Open Letter to UNESCO
from young scientists of the Russian Federation and countries of the African continent – participants in the Russian-African Forum-Contest of Young Scientists "Future Engineers of the World Are the Foundation of Sustainable Development" under the auspices of UNESCO

Dear colleagues, esteemed representatives of UNESCO.!

We, young scientists, researchers, engineers, postgraduate students and students of the Russian Federation and countries of the African continent, participants in the Russian-African Forum-Contest of Young Scientists "Future Engineers of the World — the Foundation of Sustainable Development", address UNESCO, confirming our commitment to the principles of international cooperation in the field of education, science and culture and the readiness of the younger generation of scientists to make a practical contribution to achieving the goals of sustainable development.

The Forum is a space for open scientific dialogue, professional interaction and joint search for engineering solutions, uniting young specialists from Russia and Africa — Ambassadors of Education of the Corps of Engineers. Its mission is to create a permanent platform for the exchange of knowledge and the formation of a common vision for the future of engineering education and technology.

We consider education and science as the most important tools for strengthening mutual understanding between peoples, developing human potential and shaping a peaceful and sustainable future. In this regard, we support the priorities of UNESCO: the development of international cooperation in the field of education and science, strengthening the priority "Africa", ensuring gender equality, expanding access to quality education and developing scientific potential.

WE DECLARE OUR READINESS:

1. To support the priorities and mandate of UNESCO. We support UNESCO's efforts to develop education, science and culture as the foundation of sustainable development, international dialogue and mutual understanding, recognize the particular importance of the priorities "Africa" and "Gender Equality", as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, primarily SDG 4 — "Quality Education". We believe that young scientists should not only participate in the implementation of the international scientific and educational agenda, but also become its active creators.

2. **To develop engineering science and engineering education.** We are convinced that engineering science and modern engineering education are of strategic importance for the sustainable development of Russia and African countries. We support joint educational programs, academic exchanges, summer schools, research laboratories and other forms of international interaction, as well as the training of a new generation engineer — a professional capable of working in an international environment and applying scientific knowledge to solve practical problems.

3. **To create and develop joint Russian-African scientific projects.** We consider international scientific projects as a mechanism for forming long-term partnership between universities, scientific organizations, engineering communities and young researchers. We are ready to create mixed scientific teams and develop joint solutions in the fields of energy, rational use of natural resources, digital technologies, climate engineering, ecology, chemical technology, mining, geology, construction, mechanical engineering and other engineering areas. Particular attention — to projects focused on the real needs of regions and achieving measurable social, economic and environmental impact.

4. **To move from scientific dialogue to practical implementation of projects.** We consider it fundamentally important that the results of international scientific meetings are not

limited to the exchange of ideas. We are ready to continue working on promising projects after the Forum ends, to facilitate their piloting, technological approbation and scaling, and we support the formation of a bank of Russian-African projects, the development of university partnerships and the creation of mechanisms for supporting youth initiatives.

5. **To create a sustainable network of young engineers from Russia and Africa.** We support the creation of a permanent Russian-African Association, of Young Engineers as a space for professional communication, scientific cooperation and the implementation of joint initiatives — a long-term mechanism of international scientific and educational dialogue uniting youth universities, scientific organizations, engineering communities and industrial partners.

6. **To ensure inclusivity and equal opportunities.** We confirm the importance of equal opportunities for youth participation in scientific and educational activities regardless of country of origin, gender and social status, and attach particular importance to expanding the participation of girls and young women in engineering and natural science disciplines.

OUR ADDRESS TO UNESCO

We address UNESCO with the proposal to consider Russian-African youth scientific and engineering cooperation as a promising direction for the development of international partnership in the field of education, science and innovation. We are convinced that it is young scientists who are capable of forming new sustainable ties between universities, scientific organizations and professional communities of Russia and Africa.

We are ready to continue joint work in accordance with the principles of openness, mutual respect, equal partnership and mutual benefit.

We call for the development of: joint educational programs and scientific research; academic mobility of students, postgraduate students and young scientists; international engineering and scientific schools; joint laboratories and research centers; knowledge and technology transfer programs; youth scientific and engineering networks; projects aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; mechanisms for the practical implementation and scaling of the best youth initiatives.

We believe that sustainable development is impossible without investment in human capital, scientific knowledge and engineering competencies. The future of engineering is not only new technologies, but also the ability of people from different countries to unite knowledge, experience and responsibility to solve common problems.

We, young scientists of Russia and Africa, are ready to be part of this process — to learn from each other, jointly create new knowledge, develop engineering solutions and turn scientific ideas into projects that contribute to the sustainable development of our countries and the strengthening of international cooperation.

We consider our cooperation as a contribution of the younger generation to the implementation of UNESCO's goals and to the formation of a future based on knowledge, scientific progress, mutual respect, cultural dialogue and peaceful partnership.

Future engineers of the world — the foundation of sustainable development.

Sincerely,
Young scientists of the Russian Federation and countries of the African continent,
participants in the Russian-African Forum-Contest of Young Scientists
"Future Engineers of the World are the Foundation of Sustainable Development"
under the auspices of UNESCO

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2026