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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 Information Meeting “Follow up of the situation in
the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)”**

UNESCO, 24 March 2016

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for attending this Information Meeting.

This Information Meeting is part of the implementation of the Decision adopted by Member States at the 197th session of the UNESCO Executive Board -- 197 EX/Decision 5 (II) on the follow-up by UNESCO of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) within UNESCO's fields of competence.

The first Information Meeting of this kind was held on 2 June, 2015, with UNESCO's institutional partners – I believe this second Information Meeting highlights the continuing engagement of the Organisation on this important question.

Let me reiterate, that, in all of this, UNESCO has been and remains guided by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 27 March, 2014, on “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine,” which “*affirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.*”

In 197 EX/Decision 5 (II) on the follow-up by UNESCO of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine), I was requested to continue collecting information from international organizations within and beyond the United Nations system, as well as from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have at their

disposal relevant updates on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine).

In Document EX5 Part 1, Section E, now available to all Permanent Delegations, Member States will find a report on the implementation of the recent Decision.

This report includes:

- a review of existing and planned actions in UNESCO's fields of competence, from those relating to Associated Schools and projects in the Natural Sciences and Social Sciences, to World Heritage and contacts with media associations;
- information provided to the Secretariat on 10 February, 2016, by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine on latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) in UNESCO's fields of competence;
- information provided by UNESCO's institutional partners, such as the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS); and Amnesty International (Official Partner of UNESCO, with Associate Status).

These partners were addressed given their relevance to UNESCO's fields of competence – notably in the fields of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, and specific areas therein.

These partners were addressed also, because of existing partnership relations with UNESCO, and building on their previous contribution to UNESCO, including their participation in the Information Meeting held on 2 June, 2015.

Suh regular information-sharing and interaction with UNESCO institutional partners – through reports, through Information Meetings – provides a vital monitoring mechanism.

In this spirit, UNESCO has been able to provide substantial information to its Member States through the constant dialogue with the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine, which has provided regular updates on the situation from the perspective of UNESCO's areas of competence.

All throughout, I wish to underline that I have consulted regularly with the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Ukraine to UNESCO, as well as with the Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board, with also the Assistant Director-General for External Relations, to define appropriate steps for moving forward.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Sur cette base, je suis honorée d'accueillir les organisations partenaires de l'UNESCO pour cette réunion d'information :

- Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, représenté par Mr Marc Bojanic, Conseiller aux droits de l'homme, de la Mission de l'ONU chargée du suivi des droits de l'homme en Ukraine ;
- L'Organisation pour la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe (OSCE), représentée par Mr Aidar Botagarov, Conseiller auprès de la représentante de l'OSCE pour la liberté des médias,
- Le Conseil international des monuments et des sites (ICOMOS), représentée par Ms Gaia Jungeblodt, Directrice du Secrétariat international.
- Amnesty International (Partenaire officiel de l'UNESCO, avec un statut d'Association), représentée par Madame Geneviève Garrigos, présidente d'Amnesty International France;

Le Commissaire aux Droits de l'homme du Conseil de l'Europe, Monsieur Nils Muižnieks, qui a également été invité, tenait à s'excuser de ne pas pouvoir être présent à cette réunion.

J'aimerais remercier chacun de nos partenaires pour leur présence et leur coopération, et je vous remercie de votre attention.