



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/4381

Subject: **Certified Copy of the Recommendation on Open Science**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour of informing you that the Recommendation on Open Science was adopted unanimously by UNESCO's General Conference at its 41st session in November 2021.

To address the myriad issues the world is facing today, from biodiversity loss and climate change to disaster risk reduction and global pandemics, there is an urgent need for timely and equitable access to scientific information and for sharing of scientific knowledge, data and protocols within and beyond the scientific community.

The Recommendation on Open Science emphasises the transformative potential of open science for reducing the existing inequalities in science, technology and innovation, for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the human right to enjoy the benefits from scientific progress and its applications.

By adopting this Recommendation, UNESCO's Member States provided the urgently needed international normative framework for open science, and expressed their common will to strengthen international scientific cooperation, in seven areas of action:

- (1) promoting a common understanding of open science and its associated benefits and challenges, as well as the diverse paths to open science;
- (2) developing an enabling policy environment for open science;
- (3) investing in infrastructure and services which contribute to open science;
- (4) investing in training, education, digital literacy and capacity-building, to enable researchers and other stakeholders to participate in open science;
- (5) fostering a culture of open science and aligning incentives for open science;
- (6) promoting innovative approaches to open science at different stages of the scientific process; and
- (7) promoting international and multistakeholder co-operation in the context of open science with a view to reducing digital, technological and knowledge gaps.

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the UNESCO Constitution, please find enclosed a certified copy of the Recommendation in the six working languages of UNESCO's General Conference.

Kindly note that, in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 4, of UNESCO's Constitution, each Member State is required to submit the Recommendation to its competent authorities within a period of one year from the close of the session of the General Conference at which it was adopted, i.e. before 24 November 2022.

As requested by the General Conference, a report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of the Recommendation on Open Science will be presented at its 43rd session, for which Member States will be consulted.

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



Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General

Enclosed document: Certified copy of the Recommendation on Open Science

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO