



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for International Organization Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520-6319

Dear Ms. Boswell:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2010, to Secretary Clinton expressing concern for the UNESCO Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences. Secretary Clinton asked that I respond on her behalf. We have shared your concerns from the onset; indeed, the United States was one of the countries that lent its voice in opposition to the Obiang Prize in 2008. Since then, the prize has become highly controversial and has threatened to damage UNESCO's reputation, and we have continued to oppose it both publicly and privately.

U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO David Killian sent a letter to UNESCO Director-General Bokova on June 14, expressing U.S. concerns over the prize and asking the Director-General to suspend awarding the prize in order to give time for member state consultations. We have been supportive of the Director-General's efforts to resolve this situation in a manner that is consistent with UNESCO's values, and we welcome the opportunity to engage in discussions with all member states on a way forward that advances these important principles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther Brimmer", written in a cursive style.

Esther Brimmer

Ms. Nancy Boswell,
President and CEO of Transparency International USA,
1023 15th Street, NW,
Washington, D.C., 20005.