



COPY FOR INFORMATION

The Director-General

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Dear Mr President,

Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support through the organization of the International Conference "UNESCO between Two Phases of the World Summit on the Information Society" in St. Petersburg.

I should like to congratulate you on the Conference. It was a great success indeed and extremely well received. It gathered outstanding experts representing fifty countries on all continents. Participants discussed an extremely wide range of essential matters, including freedom of expression, equal access to education, universal access to information, extensive public use of information, and the preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity. There was significant support for the essential principles on which the UNESCO-elaborated concept of building knowledge societies rests.

I wish to stress the contribution made to the Conference and its preparation by the Russian Committee of the Information for All Programme, and by Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, Committee Chair, and Chief of the Archive and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation. The idea of organizing this international forum, so important to Russia and to advancing thinking on these important issues in the region, originated with Mr Kuzmin.

The dynamic and successful activities of the Russian Committee of the Information for All Programme to promote and develop that intergovernmental UNESCO programme in Russia and neighbouring countries, have won international recognition and deserve every support.

Allow me to assure you that UNESCO will use recommendations made during the Conference for its preparations for the second and conclusive phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005. It would be especially useful and important were these recommendations - which express the consolidated position of the meeting's participants from Russia and other countries - to be introduced to the Summit by Russia.

His Excellency Mr Vladimir Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
Moscow

I am confident that your personal participation in the Summit's work would be significant confirmation of Russia's active interest in establishing an information society for all.

Allow me in closing, once again, to thank you for the active participation of Russia in the preparatory stage of the World Summit on the Information Society second phase. I would also like to express the hope that UNESCO and Russia will continue close and fruitful cooperation to the benefit of the global knowledge society.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem, I am, Mr President,

Yours sincerely,



Koïchiro Matsuura