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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Remarks by Mr Alfredo Pérez de Armiñán,
Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO,
on the occasion of the meeting with the President of the Republic of
Armenia, H.E. Mr Serge Sargsyan,
in the framework of the 3rd International Conference
“Culture Policy: the Role of Culture in Sustainable Development”**

Yerevan, Armenia, 14 July 2015

Excellency Mr President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am deeply honoured to address this gathering of distinguished heads of delegations and members of the Government of the Republic of Armenia at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan.

On behalf of the participants of the 3rd International Conference “Culture Policy: the Role of Culture in Sustainable Development, allow me to express my deep appreciation to Your Excellency, and to the Minister of Culture, for hosting this three-day conference. We are particularly grateful that the organizers have associated this event with this year’s celebration of the 70th anniversary of our Organization.

In fact, Armenia has long been a champion of UNESCO’s values, priorities and goals, across all areas of our mandate, education, culture, communication, natural sciences and social sciences. And since Armenia joined UNESCO in 1992, our partnership has grown consistently stronger. As Assistant Director-General for Culture, I am particularly pleased to note that Armenia has ratified five of the principal UNESCO culture conventions, contributing to the World Heritage List, to

the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and to the Memory of the World Register. And of course as you will recall, Yerevan was designated World Book Capital in 2012.

Your country has long stood at the historical crossroads of great empires. The Greek, Roman, Persian, Byzantine, Ottoman and Russian empires have all left their strong imprint here. The splendid cultural tapestry that is to be seen throughout Armenia demonstrates the richness born of the intermingling of peoples and cultures over the centuries. We commend Armenia and its people both here and abroad for proudly preserving your unique identity and traditions. The Armenian people are well aware of the importance of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Thus Armenia is well positioned to host this international reflection on the very timely topic of the role of culture for sustainable development.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks on Saturday morning, the promotion of culture in is a high priority for UNESCO as we have long advocated for the need to integrate the cultural dimension in all development policies and strategies. I trust that our presentations and debates here in Yerevan will be fruitful and serve to further nourish the current discussions on the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

I would like to congratulate you for bringing together such a distinguished group of representatives from many different governments and civil society organizations to further this debate.

The rich agenda reflects the vast scope of UNESCO's culture programme, encompassing World Heritage, intangible heritage, museums, cultural policy the diversity of cultural expressions and the rapprochement of cultures.

In closing, allow me to thank once again His Excellency President Sargsyan for his leadership and support, and express the hope that our ties will be strengthened further in the years to come.