



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

## The Director-General

Ms Corina Eichenberger-Walther, MP  
Gesellschaft Schweiz Israel  
Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft E.V.  
Friedrichstraße 206  
D-10969 Berlin  
Federal Republic of Germany

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7 FEB 2014

Dear Ms Eichenberger-Walther,

I wish to provide you with information regarding the exhibition "People, Book, Land – The 3,500 Year Relationship of the Jewish People to the Holy Land". This exhibition, co-organised by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, has not been cancelled but postponed. As a number of elements relating to the exhibition remained unresolved, and in line with UNESCO's rules and regulations – which equally apply to all our Member States and to all our partners – we had no choice but to postpone the inauguration while work continues on a daily basis with the Wiesenthal Center to clarify outstanding points. This exhibition will be inaugurated on 11 June 2014 at UNESCO Headquarters.

This postponement must not be seen as a possible UNESCO bias. On the contrary, our entire determination to promote mutual understanding of peoples through the shared knowledge of their history and quality education or protection of cultural heritage remains untouched. This mandate, which is at the core of our Organization since its foundation, still is more relevant today than ever and continues to guide its actions and spirit.

This spirit has been guiding UNESCO's work to promote education for human rights and peace, including Holocaust education, where UNESCO plays a unique and leading role in the United Nations system in advancing education for tolerance and to fight discrimination and anti-Semitism. This has been done even in a position where the United States cannot contribute to UNESCO's programmes, because of the importance of our action for greater dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding.

A striking example of the concrete support of our Organization to the struggle against negationism was the presentation, on 7 March 2011, of the Farsi version of Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*, and its broadcast in Iran.

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As Director-General, I have always been committed to deploying relentless efforts to achieve consensus on all the issues falling within UNESCO's educational, scientific, and cultural mandate in order to avoid confrontation and politicization. Consensus is essential to all of UNESCO's work to strengthen the foundations for lasting peace and sustainable development.

This spirit guides all of UNESCO's action – namely, for instance, the visit that I co-led with the Mayor of Paris to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German concentration camp in 2011, along with the Aladdin Project, for a delegation of 150 eminent personalities and representatives of governments from 40 countries across the world.

This same spirit underpinned the successful International Symposium that we held under UNESCO patronage on 12-13 November 2012, on the "Permanence of Yiddish", an initiative of B'nai B'rith Representation, which is also an official partner of UNESCO in associate status, and with the participation of the Paris Yiddish Center – Medem Library.

Our cooperation with non-governmental organizations, such as the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, the International Council of Jewish Women and the World Jewish Congress, just to name a few, bears witness to UNESCO's active cooperation with Jewish organizations. It is also in this same spirit that we work today with Israel and the Golda Meir Center or with Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) on science, technology or innovation and to put science, culture and education at the service of peace and development.

Thanking you for your understanding, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irina Bokova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Irina Bokova