



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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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

The Director-General

To National Commissions for
UNESCO

Ref.: DG/3/14/1833

14 MAR 2014

Sir/Madam,

In accordance with Article 3 of the Statutes of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), I am pleased to announce the renewal of the Commission through the replacement of eight of its members, whose terms of office expired on 31 December 2013. Of the outgoing members, four are eligible for re-appointment. In addition, one vacant position remains to be filled. New members who are designated will serve, in their personal capacity, for a four-year term that may be renewed once.

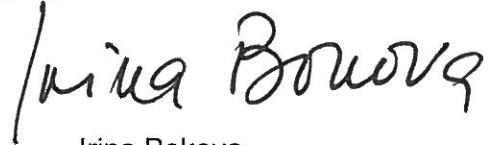
As you are aware, COMEST acts as an advisory body to UNESCO, and as an intellectual forum for the exchange of ideas and experience. Set up in 1998, the Commission is currently chaired by Mr Rajaona Andriamananjara (Madagascar), and is composed of eighteen leading personalities in the scientific, legal, philosophical, cultural and political disciplines, from various regions of the world and appointed by me. Representatives of intergovernmental science programmes and international scientific bodies are invited to take part in the Commission's work. In the accomplishment of its mandate, COMEST makes every effort to identify and highlight ethical principles that promote dialogue between members of the scientific and academic communities, decision-makers and the public at large, and that can support practical action to respond to the contemporary challenges of science and technology. Its current areas of work include science ethics, with particular reference to the contribution of science to sustainable development and the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers; environmental ethics; and, potentially, the ethical challenges related to converging technologies.

Taking due account of geographical distribution, gender equality and the diversity of disciplines and schools of thought, the members of COMEST are mandated to promote ethical and philosophical reflection in a multidisciplinary and multicultural context.

To this end, I invite you to consult with your National Academies of Science or equivalent body, in order to identify an eminent personality in the fields of ethics, science, engineering, law, philosophy, culture, religion and politics whom, you may wish to propose as candidates for membership in the Commission for the period 2014-2017.

I should be grateful if you would submit to Mr Philippe Quéau, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences *ad interim* and Executive Secretary of COMEST (UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15; tel.: + 33 1 45 68 38 59 / 3923; fax: + 33 1 45 68 55 15; e-mail: comest2014@unesco.org), no later than 30 April 2014, the name of an eligible nominee who has recognized competence and experience in the field of the ethics of science and technology, together with the *curriculum vitae* of the proposed candidate.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', written in a cursive style.

Irina Bokova

cc: All Permanent Delegates and Observers to UNESCO