

Congratulatory Message

On the occasion of the opening of the UNESCO High Level Forum on Museums, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations and extend my sincere welcome to the UNESCO officials, to the government officials in charge of cultural development and to the scholars and experts from countries around the world.

Museums are cultural palaces that preserve and carry forward human civilization. Museums are bridges that link our past to the present and future. Their contribution to promoting mutual learning of civilizations in the world is distinctive and remarkable. The Chinese museum sector has undertaken continuous development since the first museum was established in China more than a century ago. In recent years, Chinese museums of various types have made substantial progress in infrastructure construction, research on preservation of collections, providing free access to the public, serving the needs of the people and promoting international cultural exchanges. They are more than custodians and records keepers of Chinese history. They also witness and contribute to Chinese people's endeavours to realize the Chinese dream of rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

I am sure the distinguished participants of the High-Level Forum on Museums will enrich the discussions with your wisdom, ideas and experiences to contribute to building consensus on how to bring back to life the diverse collections of museums and how to increase the global audience's access to them so that they can be instrumental to preservation of cultural diversity, to increasing understanding among peoples of the world and to advancement of human civilization.

Best wishes for the success of the Forum!

XI Jinping

President

People's Republic of China