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联合国教育、
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**Video message from Ms Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of the 2nd World OER**

18 September 2017

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to welcome you to the *2nd World Congress on Open Educational Resources (OER)* -- I am deeply grateful to the Government of Slovenia for the leadership it has brought to this Congress and all throughout its preparations.

In 2015, the world agreed on a new, universal and comprehensive education goal in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* - - access, quality and equity are key priorities as we move forward.

Open Educational Resources offer vast potential on all accounts.

“Open” is the operative word.

These are openly licensed materials and resources that can be accessed freely to be used, reused and adapted to the needs of the user.

UNESCO has a special relationship with Open Educational Resources, having coined the term in 2002 and then helped to develop and disseminate it -- including during the *1st World Congress* in 2012 and its *Paris OER Declaration*, calling on all Governments to ensure educational materials paid by public funding should be open licensed.

I feel encouraged to see progress across the world today.

Good practices can be found at every level, from primary to vocational and higher education, and in every region, from North America to Sub-Saharan Africa, where UNESCO's OER-licensed primary school teacher training resources are freely available in 23 country versions.

All this builds on the commitment each of you is bringing to offer high quality, affordable and inclusive options for education policy makers, and, for this, I am deeply grateful.

Steep challenges remain, of course, and this Congress provides a powerful opportunity to explore together ways to tackle them and take forward the 2030 Agenda where it matters most, at the national level.

Thank you again -- I wish you every success.