour l'UNESCO

Présidente : Mme Geneviève VATRICAN

Secrétaire Général : Mme Françoise GAMERDINGER

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

La Commission nationale monégasque organise différents événements chaque année en lien avec les principales

thématiques de l'UNESCO. Seule entité à réunir la quasi-totalité des acteurs culturels monégasques, la Commission nationale est consultée systématiquement dans le cadre de la programmation culturelle de la Principauté. Elle participe ainsi activement à la dynamique culturelle de son pays.

Parmi les nombreux événements en lien avec les thématiques de l'UNESCO, on peut citer pour l'année 2019 :

- La Journée des droits de l'enfant, organisée par la Direction de l'Éducation de la Jeunesse et des Sports monégasque ;
- La Journée mondiale du Théâtre, qui rassemble chaque année des compagnies locales le temps d'une soirée au Théâtre Princesse Grace ;
- Le cycle bisannuel de conférences de l'Association Monégasque pour la Connaissance des Arts, intitulé cette année « Arts Croisés ».



L'édition 2019 de la Journée Mondiale du Théâtre que nous organisons chaque année à Monaco au Théâtre Princesse Grace.

Comité National Monégasque de l'Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques ont pu s'organiser au Centre Scientifique de Monaco et au Comité National Monégasque. Le catalogue de l'exposition a été communiqué aux membres de la Commission nationale monégasque.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

En décembre 2019, une exposition, « Artistes + Science », a pris forme, sur la base d'une collaboration entre le Centre Scientifique de Monaco et le Comité National Monégasque de l'Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques auprès de l'UNESCO.

Une conférence a complété cette exposition et a réuni un public nombreux. Elle a été organisée en partenariat avec le Centre Scientifique de Monaco et le Musée d'Anthropologie Préhistorique de Monaco, mais également avec des artistes et d'autres personnalités.

En parallèle, des visites commentées aux artistes du

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Le patrimoine figure parmi les thèmes majeurs de la Commission. Ce dernier sera mis en valeur à travers plusieurs événements en 2020. Parmi eux, on peut citer :

- Les 10e Rencontres Internationales Monaco et la Méditerranée (RIMM), placées sous le haut patronage du Prince Albert II et organisées au Musée Océanographique de Monaco ont pour vocation de réunir tous les 2 ans des experts de tous horizons pour réfléchir aux grands enjeux contemporains du pourtour méditerranéen et proposer des solutions. Cette édition est intitulée « Agir pour le Patrimoine », et les thèmes abordés seront la protection du patrimoine méditerranéen, entre héritage et perspective d'avenir, le patrimoine en tension, stratégie de protection et nouvelle gouvernance, le patrimoine collaboratif et le patrimoine de Monaco. Pour ces RIMM, une conférence portant sur « L'invention du Patrimoine du XVIIe au XXe siècle à Monaco » sera animée par le Directeur des Archives du Palais Princier et l'autre intitulée « L'apport des recherches archéologiques à Monaco » sera animée par le Directeur du Musée d'Anthropologie Préhistorique de Monaco. SAS le Prince Albert II a fait l'ouverture de la 10e édition des Rencontres Internationales Monaco et la Méditerranée, qui s'est tenue le 12 mars à Monaco, en présence de Mme Audrey Azoulay, Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO. Tous les actes, films et photos des colloques sont en ligne sur www.rimm-mc.org ;
- La Journée Européenne du Patrimoine, pour laquelle l'Institut du Patrimoine (entité organisatrice de l'événement, dépendant de la Direction des Affaires Culturelles) et la Direction de l'Éducation Nationale de la Jeunesse et des Sports collaborent sur la thématique retenue cette année « Patrimoine et Éducation ». Date : dimanche 27 septembre 2020 ;
- Une exposition sur les plus grandes découvertes archéologiques monégasques, depuis la fin du XIXe siècle à aujourd'hui et sur toutes les périodes : Monaco à la préhistoire, Monaco à l'âge des métaux, à l'Antiquité, au Moyen Âge et à l'époque moderne. Pour cette exposition, organisée par le Musée d'Anthropologie Préhistorique de Monaco, 70 partenaires locaux et internationaux (scientifiques, historiens, particuliers) seront réunis.

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands Commission for UNESCO

Chair: Ms. Kathleen Ferrier

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Netherlands Commission for UNESCO organized the annual launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report in the Netherlands in collaboration with ROC Midden Nederland, a school for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and member of the ASP-net. Students and teachers discussed the report's theme of migration and displacement and the consequences thereof on education in the Netherlands.

In 2019, the ASP-net grew from 47 to 55 schools. The network now contains 6 schools for primary education, 35 for secondary education and 14 schools for TVET and/or teacher training.

L'Oréal Netherlands, the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO and the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities joined hands to offer a national 'Rising Talent Prize' to young female researchers, as part of the Netherlands L'Oréal UNESCO For Women in Science program.

The Commission organized an expert meeting on Open Science to intensify the national dialogue on the topic of open science as a means to make science more responsive towards humanity and society's goals.

In 2019, the second protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural heritage in times of armed conflict celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The Netherlands Commission organized a panel discussion in the Hague University for Applied Sciences to discuss the effectiveness of UNESCO's instruments to protect heritage in crisis situations. The event resulted in eleven lessons learned that focus on the necessity to strengthen existing international legal frameworks when protecting heritage.

The Memory of the World Committee of the Netherlands produced a short film about the MoW-program. With a grant from the government, a professional animated feature of 90 seconds was produced, targeted at a general audience. The film explains why it is essential to preserve documentary heritage, and why it is so important for our common memory and shared past.



Netherlands on World Heritage Map

where members of the Commission, the Youth Commission, UNESCO chairs and other experts, or employees of the bureau, give their personal opinion on UNESCO related topics that are in the news, or that should be in the news. Kathleen Ferrier, chair of the Commission: "It is really important for us, as a commission, to make UNESCO's main driving forces visible in the Netherlands and to have a continuous conversation within our society, at different levels and in different contexts, about all that relates to UNESCO".

Since the relaunch, the amount of visitors to the website nearly quadrupled to 50,000 per month. The most popular section is a Dutch version of the World Heritage database that visitors can either access through means of a map or through a list view. Although the range of activities of the Commission is much wider than activities concerning heritage alone, heritage holds the largest interest and functions as a carrier to try planting the UNESCO message in the minds of people.

SUCCESS STORY

A central part of the mission of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO is to increase awareness of the work that UNESCO does and of the values the organization instills. Being visible, having a clear message and providing good information about the breadth of UNESCO's domains in the Netherlands and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of its permanent tasks.

In 2019 one of the biggest projects of the Commission was the renewal of the website unesco.nl, the most important communication channel of the Commission. The website underwent a major design makeover and a lot of new functionalities were added.

One of the most successful features is the opinion section, where members of the Commission, the Youth Commission, UNESCO chairs and other experts, or employees of the bureau, give their personal opinion on UNESCO related topics that are in the news, or that should be in the news. Kathleen Ferrier, chair of the Commission: "It is really important for us, as a commission, to make UNESCO's main driving forces visible in the Netherlands and to have a continuous conversation within our society, at different levels and in different contexts, about all that relates to UNESCO".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In late 2019, the Commission approved a new working program (2020 – 2021), with five priorities:

- To further anchor the UNESCO values in the Dutch educational system (SDG4);
- To view and use science and technology as a basis for a sustainable society (SDG4, 9 and 10);
- By embracing diversity, the Commission strives for inclusion, in particular in the domain of culture. (SDG 5,10 and 11);
- To promote freedom of expression, freedom of the press and respect for the diversity of opinions (SDG16);
- Climate change as seen from a UNESCO perspective (SDG 11 and 13).

The Netherlands Commission is also the Commission for UNESCO for the Dutch Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. These islands differ substantially from one another, so it is important for the Commission to work with the UNESCO focal points on issues that are specific for these islands.

The Commission continues collaboration with the National Commissions of the three independent Caribbean islands in the Dutch Kingdom, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, for instance, in the fields of education, intangible heritage, safeguarding documentary heritage and disaster preparedness & response.

NORTH MACEDONIA

National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of North Macedonia

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission continued activities related to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Government and the National Commission intensified cooperation with the World Heritage Centre regarding implementation of the Recommendations from the Decision 43 COM 7B.3 for the World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region". The national and local

authorities, state institutions and civil sector have been involved in the activities related to the maintaining of the status of this world heritage property and the preparation of the annual State of Conservation Report. The official joint promotion of the extension of the property on the territory of the Republic of Albania, (Decision 43 COM 8C.9) was held on July 29, 2019 in Pogradec, where Ministers for Culture and Environment and Physical Planning from both countries were present.

Capacity building was provided for our experts at several workshops and meetings: the UNESCO International Water Conference — Leveraging intersectorality for sustainable water security and peace (Paris, France) where the "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region – 40 years World Heritage" was presented; the Workshop on "Disaster Risk Management in the field of Cultural Heritage – second phase" (Studenica Monastery, Serbia); the Regional Symposium, "The Future of South East Europe and the Mediterranean in the context of Climate Change: a UNESCO perspective" (Venice, Italy); the International Academy on UNESCO Designations and Sustainable Development (Turin, Italy).

The State submitted the National Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.



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SUCCESS STORY

In the context of promoting the inscribed elements on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, with the support of the National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and Embassies of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania and the Republic of Moldova at UNESCO Headquarters on March 1, 2019, an event for the joint promotion of "Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March" was organized. For this event, the National Commission and the Cultural Heritage Protection Office of the Republic of North Macedonia continued cooperation with civil society and professionals involved in the process of preparing the nomination file. "MARTINKI" – a special hand-made artefact from red and white woolen thread, bookmarks and multilingual brochure dedicated to the practice of this tradition, were presented during the event.

Two anniversaries – the "100th anniversary of the birth of Blaze Koneski, philologist and poet (1921-1993)" and the "50th anniversary of the death of Parashkevi Qiriazhi, pedagogue and intellectual (1880-1970)" – submitted by the Republic of North Macedonia, were approved by the 40th session of the General Conference for UNESCO to be associated in 2020-2021.

The Republic of North Macedonia participated in the preparation of the nomination file for support of the extension process of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe".

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Reinforcing regional cooperation, and cooperation with other complementary international organizations, and providing capacity building for cultural workers and professionals, artists and cultural institutions in different fields for implementation of the UNESCO conventions;
- Raising awareness of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- Supporting activities regarding the preparation of new inscriptions on the representative lists of UNESCO;
- Implementation of the activities related to the World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region";
- Strengthening activities in line with UNESCO's policies in the fields of education and science, youth, environment and information and communication technologies.

NORWAY

Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission increased from eight to nine members, strengthening its capacity in the field of education. In general, there is continuing interest in UNESCO's values and networks. The Norwegian National Commission is happy that Norway rejoined the Man and the Biosphere Network. In addition, the National Commission welcomes a new geopark at Trollfjell, Northern Norway as well as the first element inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity with singing, dancing and folk music from Setesdal.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continue to be an overall framework for the National Commission's work and activities

2019 was a year of celebrating World Heritage Cites' anniversaries in Norway. The President of the Commission participated in many of these celebrations, which is also an

occasion to inform the audience of UNESCO's mandate and values.

Together with Ministries, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and NGOs, we organized a very well attended presentation of the Global Education Monitoring Report 2019 – Migration and Displacement. Together with the UN Association of Norway, the Commission continues to support the ASP-network, which has increased the number of member schools.

The National Commission's grant scheme continues to be a valuable tool for UNESCO-related projects and activities, greatly appreciated by civil society, and contributing to making UNESCO better known throughout Norway. As 2019 was the UN Year of Indigenous Languages, the Commission gave special priority to projects supporting indigenous languages. 9 of 23 projects supported indigenous languages, among them translating the Sustainable Development Goals into northern Sami, Education for Sustainable Development in Sami and Wikimedia – increasing Sami knowledge on Wikipedia.

The Commission participated in the 40th session of the General Conference and was very happy to witness Member States' endorsement the Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education. The new convention establishes universal principles for recognition of studies and degrees and will improve mobility for more than 220 million students enrolled in higher education worldwide. The Convention has been eight years in the making and the work has been very much supported by the Norwegian National Commission.



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The new area was celebrated with an evening walk to the top of a small mountain, everybody carrying torches, forming a chain of light to the top, where all the mayors of the area lit the beacon to mark the start of the new Man and the Biosphere (MAB)-area.

In the words of Project Leader, Kari Evensen Natland: "In our efforts to gain status as a UNESCO biosphere reserve, we have worked widely locally, nationally and internationally to engage others in the application and get a strong candidacy in place. From the very beginning, and throughout the application period, we have had strong support from the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO. In particular, we would like to highlight the Commission's president, Tora Aasland, who has been strongly committed to Nordhordland, far beyond what one would expect. We can safely say that this support has been one of the success factors for Nordhordland being designated a UNESCO biosphere reserve in June 2019".

SUCCESS STORY

The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO was delighted to celebrate, with the region of Nordhordland, Norway's rejoining Man and the Biosphere Program on 19 June 2019. The Nordhordland Biosphere area covers 6 698 km² and has a varied landscape, from the coast and the sea with islands in the west, through fjords, valleys and forests to the mountains in the east. The area is an example of both historic and modern coast landscape, and the biosphere area is focusing on sustainable and ecological development of nature, society and business.

Work started in 2013 and the Commission has been involved and supportive to the work of the biosphere area, among them facilitating contact with relevant authorities. From the beginning, there has been very active involvement by local authorities, and there is great enthusiasm for the biosphere area.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Norwegian National Commission is hosting in 2020 the annual meeting for Nordic National Commission for UNESCO, a regular event in Nordic cooperation in UNESCO. The Commission participated actively in the Nordic meeting hosted by Sweden in 2019. The National Commission is an active partner in the Informal European Network of National Commissions. The Commission is looking forward to the 7th Interregional meeting of National Commissions. The Commission is also planning to organize a national meeting in September for all UNESCO sites and networks, to gather all of the Norwegian members of the UNESCO family. We hope this will also be an occasion to celebrate the 75th anniversary of UNESCO.

POLAND

Polish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Jacek Purchla

Secretary-General: Mr. Sławomir Ratajski

Website: www.unesco.pl

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the main tasks of the Polish National Commission related to the 40th session of the General Conference. Representatives of the Permanent Secretariat took an active part in the works of Programme Commissions, the Science Commission, Culture Commission and Communication and Information Commission in particular.

In framework of cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General chaired the Polish Delegation to the session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bogota. The President and the Secretary-General were involved in the works of advisory bodies of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage concerning the World Heritage Convention and the Convention concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In cooperation with concerned universities, the National Commission guided the submission of new applications and renewals in the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme. The UNESCO Chair on Ecohydrology and Applied Ecology was established at the University of Lodz, and two renewals were successfully carried out.

In 2019, the National Commission established an advisory body for UNESCO Prizes and coordinated the submission of candidatures.

As every year, the activities of the National Coordinator for UNESCO Associated Schools Project were performed by a member of the Permanent Secretariat.

With our support, new members joined the UNESCO Networks: the city of Wrocław as a Literature Creative City and the city of Gdynia as a Learning City.

We co-edited, together with governmental and non-governmental partners, a Media, information and Digital Education Model — a tool for teachers and educators aiming to improve the school's efficiency in developing Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and digital competences of young people. The instrument, accessible online, was prepared following consultations with professionals, including through the Polish Information For All Programme (IFAP) Committee. The English version will be available.

