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Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
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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 Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i.

Mr Yuri Chistov  
Director of Peter the Great Museum of  
Anthropology and Ethnography  
(Kunstkamera)  
Russian Academy of Sciences  
190000, St. Petersburg  
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26 May 2016

Dear Mr Chistov,

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to thank you for the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) Russian Academy of Sciences' contribution to "Yemeni Heritage Week – Museums United for Yemen", which was organized by UNESCO together with 10 major museums around the world from 24 to 30 April 2016.

I particularly wish to congratulate you and your team for organizing a number of important activities during Yemeni Heritage Week. We at UNESCO were truly impressed by your dedication and commitment, which made this international awareness-raising campaign more successful than we could have ever hoped for. The exhibition on Yemeni heritage from the rich ethnographical collection of the Kunstkamera, the beautiful brochure and the dedicated webpage with a virtual tour, "The Land of Incense (Yemen: Images of Traditional Culture)", all provided very rich information on Yemeni heritage. Thanks to your initiative and the press conferences that you organized with Kunstkamera researchers, journalists had the opportunity to learn more about Yemeni artefacts and the history of Yemen from ancient times to the current day, which greatly helped to further raise awareness among the general public about Yemen. We have also witnessed that Yemeni Heritage Week has been widely covered in the Russian media, and we would like to thank you very much for your invaluable commitment and contributions.

During Yemeni Heritage Week, various high-profile activities took place in Baltimore, London, Moscow, New York, Oxford, Paris, Rome, St Petersburg and Washington D.C., including exhibitions, the publication of articles on Yemeni cultural heritage in the media, public talks, lectures and interviews on social media, and a special tour for journalists. We have been monitoring the reaction of the general public, especially on social media, and it appears that Yemeni Heritage Week has reached tens of millions of people.

Many people in Yemen were also excited to learn that 10 leading international museums came together to organise this awareness-raising event. News of these events was published in six newspapers in Yemen, which helped to improve awareness among the Yemeni people of the need to protect their cultural heritage.

These impressive results were made possible thanks to the remarkable contributions made by you, your museum, and all the museums which participated in this initiative. I would like to thank you once again for your commitment to Yemeni Heritage Week, and to the safeguarding of Yemen's invaluable cultural heritage.

With my best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



FP

Francesco Bandarin