
**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 UNESCO-sponsored international conference, Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government.



The formation of public media and information literacy is a new field of activity, which is developing dynamically in the leading countries' politics and practice. The concept of media and information literacy crosses the limits of information and communication technologies and comprises the skills of critical thinking, and the comprehension and interpretation of information in diverse professional and educational spheres. Media and information literacy supposes the operation of all kinds of information resources – oral, written and multimedia.

The study of media and information literacy has certainly attained tangible positive results, to which many of you have contributed. Still, much more remains to be done.

The Russian Committee for the UNESCO Information for All Programme is a unique contributor to the cause. When Russia was chairing the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, it convened in Moscow, in June 2012, an international expert forum on media and information literacy, crowned with the adoption of the Moscow Declaration on Media and Information Literacy, from which UNESCO and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations proceed in their activities.

I am confident that the conference will help to develop available success, enhance the public awareness of the problem, roadmap political and professional strategies to promote media and information literacy, spotlight priority problems, and emulate breakthrough achievements in that field.

Allow me to express heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, the Russian Committee for the UNESCO Information for All Programme, and to you all for your priceless contribution to the studies of media and information literacy in Russia and the world.

I wish you every success in your fruitful work, and I wish your daring plans to come true.