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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Message by Mr Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO in
charge of Communication and Information,**

**On retirement of Mr Valeri Nikolski, at the 29th Session of the
Intergovernmental Council of IPDC**

21 November 2014

. Distinguished delegates,

. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before we close this Council session, which has been rich in substance, vigorous in discussion and constructive in its conclusions, I would like to take a few moments to express my thanks to one man who has devoted almost three decades of his career to the cause of the IPDC. That man is Valeri Nikolski, who will be retiring at the end of this month leaving a clear mark on this Programme which he has helped to shape.

When Valeri joined the IPDC, the Programme was just six years old and was far from the track record it boasts today of 1,700 media development projects supported in some 140 countries for more than US\$ 105 million. Valeri has steered the programme through times of great change, and his commitment and dedication went far in making the Programme what it is today. Over the years he has become, for many of you, the face of the IPDC.

No one in this Organization knows more about the Programme, its history and activities. Valeri has led the organization of some 23 Council sessions and 43 Bureau meetings, regularly advised our 25 CI colleagues in UNESCO's field offices worldwide and raised funds through countless meetings with donors and partners. His expertise and knowledge will be missed.

Valeri, I would now like to present to you, on behalf of UNESCO, this medal in recognition of your remarkable contribution to the IPDC.

[Present medal]

Dear Council members, distinguished delegates, may I invite you all to join me in a round of applause for Valeri Nikolski.

Many thanks for all that you have done for us Valeri and best of luck for a long and happy retirement.

