



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

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of the concert « *Youth for Peace* »

UNESCO, 3 June 2015

Your Excellency Mr Vigen Sargsyan, Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Humanitarian Questions,

Excellency Ms Hasmik Poghosyan, Minister of Culture of Armenia,

Excellency Mr Armen Achotyan, Minister of Education and Science of Armenia,

Excellency Mr Viguène Tchitetchian, Ambassador of Armenia to France,

Excellencies, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNESCO, as you can see, is the House of all nations – we are the House of peace and tonight, we are the House of Armenia.

UNESCO was created 70 years ago on the idea the foundations of lasting peace must be built in the minds of men.

Peace must be built through mutual understanding, through better knowledge of each other's ways and history.

It must be built on human rights, on intercultural dialogue.

These are the skills we need to foster in young women and men.

And this is the message of tonight's show.

The world is getting younger every day – half of the world’s population is under the age of 25.

Every single young woman and man is a chance for peace... if he or she can grow up with quality education, with dignity, self-respect and knowledge of their own history and that of the others,

There are too many voices of hatred and division in the world today – we need the voice of girls and boys, to rise up for peace, to carry forward the values that bring us together as a single family.

This reminds me of the words from the poem, *In The Armenian Mountains*, by the great Hovhannes Toumanian:

We carry from old our treasure,

Vast as the sea,

Brought into life

By the great soul of our people

Young people, ladies and gentlemen, carry the treasure of humanity forward – we must support them in every way.

In this spirit, I congratulate the Armenian Government and the Permanent Delegation of Armenia for this concert cycle entitled “*Youth for Peace*,” which brings together some of today’s most notable Armenian musicians -- including the *State Youth Orchestra of Armenia*.

Armenia has long been a champion of UNESCO’s values, priorities and goals, across all areas of our mandate, and our partnership is going from strength to strength.

A member of UNESCO since 1992, Armenia has joined five UNESCO cultural conventions, contributing to the World Heritage list, to the list of intangible heritage, to the Memory of the World Register.

I wish specially to highlight Armenia's contribution to UNESCO's action for quality education for all, as host to six UNESCO Chairs, as a powerful advocate for arts education, as a gateway to cultural understanding and acceptance.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Cette soirée placée sous le signe de la jeunesse nous renvoie aux valeurs fondatrices de l'UNESCO.

C'est un appel à investir davantage dans la jeunesse, comme force de paix, comme force de développement durable.

Les jeunes ne sont pas seulement les leaders de demain – ce sont les moteurs du changement aujourd'hui.

Ce sont les créateurs, les artistes, les chanteurs, les inventeurs qui nous révèlent le potentiel insoupçonné de renouvellement des sociétés – et qui sera mis à l'honneur par l'Arménie lors de la Conférence sur la culture et le développement organisée à Yérévan au mois de juillet, et à laquelle nous sommes heureux de nous associer.

Notre rôle ici à l'UNESCO est de leur permettre d'utiliser ce potentiel, de leur donner les outils pour pleinement participer au développement des sociétés, résister aux fausses promesses de l'extrémisme et de la haine, qui se nourrissent de la pauvreté et des injustices.

C'est le message d'espoir que l'UNESCO s'engage à promouvoir et je voudrais remercier encore une fois la Délégation de l'Arménie pour cette opportunité de porter ce message ensemble.

Je vous souhaite une excellente soirée.