

Khaled El-Enany

Directeur général de l'UNESCO

7 place de Fontenoy-Unesco 75007 Paris

Dear Honorable Secretary-General,

I write to you with deep conviction to urge UNESCO's recognition of PEROU as part of humanity's cultural heritage. As the former Head of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in the City of Los Angeles, I have seen how acts of solidarity and hospitality can transform lives. PEROU, operating on the high seas, is not simply a project, it is a living testament to our shared humanity, offering hope and protection to migrants in perilous transition across the globe.

In a time when countless individuals are forced to flee conflict, climate devastation, and persecution, PEROU stands as a beacon of compassion. Its work embodies the values that UNESCO was created to safeguard: peace, dignity, and the preservation of what unites us. Recognizing PEROU would affirm that the rescue of innocent lives is not only a humanitarian duty but also a cultural act that defines who we are as a global community.

I am proud to be a signatory to PEROU's application for the recognition of acts of hospitality as intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with the 2003 UNESCO Convention. This request is not symbolic alone; it is a commitment to future generations. By enshrining these gestures of solidarity, UNESCO can ensure that they are protected, celebrated, and passed on as part of humanity's most vital legacy.

We trust that UNESCO, whose mission is to "build peace," will rise to this moment. Supporting PEROU is not only about saving lives today and it is about shaping a culture of compassion that will endure tomorrow.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Respectfully,

November 13, 2025

Dr. Linda Lopez

Former Head of the Office of Immigrant Affairs

City of Los Angeles