SUCCESS STORY

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO is the main coordinator of 3 kinds of fellowship programmes for advanced studies at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, organized in cooperation with UNESCO and Polish research institutes. In 2019, more than 150 fellows from 41 countries from Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America, Arab region and Europe have benefited from the following programmes:

- The UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Engineering is a 6-months programme carried out in partnership with UNESCO, National Commissions for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering Education at the AGH University in Kraków. It covers several dozen courses in the field of engineering and technical sciences. Fellows have the opportunity to undertake research studies using high technology laboratory equipment and learning about transferring knowledge to their countries;
- The UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Archaeology and Conservation is an 8-months programme conducted in partnership with UNESCO, National Commissions for UNESCO and the Institutes of Archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. It is addressed to archaeologists and conservators from countries affected by armed conflicts (mainly of the Middle East and Ukraine). As one of its beneficiaries said: "the programme builds bridges and academic exchange in the field of archaeology and restoration";
- The Fellowship Programme under the Polish National Commission for UNESCO is dedicated to young researchers from Eastern and Central Europe and from the developing countries, who intend to conduct research programmes at Polish universities. Fellows carry out research in various fields of science: ecology, economics, history, natural, technical and political sciences. The programme contributes to international cooperation between universities and research institutions and to the dissemination of knowledge, new scientific solutions and good practices worldwide.



Fellowship holders from Sudan working in the laboratories of the Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. © A.R.R. Polish National Commission for the UNESCO

PORTUGAL

Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

Même si l'Agenda 2030 est transversalement présent dans la majorité des activités développées, nous soulignons l'organisation, dans le cadre du Réseau des écoles associées, de la Réunion nationale Agenda 2030 : assurer une éducation de qualité tout au long de la vie, ou encore dans celui des Clubs, du Séminaire « Une citoyenneté active en vue des Objectifs de Développement Durable : les Clubs UNESCO en tant que promoteurs de changement », en partenariat avec l'Ordre portugais des psychologues. La Conférence sur les territoires UNESCO et les changements climatiques : enjeux et solutions a, pour sa part, été organisée en partenariat avec l'Académie des sciences de Lisbonne et a attiré l'attention,

en particulier, d'un jeune public. La version portugaise de la Déclaration sur les principes éthiques en rapport avec les changements climatiques de l'UNESCO a été lancée amplement diffusée en support digital.

En fin d'année, la version portugaise des matériaux éducatifs de l'UNESCO « Enseigner sur l'Holocauste et la prévention du génocide – guide de politiques » et « Pourquoi enseigner sur l'Holocauste » ont été lancés en la présence du Ministre d'État et des affaires étrangères.

Les réseaux ont continué d'évoluer, notamment ceux des villes apprenantes, des villes créatives et des chaires. Les écoles associées et les clubs UNESCO continuent à débattre à l'occasion de rencontres régionales et nationales et un Prix à l'attention des Clubs UNESCO a été lancé avec le soutien de la Fondation Manuel António da Mota.

Le Portugal a ajouté deux nouveaux biens à la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial et un nouveau bien à la Liste représentative du Patrimoine culturel immatériel.

Des spécialistes nationaux et internationaux se sont penchés sur le développement des technologies, l'intelligence artificielle et la désinformation à l'occasion du V Congrès « Éducation, Média et Citoyenneté » et les plus jeunes se sont, à leur tour, penchés sur le thème « médias, démocratie et tolérance » dans le cadre du Concours Media@ction



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événement a permis une connaissance mutuelle et un rapprochement entre les réseaux, ainsi qu'une réflexion sur l'avenir de l'UNESCO au Portugal. Une discussion qui a bénéficié d'intéressantes contributions de spécialistes nationaux dans les domaines d'intervention de l'Organisation.

Un Séminaire sur le thème « 40 ans de Patrimoine mondial au Portugal : protéger, préserver et réhabiliter notre patrimoine culturel et naturel » a été organisé à Braga, au Sanctuaire du Bon Jésus du Mont, inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial en 2019. Ce Séminaire a également signalé l'année d'approbation par notre pays de son adhésion à la Convention du Patrimoine Mondial Culturel et Naturel en 1979, qui s'est concrétisée l'année suivante.

Étant donné la place importante que la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 est venue occuper dans les activités de la Commission, certaines activités se sont centrées sur ce thème, notamment, le Séminaire « Patrimoine mondial et changements climatiques : enjeux et solutions » qui a eu lieu au Musée du Côa, inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial en 1998. Un ensemble de spécialistes s'est penché sur cet important thème devant un vaste parterre de parties prenantes et d'étudiants.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

En 2019, la Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO a fêté son 40ème anniversaire. 40 ans d'un travail constant, sans relâche et enthousiaste en vue d'atteindre les objectifs de l'UNESCO et de garantir son rayonnement au Portugal.

Pour cette commémoration, la Commission nationale s'est entourée de différents partenaires publics et privés, ainsi que de ses réseaux.

Une Conférence inaugurale présentant l'histoire et l'évolution de la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO a marqué le début des célébrations qui se sont couronnées par un Forum national des réseaux UNESCO au Portugal et une exposition au Monastère de Batalha, inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine Mondial depuis 1983, année des premières inscriptions du Portugal. Ce dernier

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

Étant donné la publication des arrêtés n° 9218/2019 et n° 9217/2019, du 14 octobre, portant création du Groupe de travail pour le suivi des candidatures à la Liste du Patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel, et du Groupe de travail pour le suivi des candidatures à la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel, à la Liste de sauvegarde urgente et à la Liste de bonnes pratiques du patrimoine, respectivement, nous avons créé les conditions nécessaires et adéquates au bon déroulement des candidatures aux Listes de l'UNESCO, une priorité absolue de la Commission nationale.

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 réuni, à Cascais, une cinquantaine de représentants des Commissions nationales européennes ainsi que des membres du Secrétariat pour débattre des questions d'intérêt commun.

L'Agenda 2030 sera à l'ordre du jour dans tous les domaines d'activités de la Commission et les partenariats seront les bienvenus, tant au niveau national qu'international.

Les activités de traduction de publications de l'UNESCO en langue portugaise ainsi que des messages de la Directrice générale resteront une priorité.

ROMANIA

National Commission of Romania for UNESCO

President: Ms. Cristina Monica Anisie, Minister of Education and Research

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

Highlights of 2019 include 3 projects approved in the framework of UNESCO's Participation Programme — the 2nd edition of UNESCO's Academy of Young Women; HeRe — Heritage Revivals — Heritage for Peace; and Pleading for Intangible Heritage.

We organized in Bucharest, between 13-18 May, the 2nd edition of UNESCO's Academy of Young Women, on the topic, "Mass-media as a tool for women's empowerment." Following the success of the first edition of UNESCO's Academy of Young Women, held in 2017, our focus fell on mass media, due to its capability to raise awareness, influence broad categories of people, alleviate stereotypes, and model mentalities. At the previous edition, participants addressed the following question: "what can I do in my community and in

my country in order to help solve women's problems and bring about a change for the better?" After two years, we found that the question remained current and targeted it to the field of journalism of various types, resorting to non-formal learning methods and experimental learning. 25 young journalists from 10 European countries attended courses and practical workshops on journalism, photography and social media, with specialized trainers.

Between October 28-November 1, we organized the final meeting of the subregional educational project, Pleading for Intangible Heritage — Traditions and crafts on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, developed during 2019, to connect and exchange knowledge and good practices between schools, communities and authorities regarding the traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship and the cultural practices associated with March 1st. The goal was to protect and promote authentic traditions related to these practices among students and teachers through informal educational programs. Teams participated (project coordinator/teacher and students 12-17 years old) from the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Romania, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.

December saw the 4th edition of the Commission's annual end-of-year Gala, which brought together institutional partners, including representatives of public institutions, civil society, the private sector, as well as other collaborators, personalities from UNESCO's fields of interest.

SUCCESS STORY

The National Commission of Romania for UNESCO organized in September, in Bucharest, a one week international meeting on the protection of cultural and natural heritage in danger, part of the inter-regional project "HeRe — Heritage Revivals — Heritage for Peace", co-funded by UNESCO in the framework of the Participation Programme.

The meeting created a space for discussion and networking of professionals interested in good practices and case studies regarding the conservation of cultural and natural heritage affected by a range of dangers — including armed conflicts, natural disasters, the serious deterioration of building materials, the modification of the legal status of the property, lack of conservation policies or management system, the threatening effects of regional planning projects, the negative impact of climatic or geological factors, serious decline of the species population due to natural factors (disease) or human factors (poaching), the severe deterioration of natural beauty or the scientific value of the property, as a result of pollution of human settlements, industrial and agricultural development, logging.

The project explored synergies between the various UNESCO Conventions that protect heritage. Participants came from 17 countries in 4 UNESCO regional groups — Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Nigeria, Romania, Serbia, Uganda, as well as the United States of America — and 2 UN entities, UNESCO and UNODC (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Further information is available on the Commission's bilingual website.



Session within HeRe — Heritage Revivals — Heritage for Peace project. © A.R.R. National Commission of Romania for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission is committed to working with a broad network of partners to advance UNESCO's objectives in Romania in its areas of expertise. In this regard, we look forward to strengthening existing partnerships, such as our recent one with the French National Commission for UNESCO, and to forging new ones.

In 2020, we will develop impactful regional collaboration with the German National Commission for UNESCO through the Kulturweit programme framework. The international voluntary service of the German Commission, Kulturweit, offers young people from Germany aged 18 through 26 the opportunity to volunteer at cultural, educational, and nature related institutions worldwide for the duration of 6 or 12 months. Beginning 2020, we will activate in Romania, for the first time, the natural sites component of Kulturweit, and German volunteers will be hosted by 2 UNESCO natural designations — the Hațeg Country Dinosaur Global Geopark and the Danube Delta transboundary biosphere reserve.

In 2020, we will make efforts to raise visibility nationwide and internationally, boosting our outreach to diverse categories of stakeholders.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO

President: Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Mr. Grigory Ordzhonikidze

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Commission of the Russian Federation aimed to engage youth to make a vital contribution to the implementation of UNESCO ideals as well as the SDGs.

The major event in the field of education was the 4th All-Russian UNESCO Chairs Congress in Kazan, attended by the UNESCO Director General, Ms Audrey Azoulay. An annual meeting of the National Council of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network was held in Krasnodar city, while the students of the Associated Schools from about 10 countries took part in the 11th International Youth Forum "One Planet – One Future" in Khanty-Mansiysk city. The significance of education in the context of UN and UNESCO's Programme on the implementation of the SDGs was studied at the 4th Eurasian Humanitarian Forum in Ufa city. Issues of early childhood education were discussed at the 8th International Conference on "Early Childhood Care and Education" (ECCE-2019). Another important conference held under the auspices of UNESCO was the 16th European Congress of Psychology at the Lomonosov Moscow State

University, with participants exceeding 4,000 people from 92 countries.

In the field of culture, a momentous event was the inscription of the nomination "Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture" on the World Heritage List at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. A special category of world heritage, namely, astronomical heritage was a key topic of another international Forum – "Astronomy and World Heritage" held under the auspices of the Commission and UNESCO Special Envoy, Mr. Mintimer Shaimiev in Kazan, the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.

A central event in the field of Communication and Information was the high-level international conference, "Preservation of World Languages and Development of Linguistic Diversity in Cyberspace" in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The conference, organized in partnership with the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, was the key event of the International Year of Indigenous languages declared by the United Nations and brought together over 500 participants from 60 countries.

The 3rd Students' Educational Workshop – The School of the Management of Social Transformations – held in the Lomonosov Moscow State University, covered the issues in the field of Social and Human Sciences, with special attention to social inclusion, artificial intelligence, bioethics and global challenges. The workshop was attended by Dr John Crowley and Dr Irina Zoubenko-Laplante, from the UNESCO Secretariat.

Lastly, 2019 marked the revival of UNESCO Clubs movement in Russia.

This decision was taken by the Interim UNESCO Clubs Accreditation Committee under the Commission, accompanied by prior consultations with other National Commissions, proving the importance of communication between National Commissions.

SUCCESS STORY

2019 marked the 65th anniversary of USSR/Russia's membership of UNESCO. This longstanding cooperation has been characterized by our country's endeavour to preserve the original depoliticized, intellectual and humanistic focus of this unique laboratory of ideas and the key think-tank of the UN.

In this special year, the Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, paid a first official visit to our country. During her meeting with the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, she emphasized Russia's considerable contribution to the work of UNESCO and its strong commitment to the ideals of the Organization.

There was a solemn ceremony devoted to the 65th anniversary of Russia's membership that brought together all the members of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov. This jubilee celebration was accompanied by a special video address by the Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, who commented that such impressive membership of the Commission was the testimony to the importance that the Russian Federation attaches to UNESCO and its activities for peace-keeping through education, science, culture and freedom of expression. Furthermore, our country celebrated the 30th anniversary of its accession to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

In addition, in 2019, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. The 207th session of the Executive Board adopted a decision to launch the UNESCO-Russia International Prize named after the outstanding Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev for achievements in the Basic Sciences. The Prize is to be awarded annually for six years to one or two scientists for their significant contributions in the fields of chemistry, physics, mathematics or biology.



The official visit of Ms Audrey Azoulay to the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin meets UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, in the Kremlin, Moscow, Russian Federation. (6 March, 2019) © A.R.R. Aleksey Druzhinin, Ria Novosti

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2020 is a special year for the United Nations and its specialized agencies. There is a series of remarkable events to be held in the Russian Federation on the occasion of UNESCO's 75th anniversary such as the solemn meeting of the members of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

Another major event – the 6th CIOFF® World Folkloriada 2020 – will be held from July 18 to August 1 under the auspices of UNESCO, in the Republic of Bashkortostan. The program envisages a number of spectacular activities: concerts, traditional folk games, workshops and exhibitions of handicrafts. The hospitable land of the multinational Republic of Bashkortostan is looking forward to warmly meeting its guests from all over the world.

SERBIA

Commission of the Republic of Serbia for UNESCO

President: Mr. Goran Milašinović

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Serbian National Commission, which operated under limited human and financial resources, participated and/or supported various activities, among which:

- Designation, for the first time, of two youth delegates in equal gender representation as the experts/advisers to the delegation of Republic of Serbia at the 40th session of the General Conference, headed by the President of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Vucic;
- Renewal of the status of International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage (IRCTUD), the oldest Category 2 Center in the Republic of Serbia, in the area of water;
- Nomination of the city of Vranje, selected in 2019 as first Serbian city to be a member in the Creative Cities Network (category: music);

- Celebration of International Mother Language Day, International Women's Day, World Radio Day, International Jazz Day, International Day of Light and, for the 1st time, World Philosophy Day, organized at the initiative of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) National Committee;
- Development of new cooperation with the National section of International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF), Centre for Drama in Education and Arts (CEDEUM) and Serbian Federation of Historic Vehicles;
- Preparation of nominations and State of Conservation reports of Serbia in the framework of World Heritage Convention and the Man and Biosphere Programme;
- Promotion of Candidature of the Republic of Serbia for re-election in the Executive Board (2019-2023), which was confirmed by vote at the 40th session of the General Conference, allowing our country to continue contributing to UNESCO's strategic and programmatic work in the framework of the 2030 Agenda;
- Renewing the procedure on Associations, Clubs and National federations of associations and clubs for UNESCO;
- Cooperation with UNESCO Regional office in Venice and especially with the Antenna Office in Sarajevo remain valuable for Serbia's active involvement in European region.

SUCCESS STORY

The Serbian National Commission was engaged in the framework of the first International Consultative Meeting on the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Curriculum for Teachers, hosted by the Republic of Serbia in partnership with UNESCO in Belgrade, on 12 – 13th of September 2019. The Director General, Ms Audrey Azoulay, visited the Republic of Serbia on this occasion, during which she opened the Ministerial Panel of this Meeting, together with the First Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr Ivica Dacic. In her speech, Director General highlighted that MIL is an essential dimension of moral and civic education and a fundamental right of every citizen in any country of the world.

