

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA  
ON ITS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Moscow, 5 February 2020**

I am pleased to congratulate the People's Friendship University of Russia on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The University has long been known for fostering understanding between countries and cultures. Respect for diversity is one of your strengths.

This anniversary comes at a time of test for that vital work. Today's global landscape is scarred by protracted conflicts, a climate crisis and the spread of hatred and disquiet. In such times, the pursuit of knowledge remains more necessary than ever.

It is encouraging to know that your mission of "uniting people of different cultures by knowledge" echoes the aim of key United Nations initiatives, including UN Academic Impact, of which you are a valued member.

As we mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and embark on a Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we look forward to continued partnership in shaping a peaceful and prosperous future for all.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.