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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
7, Place de Fontenoy
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Paris

The Assistant Director-General for Education

22 August 2001

Dear Mr. Willard,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2001 proposing that UNESCO co-organize an International Leadership Conference on Information Literacy.

You rightly emphasize the importance of making digital literacy an integral part of the basic educational skills that each individual should be encouraged and allowed to acquire. Information literacy as defined in your letter is certainly a key element in this equation. UNESCO will be pleased to act as a partner in organizing a meeting of invited experts to plan such an event by offering meeting space and intellectual cooperation. This will enable us to explore ways of collaborating in the international meeting and achieving broad and balanced governmental and non-governmental participation from all over the world. I have designated Mr. Luis Tiburcio as liaison person from within the Education Sector. He will work in collaboration with Mr. Philippe Queau, Director of the Information Society Division in the Communication and Information Sector.

The proposed Conference would also effectively complete the series of regional and thematic pre-conferences prior to the World Summit on the Information Society 2003 being organized by the UN, with ITU as lead agency. UNESCO with its unique set of alliances with civil society and with teachers, scientists, and artists, librarians, archivists, broadcasters and journalists, will be an active partner in the preparation of the Summit, to which the Conference on Information Literacy should provide substantial input.

I also suggest that you might consider involving the UNESCO/UNU Chair in Leadership Studies at the International Leadership Academy of the

United Nations University, located at the University of Jordan in Amman (c/o University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan; tel: (962-6) 533 70 75; fax (962-6) 533 70 68; e-mail: un2@ju.edu.jo) in the preparation of the Conference.

Please rest assured of UNESCO's appreciation of your initiative and our willingness to contribute to its success.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed in his absence)

John Daniel