



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

Monday, 30 October 2017

e-journal

39<sup>TH</sup>  
GENERAL  
CONFERENCE

No. 1

## Highlights

Today, Monday 30 October 2017, 9:45 a.m.

- UNESCO's Room I, hosting the plenary meetings of the General Conference, will be inaugurated after six months' work needed to achieve a refined, harmonious and modern hall. It rediscovered its iconic original design, envisaged by the architects of 1958. The official ceremony will be held in the presence of Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and Industry of the United Arab Emirates who generously funded its renovation. Room I now offers all appropriate features to inspire constructive dialogue among Member States.
- The 39th session of the General Conference will be opened by Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, Member of Parliament and Executive Branch, serving as Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia and President of the 38th session of the General Conference.
- The Chairperson of the Executive Board, H.E. Michael Worbs, and the Director-General, will make statements.
- During the opening ceremony, there will be a musical moment performed by the UNESCO Choir, under the direction of Connie Glessner and accompanied by Cyrille Kirilov, artistic director. The Choir will sing the first movement of Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria -"Gloria in excelsis Deo" ("Glory to God in the highest"), and then "Velvet Shoes" by the composer Randall Thompson.

- The election to the Presidency of the 39th session of the General Conference will take place in the afternoon, during the second plenary meeting. The Executive Board, at its 202 session, unanimously recommended the nomination of Her Excellency Mrs Zohour Alaoui from Morocco. She is the first woman designated as a President of the General Conference from the Arab region.

### Friday 27 October 2017

- The fourth Interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO was attended by more than 200 participants representing 130 Member States/Associate Members. The meeting was opened by Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information (ADG/ERI) and then appointed Mr James Bridge, Secretary-General of the UK NatCom – as its Chair – and Ms Lubna Selaibeekh, Secretary General of the Bahrain NatCom and Ms İrem Alpaslan, Assistant Secretary General of the Turkish NatCom, as Rapporteurs.

The agenda comprised three subjects, namely “Effective implementation of SDGs, mainly SDG4, through sharing of experiences and other endeavours”, introduced by Mr Jean-Yves le Saux, DIR/BSP and Ms Anna D’Addio, Senior Policy Analyst of the Global Education Monitoring Report Team; “Strengthening the role of NatComs in coordinating UNESCO programmes and expanding their cooperation with HQ and other NatComs”; and “Regulatory framework regarding Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO” introduced by ADG/ERI. Having offered an excellent opportunity to the participants to have a fruitful exchange of information and views, the meeting was closed by the Director-General. After the meeting, the Turkish National Commission kindly hosted a reception for the participants.

### Tomorrow, Tuesday 31 October 2017

- Heads of State and Government will attend UNESCO’s **Leaders Forum** on the theme of Sustainable Development and UNESCO’s Role in the Multilateral System.

## Welcome to the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference!

The 39th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO will mark a turning point since Member States will adopt the programme of the Organization and elect the next Director-General for the coming four years. It will also provide a special opportunity to reflect on the challenges to be faced in the coming biennium, defining a new path for our Organization.

In the website of the General Conference you will find the information related to the dates of the elections which will take place throughout the session, the agenda and the programmes of the meetings; documents to download; list of speakers and their statements, who is who, FAQs, practical guide, photogalleries; etc.

The easy mobile access is an improvement introduced to facilitate the consultation of this website worldwide. Click [here](#) for further information.

This e-journal will inform delegates and external public on the daily agenda of the work of the plenary, the commissions and the committees; the factual report of the debates and the proceedings of the previous day and the outline of the following one. It shall also include highlights on major side events as well as official visits.

The agenda of the meetings, the results of the elections and any other relevant information will be announced in real time on 22 flat-screens located in the main Halls of Fontenoy and Bonvin buildings, next to the meeting rooms of the commissions and committees.

The team of the Delegates' Information Bureau will be pleased to guide you during the course of the session with updates and changes. We are located in the Salle des Actes, Fontenoy building, opposite Room I.

You can also reach us by phone on the following extensions: 85270 or 85277, or by email: [gc-informationteam@unesco.org](mailto:gc-informationteam@unesco.org).

We wish you a productive and inspiring session

**Rossella Salvia**

Delegates' Information Bureau

## Special Announcement

The election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference will take place during the second Plenary meeting in Room I, at 3 p.m.

## Programme of meetings

Today – Monday, 30 October 2017

Time	Organ	Room
9:45 a.m.	Inauguration of Room I followed by Plenary Meeting	I
12:00 p.m.	Credentials Committee	VIII
	Nominations Committee	IV
3:00 p.m.	Plenary Meeting	I

### MORNING

#### Plenary Meeting

10:00 a.m.	First Meeting	I
1.1	Opening of the Session	
1.2	Establishment of the Credentials Committee	
1.4	Adoption of the agenda	
1.7	Admission to the work of the General Conference of observers from international non-governmental organizations other than those with the status of official partners of UNESCO, and recommendation of the Executive Board thereon	
8.2	Request for the admission of New Caledonia as an Associated Member State	

#### Credentials Committee

12:00 p.m.	First Meeting	VIII
1.2	Establishment of the Credentials Committee	

#### Nominations Committee

12:00 p.m.	First Meeting	IV
1.5	Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and rapporteurs of the Commissions and Committees	

## AFTERNOON

### Plenary Meeting

3:00 p.m.	Second Meeting	I
1.5	Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference	
1.2	First Report by the Credentials Committee	
2.1	Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 2014-2015, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board	
2.2	Reports by the Executive Board on its own activities and on programme implementation, presented by the Chair of the Executive Board	

## Provisional schedule of meetings

Tuesday, 31 October

Time	Organ	Room
9:00 a.m.	First meeting of the Bureau of the General Conference	X
10:00 a.m.	Third Plenary Meeting	I
	APX Commission	XI
	Legal Committee	VI
3:00 p.m.	Fourth Plenary Meeting	I
	Legal Committee	VI
	APX Commission	XI

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