To Non-Governmental Organizations
in official partnership with UNESCO

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23 OCT 2014

Sir, Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that will take place at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris (France) from 15 to 17 December 2014.

As you are no doubt aware, the International Conference of NGOs brings together all of UNESCO's NGO partners every two years, and is an element of the collective cooperation expressly enshrined in the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (36 C/Res. 108). It is a key forum in which UNESCO's official NGO partners meet and hold discussions, its primary purpose being to “review the state of cooperation with UNESCO [...] and facilitate cooperation between organizations having common interests”.

The 2014 Conference will focus on the theme “Re-enchanting the World with the Post-2015 Development Agenda” and will be organized around four subthemes: “The Involvement of NGOs for the Promotion of Quality Education in the Post-2015 Agenda”; “Water and Sustainable Development: From Awareness-Raising to Decision-Making”; “Enhancing Cultural Heritage and Fostering the Diversity of Cultural Expression”; and, “Climate Change: Acting Now”.

The Conference will provide a welcome opportunity to examine collective NGO action carried out in 2013 and 2014, and it will adopt the main lines of collective cooperation for 2015-2016, building on the lessons drawn from the two years of activity that led to the in-depth renewal of the cooperation of civil society with UNESCO.

Moreover, as is customary, participants will be called upon to elect a new Chairperson for the Conference, as well as a new NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee which, as you know, is now composed of ten NGO partners (four in associate status and six in consultative status) representing all regions of the world.

You will find attached the provisional agenda for the Conference, which will be proposed for adoption on the first day of the Conference, the Rules of Procedure and a general information brochure. The final programme and other relevant information and documents, including the modalities for voting, will be sent to you later by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the Secretariat.
If, as we hope, your organization is in a position to accept this invitation, we should be most grateful if you would indicate the name of your designated representative(s), preferably before 30 November 2014, by returning the attached registration form to the address specified on it. Please note that, as is customary, the travel and living expenses of representatives must be borne by the organization they represent.

The 2014 International Conference will bring to a close two years of intense work and enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the NGOs, and will be crucial for the tasks to be carried out together in the coming years.

Looking forward to your presence and active participation in this Conference, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

Irina Bokova  
Director-General of UNESCO

Patrick Gallaud  
President of the  
International Conference of NGOs