



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

The Director-General

Associated Schools Network

Ref: DG/4/12/006

26 JAN 2012

Sir/Madam,

At its 36th session, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 30 April of each year as International Jazz Day (36 C/Resolution 39). The first celebration of this Day, which will take place this year, will be launched by the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Herbie Hancock, and I at UNESCO Headquarters on 27 April next, ahead of a special concert at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 30 April 2012.

The designation of this Day is intended to bring together communities, schools and other groups the world over to celebrate and learn more about the art of jazz, its roots and its impact, and to highlight its important role as a means of communication that transcends differences. In so doing, it will engage UNESCO and its partners in the examination and celebration of this legacy, which is an important historical art form that has contributed to the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the eradication of discrimination, the promotion of respect for human rights and human dignity, the fostering of gender equality and the reinforcement of the role of youth for social change.

The Day also will raise awareness in the international community on the virtues of jazz as an educational tool and force for unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation. I am confident that many organizations currently engaged in the promotion of jazz music will embrace the opportunity to foster greater appreciation not only for the music, but also for the contribution it can make to building inclusive societies.

In order to ensure the success and global scope of this first celebration of International Jazz Day, a full mobilization of all UNESCO Member States, as well as the support of public local authorities, will be essential. I hope very much, therefore, that all UNESCO partners and networks, as well as parliamentarians, locally elected officials, culture, education and media professionals and youth organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also will participate actively in promoting International Jazz Day.

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You may wish to consider activating, as part of your Networks contribution to the celebrations, the local organizers (municipalities, cities, regions, etc) in your country, so that they might contribute to the preparation and celebration of International Jazz Day. You may wish also to raise awareness about this Day in your local associated schools and universities, and to develop a comprehensive programme involving public and private partners, as well as institutions at the national level (especially youth associations and networks), with a view to spreading the inherent values of jazz, including its role as a tool for intercultural dialogue.

I should be most grateful if you would send, in writing, information about any events you plan in celebration of International Jazz Day. Such information should be sent to Mr Mauro Rosi, Head of Communication, Knowledge Management and Partnerships in the Culture Sector (tel: +33.1.45.68.46.33; fax: +33.1.45.68.57.39; e-mail: m.rosi@unesco.org) no later than **15 February 2012**. Information so received will be included in the official programme of events that will be made available on the UNESCO dedicated International Jazz Day website from March 2012. The website also will include my message for the Day, as well as a poster that will be available for download.

I hope your Network will be in a position to associate itself fully with the celebration of the 2012 International Jazz Day.

Please 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