

**The Assistant Director-General  
for Priority Africa and External Relations**

To Permanent Delegations  
to UNESCO

CC: NATCOM

Ref: SC/PCB/CB/21/9782

3 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may know, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/76/14 on 2 December 2021 to proclaim 2022 as the "International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD)". In doing so, the UNGA endorses the resolution adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 25 November 2019 (40 C/Resolution 32) concerning the proclamation of 2022 to be the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.

The initiative for this International Year is led by a steering committee bringing together, under the auspices of UNESCO, around thirty international scientific unions and research organizations from around the world, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and the European Particle Physics Laboratory (CERN). The IYBSSD is supported by nearly one hundred science academies, scientific societies and networks, as well as 29 Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners.

In proclaiming the IYBSSD, the UNGA stressed that 'the applications of basic sciences are vital for advances in medicine, industry, agriculture, water resources, energy planning, environment, communications and culture'. By its Resolution A/RES/76/14, the UNGA invited all Member States, United Nations agencies and other global, regional, and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as academia, civil society, and the private sector, 'to observe and raise awareness of the importance of basic sciences for sustainable development, in accordance with national priorities'.

As UN lead agency for the implementation of the activities of the IYBSSD, UNESCO and its partners are planning to organize a series of events and activities around the world until 30 June 2023 to showcase the links between basic sciences and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These partners include over 90 national and international science academies, learned societies, scientific networks, research centres, and universities.

I am pleased to invite you to participate in, and contribute to, the UNESCO-led different initiatives all along the IYBSSD, including the inauguration event that will take place towards the end of June or early July 2022 in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. You will find in the Annex a description of the draft plan for the implementation of the activities and the expected results. You may wish to consider co-sponsoring the inauguration event and contribute thereby to its success and to achieving the goals of the IYBSSD. One form of participation could be showing some of your R&D products in one of the exhibitions that will be organized during the inauguration event.

The activities will be carried out by a team supervised by Ms. Amal Kasry, Chief of Section for Capacity Building for Basic Science and Engineering (tel.: +33145680677; email: a.kasry@unesco.org). She will be available to respond to you should you require any further information.

With best regards, I remain,



Firmin Edouard Matoko