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pour l'éducation,
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Address by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO,
on the occasion of the designation
of Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh as UNESCO Artist for Peace**

UNESCO, 3 April 2008

Mr Elçin Efendiyev, Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Mrs Eleonora Husseinova, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCO,
Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to UNESCO Headquarters to celebrate the designation of the renowned Azerbaijani composer and musician Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh as UNESCO Artist for Peace. This evening also provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate Mrs Ali-Zadeh's music, through a performance of her "Mugham Sayagi", by the T'ang Quartet from the Republic of Singapore. I thank them warmly for making the journey to Paris especially for this event.

Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh has had a truly outstanding career. After graduating from the Conservatory of her home town, Baku, as a pianist in 1970 and as a composer in 1972, Mrs Ali-Zadeh worked as the assistant of the famous Azerbaijani composer Kara Karayev from 1973 to 1976. She was awarded a doctoral degree by the Baku Conservatory in 1989, and became Professor of Contemporary Music and the History of Orchestral Styles there in 1990. She has also lived and worked in Turkey and Germany.

Many of you at tonight's distinguished gathering will recall that Mrs Ali-Zadeh honoured UNESCO with a performance here at Headquarters, on the occasion of the celebrations of the Organization's 60th anniversary, in November 2005.

As a composer, Mrs Ali-Zadeh has built cultural bridges through the creation of a unique musical style, combining the Azerbaijani Mugham tradition and contemporary techniques.

Indeed, Mugham – a traditional musical form known in Azerbaijan, based on a highly structured system and characterized by a large degree of improvisation – was proclaimed as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003. I should like at this moment to pay warm tribute to the exceptional work that has been undertaken by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, for the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in general, and Mugham in particular.

Mrs Ali-Zadeh's exemplary career has been recognised through numerous national and international awards including her designation in November 2000, as *People's Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan*. International honours include the 2004 award of *Woman of the Year for Outstanding Community and Professional Achievement* by the American Biographical Institute.

Mrs Ali-Zadeh's remarkable qualities extend beyond her work as a composer and performer. In designating Mrs Ali-Zadeh as UNESCO Artist for Peace, our Organization also pays tribute to the humanitarian activities that she has undertaken. I should like in particular to emphasize her work to heighten public awareness of the importance and value of musical education for orphans and children in need.

Education, and in particular Education for All, is at the heart of this Organization's mission and central to the Millennium Development Goals. Education is key to addressing the disastrous situation of deprived children around the world and I am grateful that in her capacity as UNESCO Artist for Peace, Mrs Ali-Zadeh will support the activities of the Organization's Programme for the Education of Children in Need.

The primary aim of this Programme is to give excluded and vulnerable children a better life, through projects which uphold best educational practice and facilitate social transformation and inclusiveness. Simply cramming children into overcrowded schools or offering ill-adapted education is not the solution. The UNESCO Programme for the Education of Children in Need seeks to develop

inventive approaches that use all routes to education, specially adapted to the needs of the user. This means an education that draws upon dance, art, culture and music to bring an open-minded and innovative perspective on learning. Through such schemes UNESCO is able to support the most vulnerable of children, and also to demonstrate what is possible with goodwill and imagination.

Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh,

As UNESCO Artist for Peace you will join other distinguished personalities such as French painter Titouan Lamazou, Brazilian singer Gilberto Gil, Cameroonian musician Manu Dibango, Russian Chief of Orchestra Valery Guerguiev, and Portuguese actress and singer Maria de Medeiros, each of whom has put their fame and influence at the service of UNESCO to ensure that its message is heard all around of the world.

I now have the honour to designate you as UNESCO Artist for Peace and to present you with your diploma.