The Chairperson

Representatives of the States
Members of the Executive Board
of UNESCO

Ref.: GBS/SCX/2020/079 9 October 2020

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to invite you to participate in the 210th session of the Executive Board, which will take place from 4 to 18 November 2020. The provisional agenda of this session is enclosed herewith.

In the plenary meeting the Director-General will introduce the plenary debate on:

➢ Item 4 Execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (Parts I and II),
➢ Item 5 Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions (Parts I to IV), and
➢ Item 22 Preliminary proposals by the Director-General concerning the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (41 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget (41 C/5)

Members’ contributions to the Plenary debate will begin immediately after the Director-General’s introduction.

Considering the critical importance of the deliberations on the next Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 which will take place at this session of the Board, Member States are hereby encouraged to focus their plenary interventions on the future of UNESCO by focusing on the following theme: “Positioning UNESCO for the next decade as the specialized intellectual and cooperation agency of the UN system in the areas of education, science, culture and communication”. This would be an opportunity for Member States to express their views on UNESCO as we want it in order to remain relevant in its areas of competence.

I hereby invite you to add your name to the list of speakers as soon as possible, and in any case, before 28 October 2020 (the enclosed registration form is to be completed and returned to the Secretariat of the Executive Board at explendebate@unesco.org). Please note that the list is drawn up according to the order in which registration forms are received from Member States on the Board and will be sent to Board members and Delegations prior to the Plenary debate. It will also be available on the Executive Board website.

Cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
The Director-General’s reply and the usual question-and-answer session will follow the interventions by the Members.

Thereafter, item 3 entitled the “Report by the Director-General on the application of rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board” will be considered.

As was the case for past sessions and in view of the number of items requested for inclusion on the agenda of the 210th session, I would like to reiterate the need for Member States to hold informal consultations, as outlined in recommendations 44 to 47 of 39 C/Resolution 87, “Governance procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO”. These informal consultations should ensure that the work of the Committees and Commissions be efficient and cost effective.

Pursuant to 180 EX/Decision 22 (Part I), the PX and FA Commissions will continue to examine, in joint meetings, items with intertwined programme, administrative and financial aspects.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Agapito Mba Mokuy