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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  
Объединённых 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

ACTION

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PA  
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Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America

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Dear Secretary-General,

Ahead of your presence at the Outreach Forum of the G7 Summit in Ise Shima, I am writing to inform you about my recent participation in the G7 Education Ministers' meeting in Kurashiki (Okayama), on 15 May last.

This was the first such meeting in a decade, reflecting a strong will to make education a priority on the policy agenda of G7 leaders as a force for inclusion, empowerment and growth. The meeting also highlighted the universal relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I was highly encouraged by the convergence of views expressed during the meeting, including on the central role of education for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, preventing violent extremism, and fostering common values of respect, tolerance and democratic citizenship. Participants placed strong focus on the overarching importance of policies to overcome inequality, empower girls and women, accommodate technological advances, support teachers and improve links between education and training. They noted the importance of international collaboration and sharing of best practices to address common challenges.

The Kurashiki Declaration recognizes the fact that education "helps transform societies so that no one is excluded and plays an important role in realizing social inclusion and respect for common values" It notably:

- commits to devote every effort to ensure inclusive and equitable learning opportunities and outcomes for all young people, regardless of their background or circumstance;
- reaffirms commitment to the SDGs and encourages further promotion of policies and actions to accelerate progress towards their achievement;
- expresses firm commitment to foster good citizenship on the basis of common values and affirms it is critical to develop people's cultural and global competencies;

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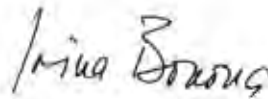
- recognizes the importance of public expenditure on education in line with the 2015 Incheon Declaration;
- strongly encourages uses of ICT to reach out to learners who are socially and economically disadvantaged; and,
- commits to collaborative support for professional development of teachers in G7 countries.

I believe that this Declaration is an influential document that has the potential to mobilize G7 leaders around increased support to the transformation of education systems around the world.

If the opportunity arises, I should be grateful if you would draw attention to the significance of this Declaration and commend Japan for taking the initiative to organize this ministerial meeting. Italy, as the next host of the G7, has committed to do likewise in 2017.

With my continued appreciation for the priority attention you place on education, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', written in a cursive style.

Irina Bokova