



Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

cc: Ms. Irina Bokova  
Director General of UNESCO

11 June 2010

### **UNESCO-Obiang International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**

Honorable Mr. Ban Ki-moon,

The UNCAC Civil Society Coalition, composed of almost 200 organizations committed to fighting corruption and promoting human rights worldwide, has learned of the intention of UNESCO to award a Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, sponsored by and named after Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, based on funding from a source connected to President Obiang. We believe that the creation of this award and the resulting endorsement of Mr. Obiang are fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles of the United Nations, as well as to UNESCO's constitutional goals, and hereby express our firm opposition to the establishment of this Prize.

President Obiang heads a country that has been ranked by Transparency International as among the 12 most corrupt in the world, whose government is known for well-documented brutality and whose citizens live in poverty despite the country's oil riches. With assistance of civil society groups, law enforcement proceedings have been initiated in France and Spain to investigate alleged illicit enrichment and embezzlement of public funds by President Obiang and other senior Equatoguinean officials. In more than 30 years of government, Mr. Obiang has missed the opportunity to use oil revenues, and other sources of government income, to improve the life of the people in Equatorial Guinea or even to make transparent what those revenues are. By creating a UNESCO-Obiang award, UNESCO is effectively endorsing his regime and undermining its own support for human rights, including the right to education, to freedom of expression and to citizen's access to information.

Today, while steps are being made by the international community to fight corruption and impunity, such as through adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the UNODC/ World Bank-launched Stolen Assets Recovery (StAR) initiative, this Prize would send a wrong message and endow positive publicity to an individual and a regime about which there are grave concerns on many counts.

Therefore, we respectfully call upon the United Nations and UNESCO to take the necessary steps to:

1. Cancel the establishment and inaugural awarding of the UNESCO-Obiang Prize.
2. Set up clear, transparent guidelines for the creation of awards by the UN and UN agencies, in order to guarantee that all awards and their funding sources are in full accord with UN essential values, international commitments and standards regarding the promotion of human rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the global fight against corruption.

We would be very grateful for your support on this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of the UNCAC Coalition