The visit of Ms Azoulay, during which she met not only with Serbian officials at the highest and high level but also with UNESCO/L'Oréal Balkan Women in Science fellowship winners, prominent Serbian artists and high school students, was an opportunity to confirm the commitment of Serbia to the UNESCO's mandate, priorities and objectives, with special attention to the development and implementation of MIL policy, which is considered a literacy for life in the digital age.

The outcome of the Meeting was development of Belgrade Recommendations on Draft Standards for Media and Information Literacy Curricula Guidelines, launched on 14 November 2019 during the 40th session of the General Conference and to be reviewed in multi-stakeholder consultation process.



From left to right: UNESCO Director General Ms. Audrey Azoulay, First Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ivica Dacic, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Mr. Mladen Sarcevic, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Serbia to UNESCO Ambassador Tamara Rastovac Siamasvili, President of the Serbian National Commission Prof. Dr Goran Milasinovic, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Media Ms. Slavica Trifunovic, State Secretary of Ministry of Culture and Media Mr Aleksandar Gajovic, State Secretary of Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications Ms. Tijana Matic. © A.R.R. Serbian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Proclamation of the first Geopark in Serbia (Djerdap), pending final approval of the 209th session of the Executive Board;
- Preparation for the establishment of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, "Tara-Drina" in the "Tara" (Republic of Serbia) and the "Drina" (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) National Parks area;
- Preparing the celebration of the anniversary of the Serbian poet and diplomat, Jovan Ducic in 2021, with which UNESCO is associated, as approved during the 40th session of the General Conference.

SLOVAKIA

Slovak Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Miroslav Laičák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

Secretary-General: Ms. Viera Grigová

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO continued to promote UNESCO's values, focusing on the empowerment of women and youth.

Slovakia has a solid representation of women in science (43%), but there is still room for improvement, and the Commission supports all activities in this respect. Ms. Silvia Pastoreková, Director of the Biomedical Research Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, represented Slovakia at the World Science Day for Peace and Development at UNESCO in November 2019. We continued our superb cooperation with L'Oréal Slovakia, on the project L'Oréal UNESCO Prize for Women in Science. The prize was awarded to Ms. Martina Gáliková for her work on the effect of hormones on obesity, and Ms. Vlasta Demečková for research on the effect of probiotic on the cure of intestinal infections.

The Slovak Commission supported the empowerment of young women in IT by granting patronage to the "Girl's Day" event, organized in April 2019 by the civic organization "Aj TY v IT" (you too in IT), which aims to promote career in IT among girls aged 15-19.

In October 2019 the Slovak Committee for Bioethics organized a conference – namely, the "Ethics and Artificial Intelligence", under the auspices of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO.

We encouraged our members to work actively in UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committees – especially in 2019 in the

International Coordinating Council of the MAB Program, Intergovernmental Councils for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) and Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP). Our experts participated in the preparation of a new Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education and in the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee.

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development and Ecological Awareness in Banská Štiavnica. On this occasion, the UNESCO Chair hosted the 7th International Conference on Selected Aspects of Integrated Environmental Management: Culture and Environment, which discussed the implementation of SDGs (notably 6,13,15) in different political and cultural environments.

In the framework of the Slovak Chairmanship of the Organization for Security of Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Slovakia organized an international conference on antisemitism in February 2019. Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, Ms. Stefania Giannini opened the conference via video message and Mr. Karel Fracapanne from the Division of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development presented UNESCO's work in the prevention of antisemitism through education.

In the framework of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the Slovak Commission supported the LingvaFest2019 festival of languages.

Drotárstvo, wire craft and art was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Similarly, Modrotlač, resist block printing and indigo dying, enjoyed greater attention following its inscription in 2018. The primary school in the town of Badin, where this art is taught, is joining the ASPnet.

The Slovak Commission joined the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. His legacy was discussed at public lectures in libraries, planetariums and schools throughout the country.



© A.R.R. Slovakian National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

The flagship event of the year was the Partners Forum in May, where all members, stakeholders, ASPnet and World Heritage sites representatives, as well as other national entities, engaged in UNESCO's areas of activities discussed their achievements, experiences, and challenges. This yearly meeting shows the importance of the UNESCO family and serves as a platform for discussion and cooperation.

Another highlight was the joint meeting of Slovak and Czech Commissions for UNESCO in June 2019 in Bratislava, organized as a follow up to their first meeting in 2018. The main idea behind this successful meeting was to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. Participants visited the Gate of Freedom Memorial, dedicated to the victims of the Cold War, and the statue of Anton Srholec, Slovak priest, political prisoner and human rights defender, as well as the Basagic's Collection of Islamic Manuscripts in the University Library of Bratislava, inscribed on the Memory of the World Register. Members of the two National Commissions shared recent experiences with implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-related projects, focusing on environment and engagement of the ASPnet schools.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Slovak Commission will focus on children and youth enhancing and inter-linking the ASPnet and UNESCO Chairs and promoting their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs.

Women scientists will be continuously supported through the L'Oréal grant, and a similar project will be sought in order to enhance the number of girls and women in research and technology areas, especially in IT.

The Slovak Commission will partner with the Ministry of Culture in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Slovak National Theatre.

SLOVENIA

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the Slovenian National Commission carried out a diverse working programme of activities.

The members of the Commission, especially the office of the Commission, were strongly involved in the preparation of the Slovenian Delegation taking part in the sessions of the Executive Board during the last year of Slovenia's 4-year mandate as member. Of course, representatives from the Commission and its office took actively part in the 40th session of the General Conference.

The Commission finished its restructuring, with the aim of forming a lean, more pro-active and operational commission, with a smaller number of permanent members. The structure is now more flexible, since the Commission may establish permanent or ad-hoc working bodies to fulfil its task as consultative body of the government and executor of UNESCO programs and activities in the field. Both the commission and its working bodies are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals as main priority when planning and executing activities.

SUCCESS STORY

The Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO hosted the 4th Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO at Bled, Slovenia, from 24–26 February 2019. The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants from 34 European National Commissions, with special participation from the National Commissions from Canada and the Republic of Korea. Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Priority Africa and External Relations, and Mr Charaf Ahmimed, Head of the Transformation Support Unit, took actively part in the meeting.

The opening day started with interactive plenary sessions on Addressing Contemporary Challenges and the Role of UNESCO and National Commissions, assessing the Value of UNESCO within a Framework of International Cooperation (VINCI) and the Role of National Commissions for UNESCO in the Framework of the Strategic Transformation. The central part of the meeting was divided into breakout sessions with mixed and changing groups of participants, to debate contemporary topics of interest: AI and the role of UNESCO and UNESCO National Commissions; Youth Participation; Empowering the ASP Network; Heritage and Europe; Climate Change and the role of UNESCO designations; Media Literacy and Fake News; Building Effective Networks for UNESCO designations; UNESCO Clubs in Europe.



European meeting of National Commissions. © A.R.R. Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Following the tremendous success of the 2nd World Open Educational Resources Congress, hosted by Slovenia in September 2017, and the associated raising of the country's profile on global level, the Government decided to propose the establishment of the first International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the Auspices of UNESCO as a Category II Centre. The office of the Slovenian Commission was and is actively involved in this process. The establishment of the Centre was adopted at the 40th session of the General Conference, and we foresee the official inauguration in 2020.

The goal of the Centre is to provide an open and transparent environment that – in addition to research, technology and debate in the field of AI – will provide stakeholders worldwide with public policy support for the development of AI orientations and actions plans. The Centre will provide governments, (international) organizations, legal entities, other institutions and the general public with professional support for systemic and strategic solutions in the deployment of AI in various fields. It will assist in developing capabilities in a variety of ways, including setting up ancillary research centres around the world, developing training and global awareness programs, and creating a network for the exchange of research and knowledge.

Since the Centre will follow a multi-stakeholder approach, it will be open for cooperation also with National Commissions for UNESCO.

SPAIN

Spanish National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

During 2019, the Spanish National Commission focused on spreading UNESCO values at the national level. For this purpose, the National Commission undertook a number of activities in cooperation with UNESCO local networks and partners. Among them, we would highlight the participation of the National Commission in the annual meeting of Spanish ASPnet schools, the 15th Conference of European Geoparks Network in Sevilla, the Spanish Geoparks Forum, and the meeting on "Cities, Creativity and Agenda 2030", in Valladolid. The National Commission also collaborated in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the La Laguna Declaration, and participated in the Cinema Festival on Human Rights in Barcelona. The National Commission also supported the

nomination of Spain as member of the Executive Board, and the nomination of Spain as vice-president of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme Council.

In education, the National Commission endorsed the Government of Navarra Skolae project, that won the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. In addition, two new UNESCO Chairs were created, in Sports and Human Rights and in Tourism and Sustainable Development.

In culture, two new cities were added to the UNESCO Creative Cities Networks — Valladolid as Creative City of Film and Liria as Creative City of Music. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee added Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape to the World Heritage List. The craft pottery-making tradition of Talavera de la Reina and El Puente del Arzobispo was added to the UNESCO list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In science, UNESCO declared the Mountains of Courel a UNESCO Global Geopark. In December, Spain, under the presidency of Government of Chile, held the COP25 World Climate Summit.

The National Commission granted its patronage to 15 activities. We would highlight in particular two music festivals that fostered culture diversity and two workshops for indigenous teachers in Paraguay.



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SUCCESS STORY

The Spanish National Commission supported the exhibition, "The Universal Right for Education", promoted by Club Pechina for UNESCO. The exhibition was shown at a cultural centre during a meeting of the European Project EURBorCo, focused on sharing practices in refugee policies. The exhibition was the trigger for a local debate about active citizenship and solidarity, further enriched by a conference on the role of UNESCO in education and the 2030 Agenda. All of this gave visibility notably to Sustainable Development Goal 4, 5 and 6. The exhibition was visited by more than 1800 students of primary and secondary local schools. Some schools also held a video conference with refugee children in Lebanon. For the majority of students, this was a unique opportunity to share experiences with children living in difficult conditions. The Club of Pechina for UNESCO is a very good example of how civil society can be a crucial catalyst for spreading UNESCO goals and values all over the world.

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 programmes — 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 Spanish Delegation to the Executive Board.

The Spanish ASPnet schools will strengthen their commitment in climate change by sending a delegation of students to participate in the COP26 in Glasgow.

The National Commission will 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.

In addition, the Spanish National Commission will lead a workshop on education on the move, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Education.

SUISSE

Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO

Président : M. Thomas Zeltner

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ACTIVITÉS EN 2019

En 2019, la Commission suisse siégeait pour la dernière année dans sa composition actuelle. Elle sera partiellement renouvelée pour la prochaine législature 2020-2023.

Les activités que la Commission aurait menées tout au long de l'année 2019 ont été concentrées autour de l'événement du 70ème anniversaire (cf. ci-dessous). A travers la série de conférences organisées pour cette occasion, les acteurs concernés ont été appelés à se réunir pour aborder les secteurs de la manière la plus interdisciplinaire possible (les différentes formes de patrimoine et le sens de leur labélisation UNESCO; la liberté d'expression et la sécurité des journalistes ;

l'éducation à la citoyenneté dans les secteurs formels et non formels; l'engagement des écoles associées de l'UNESCO).

Des produits concrets ont aussi été réalisés et promus par la Commission en 2019, notamment :

- La publication, « Instaurer une politique de la petite enfance en Suisse : un investissement pour l'avenir », qui marque la fin d'un engagement de longue haleine de la Commission pour la promotion d'une éducation de qualité dès le plus jeune âge. A l'avenir, la Commission continuera à suivre cette thématique en assumant un rôle moins prédominant, néanmoins en visant la constitution d'un réseau national regroupant les acteurs de la société civile ;
- La publication d'un document stratégique, « Vers une citoyenneté active grâce à l'éducation politique avec une perspective globale dans les secteurs non formels et informels », avec en perspective une mise en réseau des acteurs concernés au niveau national et la recherche de collaborations au niveau international, par le biais des Commissions nationales ;
- La publication d'une brochure illustrée présentant pour la première fois en Suisse le Programme Mémoire du Monde de l'UNESCO et décrivant l'ensemble des ouvrages et collections inscrits sur le Registre du programme qui sont conservés sur le territoire suisse.



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ouvert, inclusif et ancré dans la conviction que la Suisse demeure un partenaire solide, critique quand il le faut, pour contribuer au mandat de l'UNESCO aussi pour les prochains 70 ans à venir, au moins. ...

En complément au programme, une réplique à grande échelle de l'Arc de Palmyre réalisée par l'Institut d'archéologie digitale (Oxford) a été installée aux abords de la vieille ville de Berne, elle-même premier bien en Suisse à avoir été inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Cette démarche visait à tisser un lien symbolique et solidaire avec un autre bien du patrimoine mondial, rappelant la fragilité de notre patrimoine et de notre humanité. La ville de Berne est d'ailleurs signataire de la Déclaration de Genève des villes solidaires pour les droits humains et les patrimoines culturels.

UNE EXPÉRIENCE ABOUTIE

L'année 2019 était placée sous le sceau du 70ème anniversaire de la Commission suisse pour l'UNESCO et de l'adhésion de la Suisse à l'UNESCO. Un double jubilé que la Commission a voulu célébrer par une manifestation rassembleuse. Pour l'occasion, une tente a été expressément installée du 17 au 21 juin 2019 au centre de Berne, ville fédérale, au cœur de l'espace public et au plus proche des autorités afin de présenter l'étendue du mandat de l'UNESCO et l'engagement des acteurs suisses pour le concrétiser. Toutes les parties prenantes et partenaires de la Commission des différentes régions du pays ont en effet été invités à s'y rencontrer et à interagir autour d'un riche programme composé d'expositions, de conférences et d'occasions de réseautage.

Ouvert par le Chef du Département fédéral des affaires étrangères de la Confédération suisse, le Président de la Commission suisse, le Maire de la ville de Berne et le Sous-Directeur général de l'UNESCO pour la priorité Afrique et les relations extérieures, ce 70ème anniversaire se voulait

PRIORITÉS FUTURES

La Commission suisse accueillera la 7ème réunion interrégionale des Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO à Lugano (Suisse). Cette réunion s'inscrira dans le processus d'élaboration de la prochaine Stratégie à moyen terme pour 2022-2029 (41 C/4) et du prochain Programme et budget pour 2022-2025 (41 C/5) de l'UNESCO. Cette réunion fait officiellement partie des consultations menées par la Directrice générale sur ces documents directeurs de l'Organisation en termes de priorités programmatiques et de modalités de travail.

L'objectif de cette 7ème Réunion interrégionale intitulée « Vers 2030 : de la stratégie à l'action ! » est d'aboutir à une contribution commune, claire, articulée et globale des Commissions pour que le point de vue de celles et ceux qui œuvrent au quotidien sur le terrain sous l'égide de l'UNESCO soit considéré pour la définition des futures orientations programmatiques de l'organisation et pour que les Commissions et leurs réseaux figurent au cœur de la future stratégie à moyen terme. La réunion servira aussi à l'échange d'initiatives et au développement du potentiel de coopérations entre les Commissions.

SWEDEN

Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Lena Sommestad

Secretary-General: Mr. Mats Djurberg

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission organized, supported, or participated in a large range of events and activities in 2019, which have all been underpinned by our overarching priority of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and firm belief in human rights.

For example, marking the inclusion of Lands of Legends on the registry of good safe-guarding practices within the scope of the 2003 Convention on intangible cultural heritage, we organized a seminar on intangible heritage, which focused especially on the role of civil society. The seminar brought together a range of actors for the first time, and thus created new opportunities for interdisciplinary partnerships. The National Commission

cooperated with the Government Agency in charge of issues relating to intangible cultural heritage – the Swedish Institute for Language and Folklore.

