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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

“Preservation of Digital Information in the Information Society”

**3-5 October 2011
Moscow, Russian Federation**

Message at Opening Ceremony

By

Mr Jānis Kārklīņš

Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the conference Preservation of Digital Information in the Information Society.

Digital records are today the main source of acquiring knowledge and are an important part of the essence of the emerging knowledge societies.

The increasing availability of broadband Internet access, mobile networks and a plethora of data capture and content creation devices offer new possibilities for making and sharing digital information across nations and disciplines as well as stimulating information re-use and re-purposing and the creation of new information and knowledge.

Digital documents facilitate collaborative and more efficient work-flow processes that provide unprecedented opportunities for bringing to bear new and more powerful approaches to problem-solving. They therefore better position us to expand and realize human potential and contribute to improved prospects for achieving peace and sustainable development.

While this growing trove of digital records is central to current and future human progress, the permanence of these digital records is uncertain. Without assurance of permanence, authenticity and integrity of our digital records, this virtual cycle of knowledge-lead progress may halt or even be reversed.

In 2003, UNESCO, through its Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage, sought to mobilize global action aimed at raising awareness and creating a critical mass to begin addressing the complex issue of ensuring the preservation of digital documents. However, a UNESCO survey conducted in 2009 revealed that globally there is still a low-level of awareness about the need for digital preservation and the implications that this has for our civilizations, especially given our dependence on digital content. Few governments in either developed or developing countries have as yet identified this challenge as a priority, or taken the steps of elaborating strategies for preservation and permanent access to digital heritage.

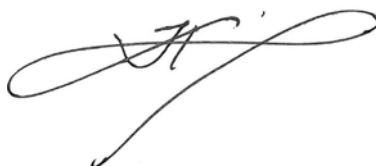
Digital content is also not defined or confined by traditional notions of space and place and impinges upon a range of trans-border interests, legal, ethical, social, political, technical, economic and cultural factors amongst others. Addressing digital preservation requires therefore, multi-disciplinary expertise as well as a multi-sectoral and a global multi-stakeholder approach.

Your conference is thus an especially important preparatory event to support UNESCO's broader strategy of raising awareness and building global partnerships. It will also stimulate the reflections on the technological, legal, cultural, economic, political, security

and other dimensions as we build up to UNESCO's international conference on Digital Heritage Preservation that will be held in Canada in September 2012.

On behalf of UNESCO, I extend our deep appreciations to the Inter-regional Library Cooperation Centre and the Russian IFAP Committee for the successful organization of this major event and for their role as an important and active cooperating partner in the preparation of next year's international conference on digital preservation.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward with great interest to the outcomes of the conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'JK' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward hook.

Jānis Kārklīņš