



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Welcome address by Mr Alfredo Pérez de Armiñán,
Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO
on the occasion of the 3rd International Conference “Culture Policy: the Role
of Culture in Sustainable Development”**

Yerevan (Armenia), 11 July 2015

Excellency Mr Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia,

Excellency Ms Hasmik Poghosyan, Minister of Culture of Armenia,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be with you in Yerevan for this international conference on the role of culture in sustainable development.

On behalf of the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, I would like to express my appreciation to the Armenian authorities, and particularly to the Minister of Culture, for organizing this timely initiative as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the UNESCO's creation.

This three-day conference and the 12th international Golden Apricot film festival, which will open here tomorrow, further demonstrate Armenia's commitment to UNESCO's work in the field of culture. Since joining our Organization in 1992, Armenia has ratified the five principal UNESCO Culture Conventions and participated in many key activities. Only last month, UNESCO hosted at its

Headquarters in Paris, the “Youth for Peace” concert featuring some of today’s most noteworthy Armenian musicians, including the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

We are very pleased that Armenia has decided to devote this international conference to a topic of utmost importance for UNESCO and for the world, namely, the role of culture for sustainable development. I will have the opportunity to elaborate on this important theme later this morning at the plenary session but allow me here to declare three fundamental truths:

Culture is who we are.

No society can flourish without culture.

No development can be sustainable without it.

As many of you know, UNESCO has spared no effort in recent years to bring these key messages to the international community, which is in the final process of shaping a new global sustainable development agenda at the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference promises to be very stimulating and rich. We are impressed by the ambitious agenda, which reflects the vast scope of UNESCO’s culture programme, encompassing world heritage, intangible heritage, museums, cultural policy and the diversity of cultural expressions.

In closing, I wish to reiterate our thanks to the Armenian authorities for organizing and hosting this conference.

Thank you for your attention.