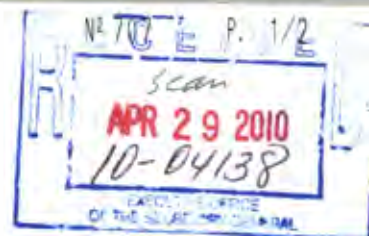


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OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES À GENÈVE



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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|----------|--|---------|-------------------------|
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| Date: | 29 April 2010 | Pages: | 2 |
| Subject: | <i>Inscription of the League of Nations archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register</i> | | |

1. On 28 April 2010, we marked the inscription of the League of Nations archives, held by the United Nations Office at Geneva, in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. The purpose of the Register is to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage. It is only the second inscription in the Register related to our Organization, after the UNRWA Photo and Film Archives of Palestinian Refugees.

2. The inclusion of the League of Nations archives is an important recognition of the value of the some 15 million documents in the collection as the institutional memory of the international community, held in trust by the United Nations. The archival material represents an exceptional information source on the origins of our Organization as the successor to the League of Nations.

3. In connection with the ceremony to mark the inscription of the archives, we opened a new exhibition at the League of Nations Museum at the Palais des Nations, showcasing some of the unique materials that are held here and highlighting the valuable and practical lessons for the United Nations' work today.

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4. The need to preserve these invaluable documents for present and future generations also forms part of the considerations that led to the development of the Strategic Heritage Plan for the Palais des Nations. The stacks do not conform to international standards for the conservation of archival material. Moreover, there are significant space constraints, as the collections grow with the addition of United Nations documentation.

5. I hope that you may find time in the future to visit the League of Nations Museum and the archives, which hold special significance for our Organization.