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organisation des nations unies pour l'education, la science et la culture

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Subject: Forty-seventh session of the International Conference on Education (ICE)

Sir/Madam,

Pursuant to 32 C/Resolution 3 of the General Conference and 168 EX/Decision 7.1.1 of the Executive Board, I have the honour to invite your Government to participate in the forty-seventh session of the International Conference on Education (ICE).

The session will be held from 8 to 11 September 2004 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (Switzerland) and will have as its theme: "Quality education for all young people: Challenges, trends and priorities".

The theme for this forty-seventh session of the ICE was chosen in response to the serious concern throughout the world over the education of young people between the ages of 12 and 18/20. Indeed, the strong commitment displayed everywhere in favour of Education for All (EFA) should not be confined to primary education. As was emphasized at the Dakar Forum, "primary education must be seen as a minimum, not a ceiling [...]. Democratic participation in social and economic development requires larger numbers of citizens with access to quality secondary level education".

I personally will chair the closing meeting of the forty-seventh session of the Conference, entitled "Promoting partnerships for the right to a quality education for all young people".

It is established practice for Member States to submit, at each session of the International Conference on Education, national reports on the development of education. The invitation and the suggested format for their presentation were sent to each Member State in October 2003. In order that these reports may be circulated to the participants in the Conference, each Member State should send 300 copies in English or in French to the International Bureau of Education. In addition to these copies, Member States which so wish may submit their report in other languages.

You will find enclosed the document "General presentation of the forty-seventh ICE", to which is annexed the provisional agenda of the session. The other working documents will be sent to you at a later date, together with draft revised Rules of Procedure drawn up on the basis of the practices already adopted for the organization of the preceding sessions of the Conference.

I should also like to draw to your attention the fact that the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE) has decided to propose to the Conference that, as at its forty-sixth session, no formal declaration, resolutions or recommendations should be adopted, but rather a "Message to the world" and "Conclusions and proposals for action". These will be designed to support the efforts of the Member States and of UNESCO to strengthen and renew political dialogue. to mobilize partnerships and to assist the IBE in fulfilling its mission as a UNESCO institute specializing in educational contents and curricula.

I should be grateful if you would communicate by 30 July 2004 at the latest the membership of your country's delegation to Ms C. Braslavsky, Director of the International Bureau of Education (Case postale 199, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland; tel.: (41 22) 917 78 25/6, fax: (41 22) 917 78 01, email: c.braslavsky@ibe.unesco.org), to whom any correspondence relating to this session should be addressed.

In accordance with the customary usage for meetings of this category, the participants' travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the government they represent.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

/C

Koichiro Matsuura Director-
General

Enclosure: 1

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO