Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of the International Conference ‘Frontiers of Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East’

Malta, 10-15 November 2013

It is a pleasure to send this message of support to all participants of this International Conference on the ‘Frontiers of Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East,’ held in Malta.

This Conference is especially significant, because it marks the 10th anniversary of these international meetings. UNESCO is pleased to have been involved in each of the five preceding conferences, which have strengthened opportunities for scientific and technological cooperation across the region, and tilled the ground for solidarity through the common language of science. This exemplifies UNESCO’s conviction in the power of science diplomacy to build bridges of dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual understanding and tolerance.

I recall clearly the Malta V Conference held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2011, in the framework of the International Year of Chemistry. This Conference will address a wide range of questions regarding the use of the chemical and biological sciences to promote sustainable development and healthcare, in the region and more widely. Solidarity through science is a key way to foster the innovation and creativity that all societies need today, to lay the foundations for lasting peace, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

On behalf of UNESCO, I wish you every success in your work towards the goals we share. I congratulate you on this 10th anniversary and wish you productive discussions during this Conference.

Irina Bokova