

Round Table “Main directions of cooperation of Uzbekistan with UN’ on the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of Uzbekistan’s Membership in the UN

**Welcome speech by Mr Jan Hladik, Head of the UNESCO Tashkent Office and UNESCO Representative to Uzbekistan
(Tashkent, Monday, 1 March 2021)**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to greet you on behalf of UNESCO at today’s event devoted to the 29th Anniversary of Uzbekistan’s Membership in the United Nations. I would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation to the organizers for the successful organization of this meeting.

The Republic of Uzbekistan became a member of the United Nations Organization, the largest and most powerful intergovernmental organization, that focuses on maintaining international peace, security, and good relations among member nations around the world on 2 March 2, 1992. For the last 29 years close contacts are established with all main structures of the Organization.

Uzbekistan over the years of independence has achieved significant results in socio-political and socio-economic development. Uzbekistan, as one of the countries on the Silk Road, is an example of the peaceful coexistence of many nationalities, with different cultures, religions and traditions, living in mutual respect. The rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage of your country reflects the whole palette of creativity of the peoples living on this earth.

Since Uzbekistan’s independence in 1991, the fields of education, sciences and culture have been considered as vital for the development of the country. The cooperation between UNESCO and Uzbekistan has deepened and strengthened since the country joined the Organization. Since the establishment of UNESCO’s Tashkent Office in 1996, the programmatic scope of the cooperation has widened and now includes the fields of education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information.

UNESCO pursues its work as a member of the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan and by building partnerships with other multilateral and bilateral development actors in the country.

UNESCO fulfills this mission through the implementation of numerous projects in cooperation with all national stakeholders and partners in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information.

I do believe that UNESCO has a wide range of expertise that it can bring to bear to assist the Government in implementing development reforms, while providing support for the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, in areas ranging from the quality of education and journalism to the preservation of the outstanding universal value of those sites inscribed on the World Heritage List under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

UNESCO Tashkent Office has more than 20 years of experience leading the UNESCO's mission, providing knowledge, practical expertise and capacity-building.

Partnership has always been at the core of what we do. The established trusting relationships form a solid foundation for further strengthening and developing cooperation between Uzbekistan and UNESCO. And certainly we have a lot of new projects ahead with valuable cooperation and support of our national partners.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success in this important meeting.

Thank you for your attention.