

To all Permanent Delegates to
UNESCO and Observers

Cc: National Commissions for UNESCO

21 April 2022

**The Assistant Director-General
for Priority Africa and External Relations**

Ref: SC/PCB/STIP/22/2656

Subject: UNESCO's Global Call for Best Practices in Open Science

Sir/Madam,

In November 2021, at the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO, 193 Member States unanimously adopted the first global standard-setting instrument on open science, the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#).

Developed through a regionally balanced, multi-stakeholder, inclusive and transparent consultation process, this landmark international agreement defines shared values and principles for open science, and identifies measures to make science more accessible, the scientific process more inclusive and the outputs of science more readily available and relevant for society.

To assist Member States with the implementation of the Recommendation, UNESCO is launching a *Global Call for Best Practices in Open Science* to collect best practices in open science on individual, institutional, national, regional and international levels with particular focus on the seven priority areas highlighted in the Recommendation, namely:

1. Promoting a common understanding of open science, associated benefits and challenges, as well as diverse paths to open science
2. Developing an enabling policy environment for open science
3. Investing in open science infrastructures and services
4. Investing in human resources, training, education, digital literacy and capacity building for open science
5. Fostering a culture of open science and aligning incentives for open science
6. Promoting innovative approaches for open science at different stages of the scientific process
7. Promoting international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in the context of open science and with a view to reducing digital, technological and knowledge gaps

The resulting compendium of best practices will be made widely available and broadly disseminated and will be a useful tool to better understand the current landscape of best practices in open science, to identify possible gaps and challenges, share lessons learned and improve knowledge and understanding.

I am therefore pleased to invite you to share the online survey on best practices in open science with the relevant authorities, institutions and open science actors in your country. The survey is available at <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-global-call-best-practices-open-science> in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). We encourage inputs and contributions by 15 July 2022.

For any further information, Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and her team are at your disposal at openscience@unesco.org.

I thank you for your valuable support in implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Firmin Edouard Matoko