An important task of 2019 was our contribution to developing the first-ever national strategy for world heritage work in Sweden. We ensured that the strategy was aligned with global UNESCO priorities, especially the 2030 Agenda.

2019 also featured an important step towards the first Swedish UNESCO global geopark when we submitted the application of the geopark Platåbergen. In connection with this application we also reviewed our guidelines for the geopark programme.

During 2019, collaboration agreement between The Swedish National Commission and the association LUCS (Local UNESCO Collaboration Sweden) was renewed and updated according to relevant guidelines.

In addition, we hosted in a seminar on free and open science, arranged by the Swedish Research Council and the organisation Science & the general public (Vetenskap & Allmänhet), which highlighted different perspectives and aspects of censorship and self-censorship in the academic world.

We also hosted the annual meeting for Nordic National Commissions in 2019. The event was held in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Kristianstad Vattenrike in Southern Sweden.

SUCCESS STORY

UNESCO's global feature conference on media and information literacy (MIL) was held in Sweden for the first time in September 2019, hosted by Region Västra Götaland.

The National Commission co-hosted the conference in cooperation with Gothenburg University and the Gothenburg Book Fair. For the first time ever, the conference was hosted by a region – Region Västra Götaland – showing the importance of partnership between national, regional actors. The Conference was attended by actors from academia, civil society, government representatives and international organisations.

The theme for the conference was "MIL citizens: informed, engaged, empowered".

The conference was opened by Ms Anna Ekström, Sweden's Minister of Education, who noted that MIL is necessary for civic engagement, freedom of Information, and pluralistic media. Mr. Moez Chakchouk, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, noted that the demand for MIL has grown considerably, especially with the rise of disinformation and hate speech in recent years, in his opening remarks. The conference concluded with the Global MIL Week Youth Forum.



Global MIL feature conference 2019 – Gothenburg, Sweden. © A.R.R. Ann-Charlotte Rugfelt Ferm

FUTURE PRIORITIES

2019 was the first full year since the adoption of our strategy for national activities. The strategy sets priorities and outlines the direction for our work, especially with regard to the World Heritage sites and members of the UNESCO networks for creative cities, biosphere reserves etc.

The focus in 2020 is, therefore, on implementation of this strategy. For example, we have initiated a series of annual meetings for the UNESCO Chairs, creative cities and elements from the Memory of the World, to enable an exchange of experiences and best practices between the sites / concepts and to have a regular opportunity to offer guidance to their activities.

We have also developed guidelines and strategies for many of the concepts, including the creative cities, outlining how they can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and what is expected of them at the national and global levels.

As for the biosphere programme, we will continue to support the programme in its effort towards developing a sustainable structure and financing for its activities.

Finally, the national world heritage strategy will be concretized through an action plan, which will be developed in 2020 in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: M. Öcal OĞUZ

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In January 2019, the Turkish National Commission cooperated with a local municipality and a NGO accredited to UNESCO, and co-organized the third “Winter School for Intangible Cultural Heritage” with the aim of discussing several aspects of the intangible cultural heritage within the framework of SDGs, bringing together over 40 participants, including those with international experience in the area.

In February 2019, a seminar on UNESCO World Heritage Sites was provided by the Turkish National Commission to the Children’s Council of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, and children were trained on the World Heritage List, Tentative Lists and natural, cultural and mixed heritage sites.

The Turkish National Commission, in another cooperation series with municipalities of Kocaeli and Diyarbakır, provided Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects towards Turkish and Syrian schoolgirls aged 11-14,

and trained students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The National Commission supported the application process of the Turkish city Hatay, a member (in the theme of Gastronomy) of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network since 2017, to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities — Hatay has become Turkey’s 4th Learning City in March 2019. In October 2019, the cities of Afyonkarahisar and Kırşehir became Turkey’s 5th and 6th UNESCO Creative Cities, respectively in the themes of Gastronomy and Music, with the support of the National Commission.

The National Commission brought together UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs in Turkey in a consultation meeting, the 4th since 2016, to discuss the standing of the Chairs and future cooperation in their respective fields of work. Another consultative meeting was held on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, to raise awareness about documentary heritage and to update the current national inventory.

Four interns successfully completed the 2019 Internship Programme, led every year to raise awareness in youth about UNESCO Programmes – they were awarded with certificates in June-August 2019.

During 2019, the National Commission had numerous consultative meetings with the local municipalities of Mardin, Eskişehir, Erzurum, Bursa, Şanlıurfa and others, discussing the current status of Turkey’s cultural components.

Throughout 2019, the National Commission provided its logo to 45 events across Turkey, supporting events in line with UNESCO ideals.

SUCCESS STORY

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary, organized the Consultative Meeting of the National Commissions of the UNESCO Executive Board Members in September 2019.

The Presidents, Secretary-Generals and other representatives of the National Commissions of the countries that are Executive Board Members participated in the meeting. Opening speeches were provided by the Turkish National Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Ministry of Education. Following this, Mr. Charaf Ahmied, UNESCO’s Head of the Strategic Transformation Unit, provided a presentation covering the UNESCO’s strategic transformation process.

In the first session, UNESCO’s Vice-Coordinator of the National Commissions Unit, delivered a presentation on the role of the National Commissions within UNESCO Programmes, Lists and Networks. The standing of National Commissions was discussed, including in the UNESCO Commemorations and Anniversaries, Memory of the World Programme, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs, and Culture Conventions.

In the second session, discussions were held on possible collaboration areas for National Commissions to enhance the visibility of UNESCO in national terms. In the third session, National Commissions’ experiences were shared regarding the UNESCO Constitution, the 1978 Charter of the National Commissions and documents generated through the Strategic Transformation process. Following a session of general evaluation, the meeting came to an end and a cultural activity was organized on the Historic Areas of Istanbul, part of the World Heritage List.



Consultative Meeting of the National Commissions of the UNESCO Executive Board Members” that took place in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2019. © A.R.R. Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Turkish National Commission places critical emphasis on local, regional, inter-regional, national and international cooperation with its stakeholders and regardfully considers participation and involvement in such liaison. The National Commission will lead cooperation in cultural heritage, the SDGs, Artificial Intelligence and the UNESCO global priorities of Gender Equality and Africa — these provide an action framework for activities of the National Commission. For all of these actions, the National Commission will connect with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO, the Ministries of National Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism, and also other related Ministries, public institutions, academia and NGOs, in order to provide further cooperation by sustaining the culture of working together.

UKRAINE

National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Executive Secretary: Ms. Natalia Shakuro

Website: www.facebook.com/ukraine.unesco/

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In 2019, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO developed considerably by strengthening the engagement to UNESCO's activities and programs.

The Commission dedicated significant efforts to increasing the national involvement in UNESCO/UNITWIN University Chairs, Creative Cities, ASPnet Schools, and Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programs.

During the year, the Ukrainian city of Melitopol, a UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities member, was among the winners of the 2019 UNESCO Learning City Award, highlighting the outstanding achievement of our country in promoting education and lifelong learning.

Another vivid demonstration of Ukraine's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action at national level was the designation of the city of Odesa as UNESCO Creative City of Literature.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 remains a key element of Commission's ongoing efforts. To that end, UNESCO/UNITWIN University Chairs in Ukraine significantly extended inter-Chair cooperation, boosting the level of network cooperation and partnership ties and establishing common grounds for interdisciplinary dialogue.

In June 2019, Roztocze Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine & Poland) was recognized as part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves at the 31st session of the International Co-coordinating Council of the MAB Program. It has become the fourth transboundary biosphere reserve in Ukraine. This designation is an important step towards protecting its unique natural and cultural heritage, and achieving the SDGs, by improving resilience to climate change. The surface of the Roztocze Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is 371902 hectares, with the Ukrainian part representing 74887 hectares. The Ukrainian part, called Roztochya, was designated as Biosphere Reserve in 2011.

In 2019, UNESCO continued implementing the first phase of its direct monitoring of the situation in the temporarily occupied Crimea following the decisions of the UNESCO Executive Board, Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine).



© A.R.R. Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO

practical but also of artistic value. The products are made of local grey clay. Among the peculiarities of this type of art is a unique tricolour, combining brown, green, and yellow against a white background.

SUCCESS STORY

On December 12, 2019, the Tradition of Kosiv Painted Ceramics was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics is one of the elements of cultural heritage and tradition of Ukraine (originating from the town of Kosiv located in Ivano-Frankivsk region). The element is an integral part of the local community that constitutes sub-ethnos "Hutsuls" relating to different aspects of its social and cultural life. The tradition of Kosiv Painted Ceramics, which is used in everyday life, is not only of

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2019, the National Commission focused on the development of bilateral cooperation with other states' National Commissions. Such direct communication deepens inter-state cooperation on UNESCO-related issues and provides an opportunity to be acquainted with the best experiences in advancing the goals of the Organization. Fruitful working relations have been established with National Commissions of East and Southeast Asia countries, demonstrating high prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation.

On November 11, 2019, Ukraine was elected to the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Program. Our country will use this opportunity to further contribute to the Programme's objectives and activities.

According to the decision of the 40th session of the General Conference, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Lesia Ukrainka, one of the most famous Ukrainian writers, and a prominent cultural, civil and feminist activist, was included into the list of anniversaries with which UNESCO will be associated in 2021. Ukraine continues ongoing work for the preparation of events to promote Lesia Ukrainka's legacy in the international arena.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

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Mr. James Bridge

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC), Twitter-UK and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office visited Bradford in Yorkshire in June 2019 to ask young people living

and working in this UNESCO Creative City of Film what they thought Media Freedom was. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”, UNESCO works to foster freedom, independent and pluralistic media in print, broadcast and online. Media development in this mode enhances freedom of expression and contributes to peace, sustainability, poverty eradication and human rights. <https://www.unesco.org.uk/events/what-does-media-freedom-mean-to-you>

This was before the Global Conference for Media Freedom, held in London on 10 and 11 July 2019, organised by the UK and Canadian governments, working together to defend media freedom and improve the safety of journalists who report across the world. UNESCO Director-General, Mme Audrey Azoulay attended and spoke. The UKNC exhibition stand at the conference provided UNESCO publications on media freedom to delegates and used a Twitter Mirror to record and tweet their messages around the idea of what media freedom meant to them. At the conference, representatives of governments around the world signed a pledge to work together to protect media freedom. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-pledge-on-media-freedom/global-pledge-on-media-freedom> The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the UK Foreign Secretary announced a new Global Media Defence Fund, to be administered by UNESCO, to support journalists to access legal advice and training on safety and investigative journalism.



Photo: Jodrell Bank © A.R.R. United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

SUCCESS STORY

We are proud that UNESCO inscribed the Jodrell Bank Observatory as the UK's latest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jodrell Bank is the earliest radio astronomy observatory in the world still in existence. It includes evidence of every stage of the post-1945 ground-breaking development of radio astronomy, which revolutionised our understanding of the Universe.

Professor Teresa Anderson, Director of the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre said, “Receiving this (UNESCO) recognition will help us tell the story (of the scientists) and of the communities connected to the site both across the UK and worldwide.”

At its heart is the Lovell Telescope, which has been quietly probing the depths of space since 1957 and stands as a symbol of our wish to understand the universe in which we live. Even now, it remains one of the biggest and most powerful radio telescopes in the world, and has unlocked a parallel universe

of violent explosions, pulsars, neurons, and proof of some of the most important scientific theories of the universe.

In totality, Jodrell Bank Observatory links to the fundamental concept underpinning modern astronomy: that we live on a planet orbiting a star, one in a galaxy of several hundred billion stars, itself only one of over a hundred billion galaxies in the observable universe. Part of what makes the site unique is that it remains to this day a working scientific site, and visitors are able to see the whole story of Radio Astronomy from 1945 to the present. The site encapsulates the continuum of science as a creative process and the development of knowledge as part of human heritage. The first 20th Century Observatory listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Observatory embodies the value UNESCO places on the universality of science, and its ability to build international collaboration and foster peace. <https://www.unesco.org.uk/world-heritage-site/jodrell-bank>

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020 the UKNC will launch online its new report on “UNESCO in the UK”. The report provides information, including case studies and facts and figures, on the activities of the UNESCO designations in the UK, and how they contribute to the UK's social, economic and cultural well-being at a local, regional, national and international level. The report includes how UK UNESCO designations are helping to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UKNC's role working with them to help achieve their potential. The UKNC is working with other National Commissions, such as the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Kenyan, Korean and German Commissions, in a number of areas including Artificial Intelligence and education, Youth, Media Freedom and Media Literacy, the national value of UNESCO, and UNESCO's Strategic Transformation Agenda.



Latin America and the Caribbean

ARUBA

Aruba National Commission for UNESCO

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Secretary-General: Ms. Zetsia Ponson

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

To celebrate World Peace Day, the Aruba National Commission, in partnership with Young Active Leaders of

Aruba JCI Yala, organized a Peace Walk on 21 September 2019, under the theme of "Climate Action for Peace", gathering 98 persons along the north shorelines of Aruba.

The Aruba National Commission worked to enhance the visibility of the Organization and its actions in different fields at the local level, such as by disseminating information on important activities via the press and social networks like Twitter and Facebook.

Four projects under the Participation Programme were implemented in 2019: (i) Conserving the traditional Aruban miniature boat; (ii) Citizen Science for Sustainable Development on Aruba; (iii) Youth Engagement Program for the Sustainable Development Goals in Aruba; (iv) The House of Virginia.

SUCCESS STORY

The 15th session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, (SC-IOCARIBE-XV), was held in Oranjestad, Aruba, from 6 to 10 May 2019. The meeting was attended by 45 participants from 13 countries of the Caribbean Region, 2 countries from outside the region (Argentina and the Republic of Korea) and 8 United Nations, International and regional Organizations. The session reviewed the progress made during the Intersessional period 2017–2019 and adopted twelve recommendations. Main outcomes of the session:

- The Sub-Commission elected the new Board of Officers for the next intersessional period 2019–2021: Mr Arnulfo Sanchez (Panama), Chairperson, Mr Francisco Brizuela (Mexico), Vice-Chairperson; Mr Marck Oduber (Aruba), Vice-Chairperson; and Mr Arthur Paterson (United States), Vice-Chairperson;
- The Sub-Commission requested the IOCARIBE Secretary to work with Member States in order to proactively engage the Scientific, academic communities and civil society as collaborators and beneficiaries of IOCARIBE programme development. This approach to support research, education, and dissemination of ocean science capacity will facilitate the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, save lives, and foster resilience to natural disasters;
- The Sub-Commission recognized the need to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), which will provide a partnership framework for advancing scientific understanding of the oceans that will result in new products and services that will assist Member States' implementation of SDG 14;
- The Sub-Commission recognized the importance of marine and coastal science and ocean literacy in developing a science based IOCARIBE programme to support critical capacity development in the region;
- The Sub-Commission urged IOCARIBE Member States to incorporate ocean literacy curricula and develop a national and regional strategy for ocean literacy.

During the meeting, several programs from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO were promoted on Aruba, including ocean science awareness. H.E. Mr A. Boekhoudt, the Governor of Aruba, attended several segments of the conference, and other government officials gave interviews to the local media and met with other representatives. The Aruba National Commission for UNESCO is proud that its own member, Mr Marck Oduber, was re-elected as a vice-chair of IOCARIBE.



The Fifteenth session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (SC-IOCARIBE-XV) held in Oranjestad, Aruba, from 6 to 10 May 2019. © A.R.R. Aruba National Commission for UNESCO.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In the field of Science, the Aruba National Commission will focus on the following: (i) Implementing the Man and Biosphere Programme; (ii) Create public awareness on the Ocean Decade for Sustainable Science; (iii) Focus on the International Basic Sciences Program (IBSP); (iv) Will work with the Ministry of Education for a midterm Science Agenda, based on the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers.

Regarding the Communication and Information area, with a focus on the Memory of the World, the Aruba National Commission has documentary heritage items and collections of importance, and work has started on an initial shortlist towards a National MOW Register. The creation of an Aruban Memory of the World Committee is also underway.

Regarding the Culture Sector, steps are being taken for Aruba to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2001.

BAHAMAS

Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Bahamas National Commission went through a successful period of restructuring in 2019.

The American Planning Association (APA) reached out to the National Commission in October 2019 in organizing a webinar hosted by the American Planning Association's and the Black Community Division (PBCD), who were approaching their 40th anniversary as a division in 2020. They highlighted

how people of the African diaspora, outside of the United States, are planning for the future and invited us to discuss the Bahamas' work on conservation, preservation and participation in UNESCO's Creative City's Network. Ms. Lynn Gape, a member of our World Heritage Committee, discussed preservation and conservation, and Ms. Pamela Burnside, President, Creative Cities of Nassau, participated on behalf of the Bahamas National Commission. Facilitated from the University of the Bahamas's campus, the webinar was a success and presentations were placed on APA's website.

In addition, the Ambassador and Secretary-General paid a courtesy call on the Director of the Bahamas National Geographical Systems to discuss possible partnership. Partnerships were also re-established with the Bahamas National Trust and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.

After the devastation of Hurricane Dorian on the Bahamas, the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean designated the Bahamas National Commission in ways to obtain assistance to help with recovery.

SUCCESS STORY

The Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO in conjunction with the Ministry of Education hosted a one-day workshop on November 5th, 2019 in Nassau, Bahamas that was facilitated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC) based in Santiago de Chile and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, located in Kingston. The objective was to raise awareness about Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and to share best practices worldwide. The workshop created the opportunity for further discussion on challenges, lessons learned, and contextualized recommendations in the development and strengthening of policies in the field of GCED. This was a timely topic for the Bahamas, as demonstrated by the presence of the Minister, Permanent Secretary, Under Secretary and Deputy Director of Education at the workshop.

Some 30 participants engaged in interactive discussions with facilitators from Jamaica, Chile, Colombia and the United States, as well as Skype presentations by colleagues from UNESCO Headquarters. Dr Lyric Knowles, Academic Director of the Genesis Academy, stated that she has a clear understanding of the components of GCED and can now integrate them in the school curriculum.

The Workshop was attended by curriculum and policy makers from the Bahamas Ministry of Education as well as private educational institutions. A representative from the Royal Bahamas Police Force's Crime Prevention and Education Unit was also present.



Opening Ceremony of GCED Workshop (MOE Communications Section permission to share) © A.R.R. Bahamian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Bahamas became State Party to the Convention for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014, and their future priority is to have an element nominated for inscription. The Bahamas has two sites (Lighthouses of The Bahamas and Inagua National Park) on the Tentative List of World Heritage, and they aim to move the sites from the Tentative to the World Heritage List.

The Bahamas is planning to organize a workshop on Global Citizenship Education inclusive of teachers and administrators, for the start of implementation in our school system.

They plan to disseminate more information on climate change and encourage public involvement.

The Bahamas National Commission is exploring the option of partnering with a neighbouring country to host the 2021 International Jazz Day Festival.

Youth engagement is a priority in all areas moving forward.

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Bolivian National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Víctor Hugo Cárdenas Conde, Minister of Education

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Bolivian National Commission pursued implementation of two projects approved under the Participation Programme 2018-2019.

- The project on "Development of work methodologies for inter-scientific dialogue based on successful experiences in

Andean Amazon countries" aimed to develop methodologies to address inter-scientific dialogue, recovery and valuing of indigenous knowledge in the region. Indigenous knowledge can coexist with modern scientific knowledge through inter-scientific dialogue, and together be useful in facing current challenges (contribution to Sustainable Development Goals targets 4.7, 11.4, 12.8 and 15.1). In this context, the project organised a meeting with interdisciplinary researchers and indigenous representatives from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. Experiences, methodologies and good practices related to the sustainable use of biodiversity have been systematised in a publication coming to light soon, to promote an inter-scientific model of learning and knowledge generation in students and researchers of the region;

- The second project on "Student scientific camp Warmistinkuy... closing gaps" aimed to encourage the scientific skills of female young high school students, to reduce the gender gap in science. The scientific potential in female young students can be strengthened through high-level scientific meetings that allow the promotion of science and the empowerment of scientific knowledge. In these ways, this project contributed to the SDG targets 4.5, 5.5 and 5.b. As part of it, a student scientific camp was organised, a virtual training programme for science reporters was held, and a publication of the project is being edited.



Participants in the closing event. © A.R.R. Bolivian Ministry of Education.

at the facilities and laboratories of the University Mayor de San Simón, the Pairumani Plant Genetic Research Centre and the Bolivian Catholic University.

"It was a beautiful experience because I had never been in such large and complete laboratories. We did several activities, we learned new things and I loved it" — stated one participant. The lecturers and facilitators were senior and junior researchers, as well as recognised schoolteachers in the areas of biology, physics, mathematics and chemistry. "We learned things that no one would have taught us at school, it was a great and fun experience," said another student. Warmistinkuy concluded with the presentation of students' research projects and papers, which were displayed in media applications.

SUCCESS STORY

From 2-4 September, the Ministry of Education, with funding from UNESCO, carried out the "Student Scientific Camp Warmistinkuy closing gaps", in the city of Cochabamba. 41 female students of all Bolivian departments, winners of the 8th Bolivian Student Scientific Olympiad, participated. Warmistinkuy (women's meeting in Quechua) covered three days of intense work, with the aim of strengthening the scientific and research capacities of the participants, to reduce the gender gap in science. Laboratory practices were held

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Bolivian National Commission is supervising projects being prepared for the Participation Programme 2020-2021, ensuring that they respond to the Organisation's priorities and the SDGs. For this purpose, alliances with NGOs are being promoted, in partnership with UNESCO as well as governmental institutions. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment and Water intend to submit a joint request for emergency assistance, related to the prevention and control of fires in the Chiquitania region.

In the context of the UNESCO Geoparks Programme, an application file has been submitted, with the goal of Torotoro National Park becoming the first UNESCO Global Geopark in Bolivia.

The Bolivian National Commission intends to prioritise work also under other programmes, such as the UNESCO's Chairs Programme and the Man and the Biosphere Programme.

In all of this, the Bolivian National Commission is open to new initiatives and projects to be carried out jointly with other National Commissions.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Natalio D. Wheatley

Secretary-General: Ms. Allison Flax-Archer

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The BVI National Commission led celebrations of International Days recognized by the United Nations organizations and

hosted activities to move forward UNESCO's objectives and the SDGs. World Poetry day stood out in 2019. The BVI National Commission celebrated the day through its annual school visitation, where students wrote poems shared with the public. An additional initiative was led in collaboration with the local club Mentoring Anointed Leaders Everywhere (M.A.L.E.), where students recounted their Hurricane Irma experiences through a video documentary in poetry. Secretary General Dr. Allison Flax-Archer said that she was elated to see this part of the project come to life: "I am pleased that this documentary is being launched on such a significant day which not only highlights student's poetry but recognizes the importance of the event that the students wrote about and the historical bearing it has on the Territory." Director for M.A.L.E., Pastor Henderson Tittle said he was gratified to be part of the project, to facilitate students in expressing their feelings. The video can be viewed on the Government website at www.bvi.gov.vg or at Instagram at GISBVI or on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter at BVI Government.

SUCCESS STORY

In partnership with the Ministry for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) National Commission for UNESCO concluded a workshop for Global Citizenship Education (GCED) on November 7. This was held in collaboration with the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston, as well as the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO APCEIU). In the words of the Secretary General for the BVI National Commission, Dr. Allison Flax-Archer: "The workshop raised awareness about how GCED contributes to strengthening the capacities of education systems and created an opportunity for policymakers and other selected key stakeholders to reflect on the challenges and opportunities to expand and/or strengthen GCED in The British Virgin Islands and discuss actions that could be taken to achieve this." Minister for Education Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture, Dr. the Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley underlined that the Ministry is committed to this goal as demonstrated by the frequent professional days for teachers, initiatives such as Reading is Fun Week, to build reading skills for students, as well as the introduction of French courses in the school system. Dr. Wheatley added: "For the BVI, Sustainable Development Goal 4 is fundamentally important for the achievement of sustainable development in the future of these Islands and our people." The workshop was an eye-opener for stakeholders and a milestone for future work.



Global Citizenship Education (GCED) Workshop © A.R.R. British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The BVI National Commission is intended on developing further expertise in capacity building and resource-mobilization, notably in the area of education and inclusion. The BVI are still in recovery mode following Hurricanes Irma and Maria and in the face of the rising impacts of climate change. In 2020, a range of subregional, regional, and interregional activities will support technological mobilization in schools, to ensure they remain on the cutting edge. Technology has a key place in classrooms, and education of the future will be delivered through traditional teaching methods as well as new technological tools, where the British Virgin Islands will not be left behind.

COLOMBIA

Colombian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Ms. Claudia Blum Capurro de Barberi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Secretary-General: Ms Tatiana García Correa

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In the field of Culture, Colombia submitted the nomination file, the "Barriz de Pasto – Mopa Mopa", for inscription on the Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage List. This was possible thanks to the joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture, the Pasto civil society, and the Executive Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The file is under evaluation and will be discussed at the 16th session of the Committee, in 2022.

Cali and Valledupar joined the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities on 31 October, in the categories of Media Arts and Music respectively. The nomination process was a collaborative

project between both cities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture.

In the field of Social and Human Sciences, Cali organized the Primer Encuentro Mundial del Deporte (First World Meeting on Sports), on 6 September, under the motto "Sport as a tool for transformation and social inclusion based on public policies". The Meeting was possible thanks to the collaboration of city of Cali, the Colombian National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the field of Education, Cali hosted the UNESCO International Forum on Inclusion and Equity in Education from 11 to 13 September, entitled "Every learner matters". This was organized by the National Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the city of Cali.

The 4th International Conference on Learning Cities took place in Medellín, from 30 September to 3 October, reflecting the combined efforts of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and city of Medellín, and resulting in the "Medellín Manifesto: Learning Cities for Inclusion". In this Conference, Medellín received the UNESCO Learning City Award.

The cities of Bogotá and Manizales joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities on 5 July, based on their good practices in promoting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SUCCESS STORY

From 9 to 14 December 2019, Colombia hosted the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. More than 1200 participants from all over the world attended the first such meeting in the Latin America region, organized thanks to the support of UNESCO, the Colombian government, the city of Bogotá, as well as the private sector.

On this occasion, Colombia successfully inscribed on the UNESCO list, "The safeguarding strategy of traditional crafts for peace building" on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of the 2003 Convention. This inscription was the outcome of joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education along with civil society, which have developed a knowledge transmission system that preserves the traditional crafts based in the non-formal model of "learning by doing". The initiative joins bearers of traditional crafts and apprentices aged between fourteen and thirty-five.

Overall, the meeting, organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Secretary of Culture, Recreation and Sports of Bogotá, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and the national tourism fund (FONTUR), with the collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was extremely positive, and provided an opportunity to share Colombia's advances in public policy aimed at safeguarding the memory and identity of peoples.



Delegation of Colombia, led by the Minister of Culture, Carmen Vasquez, the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Viviane Morales, the Vice Minister of Culture, Jose Ignacio Argote, and the Director of Heritage, Alberto Escovar. © A.R.R. Cancilleria de Colombia

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- The Periodic Review Process of the Colombian biosphere reserves: The National Commission will prepare and coordinate all the necessary activities to deliver the ten-year evaluation report for Colombia's five Biosphere Reserves.
- State of conservation reports for three sites on the World Heritage List: The National Commission will deliver the state of conservation report for the Port, Fortresses, and Group of Monuments of Cartagena, the Katíos Natural Park, and the Andean Road System of Qhapaq Ñan.

CUBA

Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

During 2019, the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO (CNCU) set the goal of intensifying work with all the organizations and institutions associated with its fields of competence, to strengthen synergies and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Key actions were carried out to advance Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17, without neglecting the entire 2030 Agenda. All activities built on an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.

This included holding the XXVII National Seminar of Associated Schools to UNESCO and the XIII Annual Meeting of the Cuban UNESCO Chairs. In addition, International Literacy Day was celebrated and, within the framework of the 207th Executive Board of UNESCO, the implementation of the Cuban method, "I can do it", was proposed as part of the literacy strategy. These activities all seek to advance progress towards SDG 4.

In addition, the CNCU carried out activities to reach the objectives of gender equality (SDG 5), such as through the screening of the documentary, "Women ... resilience, rights to life", along with activities to reduce inequalities SDG 10 and promote sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), including also celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

Cuba held a celebration of the 15th anniversary of the UNESCO-Keizo Obuchi scholarships. This scholarship seeks to promote academic exchange and friendship between peoples, through postgraduate scholarships that have benefited some 300 young people from several countries, including 10 Cubans.

Cuba participated in the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Director-General, during her official visit to Cuba and UNESCO Associated Primary School Rafael Maria de Mendive children. © A.R.R. Cuban National Commission for UNESCO

the evaluation of risks in these areas in Barbados as well as the implementation of the Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB) in the Guahanacabibes reserve in Cuba, were among topics discussed. Young people, present at the workshop, developed strategies aimed at preserving the natural resources. Mr Rudy Montero Mata, Head of the National Group for Disaster Risk Assessment of the Cuban Environment Agency, highlighted the need to take advantage of the networking opportunities offered by UNESCO and other United Nations agencies with regard to future work of the Caribbean Youth Network on Climate Change. The workshop brought together UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (PHI) as well as the Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST), with the MOST School contributing to advancing a range of relevant SDGs.

SUCCESS STORY

On December 2019, the II International School of Sciences of UNESCO met with the aim of creating and strengthening the Caribbean Youth Network in order to face the Climate Change. The event was attended by specialists from 19 countries, who analysed, in workshops, the role of young people aged under thirty-five as protagonists and leaders in disaster reduction and building resilient societies through UNESCO's scientific programs. The conservation of coastal and marine resources of the Dominican Republic,

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the National Commission will focus on the consolidation of relations between UNESCO networks in Cuba and their counterparts in other countries — for example, between cultural and natural heritage sites and biosphere reserves. This includes also strengthening ties between the Creative Cities of Havana and Trinidad with counterparts in the UNESCO network.

In addition, work is planned on the 2020 University, bringing together the UNESCO Chairs of the Hemisphere, to meet in Havana.

CURAÇAO

Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 saw many exciting and interesting activities and was a year of ground-breaking opportunities for Curaçao as a UNESCO Associate Member State. During the 40th session of the General Conference, the Secretary General gave a presentation at the Training Workshop for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO and also during the 6th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions. In addition, Curaçao signed the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in

Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, in representation of the Kingdom of The Netherlands during a special first-time ceremony at Headquarters during the General Conference.

The National Commission paid a crucial role in attaining representation of Curaçao on the SDG4-E2030 Regional Steering Committee, for 2019-2020. This was the first time an Associate Member State was chosen for membership.

The "Bring Your Own Bag" was launched, as part of the Youth Space Initiatives project Caribbean Youth Network on Climate Change a Social Education Campaign & Youth Capacity-Building Project, and in partnership with the private sector, youth groups, afterschool organizations and NGOs in the field of recycling and environment.

