

Prague, May 21, 2021

The statement of the director of the Oriental Institute of the CAS, v. v. i. to the Final Report, issued within the framework of the evaluation of research and professional activity of research-oriented institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the period 2015-2019.

The Final Report, as we are firmly convinced, gives an accurate description of the current state of the Oriental Institute, including both its scholarly mission and other activities. We highly appreciate the valuable feedback provided by the evaluation commission and we are grateful to its members for their time and effort dedicated to the evaluation of research and professional activity of our Institute, especially under the specific conditions given by the global pandemics. This is to approve that **we have no reservations about the whole process of evaluation.**

For the sake of precision, we feel obliged to mention that the Final Report includes several points that are not factually correct. We believe that such points of misunderstanding could have been easily clarified in the case of the commission's personal visit at our Institute. For example, we feel obliged to correct the assumption (p. 8 of the final report and D 2.4.), suggesting the Middle East Department did not manage to secure any external funding outside the framework of the Czech Academy of Sciences. In fact, the department secured grants from the Czech Science Foundation, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and ERA-NET. The relevant information appears repeatedly in our report submitted for that purpose. In addition, the two collaborative projects, which had been supported by the Czech Science Foundation, were explicitly mentioned (together with the appropriate funding) on a separate slide of the PowerPoint presentation.

Nevertheless, we believe that such points do not change the overall positive impression of the Final Report and for the sake of limiting the necessary administration we do not suggest any formal changes on the side of the commission. Based on the above-mentioned clarification, **the Oriental Institute accepts the Final Report.**

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