

**7th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO
Lugano, 25–29 May 2020**

**From strategy to action towards 2030: the contribution of the National Commissions for
UNESCO**

Concept note

December 2019

Background and goals

The preparation of UNESCO's medium-term strategy for 2022–29 (41 C/4) and programme and budget for 2022–25 (41 C/5) is underway. The road map approved at the 40th session of the General Conference sets out the deadlines for the various contributions. Among the various consultations, the 7th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO is scheduled for the end of May 2020 in Lugano.

The National Commissions will have the opportunity to discuss together the added value of UNESCO's mandate and the strengths, weaknesses and impact of its activities in its member countries. On this basis they will jointly help **define UNESCO's future strategic orientation**. The National Commissions are the legitimate and best-placed bodies to make recommendations on the **future evolution of UNESCO programmes and networks to be maintained** in order to ensure that the organisation will meet global challenges and participate in UN reform as credibly, effectively and collaboratively as possible.

The interregional meeting will also be an opportunity to promote a common vision that **places the National Commissions and their networks at the heart of the future medium-term strategy** and communicates their expectations for **UNESCO's strategic transformation in order to ensure the implementation of UNESCO programmes**, support the Commissions at national level and further cooperation among them with a renewed commitment to multilateralism.

The objective of Lugano 2020 is to enable the National Commissions to make a clear and sound contribution to UNESCO's work on these issues based on the principles of prioritisation, relevance, foresight and participation. Between now and 2020, the National Commissions will also hold subregional, regional and national consultations based on the strategic programme evaluation and other findings.

The Swiss Commission for UNESCO thanks the National Commissions for any information, event announcements or other contributions they may provide in preparation for the meeting next May (info@unesco.ch).