

Brasília, Brazil, May 5th, 2021

To:
Mr. Peter Wells
Chief of the Section of Higher Education
UNESCO

Dear Sir.,

I write this letter to demonstrate our strong support and interest in the renewal of the Chair Agreement between the University of Brasilia and UNESCO, ensuring institutional conditions for the continuation of the activities.

The UNESCO Chair in Distance Education, established at the University of Brasília in 1994, has been actively investigating and producing knowledge about open and distance education, and more broadly, information and communication technologies in education, since 1994. As the current report shows, the Chair's outreach continues to grow, with an expressive number of projects across Brazil and Latin America, and with established partnership with organizations and other UNESCO Chairs across the globe, particularly with similar-themed Chairs in South Africa, Slovenia and Uruguay.

The Chair has established goals that demonstrate a commitment to focus on its core areas. It will also expand to include a robust investigation in open education and open educational resources, a core interest of UNESCO through its Open Educational Resources Recommendation (2019). It will also promote cooperation by connecting its main goals with pressing issues related to sustainability and migration and displacement in the realm of education. These themes and the overall goals of the Chair remain a strategic area of activity for our institution, and, we believe, they strongly align with UNESCO's goals.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation,



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Marcia Abrahao Moura
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Prof. Dr. Marcia Abrahão Moura
Rector



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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

**Education Sector
Future of Learning and Innovation
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair Programme**

Prof. Dr. Marcia Abrahão Moura
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Ref.: ED/FLI/21/28

30 June 2021

Dear Rector,

I wish to refer to your request to renew the Agreement between UNESCO and the Higher Education Institute of Brasília, concerning the UNESCO Chair on Distance Education, established on **30 December 1993**.

I am pleased to note that the Chair has been very active in its field of work. It has developed inter-university cooperation at national and international levels. The Chair's collaborative work within the framework of UNESCO's programme contributed to its visibility and objectives. I also noted that the Chair has made significant contributions and provided technical assistance to improve policies and programmes.

The main activities of the Chair, during the period under review, contributed to the approval of national decrees and policies on Open Educational Resources by the Ministry of Education and Congress of Brazil. I am also pleased to note the global award received by this Chair for the Best Open Policy Initiative. The new courses and resources created and offered (i.e. Open Education Leader, Introduction to Open Education and OER), as well as the research and development initiatives focused on distance and open education in contemporary times are commendable.

Based on the above, I wish to inform you that UNESCO agrees to renew this UNESCO Chair for an additional period of four years, until **30 December 2024**.

We wish to advise that UNESCO has instigated a new generic UNESCO logo for the immediate use of this UNESCO Chair for all its activities within the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme. Kindly note that the enclosed generic UNESCO Chair logo must be used as it is, alone and independently, without any other elements placed next to or around it. In addition, this Chair's own logo should always be placed far away from the UNESCO logo.

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Please note that the period of use of the UNESCO Chair logo is limited to the period of the Agreement that is until **30 December 2024** and to any possible extension thereafter.

Moreover, all publications, papers and documents should carry the following disclaimer:

“The authors are responsible for the choice and presentation of information contained in this... as well as for the opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization”.

Should the University wish to pursue the activities of the Chair beyond this renewed period, a formal request to renew the validity of the Agreement must be addressed to UNESCO six months before the expiry date of the current Agreement. The decision to renew a Chair's Agreement is based, among others, on the positive evaluation of the reports on the activities carried out by the Chair.

A mid-term report is due two years after the renewal of the Agreement, that is on **13 October 2022**, followed by a final report two years later. Reports should follow the UNESCO template available at <https://en.unesco.org/unitwin-unesco-chairs-programme>.

Finally, I invite the Chairholder and the Chair's team to contact Ms Maria Paz Portales Grado, Programme Specialist, Section for Higher Education, (tel.: +33 1 45 68 10 33; e-mail: p.portales@unesco.org) who has been identified as this Chair's focal point at UNESCO to explore further possible cooperation.

For all other matters, I kindly invite you to contact the UNITWIN programme at unitwin@unesco.org.

I wish this Chair full success in achieving its objectives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sobhi Tawil', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sobhi Tawil
Director