The participation programmes on "Break the Silence, Say NO to Bullying," "Neighbourhoods of Curaçao", "Curaçao Climate Change Policy Assessment" and "Fortifying creative thinking of children" including early childhood education, all related to one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, were successfully implemented and will continue to be executed for an indefinite period on the island. Trainings and workshops were held in cooperation with Field Offices, all in line also with the SDGs.

SUCCESS STORY

The Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO partnered with NGOs, Governmental Foundations and the Private Sector to produce and publish a book by and for elementary students. The Kolegio Don Sarto, the first Curaçao UNESCO ASP School, was chosen to form part of this special project.

Students of the Kolegio Don Sarto class groups 7 and 8 were encouraged to write a book of poems and Haiku, entitled "Kolegio don Sarto ta Skirbi"/ Kolegio Don Sarto Writes. Illustrations were done also by the students. The youngsters received a workshop on the ins and outs of writing and were assisted by their teachers in writing their texts. A total of 29 poems and 8 Haikus were written, each with an illustration, including from students who did not write, to ensure inclusion as well as creativity.

"When challenged by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport to have a book published by them in 2019, Kolegio Don Sarto accepted the challenge with open arms," said the School Director. On April 23, 2019, "Kolegio Don Sarto ta Skirbi" was launched during a public activity at the library. A promotional video by students on the launch was shared on the school's social media.

Working with partners was very important for the National Commission, as this book built on the help of the Committee of World Book and Copyright Day, consisting of the Foundation for School Material, Kressé Book and Gift store and the National Library of Curaçao Frank Martinus Arion, as well as parents and teachers.



Kolegio Don Sarto © A.R.R. Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Priorities include the need to finish the restructuring of the National Commission, so as to make it more functional in a small society. Training will be given in cooperation with the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO and the International Intangible Cultural Heritage Facilitator for UNESCO from Curaçao.

To bolster the ASP Network, the National Commission will seek to work with the St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO and the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, including to increase the number of Associated Schools from the current two existing ones. This would be important also for advancing responses to climate change and SDG 4.

In 2021, the National Commission will seek to host and co-organize with UNESCO a sub-regional/regional/interregional event in order to celebrate our 10th anniversary as a UNESCO Associate Member State.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Dominican National Commission focused efforts on the dissemination of UNESCO priorities. In this regard, through the audio-visual department, a series of short films were made about each of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were shared with the various networks and made available online.

The National Commission worked with a group of specialists in the field of bioethics from various public and private institutions to prepare a proposal presented to the high decision-making bodies of the country, on the creation of a National Committee of Bioethics. The proposal is under consideration.

SUCCESS STORY

The Dominican National Commission for UNESCO established an alliance with the national television to organise a series of programmes with the purpose of raising awareness on the UNESCO values and priorities, while serving as an orientation to citizens, for example in the case of issues related to the environment, climate change, risk management in times of disasters, among others.

These series of programmes enabled the population to learn about issues of great importance, such as bioethics, where the country is creating an agency to bring together everything bioethics related as well as the different organizations that already exist but work separately.

The programmes included panels on the themes of cultural identity, cultural heritage, philosophy, tsunamis, prevention in times of natural disasters: hurricanes, earthquakes, quality of the environment in the Dominican Republic, bioethics, Holocaust, gender, among others.



© A.R.R. Dominican National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Dominican National Commission will support both formal and informal educational processes, including by expanding and strengthening the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, by continuing the dissemination of new television programmes on problems and solutions that concern the country and that are related to UNESCO.

ECUADOR

Ecuadorian National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. José Valencia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The National Commission followed up on two projects supported by the UNESCO Participation Programme:

- A project on the architectural study for the reconversion of activity and architectural restoration of Zaruma's heritage assets;
- A project on the awareness and care of disabled tourists in the Historic Centre of Cuenca.

The National Commission participated in the UNESCO Regional Workshop on Cultural Policies and the Convention

on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as inter-institutional coordination for the preparation of the quadrennial report on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The National Commission participated also in the XX Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, in La Paz, Bolivia, in September 2019. The Secretary-General participated in the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as well as in the 6th Interregional Session of National Commissions for UNESCO.

In 2019, an event was held to commemorate the declaration of Paja Toquilla as part of UNESCO Intangible Heritage. Similarly, the International Day of the Mangrove was commemorated, where many mangrove-based products were presented to the public along with a photographic exhibition about the populations that inhabit and live from the production of this ecosystem.

In coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the timely submission of the Report on the State of Conservation of Quito to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre was coordinated.



Presentation of the Imbabura Geo Park Certificate by Mr. Firmin Edouard Matoko, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Priority Africa and External Relations to Mr. Pablo Jurado Prefect of the Province of Imbabura. © A.R.R. Ecuadorian National Commission for UNESCO

out actions, steps and resolutions regarding tangible and intangible heritage, cultural or natural, in the framework of UNESCO Conventions of which Ecuador is party.

In the same vein, a Sub-Commission on Creative Cultural Industries was formed, within the framework of the 2005 Convention, to identify the potential of cultural industries as drivers of sustainable development as well as for tourism. This will also be responsible for promoting entrepreneurship, employment and improving the living conditions of artists and cultural managers.

All three bodies have formal training documents and operating regulations, to enable them to implement a full working agenda.

SUCCESS STORY

The Ecuadorian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, in coordination with the Regional Office of UNESCO, the governmental sector, academia, and civil society carried out several successful activities. This included, on 15 February 2019, the creation of an Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee (CEG) as a tool for the protection, conservation and promotion of natural heritage.

In addition, the General Assembly of the Ecuadorian National Commission, on 27 March 2019, resolved to set up the Heritage Sub-Commission, in order to implement an initiative established in 2018, to create a working group of experts dedicated to carrying

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Future priorities include resuming the process of establishing the Memory of the World Sub-Commission and managing the formulation of files to be inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage.

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador National Commission for UNESCO

President: Ms. Carla Evelyn Hananía de Varela, Minister of Education, Science and Technology

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The El Salvador National Commission for UNESCO drafted the first country report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Ministry of Culture was in charge of the report, an important instrument for policy formulation, measurement, analysis and supervision of creative industries.

The National Commission participated in the first meeting of Biosphere Reserves in Central America, in the city of Copán,

Honduras. Technical teams of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, non-governmental organizations met with the purpose of exchanging experiences in the management of biosphere reserves and promoting alliances at the regional level to share management models to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. On this subject, El Salvador worked on the project, "Creating territorial identity of the Biosphere through the appropriation of the Man and the Biosphere / UNESCO management model for the construction of the Agenda for Sustainable Development", financed through the 2018-2019 Participation Program.

El Salvador hosted the launch of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report on "Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges and non-walls", featuring a roundtable on the relationship between migrations and education, with UNESCO, UNICEF, and representatives of educational sectors. The impact of migration on children was evaluated, and such issues as internal migration in El Salvador due to violence were explored.

SUCCESS STORY

El Salvador participated in the fourth application of the Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study, carried out by the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE). The Ministry of Education applied this test for the first and only time in 2006. A total of 12,830 students (6,400 of 6th Grade and 6,430 of 3rd Grade) of 303 educational centres carried out the test. Students from the 3rd grade were evaluated in Mathematics, Reading and Writing. Students from the sixth Grade were evaluated in Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Science. The study provides information on the learning achievements of students from the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and on the factors associated with these achievements, with the goal of strengthening teaching-learning content and processes. In addition to knowing the level of student learning, the evaluation will allow El Salvador to make comparisons with other countries in the region.



Students take ERCE international test 2019 © A.R.R. Salvadorian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will continue supporting efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, and UNESCO objectives, including strengthening the promotion of expressions of cultural diversity, and participating in the 2020-2021 Participation Programme.

The National Commission will seek an agreement with the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP UNESCO, Buenos Aires), to strengthen technical capacities for the implementation of education policies, to boost training, technical cooperation, and research and dissemination activities.

GUYANA

Guyana National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Guyana National Commission functioned without the appointment of a Chairperson. However, there was interaction and guidance from the Minister of Education, who has responsibility for the National Commission. The National Commission also received a yearly subvention from the Government, used for micro programmes and maintenance. Through collaboration with several government and civil society sectors, the National Commission was able to reach its objectives.

Notably, the National Commission, through the Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean, supported:

- A Consultation on the National Sport Policy;
- The Consultation of the National Cultural Policy;
- UNESCO contributed the sum of US\$2,500.00 for the National Library Reading Initiative (Literacy Competition across the ten Administrative Regions);
- The Secretary-General attended the International Day for Women and Girls in Science at the Convention Centre coordinated by the National Science Coordinator;
- The Secretary-General participated in an event organized by the National Commission and East Ruimveldt Secondary School;
- World Literacy Day was celebrated at the National Commission with a symposium engaging students from three secondary schools.
- Staff of the National Commission visited Kwakwani in the Upper Berbice River to meet with Officers of the Berbice Forest and Agricultural Producers Association, which was awarded US\$16,000 under the Participation Programme for Capacity Building of Adolescents and Youths in the area of Literacy;
- The National Commission collaborated and supported the University of Guyana in the Workshop organized by the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning, under the theme 'Investing in educators for academic growth and National Development', where the Secretary General gave opening remarks;
- Guyana hosted the SIDS/LINKS (Small Island Developing States/Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) Workshop organized by the UNESCO Science Sector. The Workshop brought together participants from the Caribbean, Germany and other countries.
- Two 1-day workshops were held in collaboration with Women Across Differences, which focused on SDG Goals 3, 4, 5 and 8, facilitated by the Secretary-General of the National Commission;
- The National Commission collaborated with the Mothers Union in hosting their Annual Women's Conference.



Performing an Amerindian Dance © A.R.R. Guyanese National Commission for UNESCO

participation of a Steel Orchestra of young boys and girls (8-15 years), a Project funded under the 2017 Participation Programme.

The project, "Capacity Building for Puppetry: A viable industry for Social Change", was approved under the 2018-2019 Participation Programme. The organisation portrayed a fantastic piece on their Puppetry Initiative, with the song called 'Guyana Is We Own' by Dave Martin, also in the audience.

SUCCESS STORY

The Guyana National Commission convened its second 'End of Year Programme Review' in December 2019, to inform stakeholders (Government and Civil Society) about achievements throughout the year. Participants included the Minister of Education and the UN Resident Coordinator, as well as other UN officials, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic community as well as partners from government and civil society. Project Coordinators shared initiatives with the audience, which were praised for being implemented with a small staff.

In addition, participants were presented a sample of Guyanese culture, the age-old Masquerade Dance, which comes alive during the Christmas season. There was also the

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Focus on Heritage Sites;
- Creation of UNESCO Clubs;
- Engaging Communities on Climate Change.

HONDURAS

Honduran Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Arnaldo Bueso Hernández,
Minister of Education

Secretary-General: Ms. Hilda Mercedes Muñoz Tábor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In line with UNESCO's areas of competence and the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the Honduran Commission, with support from the Participation Programme, developed the following four projects:

- "The role of Education in the conservation of protected areas in Honduras", with the aim of highlighting the role of Natural resources in the Strategic Plan for Environmental Education;

- "Searching a Protective Environment through Peaceful Coexistence", in order to strengthen peaceful coexistence with the participation of 20 Clubs;
- "Water as an element of life, production, health, and recreation", to recognize the importance of water as vital element for the Honduran people. Access to clean water resources was one of the main issues discussed;
- "Communication and Information Workshop", with the purpose of training teachers and students in the use of new technologies at educational centres.

Throughout the year, the Honduran Commission received support from different sectors including teachers, students, family and communities. Particular interest came from the educational sector to issues relating to communication and information and new technologies.

In addition, such communities, like the Pech, support the National Commission in the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Environmental Education.



SUCCESS STORY

The project on the role of education in the conservation of protected areas in Honduras included participation from second and third cycle of basic education students, parents, teachers, and educational authorities. The establishment and management of protected areas is one of the most important ways to save and conserve country's natural resources and preserve indigenous knowledge. The Honduran Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO recognizes that indigenous peoples are key to sustainable development.

The Workshop took place at the 'Pech Montaña el Carbón' anthropological and forest reserve, which is home of the Pech Indigenous ethnic community. This protected area has faced environmental problems, such as deforestation. During the workshop, participants got in touch with nature, allowing them to better appreciate the unique wealth of this protected area. With the aim of delivering the Strategic Plan for Environmental Education, the Honduran Commission intends to raise awareness with as many people as possible, in order to protect cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

Students, parents and teachers from the Pech Indigenous Ethnic community of 'Río Plátano' Biosphere Reserve in Honduras © A.R.R. Dilia Mariela Sánchez

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Honduran Commission will continue working to advance the 2030 Agenda as well as supporting and participating in all UNESCO's activities. Notably, Honduras has recognized the importance to collaborate and develop new initiatives on UNESCO's priorities on Gender Equality and Indigenous Peoples.

The National Commission will work on issues related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, water as vital element for social development, conservation of Biosphere Reserves and the adaptation of new technologies in the education sector. Regarding the Cultural Conventions, the Honduran Commission will continue working on the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

JAMAICA

Jamaican National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Olivia Grange CD, M.P., Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO works to involve UNESCO's activities with the various national, regional and international partners through the wide engagement of stakeholders in supporting UNESCO programmes.

To this end, we worked with the University of the West Indies, the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, the Ministry of Education, Boys Homes, Heart/NTA, the Jamaica Library Service, to execute 4 Participation Programme projects and to celebrate commemorative days — with Radio Abeng (World Radio Day 2019); with the National Library of Jamaica (World Poetry Day); a concert produced by The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (International Jazz Day); the participation of the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in the UN Roundtable, "Cultural diversity as the common heritage of humanity" for World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, 21 May 2019; and also with UNESCO Clubs (International Coastal Clean-up Day).

In addition, we collaborated with the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster Office on the "UNESCO Caribbean Forum: Advocating

for Small Island Developing States," the UNESCO Internal Oversight meeting, the community-based inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the urban context of Kingston pilot project. Staff from the Government of Jamaica participated in a range of UNESCO meetings.

At the UNESCO General Conference, Minister Grange was elected Vice President of the Conference, Dr Troupe served as rapporteur for the Education Committee, and a number of side meetings were held with different delegations at the ministerial and other levels, including with Ivory Coast and Saudi Arabia, all to move Jamaica forward.

At the Executive Board, the Honourable Minister Grange chaired the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (4 April), whilst, on April 9, Secretary General Hannam delivered Jamaica's presentation to the Opening Plenary and was part of a meeting held on 11 April between CARICOM members on the Executive Board with the Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations and his team. Mr. Everton Hannam attended also the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Council for Human and Social Development 36th meeting, from 6 to 7 June.

The National Commission collaborated with its Youth Committee Speed Mentorship and the Jamaica Federation of UNESCO Clubs Centres and Associations for the Youth Leadership Conference, under the theme of 'Achieving Agenda for 2030: Youth as Key Stakeholders 4 Development' (Flow Foundation donated the 3 prizes). Youth participants were selected and attended Global MIL Youth meeting from 24 to 26 September in Sweden (Aldon Currie); the 2019 MAB Youth Forum from 15 to 18 September in China (Laura Chin); UNESCO 11th Youth Forum and General Conference (Mikiela Gonzalez, Sujae Boswell), whilst Aisha Thompson, a former fellow, was selected to participate in the Great Wall Anniversary Forum.

SUCCESS STORY

With the recent global rise in disinformation, misinformation, hate speech and online harassment, which threatens the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, democracy and peace, and to enhance media and information literacy (MIL) competencies Jamaica, along with Ghana, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in collaboration with other countries (Dominican Republic, El Salvador, St Lucia, Cuba, Bangladesh, Slovenia, Lithuania, Ethiopia, Kenya, India and others), successfully led the approval of the Proclamation for the International MIL Global Week (24-31 October). This process began when Jamaica hosted — for the first time in the Caribbean — the Global MIL Week 2017 (the Seventh Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue) Conference and preconference, Global MIL Week Youth Agenda Forum. At that meeting, the Honourable Minister Grange gave the commitment that she would do all that is required for Media and Information Literacy to be placed on the front page. The process was completed in November 2019 at the 40th session of the General Conference with approval of this proposal

The objective of this global week is to give a consolidated message on the need for greater MIL development, to increase people's critical thinking competencies (knowledge, skills, attitude, and ethics) in information, media, and technology, enable their quest for civic and social participation, self-protection online, self-expression, economic development, and to counter disinformation.



@ A.R.R. Jamaican National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The National Commission will continue to focus on UNESCO's priority areas, Gender and Youth and activities relating to the Small Island Developing States. We will engage the Caribbean Cluster Office in the design and implementation of programmes/projects with a positive impact on Jamaica, as outlined in the Special Initiative for the Caribbean. Our focus will also be geared toward greater involvement of Non-Governmental Partners.

The National Commission is prepared to assist and collaborate with other National Commissions in areas that contribute to the successful implementation of UNESCO's objectives. We will also work closely with the Caribbean Cluster Office in the key area of resource mobilization.

As Members of the UNESCO Executive Board, we will assist other National Commissions in capacity building, taking into consideration also the specificity of each National Commission.

At the national level, we will continue to focus on our World Heritage site, and many initiatives that are related to this important nomination, including on the Impact of climate change.

MEXICO

Mexican Commission for Cooperation for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In accordance with the UNESCO Program and Budget, the UNESCO International Centre for Sustainable Energy Development, Category II in Moscow, Russian Federation, offered to each invited Member State to nominate up to two candidates. In this call, Mexico sent the file of Marian Ramirez Orihuela, graduate with a Bachelor of Economics from the National Polytechnic Institute, to carry out studies in the Russian Federation.

Within the framework of the 2019 UNESCO/Poland Engineering Fellowship Program, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Science, Technology and Engineering Education at the University of

Science and Technology AGH in Krakow made available to some Member States – including Mexico – twenty fellowships for the University AGH in Krakow, Poland. Enrique Abdala Mojica Castillo, a graduate of the University of Chiapas, was accepted for this purpose.

In response to the call to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, the Government of Mexico presented the candidatures of Querétaro and Mérida in the categories of Design and Gastronomy respectively, which were selected to join the six other current cities.

The Valley of Tehuacán-Cuicatlán was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With this recognition, Mexico has reaffirmed its position as the first country in America and seventh worldwide, with 35 registered sites (27 cultural, 6 natural and 2 mixed).

The Mexican Commission and German Commission for UNESCO, with support of the BASF Foundation, implemented, for the first time in Latin America, the Program for Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP). From 2016 to 2018, 613 Mexican students participated, and instructors of the Leuphana University of Lüneburg, trained more than 30 teachers in entrepreneurship and business management issues – this is part of advancing towards Target 8.3: "To promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation [...]".

SUCCESS STORY

One success story was the National Meeting of State Coordinators of the ASP Network in Mexico, financed by the Participation Programme, with the goal to make known among the educational community the three thematic areas of ASP net, for their dissemination and implementation in Associated and Collaborating Schools. In this context, the study areas of the ASP net were updated, and a series of conferences were held by experts, members of the UNESCO Office and UNESCO Chairs on such topics as Global Citizenship and a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence; Sustainable Development and Sustainable Lifestyles as well as Intercultural Learning and the Valuation of Cultural Diversity and Heritage.

During two days of meeting, presentations were given by the members of the Network reflecting on how they implement activities in their schools to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, and especially the study areas of the Network, resulting in a commitment to exchange information when different ways of approaching a topic are detected and students are motivated.



@ A.R.R. Mexican National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In 2020, the Commission will strengthen ties of cooperation, specifically with the UNESCO Office in Mexico, UNESCO Chairs as well as the Regional World Heritage Institute, Category 2 Centre.

The National Meeting of State Coordinators of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASP Net) is expected to take place in the city of Zacatecas, with the key theme of the promotion of the Cultural Heritage. The Historic Centre of Zacatecas was declared World Cultural Heritage in 1993. The Commission aims to incorporate more schools on the ASP Network, to continue promoting the values of UNESCO among Mexican children. It should be noted that two States are missing, in order to complete all 32 of the Mexican Republic. All of this is vital to advance the Sustainable Development Goals 4 and notably Target 4.7.

PERU

Peruvian National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 was guided by the strategic objectives of disseminating the 2030 Agenda; in particular, the SDG 4: Quality education; promoting Peruvian cultural heritage in school and the participation of girls and women in science, issues raised in the 2018-2019 Work Plan and approved by the General Assembly of the Peruvian National Commission in March 2018.

From these strategic objectives, two UNESCO Chairs dedicated to the theme of heritage in Peru were submitted in consideration of our great cultural diversity. In this framework,

the National Commission worked closely with the Ministry of Culture to convene and select projects for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, as well as two files corresponding to the cities of Ayacucho and Arequipa submitted in the annual call for UNESCO Creative Cities.

In relation to the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, 86 schools were monitored, verifying that, during the past year, 35 projects were correctly formulated, managed and executed. A heritage training event was held in Lima with specialists and materials from the Qapac ñan Programme, associated with the Inca Trail, recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage of Humanity and implemented by the Ministry of Culture. It is noteworthy that after 10 years, the National Commission presented projects to the 2018-2019 Participation Programme, starting in 2019 with the dissemination of the SDG 4 and a project on 'Cultural landscape and participation of women,' managed by the Ministry of Culture.

In addition, the Secretary General of the National Commission participated in the Training Workshop for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO in the framework of the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science © A.R.R. Peruvian National Commission for UNESCO

science careers; the workshops alternated in the different environments of the heritage house of the National Library of Lima.

The Mayor of Lima, as the highest authority of Lima City, attended, as well as the President of the National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) who chairs the Committee of Sciences of the Peruvian National Commission of Cooperation for UNESCO, the representative of UNESCO in Peru and authorities of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ministry of Education, the UNESCO Gender Chair of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and outstanding Peruvian scientists. Also, specialists from entities that are part of the Peruvian National Commission, outstanding Peruvian scientists, university students, boys and girls from the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and from National Institute of the Family Welfare (INABIF), participated in the event, which was possible thanks to the sponsorship of the private sector.

With this action, the National Commission initiated implementation of its 2019 Action Plan to articulate actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda – in this case, by articulating Sustainable Development Goals 4, SDG 5 and SDG 11, as well as the commitment of the National Commission to UNESCO.

SUCCESS STORY

On 11 February 2019, at the Auditorium of the National Library of Lima, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science was celebrated. This event highlighted the role of Peruvian women in science and invited young people to learn about life paths of different women scientists in different specialties of social and natural sciences. The event included a dozen parallel workshops, lectures and scientific experiments, with the direct intervention of girls, guided by young students of

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Peruvian National Commission has undergone a restructuring process, currently having a Work Plan that emphasizes the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda, the prioritization of the formulation of corresponding sectoral policies, finally, the articulation of multisector and territorial actions around it. In this light, national criteria based on the 2030 Agenda are being established for the Participation Programme and calls for UNESCO chairs, and others, such as relating to cities.

The National Commission will also seek the articulation of the Network of Associated Schools to major UNESCO programmes, education for global citizenship and culture of peace, education and heritage as well as education and the environment.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

St. Kitts & Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. Shawn K. Richard

Secretary-General: Ms. Dorothy Warner

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

With funding from the Participation Programme, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services arranged a number of focus-group discussions. The outcome was reflected in a document entitled, National Policy and Action for Gender Equity and Equality.

With funding from the Participation Programme, events were held in the context of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022, "Slave Route Dialogue and Lecture Series, on Pan-Africanism":

- Commemoration of African Liberation Day on 25, 26 May 2019, including concerts of local artists, followed by a lecture/Pan-African Dialogue by Alan 'Mutabaruka' Hope, famous Dub Poet, Philosopher and Radio Presenter.
- A lecture Series on 'Reparation and Post traumatic Slave Syndrome' by Mr. Roger Wareham, Lawyer and Political Activist from New York (December 2019)

With financial support from the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the ICH, a capacity building project was launched to develop a national ICH policy framework.

With UNESCO Participation Programme assistance, the National MAB Committee completed a Management Plan which was subject to a Validation Workshop, as well as a meeting of the committee to develop and refine/create an Action Plan and Budget.

The Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO accompanied the Honourable Shawn Richards, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and responsible for UNESCO affairs, to attend the 40th session of the General Conference (November 2019). The Permanent Delegation was supported by Dr. David P. Doyle, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of St. Kitts & Nevis to UNESCO, who organised meetings with the Secretariat for the Minister.

As a State Party to the Convention on World Heritage, St. Kitts & Nevis was represented at the 22nd session of General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention on World Heritage, by H.E. Dr. David P. Doyle, Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to UNESCO, and Mr Percival Hanley, General Manager of the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society. St. Kitts & Nevis was elected vice-president of this session.

With International Programme for the Development of Communication Project financing, the National Commission organized a workshop (May 2019), targeting fifty young local journalists, media workers, and social media platform administrators. The aim was to build capacity in the effective and appropriate use of social media, with a view to developing a sense of social responsibility and to aspire to journalism standards of the highest ethical and professional degree.

St. Kitts & Nevis hosted a ministerial and experts Water Strategy Forum (October 2019), in cooperation with the UNESCO IHP, and the CWWA.

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services organized the 'Alternative to Violence' Project and conducted workshops (August 2019), at the National Emergency Management Agency Conference Room, planned to coincide with International Youth Day.

The Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College, in collaboration with the St. Kitts & Nevis National Commission, hosted its second annual poetry evening (March 2019) where poets from both St. Kitts and Nevis performed to commemorate World Poetry Day, coinciding with the 20th Anniversary of the observance of the Day by UNESCO.

SUCCESS STORY

With funding from the Participation Programme, a seminar was conducted in St. Kitts & Nevis in November 2019. In a series of interactions with local stakeholders, the UNESCO-appointed expert, Doctors, pursued the objectives of the overarching policy framework to be undertaken by the Ministry of Education, covering in particular: establishment of the National Council of Teachers; Continuous Professional Development; Recruitment; Accountability standards; Monitoring/Evaluation.

A second country-visit in December was organized, to further consult stakeholders and produce a draft Teacher Policy Framework, ultimately submitted to education policy decision-makers and their primary inter-ministerial partners and relevant stakeholders.



Clean-Up of Cayon's Waterway. © A.R.R. St. Kitts & Nevis National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The St. Kitts & Nevis National Commission for UNESCO aims to re-configure the "Old City of Charlestown" site on the UNESCO Tentative list with the assistance of the Organization.

Regarding the Participation Programme, a list of projects will be submitted and implemented under the 2020-2021 cycle, covering broad areas of UNESCO's mandate – including education policy, development of national sports policy, developing a national accreditation/recognition framework for high-level diplomas and TVET, MAB expertise in strengthening the St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve, and heritage expertise to assist in identifying potential World Heritage sites on the island of Nevis.

Furthermore, the government of St. Kitts & Nevis expects to elevate their role into Vice-president at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

In cooperation with the UNESCO Heritage Secretariat, further assistance will be negotiated with Brimstone Hill, in relation to capacity building training in Traditional Stone Masonry to boost capacity in the maintenance of heritage structures made with stone, and in updating the Management Plan, Conservation Plan and Tourism Development Plan for Brimstone Hill.

SINT MAARTEN

Sint Maarten National Commission for UNESCO

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In collaboration with the Department of Interior and Kingdom Relations and the University of St. Martin, the series of seminars on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were continued. Topics discussed and debated were:

- The Development of Innovation and Technology on St. Maarten (SDG 9);
- Economic Diversity on St. Maarten (SDG 8);
- Arts and Academia on St. Martin (SDG 4);
- Linguistics and Translation as our Forte (SDG 4);
- Combating Poverty in St. Maarten (SDG 1);
- Who Really Provides for the World? The Inter-Relationship Between Agriculture, Farming Systems and Recycling of Goods (SDG 2);
- Gender and Sexual Diversity (SDG 5).

To educate teachers about the SDGs, the St. Maarten National Commission and the Department gave presentations to more than two hundred educators during their visit to twenty-four elementary, secondary, and TVET schools.

A successful SDG creative expression high school project was launched to educate and build awareness. Students got the opportunity to express their understanding of the SDGs using different art forms (poetry dance, song, film...).

A Memory of the World Workshop was held from 17 to 18 June 2019. The objectives included restoring and strengthening the capacity of the Sint Maarten Memory of the World (MOW) National Committee and preparing participants for formulating successful proposals of documentary heritage to be inscribed in the MOW national, regional and international registries.

To ensure our cultural heritage is passed on to the next generation, a wire bending craftsmanship program was piloted at two afternoon school programs.

Our ASP Associated Secondary School organized several events to commemorate UN Observances. For 'World Radio Day', students were invited as guests on a radio program to discuss issues within our community. A successful International Literacy Day reading session was also organised, where parents, and persons from the business sector were invited to read to children at school.

SUCCESS STORY

On 14 October 2019, the St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Department of Culture within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, officially launched the first National Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of St. Maarten. The inventory is now available to all on the Government and the NATCOM's websites and Facebook page.

The inventory was released under the awareness campaign, 'I Remember Intangible Cultural Heritage I.R.I.C.H.' This is designed to raise awareness of the inherent wealth attached to cultural traditions and practice. The official launch ceremony featured an address by the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, the Honourable Wycliffe Smith, presentations by Department of Culture Head, Ms Clara Reyes and St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO Secretary General, Ms Marcellia Henry. Performances by local poets, the Community Choir, and presentations by practitioners also featured during the launch. Thereafter, attendees and the public participated in a marketplace setting where local practitioners and vendors displayed and sold traditional arts, crafts, food and drink, natural remedies and products.

The way forward for the National Commission and the Department of Culture will include to:

- Create posters, instructional materials, booklets, and more documentaries about St. Maarten's Intangible Culture Heritage;
- Organize workshops, seminars, and information sessions to educate the public, teachers, and visitors;
- Have the St. Maarten Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee installed and officially recognized;
- Nominate 'Ponum Dance' for UNESCO International Intangible Cultural Heritage Register.

The establishment of such an inventory is a major step for the safeguarding of St. Maarten's living heritage.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science © A.R.R. Peruvian National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Capacity building for the ASPnet National Coordinator is important. Training for the school coordinators and teachers based on the ASP theme and how to use the programs and curricula developed by UNESCO is also vital. Therefore, a sub-regional/regional/interregional activity on UNESCO Associated Schools Project for capacity building and resource-mobilization in 2020-2021 is necessary.

It is important to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Education through supporting Caribbean States to incorporate DRR and Climate Change into the curricula and focusing on Disaster Risk Management at the School level.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Mr. St Clair Prince

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission celebrated thirty-six (36) years of service on January 14, 2019. We continue to conduct activities according to UNESCO's priority areas and in line with the National Action Plan, through partnership with local, regional and international agencies. This includes also active participation in Executive Board sessions, where the Country remains a member until 2021.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission will undertake a very robust social media programme to increase visibility of at the local level. This will help with the implementation of UNESCO priorities in all areas of competence. There will be renewed focus on issues of climate change TVET and Literacy in education.

In June 2019, the National Commission held a Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Workshop with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding of crucial issues related to Biosphere conservation. Moreover, it sought to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between

people and their environments, with a view to preserving the environment for future generations, to develop a plan of action on the use of MAB and to foster a sense of appreciation for the biosphere reserve.

