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
للتربيـة والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signature of the CERN Convention

UNESCO, 1 July 2014

Excellencies Ministers,

Mr Rolf Heuer, Director-General of CERN,

Ms Agnieszka Zalewska, President of the CERN Council,

Ms Lawrence Rousselot,

Ms Claire Lee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a special moment.

We celebrate today the 60th anniversary of the *European Organization for Nuclear Research*.

I remember very well my visit to CERN in October 2010 with Professor Rolf Heuer.

This anniversary is an opportunity to pay tribute to those who dreamt and built CERN.

I am thinking of Louis de Broglie, Niels Bohr, Isidore Rabi, Robert Oppenheimer – as well as François de Rose, who passed this year.

I am thinking of Pierre Auger, Robert Aymar, Luciano Maiani, Christopher Llewellyn Smith, Carlo Rubbia, and Herwig Schopper.

There are many more names I could cite, who have opened new horizons for knowledge and shared this for the benefit of all humanity.

This anniversary is a moment to recognize their ground-breaking achievements.

The discovery of the *Higgs Boson*, recognized with the 2013 Novel Prize in Physics, is a milestone in understanding the laws of nature.

The *Large Hadron Collider* is opening new avenues for exploring the complexity of the world.

The software for the *World Wide Web*, developed by Tim Berners-Lee and placed in the public domain in 1993, has changed how we communicate, share and create new knowledge.

These are just a few examples of research that have revolutionised human knowledge.

The world is different today, thanks to CERN, and this is an achievement we all salute.

Perhaps most fundamentally, this anniversary is an opportunity to pay tribute to an idea.

This idea has guided CERN from the start and it lies at the heart of UNESCO's mission.

This idea is a vision of the potential for women and men to work together for goals that go beyond the national interest and serve the greater good.

This idea is the conviction that humanity shares a common destiny and that this is a responsibility and call to action.

This idea is a belief that science is essential for building the defences of peace.

The lesson of the Second World War was clear – the power of science had to be harnessed for the benefit of peace and progress for all.

The “S” in UNESCO was a latecomer to our mandate – introduced during the Organization’s constituent conference in London in November 1945.

Since then, science has taken a place at the very heart of UNESCO’s work.

Our position is clear.

Science flourishes through dialogue, through the interaction of peoples and cultures.

It prospers in a soil rich in diversity and a climate that favours exchange.

Science cooperation – indeed, science diplomacy – lies at the heart of our project to build a more just and equitable world.

This is all the more important today, when the planet faces rising pressure, when all societies are increasingly connected and increasingly fragile.

I believe we all recognise the deepening interdependence of the world.

The question we must answer is whether we will make this interdependence a source of strength or a factor of division.

Science is part of the answer.

UNESCO’s role is to help States answer this question, together.

The same mission guides CERN.

The idea was born at the *European Cultural Conference* in 1949 and taken up at the UNESCO General Conference in Florence in 1950.

The Convention was signed three years later in Paris, bringing together twelve countries to build a science for peace, a shared laboratory for fundamental research.

The Convention built on two pillars that remain today – research would be guided by non-military requirements and results would be shared as widely as possible.

Today, CERN has 21 Member States, with Israel most recently, and partnerships with non-Members, organisations and laboratories around the world.

CERN has been compared to a "*virtual nation*," bringing together some 8,000 scientists from across the world.

This reminds me of the words of Sultan bin Salman Al Saud after his first experience in space:

The first day we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth.

For me, CERN embodies the 'one earth' approach we need today to tackle global challenges – looking across borders, beyond 'single nation' solutions.

UNESCO and CERN are taking forward this vision on the ground, through support to science education, digital libraries, with a special focus on women.

CERN is more than a world-class research centre – it is a place where we are weaving together, thread by thread, the fabric of the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

The same spirit guides other remarkable initiatives for science diplomacy associated with UNESCO – the *Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics*, in Trieste, Italy, whose 50th anniversary we celebrate this year, and *SESAME* in Jordan, a unique platform for scientific cooperation in the Middle East and neighbouring countries, which I was honoured to visit in May 2012.

All this draws on the UNESCO General Conference Resolution of 1950, which called for support to international cooperation "*in the search of new knowledge in fields where the effort of any one country is insufficient for the task*."

This embodies a 'one earth' approach.

Mesdames et messieurs,

Cette vision d'un monde uni n'a jamais été aussi importante.

Nous voyons apparaître de nouveaux foyers de recherche.

Les pays émergents investissent massivement dans la recherche scientifique.

Les nouvelles technologies ont permis une accélération considérable du développement scientifique.

La science est de plus en plus mondialisée –- pourtant, en termes de résultats de recherche et des collaborations, elle reste toujours financée et gérée sur une base nationale.

Nous devons changer.

Nous devons rejoindre les priorités nationales, pour permettre des économies d'échelle, pour répondre aux défis mondiaux liés à l'énergie, au climat, à l'agriculture.

La complexité des défis impose une nouvelle unité des sciences.

Elle demande une nouvelle gouvernance des sciences, pour les Etats, au niveau global.

Elle exige une nouvelle approche aux sciences, qui va au-delà des frontières disciplinaires et de l'Etat.

Plus que jamais, le monde a besoin du CERN, du SESAME, du Centre Abdus Salam.

C'est aussi l'idée derrière le nouveau *Conseil consultatif scientifique* du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, mené par l'UNESCO, qui a tenu sa première réunion à Berlin en début d'année.

Ce Conseil est composé de scientifiques de toutes les régions du monde et couvrant de nombreuses disciplines – comprenant \ du CERN Dr Fabiola Gianotti – pour orienter les actions de la communauté internationale en faveur du développement durable et de l'éradication de la pauvreté.

Ce conseil marque un engagement clair des Nations Unies pour renforcer la science, la technologie et l'innovation pour la paix et le développement durable.

Ce potentiel a été largement ignoré dans les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Au moment où nous formons un nouvel agenda pour suivre 2015, nous devons miser sur la science, pour la paix, pour le développement durable.

C'est tout l'esprit du CERN.

En ce jour d'anniversaire, je tiens à remercier tous ceux qui ont fait une réalité du rêve d'une science au service de l'humanité, et aussi leur dire, que le travail n'est pas fini, il ne fait que commencer…

Plus que jamais, le monde a besoin de la science – de sciences unis, intégrées, globales et pacifiques.

Je vous remercie.