Video message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

8 June 2015, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation

Honourable Ms Natalya Komarova, Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the Government of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug for this initiative, and wish to pay special tribute to Governor Natalya Komarova.

I am also grateful to the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Coordination Committee of UNESCO Chairs of the Russian Federation.

This International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development is an important step after the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held in Japan, last November.
UNESCO was created 70 years ago, on the idea lasting peace and sustainable development must be built in the minds of women and men.

This begins with education.

Sustainability requires changes in how we produce and consume.

Fundamentally, it requires new ways of thinking and acting as global citizens, and this requires new values, skills and knowledge.

This is why education for sustainable development must stand at the heart of the new global development agenda States are shaping today – this message was sent clearly at the UNESCO World Education Forum last month in Republic of Korea.

Agreed in Japan last November, the Global Action Programme provides a roadmap to take education for sustainable development across the world.

For this, we need stronger partnerships, and I am confident this International Conference will provide a powerful platform to take this forward.

In this spirit, I thank you again and wish you productive discussions.