



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

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 the 65th anniversary of the Commission of the Russian
Federation for UNESCO**

3 April 2019

2019 marks the 65th anniversary of the Russian Federation's membership in UNESCO and of the establishment of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the longstanding and traditionally very fruitful cooperation between UNESCO and the Russian Federation. On this occasion, I would like, on behalf of UNESCO, to commend the dynamic role the Commission plays in strengthening the Organization's impact, in promoting its visibility, and in reaching out to different stakeholders throughout the country.

The Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO brings together not only all the Ministers with portfolios in UNESCO's fields of competence, but also UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, artists, academicians and leading intellectuals – a solid platform linking the Government and the civil society to UNESCO and its many partners. Such impressive membership is testimony to the importance the Russian Federation attaches to its cooperation with the Organization.

I had the opportunity to witness it personally during my official visit to the Russian Federation in March of this year. I was delighted to meet with H.E. President Vladimir Putin and to discuss the protection of cultural heritage, the development of basic sciences, the preservation of the oceans, the artificial intelligence, and UNESCO anniversaries. My meeting with the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO was among the highlights of the visit. I was much encouraged by the Commission's enthusiasm for UNESCO's mission and programmes.

At this crucial time for the Organization, not to mention the multiple challenges the international community is facing today and that impact directly on UNESCO's mandate, the support of Member States and the important work of their National Commissions is crucial for reaching our shared goals in education, science, communication and culture. I know I can count on the support and hard work of the Commission of the Russian Federation to this end, and I thank you wholeheartedly for your active engagement.

Audrey Azoulay