



The Director-General

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

Ms Maria Paola Azzario
President
Italian Federation of UNESCO
Clubs and Centres
Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
10127 Turin
Italian Republic

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Dear Ms Azzario,

It is with deep sorrow that I learned the sad news of the passing of Ms Marialuisa Stringa, Honorary President of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, President *Emeritus* of the Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres, and Founding President of the UNESCO Centre of Florence. On behalf of UNESCO and in my own name, I wish to express to you and to Ms Stringa's family and friends our deepest and heartfelt condolences.

Allow me on this difficult moment to salute the memory of a woman of exceptional intellectual and human qualities, whose unflinching commitment to the values and ideals of UNESCO will be remembered by all those who had the privilege to work with her. Throughout her distinguished career, she worked untiringly to advance UNESCO's mission, in particular universal access to education, communication and the protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

In 1971, Ms Stringa founded the UNESCO Centre of Firenze and in 1979 she was instrumental in the creation of the Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres, in which she remained extremely active in her capacity as Secretary-General, then President from 2001 to 2013. In all her responsibilities, she was always eager to maintain a close relationship with UNESCO and with the Clubs around the world.

I want to pay tribute to Ms Stringa's unerring dedication, over decades, in favour of our shared goals. A founding member of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations, she promoted relentlessly the message at the heart of our Organization's mandate: "build the defences of peace in the minds of men". She was a firm believer and a convinced actor of the necessity to build peace in the spirit of mankind, beyond all borders and through our areas of competence and with the involvement of civil society and youth.

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Marialuisa Stringa has been a tireless messenger of UNESCO's ideals and principles and for all her work and absolute commitment she will be missed by many across the world. I will cherish for long all our discussions and exchange of views as exceptional memories and testimonies of true friendship.

With my renewed sympathies, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Sincerely,

Irina Bokova

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