

Dear Sir/Madam,

UNESCO celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2015. UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945 when its Constitution was signed in London by the representatives of 37 countries. That Constitution entered into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by 20 signatories.

As set out in the Constitution, the organization was established to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" as a means of building lasting peace. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on.

In its early years, UNESCO helped rebuild schools, libraries and museums destroyed during World War II, and served as an intellectual forum for exchanging ideas and scientific knowledge. Starting in the 1950s, it turned its attention to access to education for all girls and boys and the reduction of illiteracy, which remain major challenges. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity.

Through the development of community radio and multimedia centres, and training for journalists, UNESCO has championed freedom of expression and the rights of citizens to information, and has helped lay the foundations of tomorrow's knowledge societies.

Today, UNESCO is firm in the conviction that, in this age of immense social change and growing restrictions, we must invest in resources that are renewable – education, cultural diversity, scientific research, and the boundless energy of human ingenuity – to enable and drive the development essential for a just and sustainable future.

To celebrate the organization's 70th anniversary, UNESCO and its members are organizing a range of activities.

Some UPU member countries may choose to issue commemorative stamps in 2015. A UNESCO 70th anniversary stamp design package is available for interested member countries, which can adapt it to their own national requirements.

We invite all UPU member countries to get actively involved in the celebrations. For further information, please visit <http://en.unesco.org/70years>, or contact Mr Marcello Scarone Azzi at m.scarone@unesco.org.

Yours faithfully,

Murray Buchanan
Director of Economic and Regulatory Affairs