



# WELCOME ADDRESS

at the opening ceremony of the bust of  
the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin

University of Alicante  
Alicante, Kingdom of Spain

2 June 2017

*Honorable guests and organizers of the opening ceremony of the bust of Yuri Gagarin, let me welcome you on behalf of the International Charity Public Fund “Dialogue of Cultures - United World” and congratulate with this remarkable event!*

*The “Dialogue of Cultures - United World” Fund has already installed over thirty busts in twenty three countries. This year the memory of this great personality will be perpetuated in the form of a bronze sculpture in Mexico, Nigeria, Israel, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Palestine, Antarctica and many other states and territories. People all over the world welcome the bust of the world’s first cosmonaut with delight, cordiality and hope, as once they welcomed Yuri Gagarin himself during his mission of peace and friendship.*

*The flight of Yuri Gagarin into space became not only the greatest scientific and technical breakthrough of the 20th century, but a heroic human deed and a victory of the desire to conquer the unknown. This event being the fruit of the rivalry between great powers united all inhabitants of our little blue planet and brought back the spirit of pioneering, a distinctive feature of the Spanish people too. I sincerely hope the bust of the space pioneer in Alicante will always remind the residents and guests of this beautiful city that we are all a part of a whole and have much more in common.*

*Let me express my deepest gratitude to Asociación Casa de Rusia en Alicante and its President Alexander Chepurnoy, who became an initiator of the project in Spain, as well as to the University of Alicante and its President Manuel Palomar Sanz. I would like to thank all the participants and guests of the opening ceremony! I am convinced that the bust of Yuri Gagarin opened in Alicante will become an impetus to strengthening friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Spain and Russia.*