The National Emergency Management Organisation received funding from UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and other international bodies to help implement a climate resilient programme, "Tsunami Ready Pilot Project". Through this project, a series of training seminars were organized under the theme "Strengthening Capacities of Early Warning and Response for Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards in the Caribbean". These seminars included activities such as the development and presentation of Tsunami Inundation Maps, the fabrication and installation of Tsunami signage and the establishment of a National Tsunami Ready Board. Particular emphasis was placed on the coastal communities on mainland St. Vincent from Kingstown to Argyle and on the Grenadine Island of Union Island.

The National Commission was instrumental in working with local partners in implementing three projects approved under the Participation Programme. These focused on youth, equipping them with Technical and Vocational Skills, problem solving skills to help promote peace and other soft skills. The projects aimed to build capacity among vulnerable populations, reduce poverty and inequality, to build a platform of sustainability for future generations.

Additionally, St. Vincent and the Grenadines continue to place emphasis on the preservation and protection on all aspects of culture and heritage. As such, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission will continue collaborative work with the National Commission of Grenada on their joint project, "The Grenadines Up-Stream Project". A joint information meeting was held in Grenada in October 2019, with experts in the field of Cultural and Natural Heritage and representatives from both National Commissions.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2019, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO partnered with the Adult Education Unit to implement a Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) Programme – "Male Education and Empowerment Programme," aimed at educating and training sixty marginalized males between the ages of 16-24.

The Ministry of Education continues to attach great importance to technical and vocational education and training to improve employability for sustainability; this programme assisted greatly in propelling this goal –to twin soft skills, such as business skills, career guidance, social skills, with hard skills, such as auto mechanics, to ensure well-rounded, readily employable males graduate to sustain the country's economy.

Over seventy five percent of the males enrolled received certification in the areas of electrical installation, plumbing and auto mechanics. The matriculation standards obtained would enable the males the opportunity to be employed regionally and even in internationally. 40% of the males received immediate employment with local firms.

The TVET programme developed strong partnership with the industry and the Ministry of Education. This partnership will continue with future programmes as it helps in exposing students in their chosen fields.



Students engaged in aspects of plumbing programme © A.R.R. St Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

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Chairperson: Mr. Dennis Francis

Secretary-General: Ms. Debra Lalloo

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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

2019 was exciting and fruitful for the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, as a number of significant events occurred, including the designation of the city of Port of Spain, the nation's capital, as a Creative City of Music by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Trinidad and Tobago also became a member of the International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) Network, and the National Training Agency was approved as the country's first UNEVOC Centre, with a formal launch as the Trinidad and Tobago UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre on 15 October. This landmark achievement signals Trinidad and Tobago's continued commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4. On 31 September, Trinidad and Tobago submitted its first application to UNESCO for the designation of a Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserve.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission observed a number of International Days, including World Radio Day, International Women's Day, World Book and Copyright Day, World Environment Day and International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. While these international days were observed in varying forms, two of the more prominent observances were World Environment Day (5 June) and World Science Day for Peace and Development (10 November).

World Environment Day was observed in collaboration with the Federation of UNESCO Clubs and the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission at the Mayaro Beach, highlighting the theme 'Air Pollution'. The observance started with a walk-a-thon to raise awareness for the environment, followed by a beach clean-up and Sand Sculpting Competition, which culminated with the presentation of prizes for the winning schools/teams.

World Science Day was observed with a Panel Discussion: *Climate Change and Small Island Developing States*. The panel discussion was a collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission, the University of the West Indies and the University UN Model Club. The panel was composed of experts in various fields of science, and was geared towards raising awareness of the benefits of open science, the challenges faced by SIDS and exploring solutions through interdisciplinary dialogues and perspective from across the academic community.

UNESCO approved three Participation Programme projects for the 2018-2019 biennium, two in the field of education and one in the field of culture. The cultural project initiates a heritage village for Indigenous peoples creating a space that preserves and celebrates Trinidad and Tobago's indigenous cultures. The projects in the field of education included a regional biennial conference: *Education Beyond Borders: Breaking barriers, building bridges* which meets several of the sub-regional goals towards partnership in education. The Think Equal project is a holistic early years' curriculum that aims to support the development of global citizenship. All projects were successfully implemented in 2019.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission also had nominees for two UNESCO awards. Mr. Anil Waithe and Dr. Emilie Ramsahai were nominated for the 2019 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education, with the submission entitled "Immersive Analytics (IA) using Artificial Intelligence (AI)". Ms. Lanva Fanovich, Ecologist was nominated for the 2020 Young Scientist Award advertised in October 2019.

Ms. Debra Lalloo was appointed Secretary General of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO after the position had been vacant for the past two years.

SUCCESS STORY

From 23 to 27 September 2019, the International Training Workshop on "Big Data" For Developing Countries was organized by CARISCIENCE, in collaboration with the China-based International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST) and the Malaysia-based International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) and supported by the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO. The workshop took place at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and was well attended by professionals from a wide cross-section of the region. It proved to be an extremely valuable experience in exposing participants to new concepts and technologies in a short space of time and in delivering a broad view of state-of-the-art technologies. Participants indicated that they would be pursuing further work in these areas in the near future, given the knowledge they obtained from the workshop.



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FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission will focus on a number of priority areas including:

- The re-constitution of the Memory of the World Committee;
- Building partnerships with stakeholders to maximize the potential of the newly designated Creative City of Music (Port of Spain);
- Support the development of the Man and the Biosphere Reserve in East Tobago;
- Raise awareness of the adverse effects of climate change and the vulnerability of SIDS; and
- Continue to assist in furthering the development of the education and sciences sectors.

Meetings of
National Commissions
*Réunions des
Commissions nationales*



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6th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 15 – 16 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarters



6th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 15 – 16 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarters

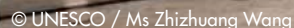


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6th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 15 – 16 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarters



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6th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 15 – 16 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarters





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Training Workshop for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 14 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarter



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Training Workshop for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO, on the occasion of the 40th session of the General Conference, 14 November 2019, UNESCO Headquarter





Meeting of the National Commissions on the margins of the 206th session of the Executive Board, 10 - 12 April 2019, UNESCO, Paris, France



4th Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO, 24–26 February, 2019, Bled, Slovenia





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4th Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO, 24–26 February, 2019, Bled, Slovenia



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East and Southeast Asia Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, 28-30 August 2019, Jeonju, Republic of Korea





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5th Meeting of the Informal Network of National Commissions, 16-19 February 2020, Cascais, Portugal



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Regional Meeting of Arab National Commissions for UNESCO, 24-27 February 2020, Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Field Offices List

Abidjan	National Office to Côte d'Ivoire
Abuja	Multisectoral Regional Office for West Africa: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo
Accra	National Office to Ghana
Addis Ababa	UNESCO Liaison Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa National Office for Ethiopia
Almaty	Cluster Office to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Amman	National Office to Jordan
Apia	Cluster Office to Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Tokelau (Associate Member)
Baghdad	National Office to Iraq
Bamako	National Office to Mali
Bangkok	Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education – Cluster Office for Thailand, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Singapore, Viet Nam, Cambodia
Beijing	Cluster Office for the People's Republic of China, Japan, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea
Beirut	Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States. Cluster Office for Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the Palestinian Territories
Brasilia	National Office to Brazil
Brazzaville	National Office to Congo
UNESCO and the European Union	UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and Representation to the European Union
Cairo	Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States – Cluster Office for Egypt and Sudan
Dakar	Regional Office of West Africa (Sahel) Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal <i>Bureau Régional Multisectoriel pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Sahel), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambie, Guinée-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sénégal</i>
Dar es Salaam	National Office to the United Republic of Tanzania
Dhaka	National Office to Bangladesh
Gulf States and Yemen	Cluster Office for Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Geneva Liaison Office	Representation to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva
Havana	Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean – Cluster Office to Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti
Islamabad	National Office to Pakistan

Jakarta	Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Sciences. Cluster Office for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste
Juba	National Office to South Sudan
Kabul	UNESCO National Office to Afghanistan
Kathmandu	National Office to Nepal
Khartoum	National Office to Sudan
Cluster Office for the Caribbean	Cluster Office to Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Sint Maarten
Kinshasa	National Office to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Libreville	National Office to Gabon
Lima	National Office to Peru
Maputo	National Office to Mozambique
Mexico	National Office to Mexico
Montevideo	Regional Bureau for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean – Cluster Office for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay
Nairobi	Regional Office for Eastern Africa: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
New Delhi	Cluster Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
New York	UNESCO Liaison Office in New York
Phnom Penh	National Office to Cambodia
Port-au-Prince	National Office to Haïti
Quito	Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
Maghreb Region	Cluster Office for Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia
Ramallah	National Office for Palestine
San José	Cluster Office to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama
Santiago	Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean National Office to Chile
Tashkent	National Office to Uzbekistan
Tehran	UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office to the I.R Iran covering Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan
Venice	UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
Windhoek	National Office to Namibia
Yaoundé	Multisectoral Regional Office for Central Africa. Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, Congo Brazaville, Gabon, Guinée équatoriale, République démocratique du Congo, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Tchad.

Abbreviations list

Liste des abréviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
ALECSO	Arab's Leagues Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
APCEIU	Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding
APGN	Asia Pacific Geopark Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASPnet	UNESCO Associated Schools Project network
BEAR II	Fond « pour une meilleure éducation pour l'essor de l'Afrique »
BIOPALT	Biosphère et Patrimoine du Lac Tchad
BRESCE	Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe
CAPed	Capacity Development for Education Programme
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBLT	Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad
CECOD	Conservation Effort for Community Development
CEDEAO	Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CEDEUM	Centre for Drama in Education and Arts
CEG	Ecuadorian Geoparks Committee
CESA	Continental Education Strategy for Africa
CESA	Stratégie continentale de l'éducation pour l'Afrique de l'Union Africaine 2016-2025
CIB	Comité International de la Bioéthique
CIGEPS	Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport
CIOFF	Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts
CLC	Community Learning Centres
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
CNRS	Conseil national de la recherche scientifique
CONCYTEC	Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWWA	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
DEDHCM	Directorate of Education and Human Development
DIKTAS projet	Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EDC	Education à la Citoyenneté Mondiale
EDD	Education au Développement Durable
ED-ALIGN	Aligning curriculum/learning, teacher policies and practices, and assessment
EFTP	Enseignement et la Formation Technique et Professionnelle
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
FESPACO	Festival Panafricain du cinéma et de l'audiovisuel de Ouagadougou
FILL	Family and Intergenerational Literacy and Learning Project
FONTUR	Colombian National Tourism Fund
FSP-I	Fonds de Solidarité Prioritaire et Innovations
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

GOSPIN	Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments
GSGWMSA	Gender-Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia
HeRe	Heritage Revivals - Heritage for Peace
IA	Immersive Analytics
IBC	International Bioethics Committee
IBE	International Bureau of Education
ICC	International Co-ordinating Council
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICESCO	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICOM	International Council Of Museums
ICOMOS	International Council of Monuments and Sites
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICT-CST	Competency Standards for Teachers
IDA	Internationally Designated Area
IECD	Institute of Early Childhood Development
IFAP	Information For All Programme
IGAD	<i>Autorité Intergouvernementale pour le Développement</i>
IGBC	Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
IHP	Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
IINCAS	International Institute for Central Asian Studies
IIEP	International Institute for Educational Planning
IKCEST	International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology
INABIF	Peruvian National Institute of the Family Welfare
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IOC-WESTPAC	IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
IPDC	International Programme for the Development of Communication
IRCTUD	International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage
ISTIC	International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation
ITC	International Theatre Circuit
IUPAC	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
JST	<i>Jeux et Sports Traditionnels</i>
JTF	Joint Task Force
LINKS	Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
LLECE	Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education
LQSI	Lao Quality Systems Initiative Project
LUCS	Local UNESCO Collaboration Sweden
MAB	Man and the Biosphere programme
MALE	Mentoring Anointed Leaders Everywhere
MEXT	Ministry of Education Culture Science and Technology-Japan
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MOST	Management Of Social Tranformations / <i>Programme de Gestion des transformations sociales</i>
MOW	Memory Of the World
NACCED	National Council for Civil Education and Development
NADEET	Namibia Desert Environmental Education Trust
NAFUKA	National Federation of the UNESCO Clubs and Associations
NAVTTTC	National Vocational and Technical Training Commission
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIE	National Institute of Education
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NSPD	National Strategic Development Plan
NSPVE-E 2019	National Symposium on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education 2019
ODD	<i>Objectifs de Développement Durable</i>
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONAEA	<i>l'Office national d'alphabétisation et d'enseignement pour adultes</i>
OPW	Office of Public Works

OREALC	UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSCE	Organization for Security of Co-operation in Europe
OTA	Online Tools for ASPnet
PAK	<i>Plan d'Action de Kazan</i>
PBCD	Planning and the Black Community Division
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>
QPR	Quadrennial Periodic Report
RéSEAO	<i>Réseau du Système des Ecoles Associées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest</i>
RésEAU	<i>Réseau des Ecoles Associées de l'UNESCO</i>
RIMM	<i>Rencontres Internationales Monaco et la Méditerranée</i>
ROSA	Regional Office for Southern Africa
RPQ	<i>Rapport Périodique Quadriennal</i>
RTRC	Regional Training and Research Center
SARPCCO	Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
SEA	<i>Système des Ecoles Associées</i>
SEMEP	South Eastern MEditerranean sea Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRAJ	<i>Santé Reproductive des Adolescents et des Jeunes</i>
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STEP	Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
SWAN	South Asia Women's Network
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
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
UNICEF	<i>Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance</i>
UNITWIN	International cooperation and networking between universities
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPD	United Nations Development Programme
WHC	World Heritage Committee
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	World Innovation Summit for Education
YEM	Youth Employment in the Mediterranean

Annexes

Action plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO	174
Plan d'action visant à améliorer la coopération du secrétariat de l'UNESCO avec les Commissions Nationales pour l'UNESCO	180
Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO	186
Directives pour les relations et la coopération entre les bureaux hors siège de l'UNESCO et les Commissions Nationales pour l'UNESCO	192
Regulatory framework regarding Associations and Clubs for UNESCO	199
Cadre réglementaire relatif aux Associations et Clubs pour l'UNESCO	203

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.

1 This Action Plan was adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session in 2013 (37 C/Resolution 97).

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 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.

¹ These Guidelines were approved by the Executive Board at its 196th session in 2015 (196 EX/Decisions 5 III).

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.

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 196e 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).

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)

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 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:

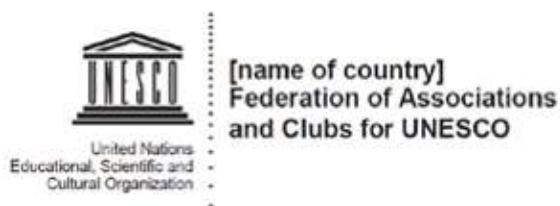
- guiding and advising individual Associations and Clubs on how to achieve the strategic objectives of the partnership outlined above;
- if needed, supporting their National Commission in its Clubs-related and coordination work, (including by collecting and compiling individual annual reports of Associations 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

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)

l'Organisation (voir les grands programmes de l'UNESCO).

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.

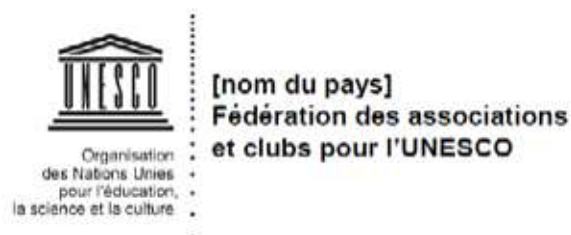
6. Dispositions relatives aux fédérations nationales des associations et clubs pour l'UNESCO

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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