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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information, 28 September 2018

The technological revolution is radically transforming how we inform ourselves. In just a few years, sources of information have multiplied, taken on numerous formats and become globalized. It is now possible to obtain immediately a wealth of material on the most varied of topics.

These new circumstances provide tremendous opportunities for individual and societal development. However, such development can only take place if these opportunities are available to all. In a highly interconnected global society, a lack of equal access to information is a sure way to increase marginalization and rapid exclusion from the rest of the world. The purpose of this international day is to remind governments and all the stakeholders in civil society of the need to ensure truly universal access to information.

Fulfilment of this need is part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for action to “ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms”.

Access to information is directly linked to the enjoyment of basic rights and freedoms and influences the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Being a well-informed citizen means being knowledgeable, having a critical mind, and being able to play an active part in community and national life.

It means having access to knowledge essential to one's health and well-being.

It means having the educational resources that make it possible to enjoy lifelong learning and adapt to an ever-changing socioeconomic environment.

It means unlocking one's creative and innovative potential.

It also means being aware of the major challenges facing humanity – such as climate change, for example – and knowing how to respond in order to mitigate their effects.

Making universal access to information a reality requires action on a variety of fronts. States must develop adequate legislation and ensure universal access to the Internet. They must encourage multilingualism online and offline so that all communities can access essential knowledge in their native languages. They must also act to close the digital divide, which tends to perpetuate social and gender inequalities. Through its various programmes and by working alongside governments, UNESCO helps to combat these inequalities.

Finally, access to information is, without a doubt, a matter that concerns freedom of the press and the safety of journalists. UNESCO works tirelessly to remove the obstacles to a pluralistic and free press so that all citizens can benefit from reliable, verified and quality information.

The knowledge and information society that is currently taking shape holds bright promise. On this International Day for Universal Access to Information, let us work together to ensure that this promise bears fruit for all.

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**Ujumbe kutoka kwa Audrey Azoulay, Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa UNESCO, katika maadhimisho ya Siku ya Kimataifa ya Upatikanaji wa Habari, Septemba 28, 2018**

Mapinduzi ya kiteknolojia yanabadilika kwa kiasi kikubwa jinsi tunavyojulisha wenyewe. Katika miaka michache tu, vyanzo vya habari vimeongezeka, vinachukuliwa kwenye muundo mbalimbali na kuwa wa kimataifa. Sasa inawezekana kupata mara moja utajiri wa vifaa kwenye mada mbalimbali.

Hali hii mpya inatoa fursa kubwa kwa maendeleo ya mtu binafsi na kijamii. Hata hivyo, maendeleo kama hayo yanaweza tu kuchukua nafasi kama fursa hizo zinapatikana kwa wote. Katika jumuiya ya kimataifa inayoingiliana sana, ukosefu wa upatikanaji sawa wa habari ni njia ya uhakika ya kuongeza marginalization na kutengwa kwa haraka kutoka kwa dunia nzima. Kusudi la siku hii ya kimataifa ni kuwakumbusha serikali na wadau wote katika mashirika ya kiraia ya haja ya kuhakikisha ufikiaji wa habari wa ulimwengu wote.

Utekelezaji wa haja hii ni sehemu ya Malengo ya Maendeleo Endelevu (SDG) ya 20 Agenda ya 2030 ya Maendeleo Endelevu, ambayo inahitaji hatua ya "kuhakikisha ufikiaji wa umma kwa habari na kulinda uhuru wa msingi".

Upatikanaji wa habari unahusishwa moja kwa moja na kufurahia haki za msingi na uhuru na huathiri kufikia Malengo yote ya Maendeleo ya kudumisha.

Kuwa raia mwenye ujuzi ni maana ya kuwa na ujuzi, kuwa na akili kubwa, na kuwa na uwezo wa kucheza sehemu ya maisha na jamii.

Ina maana kuwa na upatikanaji wa maarifa muhimu kwa afya na ustawi wa mtu.

Ina maana kuwa na rasilimali za elimu ambazo zinawezesha kufurahia kujifunza maisha yote na kukabiliana na mazingira ya kiuchumi ya kijamii.

Ina maana kufungua uwezo wa ubunifu na ubunifu.

Pia inamaanisha kuwa na ufahamu wa changamoto kuu zinazokabili mwanadamu - kama vile mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa, kwa mfano - na kujua jinsi ya kujibu ili kupunguza madhara yake.

Kufanya upatikanaji wa habari kwa ukweli ukweli unahitaji hatua kwa mipaka mbalimbali. Mataifa lazima kuendeleza sheria ya kutosha na kuhakikisha upatikanaji wa wote wa mtandao. Wanapaswa kuhimiza multilingualism mtandaoni na nje ya mtandao ili jumuiya zote ziweze kufikia ujuzi muhimu katika lugha zao za asili. Wanapaswa pia kufanya kazi ya kuifungua kugawanyika kwa digital, ambayo huelekea kuendeleza usawa wa kijamii na jinsia. Kupitia programu zake mbalimbali na kwa kufanya kazi pamoja na serikali, UNESCO inasaidia kupambana na usawa huu.

Hatimaye, upatikanaji wa habari ni bila shaka shaka inayohusu uhuru wa vyombo vya habari na usalama wa maandishi wa habari. UNESCO inafanya kazi kwa bidii ili kuondoa vikwazo kwa vyombo vya habari vingi na vya bure ili raia wote waweze kufaidika na habari za uhakika, kuthibitishwa na ubora.

Ufahamu na jamii ya habari ambayo kwa sasa inachukua sura ina ahadi mkali. Katika Siku hii ya Kimataifa ya Ufikiaji wa Ulimwengu wa Universal, hebu tufanye kazi pamoja ili kuhakikisha kuwa ahadi hii inazaa matunda kwa wote.