

## **DECLARATION OF LIBRARIES ABOUT THE PANDEMIC**

### **IV MEETING OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN LIBRARY DIALOGUE «LIBRARIES FACING THE CHALLENGE: ACCOMPLISHING THE UN GOALS IN THE SPHERE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DURING GLOBAL PANDEMIC» ONLINE DIALOGUE 15,16,17 OF SEPTEMBER 2020**

Russian-American library dialogue (hereinafter – Dialogue) started its work in 2017 as an initiative of the Library for Foreign languages (Russia) and the Kattering Foundation (USA).

Leading library specialists and the presidents of the Russian Library Association and the American Library Association took part in the realization of this project. Annual meetings of the Dialogue gives the representatives from both countries an opportunity to share, discuss and document their strategies about work with communities to provide full informational support and turn libraries into social life centers.

#### **We declare:**

- Libraries and library workers are an important part of the system acting for the benefit of society and a human being and tactfully reacting to emergency situations and disasters such as the pandemic.
- Libraries in both countries insure the permanence of service since the first days of the pandemic, which induced us to close our doors; we continued to provide existing services and set up the new ones predominantly online for the benefit of the students and those, who had lost their jobs and happen to be in difficult situation.
- Libraries of Russia and the USA are united in the aspiration to support our communities, in building relationships with people and in sympathizing peoples' needs; we always stand for respect for humans' needs and provide services at the personal level. Together we bring hope to people.
- Libraries are forming the infrastructure comfortable for people; supporting and developing people's relationships.
- Russian and American librarians are extremely concerned about providing of the equal access to the high speed Internet for all members of the society; we should estimate financial resources and insisting on their use to low digital gap and provide essential terms for integrating all members of our communities into new reality (for example, online study and work etc.)
- Libraries put all their effort to support the physical and mental health of their community members and employees themselves, paying attention to the collective security, not only personal.

- Libraries support and inspire their communities in the accomplishing Goals of the sustainable development of the UN.

Support of the work on the accomplishment of the UN Goals of the sustainable development №3, 8, and 17 during the pandemic requires the reaction of the whole world, including libraries, as being an integral part of society.

- Libraries during the pandemic are ‘the islands without panic’, which bring calmness and a feeling of normal life to all people.
- Libraries are providing general information about the health for assurance of wellness (physical and mental), showing condolence to the condition of each person.
- During the pandemic libraries are initiating new partnerships beneficial to communities with aim to continue accomplishing the UN goals of sustainable development.

### **Our actions:**

1. To organize conjoint educational webinar with both Russian and American specialists (with simultaneous translation or subtitles).

- Potential topics of the webinar
- Strategies of libraries work with community organizations for identifying integral, society-oriented needs of individuals during the pandemic.
- New competencies, essential for library professionals to provide the whole range of services during the pandemic.
- Promotion of the libraries work during the pandemic through effective communication with all members of social life: community, social sphere, media resources, digital market and so on.
- Libraries and UN Goals of sustainable development: delivery of assistance in neutralizing the negative impact of the pandemic to insure the survival and prosperity of the communities.
- Libraries as the resource and the providing agent of collective security during the pandemic.

2. To set up an open pool of projects and practical cases, made by libraries from both countries, to help libraries to withstand with their communities during the pandemic.

3. To promote collective work and results of our meetings through professional sources, especially – through the IFLA platform) and through organizing special events as annual forums under the auspices of Russian and American national associations.