United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
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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

Professor Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo
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Bogotá, D.C.
República de Colombia

13 APR 2016

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Dear Professor Hodson de Jaramillo,

It is my honour to invite you to become a member of UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), for a period of four years (2016-2019).

Over a number of years, UNESCO has promoted actively a transdisciplinary and multicultural debate, at the global level, on the ethical issues arising from scientific and technological advancements. COMEST, established in 1998, has had a prominent voice in this debate, fulfilling its mandate as an independent advisory body that utilizes the collective intellectual power of its eminent members to provide guidance on these important ethical issues to UNESCO, the scientific community, decision-makers and the public-at-large.

Currently chaired by Ms Marie-Hélène Parizeau, Professor of Philosophy at Université Laval (Canada), the Commission is composed of 18 leading scholars with diverse scientific, legal, philosophical and cultural backgrounds from various regions of the world, appointed by the Director-General in their personal capacity, along with 11 *ex officio* members representing UNESCO's international science programmes and the wider global scientific communities. At present, COMEST is focusing on a number of pressing ethical issues, such as the ethics of water and the oceans and the ethics of robotics as part of emerging technologies. COMEST members will also have an important role to play in UNESCO's preparation of a preliminary text of a declaration of ethical principles in relation to climate change during the 2016-2017 period.

I invite you kindly to consult UNESCO's website dedicated to the Commission and, more generally, to the activities carried out by the Organization in the area of the ethics of science and technology (http://en.unesco.org/themes/ethics-science-and-technology). I am also enclosing the Statutes of the Commission for your reference.

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UNESCO's ethical mission lies at the intersection of the world's major educational, scientific and cultural challenges. Therefore, the commitment and active participation of each COMEST member is crucial in ensuring that the Organization continues to fulfil this ethical mandate. The Director-General convenes the Commission in ordinary session once every two years. Depending on the availability of resources, an extraordinary session is held between the ordinary sessions.

As a guide on the estimated time you would need to commit to your involvement in COMEST over the 2016-2017 period, your participation is anticipated at the 9th Extraordinary Session of COMEST in Paris (tentatively set for the week of 12 to 16 September 2016), as well as at the 10th Ordinary Session in 2017 (dates and venue to be determined). In the interim period between the annual meetings, it is expected that COMEST members will remain very active through working groups on specific issues, contributing ideas and draft texts related to their areas of expertise in the ethics of science and technology, as outlined in the Commission's work programme.

Given your recognized competence, experience and interest in issues that are of paramount importance to our society, I hope sincerely that you will be in a position to accept my invitation to become a member of COMEST. I should be most grateful if you would indicate your availability, preferably before 21 April 2016, to Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences Sector (tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 57; e-mail: comest@unesco.org), who will then send you all the information you require on COMEST and its work programme for 2016-2017.

Yours sincerely,

Irina Bokova

Enc.