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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
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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

Address by Mr Moez Chakchouk

**Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO
to the participants of the International Conference:**

**Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the
Digital Age**

5 June 2018

Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Esteemed Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, Vice-Chair of the Information for All Programme of UNESCO,

I am pleased to convey my warm greetings to you and to all your colleagues and partners on the occasion of this major international event. I would also like to express my appreciation to the conference conveners:

- The Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Ugra,
- The Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO,
- The UNESCO/Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP),
- The Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme,
- The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education,
- The Interregional Library Cooperation Centre,

for organizing this International Conference on “Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age”. This corresponds fully to the priorities of IFAP and addresses timely and important challenges in developing inclusive knowledge societies in the digital age.

I should also like to thank the Russian Federation for its continued commitment over recent years to strength the Information For All Programme and promoting and realizing its main objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNESCO's vision of knowledge societies for sustainable development recognizes the impact of new technologies on society, culture and the economy – as core dimensions of development. Thus, we have to be aware of the implications of technological innovations for economic and societal changes and react in time with appropriate policies, strategies and legislation, through a multi-stakeholder approach on the basis of human rights-based, open, accessible to all principles: namely the so-called R.O.A.M. principles unanimously endorsed by UNESCO's 195 Member States.

In this respect, IFAP reflects the pivotal role which our Organization is called upon to play even more nowadays in addressing the challenges of building knowledge societies. IFAP's core concept and mission is a world in which everyone has access to information and knowledge, in which everyone has the opportunity and the required skills to use and obtain information for empowerment and better participation in, and contribution to, the development of our diverse societies in the digital age.

This conference held in Khanty-Mansiysk (Hanty Manseesk) clearly contributes to IFAP's forward looking strategy, which aims at improving the understanding of all the current technological developments and at securing more positive socio-economic, educational, scientific and cultural achievements in an increasingly digital environment. Digital technologies play a central role in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We therefore congratulate you for your dedication to your work and ideals and values of UNESCO in this particular area of its mandate, and I look forward to learning about the diverse knowledge and findings shared.

I wish to express sincere appreciation to the organizers and a wish to all participants of this conference every success.