Dear national delegates and friends,

I kindly invite you to follow the presentation of caves and karst at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, on Monday 13.9. between 10:00 to 13:00 via UIS youtube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/YearofCavesAndKarstLive>

The event is a great honor and a unique opportunity for all of us to present the beauties and problems associated with caves and karst at such a high level, and to do even more to protect them in the future.

Greetings, Fadi

***INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021****"Explore, Understand and Protect"***Monday, 13 September 2021   
from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**UNESCO House, Room XI   
7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 7**  
The program, September 13, Celebration of the UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021: UNESCO Protected Areas and UN Agenda 2030

09:00-10:00. Coffee for participants.

10:00-10:15. IYCK 2021 video.

10:15-10:45. Welcome address

- M Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director-General for Culture

- H.E. Ms Metka Ipavic, Ambassador Permanent-Delegate of Slovenia

- Dr. George Veni, President of UIS

10:45-11:15. Keynote presentation by Prof. Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna:

A World of Karst, Caves and People

11:15-11:30: Break

11:30-13:00. Discussion panel, presentations by:

• Prof. Dr. Fadi H. Nader: Safe and sustainable use of karst resources

• Emeritus Prof. Dr. John Gunn: Caves and karst in UNESCO protected areas

• Clayton F. Lino: Conserving caves and karst in biosphere reserves: The Cave MAB network

• Dr. Paul A. Griffiths: Karst and UN Agenda 2030

Discussion and questions from the audience (hybrid event).

The ceremony will be moderated by M. Alik Ismail-Zadeh PhD, ISC Secretary and Governing Board member