



## The Director-General

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

Mr Alexandre Stetsenko  
Deputy Director-General  
International Centre of the Roerichs  
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Russian Federation

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Dear Mr Stetsenko,

It was with great sorrow that I learnt of the recent passing away of Academician Lyudmila V Shaposhnikova. A scientist and researcher, expert in cultural studies, Indologist and historian, as well as a profound philosopher and writer, she also was a talented administrator, as demonstrated by her most recent role as Director of the Centre-Museum named after Nicholas Roerich.

Without doubt, she contributed in a most valuable manner the knowledge on and promotion of Russian cultural heritage. She carried high the banner of culture, in all its diversity and richness, as a source of identity and cohesion for communities. Her strong engagement as co-Chairperson of international projects such as "The Banner of Peace", echoes UNESCO's concerns and the consequent efforts to protect our cultural heritage worldwide. This message acquires even greater relevance at this time when cultural heritage is too often the target of intentional destruction as part of a strategy of cultural cleansing.

I feel proud to have had the opportunity to meet Professor Shaposhnikova personally. On behalf of UNESCO and in my own name, allow me to express deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences on this said occasion.

With my renewed sympathies, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Irina Bokova