



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

Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning

Dr Mihaela Ulieru
President,
IMPACT Institute for the Digital
Economy
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16 January 2013

Ref : BSP/FOR/13/LT/005

Dear Dr Ulieru,

On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the UNESCO Future Forum which will be held in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in the morning of 27 February 2013, on the theme: **"Exploring the Dynamics of Knowledge Societies: Using the Future to Shape Transformative Policies"**. The UNESCO Future Forum is organized within the framework of the first multistakeholder review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) achievements which takes place from 25 to 27 February 2012.

The Foresight Section of the Bureau of Strategic Planning of UNESCO is organizing this edition of the UNESCO Future Forum with the aim of exploring the latest thinking about knowledge societies, including the frameworks that enable rigorous definitions of the changing nature of knowledge stocks, flows and processes, so as to produce up-to-date images of the future of knowledge societies. Indeed one of the important conclusions in recent years has been the inadequacy of the frameworks and variables used to understand and measure knowledge creation and use. Humanity's capacity to define and track the stocks and flows of knowledge, to perceive both different kinds of knowledge and the vast range of processes that give rise to knowing – all essential infrastructure for any kind of knowledge society – remain largely obscured by yesterday's industrial society institutions, models and data. As a result it is quite difficult to assess the dynamics of knowledge societies today and even more difficult to offer rigorous and inventive futures that might inspire new strategic thinking.

The specific objectives of the Forum are:

1. To sharpen the recommendations for enabling transformative, post-industrial knowledge societies today;
2. To analyze the relationship between new forms and processes for generating knowledge (content) and the institutional conditions at local, regional and global levels;

3. To define the special role of UN agencies and international governance systems in establishing the transparency, trust, access, and open connectivity needed to make good on the promise of knowledge societies.
4. To identify priority areas for action for UNESCO's future work in creating and enhancing knowledge societies, within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) recommendations.

The UNESCO Future Forum series is part of the Foresight Programme of UNESCO which aims at fostering the reflection on key future-oriented issues in the domains of the Organization. The participants in the Forum include representatives from UNESCO's Member States, UNESCO officials and the secretariat, academic and intellectual communities, NGOs, the private sector and media. A half-day panel discussion will be held with four or five international experts. This will be followed by an open discussion with the audience.

The Director-General of UNESCO and I would be greatly honored if you would kindly agree to be among the panelists. UNESCO will be able to cover your airfare and accommodation costs. My team and I remain at your entire disposal, should you request any further information, please contact Riel Miller, Chief of the Foresight Section (email: r.miller@unesco.org; tel: +33 1 45 68 09 50).

Yours sincerely,



Hans d'Orville