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Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
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para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
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Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian
People**

29 November 2017

Since its inception 40 years ago, the *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People* has been an opportunity to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to build a more peaceful future, based on respect for human rights and dignity for all.

UNESCO has long been engaged with the Palestinian people through the development of education, culture, the sciences and freedom of expression. These goals shape all of UNESCO's actions to foster dialogue and exchange, counter all forms of racism and hatred, in order to build peace in the minds of all women and men.

Support to the Palestinian education system is a priority. Under its programme -- 'Leaving No One Behind: Social Development and Protection' -- UNESCO is concentrating efforts to take forward the Education 2030 Agenda. UNESCO works with the Department of Education of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to advance reforms and strengthen inclusive learning opportunities.

Building peace calls for acknowledgement and recognition of the rights, cultures and histories of all the peoples living in the region. Freedom of expression is also essential for the rule of law and democracy. UNESCO is working with the Palestinian people to promote independent and pluralistic media, to strengthen freedom of expression, and to ensure access to information.

This spirit of cooperation and reciprocity is key to rebuild trust between all stakeholders and create the conditions for fruitful negotiations. On this day,

UNESCO's message is clear. Peace must be built on the basis of quality and inclusive education, respect for cultural diversity, and freedom of expression. Our goal is to translate these ideals into reality, as foundations for a more peaceful future for all.

Audrey Azoulay