Organisation	Country	Organisation	Country
Access Info Europe	International	Transparency International India	India
Anti Slavery International	International	Indonesia Corruption Watch	Indonesia
Cafod	International	National Law Reform Consortium	Indonesia
Christian Aid	International	Telapak	Indonesia
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative	International	Transparency International Indonesia	Indonesia
Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women	International	Iraqi Center For Transparency and Corruption	Iraq
Global Witness	International	Kurdistan Anti Corruption Network	Iraq
International Council of Women	International	Transparency International Ireland	Ireland
International Trade Union Confederation	International	OMETZ	Israel
Islamic Relief Worldwide	International	Transparency International Israel	Israel
La Strada International	International	Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale (CRBM)	Italy
Public Services International	International	AfricCOG - Africa Centre for Open Governance	Kenya
Tax Justice Network	International	Bunge la Mwananchi	Kenya
Tearfund	International	Kenya tuitakayo: Citizens' Coalition for Constitutional Culture	Kenya
Tiri	International	Uplifting Men and Youth in Africa (UMaY),	Kenya
Transparency International - Secretariat	International	Transparency International Kenya	Kenya
UNICORN - Global Unions Anti-corruption Network	International	Kuwait Transparency	Kuwait
SNAPAP	Algeria	Public Investigation Bureau	Latvia
Asociacion Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia	Argentina	Center for Transparency & Accountability	Liberia
Fundacion Mujeres en Igualdad	Argentina	Transparency International Lithuania	Lithuania
Grupo de Mujeres de la Argentina - Foro de VIH Mujeres y Familia	Argentina	Baholalao Integrity Safeguard Committee	Madagascar
Poder Ciudadano	Argentina	Centre for Public Policy Studies	Malaysia
Transparency International Armenia	Armenia	Transparencia Mexicana	Mexico
Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation	Aruba	MANS	Montenegro
Mitigating Endemic Democratic Problems	Australia	Etica y Transparencia	Nicaragua
Transparency International Australia	Australia	Association Nigérienne de Lutte contre la Corruption (ANLC)	Niger
Uniting Church in Australia	Australia	African Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)	Nigeria
EITI - NGO's for Extractive Industries Transparency	Azerbaijan	African Youth Empowerment	Nigeria
Transparency International Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Blossom Nigeria Project	Nigeria
BRAC University	Bangladesh	Equity Advocates	Nigeria
Voice	Bangladesh	Grass Root Anti-Corruption Awareness Network Initiative	Nigeria
Credcentre	Benin	Independent Advocacy Project (IAP)	Nigeria
Club-Journalists against corruption	Bulgaria	Moms Club International Nigeria	Nigeria
Buddhism and Society Development Association	Cambodia	Nigeria Labour Congress	Nigeria
Pact	Cambodia	NPA Nigeria	Nigeria
Cameroonian League for Human Rights	Cameroon	Publish What You Pay/NEITI	Nigeria
CICREQ (Cercle d'initiative Commune pour la recherche l'environnement et la Qualité)	Cameroon	Save Earth Nigeria	Nigeria
Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)	Cameroon	Socio-Economic Rights & Accountability Project (SERAP)	Nigeria
Global Network for Good Governance	Cameroon	Transparency in Nigeria	Nigeria
Humanus International	Cameroon	Women Environment & Development Network (WEDEN)	Nigeria
Research Alliance for Development	Cameroon	Women in Publishing (WIP)	Nigeria
Canadians For Accountability	Canada	Women's Right to Education Programme (WREP)	Nigeria
FAIR (Federal Accountability Initiative for Reform)	Canada	Zero Corruption Coalition	Nigeria
Transparency International Canada	Canada	DISCOVER	Pakistan
Chile Transparente	Chile	GINI -Governance Institutions Network International	Pakistan
Transparency International Ecuador	Ecuador	PILDAT - Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development & Transparency	Pakistan
AICO- Arab Organization for International Cooperation	Egypt	Society for the Empowerment of People-STEP	Pakistan
Arab Thought Forum	Egypt	Transparency International Pakistan	Pakistan
Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance	Egypt	AMAN -Transparency International Palestine	Palestine
Participatory Development Program (PDP)	Egypt	Grupo de Trabajo Contra la Corrupcion (GTCC) / Work Group against Corruption	Peru
Fundacion Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE)	El Salvador	National Human Rights Coordination Body	Peru
Foundation Open Society Institute	F.Y. Republic of Macedonia	Proetica	Peru
Transparency Zero Corruption	F.Y. Republic of Macedonia	Business for Integrity 2020	Philippines
Transparentnost Macedonia	F.Y. Republic of Macedonia	Global watch	Philippines
Youth Education Forum	F.Y. Republic of Macedonia	Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK)	Philippines
Helio International	France	Transparency and Accountability Network	Philippines
SHERPA	France	Transparency International Philippines	Philippines
NGO ArtIdea	Georgia	Ummah Fi Salam	Philippines
TRACC - Georgia	Georgia	Asociatia Romana pentru Transparenta	Romania
The Johanniter	Germany	Trade Union Elie Radu	Romania
Transparency International Germany	Germany	Transparency International Russia	Russia
Ghana Integrity Initiative	Ghana	Transparency International Rwanda	Rwanda
Centre for European Constitutional Law	Greece	Forum Civil	Senegal
Accion Ciudadana	Guatemala	REPAOC	Senegal
Stat View International	Guinea	Africa Youth for Peace and Development	Sierra Leone
Afrikaplattform	Hungary	Youth Partnership for Peace and Development	Sierra Leone
Civil Society Development Foundation	Hungary	Open Society Foundation (OSF)	Slovakia
Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights	Hungary	Transparency International Slovakia	Slovakia
K-Monitor	Hungary	Integriteta-association for ethics in public service	Slovenia
National Confederation of Hungarian Trade Unions	Hungary	Transparency International Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands
Centre for Applied Sociology	India	Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa	South Africa
Gram Bharati Samiti	India	Institute for Security Studies (ISS)	South Africa
The National Center For Peace & Development	India	Sahrit	South Africa

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>
T.F.A.C (The Fight Against Corruption )	South Africa
Heungsadan (Young Korean Academy) Transparency Movement	South Korea
Transparency International Korea	South Korea
Transparency International Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Transparency International Sweden	Sweden
Basel Institute on Governance - ICAR	Switzerland
Transparency International Switzerland	Switzerland
Transparency International Chinese Taipei	Taiwan
Luta Hamutuk Institute	Timor Leste
Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute	Trinidad and Tobago
Transparency International Uganda	Uganda
Water Governance Institute	Uganda
Partnership for Transparency Fund	United Kingdom
Rights & Accountability in Development (RAID)	United Kingdom
The Corner House	United Kingdom
Trades Union Congress (TUK)	United Kingdom
Transparency International UK	United Kingdom
World Wildlife Fund UK	United Kingdom
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative	United States
Financial Intelligence Council	United States
Global Financial Integrity	United States
Hills Program on Governance	United States
Project on Organizing Development Education and Research	United States
The Jus Semper Global Alliance	United States
Transparency International USA	United States
Observatorio Hannah Arendt	Venezuela
Provea	Venezuela
Transparencia Venezuela	Venezuela
Citizens Forum	Zambia
Transparency International Zambia	Zambia