Opening Remarks

Ligia Deca
Secretary General, Romanian National Commission for UNESCO

Distinguished members of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences, esteemed scholars, researchers, university leaders, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege to address you on behalf of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO at the opening of the 47th Congress of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants who have traveled from Romania, the United States, and many other parts of the world to join this important gathering. I also wish to express our appreciation to the leadership of ARA and to Transilvania University of Brașov for hosting this distinguished event and for creating a space where knowledge, creativity, and dialogue can flourish.

This Congress reflects values that are deeply aligned with UNESCO's mission: the advancement of education, science, culture, and international cooperation. In an era marked by rapid technological change, global challenges, and growing interdependence, the need for interdisciplinary dialogue has never been greater. The opportunity to bring together experts in the humanities, social sciences, medicine, engineering, natural sciences, and the arts demonstrate the enduring importance of collaboration across disciplines and across borders.

For nearly five decades, ARA has served as a bridge connecting Romanian intellectual traditions with the broader international academic community. Through its commitment to excellence, innovation, and cultural exchange, the Academy has contributed significantly to strengthening ties between scholars and professionals worldwide. This year's Congress is particularly meaningful as it celebrates fifty years of ARA's remarkable legacy, a milestone that invites both reflection on past achievements and inspiration for future endeavors.

Romania has long been enriched by the contributions of its scholars, artists, scientists, and innovators, both at home and throughout the global diaspora. The success of ARA stands as a testament to the power of intellectual communities that transcend geography while maintaining a strong commitment to their cultural heritage. Such networks play an essential role in promoting mutual understanding, advancing research, and fostering solutions to the complex challenges facing our societies.

As we gather in Brașov, a city that embodies the intersection of history, culture, and innovation, we are reminded that knowledge grows through exchange. The conversations, presentations, and collaborations that will emerge during these two days have the potential to generate new ideas, new partnerships, and new opportunities for progress.

On behalf of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, I congratulate the organizers on this outstanding achievement and extend our best wishes for a successful and inspiring Congress. May your discussions be fruitful, your exchanges enriching, and your time together a source of lasting collaboration and friendship.

Thank you, and I wish you a productive and memorable 47th ARA Congress.