

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

> Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация Объединенных Наций по вопросам образования, науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة

> 联合国教育、· 科学及文化组织 .

## The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

Mr Tutu Alicante Executive Director EG Justice P.O. Box 1424 McLean, VA 22101 USA

16 March 2010

Ref.: SC/BES/BS/2010/1914

Dear Mr Alicante,

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail message of 21 January 2010 and the attached letter signed by civil society organisations, by which you express concerns about the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences. Thank you also for your faxed letter, dated 4 March 2010, sent on behalf of Equatoguinean and international scholars and professionals.

The creation and adoption of prizes is the prerogative of UNESCO's governing bodies. The UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences was created by decision of UNESCO's Executive Board at its 180<sup>th</sup> session in September 2008. The Secretariat fulfils its tasks in regard to this by implementing the Board's decisions.

We have taken due note of the concerns you express in your letter and have transmitted it to the Chairperson of UNESCO's Executive Board.

Thanking you for your kind interest in UNESCO's activities, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. Erdelen