



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

14/09/2009

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Subject: **35th session of UNESCO's General Conference  
Ministerial Round Table on "What Education for the Future?:  
Lessons from the major international education conferences"  
9 and 10 October 2009**

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your country's Minister of Education to take part in the Ministerial Round Table "What Education for the Future?: Lessons from the major international education conferences", which will be held at UNESCO Headquarters on Friday, 9 October, and in the morning of Saturday, 10 October 2009, during the 35th session of UNESCO's General Conference.

The Round Table will build on previous General Conference Education Ministers' Round Tables and on the outcomes of the series of landmark global education conferences organized by UNESCO in 2008 and 2009, namely the:

- 48th International Conference on Education on the theme "Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future (25-28 November 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland);
- World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development on the theme "Moving into the Second Half of the United Nations Decade (31 March-2 April 2009 in Bonn, Germany);
- World Conference on Higher Education on the theme "The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development" (5-8 July 2009 in Paris, France); and
- the High-Level Group meeting on Education for All (EFA) (16-18 December 2008 in Oslo, Norway).

It is also expected to feed into the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) on the theme "Learning and Living for a Viable Future: the Power of Adult Learning", which will take place in Belém (Brazil) from 1 to 4 December 2009.

The Round Table will be structured around three themes:

- (i) Knowledge, values, competencies and skills for today's and tomorrow's societies
- (ii) Building education systems that are inclusive, equitable, of high quality and supportive of sustainable development;
- (iii) Promoting changes in policies and practices: the way forward

A background document containing questions to guide the debate is being prepared by the Secretariat and will be sent to you in due course.

My expectation is that the exchanges at the round table will go beyond the results of the various education conferences and round tables held to date, and that the Ministers will approach education systems in a more holistic and less fragmented manner, reflecting on the transformative power of education to promote equity, quality and sustainable development and defining concrete steps in this direction. To this end, I have invited renowned personalities to deliver keynote speeches to inspire and provoke reactions and comments during the exchanges of views and experiences among the Ministers, as well as a moderator to guide the debate. I hope, therefore, that your country's Minister of Education will be able to participate in this event, which I sincerely hope will be open, lively and very interactive.

In the event that this invitation is considered favourably, I would be grateful if you would confirm your Minister's participation to Ms Sabine Detzel, Programme Specialist, Education Sector (tel: +33.1.45.68.10.52; fax: +33.1.45.68.56.25; e-mail: [edmrt@unesco.org](mailto:edmrt@unesco.org)), no later than **18 September 2009**. Ms Detzel is at your disposal for any further information you may require.

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

Koïchiro Matsuura  
Director-General