



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**The Assistant Director-General  
for External Relations and Public Information**

Permanent Delegations and Observers  
to UNESCO

National Commissions for UNESCO

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Sir/Madam,

The 10<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum will be entitled “Rethinking youth engagement with UNESCO” and will take place on 25 and 26 October 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters.

As announced during the 201st session of the Executive Board (201 EX/20 Part II – Annex II), and during a comprehensive presentation and exchange on the occasion of the meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, the Forum will take the form of a consultation with young change-makers.

This pilot experience stems from the need for UNESCO to engage differently with youth for better impact. The outcome of an analysis of the Forum results so far showed that the Forum recommendations were rarely taken onboard; and follow-up commitment was very weak. Furthermore, the report of the 2014-2015 implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (201 EX/4.INF.2) showed that youth continue to be mere beneficiaries of UNESCO’s action rather than engaged actors and partners. The 10th Youth Forum is thus designed as the springboard for long-term and meaningful engagement with youth as per the Operational Strategy on Youth.

The primary aim of the Forum is therefore to build sustainable relationships with young change-makers that are leading or co-shaping impactful initiatives in a UNESCO field of competence.

UNESCO is thus looking for engaged young women and men that have first-hand experience of the issues tackled by the Organization and who are ready to engage with us in developing solutions.

In this framework, we are now pleased to share with you the link to the online Call for Proposals for the 10th UNESCO Youth Forum (39 C/2 Prov. – Annex 2):

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/10thUNESCOYouthForumProposals>

The proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- the young woman or man must be working in an area related to UNESCO's mandate, and
- they must also be ready to commit to collaborate with UNESCO on opportunities that may arise within their area of specialization with a view to promoting peace and development, and
- the young woman or man is aged between 18 and 24 at the time of the Forum or, in exceptional circumstances, within the youth age definition of their country of origin, and
- the young woman or man has either led or co-shaped an innovative social initiative that relates to one of UNESCO's areas of competence, and this initiative has received a significant amount of public recognition/government recognition/media coverage,  
or
- the young woman or man has a story of resilience (the young person has overcome odds/defied expectations to achieve their objective).

The Call will be opened from 8 to 25 June 2017 (midnight Paris time). After this date, the online application form will no longer be available.

The final selection of the proposals submitted will be made by UNESCO's Secretariat ensuring that they are in compliance with the above-mentioned criteria and taking into account the following factors:

- Thematic balance, covering the various UNESCO programme areas
- Gender balance
- Regional balance, taking into consideration the nationality of the participant

We look forward to receiving your proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt