

**Address by Mr Gennady Gatilov,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation**

I am glad to greet the organizers and participants of the International IT Forum and the UNESCO International Expert Meeting.

More than 180 ethnic entities speaking a hundred-plus languages live in the Russian Federation, with its centuries-long experience of peaceful interethnic and interreligious coexistence and collaboration. My country attaches tremendous importance to the building of the just information society and the preservation and development of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace now that a new multi-centre world order is emerging and the role of civilizational identity is enhanced.



The Russian Federation has hosted a number of international conferences and academic meetings on linguistic diversity within several recent years on the UNESCO Information for All pilot programme.

Their final documents are of great value as they propose the ways to implement the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society, and advance initiatives for universal access to information and knowledge – particularly, the idea of a world summit on linguistic diversity in cyberspace under the auspices of UNESCO and the MAAYA global network.

I am confident that today's IT Forum and UNESCO International Expert Meeting will contribute honourably to the development and improvement of UNESCO's and the Russian Federation's policy to preserve linguistic and cultural diversity, and will facilitate the participants' first-hand acquaintance with the fabulously interesting Khanty and Mansi land.

I express heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Yugra Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area and to all of you for an inestimable contribution to the cause of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity in our country and worldwide.

I wish you every success and fruitful work.