ANNEX II

TENTH UNESCO YOUTH FORUM

Wednesday, 25 October to Thursday, 26 October 2017

A pilot **Youth Forum** entitled "Rethinking youth engagement with UNESCO" will be held on 25 and 26 October 2017.

Background – The UNESCO Youth Forum is an integral part of the General Conference (32 C/Resolution 82) since 1999. An analysis of its results so far showed that (i) Forum recommendations were rarely taken onboard; and (ii) follow-up commitment by youth attendees was very weak. Furthermore, the report of the 2014-2015 implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (cf. document 201 EX/4.INF.2) shows that youth continue to be mere beneficiaries of UNESCO's action and are rarely engaged as actors and partners. It shows that UNESCO needs to engage differently with youth for better impact. It is thus proposed that the 10th Youth Forum takes the form of a consultation with young change-makers and youth working on the frontlines of the issues addressed by UNESCO's mandate. It is designed as the springboard for long-term and meaningful engagement with youth as per the Operational Strategy on Youth.

Objectives of the 10th UNESCO Youth Forum

- Discuss how UNESCO can better engage with youth to scale up outstanding youth actions that create positive change in UNESCO's areas of expertise.

- Develop lasting relationships between UNESCO's Programme Sectors and young change-makers leading to tangible action related to UNESCO's mandate.

- Co-design (sub)regional Youth "spaces" that enable youth to interact, voice their ideas on UNESCO's fields of competence and address the issues most affecting them.

Participants – About 100 young women and men from all regions will attend. Following proposals received from an online call, the Secretariat will select them through a transparent process based on strict criteria: participants must have led or co-shaped a social initiative addressing a specific development challenge within a UNESCO area of competence that has received significant public recognition. An emphasis will be made on stories of resilience. Geographical and gender balance will be ensured. Member States, through their National Commissions, as well as youth organizations and partner networks, will be informed of the selected participants.

Format – Young women and men, as well as youth representatives from all over the world and from different constituencies, will be invited to participate in an online consultation to determine the precise format of the Forum. The format of the Forum will focus on enabling participants to work and interact with UNESCO colleagues from all programme sectors and field offices to define avenues of cooperation that could better respond to their needs.

Digital component – A communication strategy will be developed to enable youth to engage with the Forum digitally. Social networking and media partnerships will help increase visibility and ensure the engagement of youth in UNESCO's online Youth Community. Long-term digital engagement will also ensure that a community of change-makers is developed via the story-telling initiative YouthOfUNESCO.

Resource mobilization – Extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions are being pursued. UNESCO Member States are encouraged to sponsor participants, be they from their own country or elsewhere.

Outcome – The primary outcome will be the development of long-term relationships with youth who are leading change in their domain (related to UNESCO's fields of competence). The Forum output – to be presented to the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference – will consist of ideas and modalities for cooperation between youth and UNESCO in implementing the 39 C/5, as well as proposed methodologies for the rollout of (sub-) regional Youth "spaces".