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联合国教育、  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للترية والعلم والثقافة

## UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Professor Gregor Majdič  
Rector  
University of Ljubljana  
Slovenia

Ref: ED/FLI/24/42

21 February 2024

### **Subject: Renewal of the agreement of the UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (ID 2016SI1134)**

Dear Rector,

In reference to the request to renew the mandate of the UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction, I am pleased to inform you that the agreement between UNESCO and the University of Ljubljana concerning the Chair, initially established in 2016, shall remain valid until 30 June 2028.

Under the leadership of the Chairholder Professor Matjaž Mikoš, the Chair will contribute to advance UNESCO's ongoing endeavors to promote interdisciplinary knowledge and scientific cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Recognizing the pivotal role of institutional support in ensuring the success of the UNESCO Chair, we seek your commitment, in this new mandate, to facilitate the active engagement of the Chair's team in various UNESCO activities and those organized by its partner institutions, as well as to leverage opportunities for interuniversity collaboration, and to champion knowledge sharing and dissemination activities. Your unwavering support in this regard will strengthen the Chair's impact and outreach.

The UNESCO Chair is encouraged to consult the [UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme guidelines and procedures](#) regarding some changes, including renewals. More specifically, and to ensure that all UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks are contributing to UNESCO's programme and priorities, a revised set of criteria will be used in future evaluations of renewal requests, as published in Annex B of the guidelines. In this regard, the Chair should align its activities – as relevant – to the new requirements.

The [Chair's website](#) demonstrates its current activities and describes objectives, and should continue to be regularly updated, drawing further synergies with existing UNESCO initiatives in related areas. The Chair is strongly encouraged to continue and expand its activities related to climate action, biodiversity, water, and ocean management. Further, the Chair is encouraged to strengthen its collaboration with UNESCO entities, as well as with existing UNESCO Chairs and Networks. To this end, a database of the programme members is updated regularly on the [UNITWIN Programme webpage](#).

All members of the Chair are also invited to join the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs [LinkedIn Group](#) and to participate UNESCO-driven initiatives/activities, intellectual and public policy dialogues, ethical reflections and standard setting processes. The designated focal points, Mr. Koen Michéek John Verbist, Programme Specialist, Hydrological Systems, Climate Change and Adaptation Section (e-mail: [k.verbist@unesco.org](mailto:k.verbist@unesco.org)) and Ms. Jing Fang, Associate Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (e-mail: [j.fang@unesco.org](mailto:j.fang@unesco.org)) can be contacted to seek out opportunities for closer collaboration with UNESCO. The focal points look forward to hearing from the Chair on a regular basis – please add them to your mailing lists, invite them to join Chair events, and share your latest research/publications.

Finally, should the university wish to continue to host the UNESCO Chair beyond this mandate, a formal request is to be submitted to UNESCO by 30 December 2027 through the dedicated online platform. The renewal of the Chair may require the signature of a new agreement.

Do not hesitate to contact the UNITWIN Programme team for any questions you may have at [unitwin@unesco.org](mailto:unitwin@unesco.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sobhi Tawil', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Sobhi Tawil (PhD)  
Director  
Future of Learning and Innovation