

OPEN SOCIETY
JUSTICE INITIATIVE



September 17, 2010

Mr. Patrice Sam, Investigator
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Internal Oversight Service, Investigation Section
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP France
Via email: p.sam@unesco.org

Dear Mr. Sam:

On behalf of the Open Society Justice Initiative and its partner organizations, I write to follow up with you on the request for investigation we submitted to your office on June 10, regarding the source of funding for the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences.

To date, we have not received an official response from UNESCO, though over three months have passed since we submitted the complaint.

Informally, we understand that UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service will not be pursuing an internal investigation into the matter. We request a formal, written response from UNESCO which explains why the matter will not be investigated. We also reiterate our request for an official response from UNESCO on whether it has and/or employs any policies and procedures for screening sources of funding for prizes, and, if so, to please make them available.

Please direct your reply to Erica Razook, Associate Legal Officer for Anticorruption, 400 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 USA, erazook@justiceinitiative.org.

Sincerely,

James A. Goldston
Executive Director
Open Society Justice Initiative