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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 nomination
of Amri Aminov as UNESCO Artist for Peace**

UNESCO, 17 September 2008

Mr Amri Aminov,
Mr Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,
Mr Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Tajikistan to UNESCO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to announce the designation of the renowned Tajik sculptor Amri Aminov as UNESCO Artist for Peace. I am particularly pleased to do so in the presence of His Excellency Mr Hamrokhon Zarifi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. Sir, you are very welcome to UNESCO.

Amri Aminov's sculptures have been exhibited in art galleries all over Europe, including Paris, Berlin, Prague, and Brussels, as well as here at UNESCO Headquarters, in 2000.

Indeed, Amri Aminov is a long standing friend of the Organization, having designed the trophies for the UNESCO "City for Peace" prize in 1999 and the "Special Prize of Cinema for a Culture of Peace" in 2000.

In his capacity as UNESCO Artist for Peace, Amri Aminov will draw on his formidable artistic talents to support the Organization's activities to protect and promote intangible cultural heritage, in particular the traditional handicrafts of Tajikistan and Central Asia.

Mr Aminov,

As a UNESCO Artist for Peace, you will join distinguished artists such as Spanish musician Jordi Savall and soprano Montserrat Figueras, American writer Scott Momaday, Brazilian singer Gilberto Gil, Lebanese musician Marcel Khalifé and many others in generously using your fame to promote UNESCO's ideals and objectives around the world.

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

[Reading of diploma]

I wish you success in your new mission and thank you for having joined forces with UNESCO to disseminate our message.