



Paris, 5th of May 2017

Dear and Respected Secretary General of the UNITED NATIONS,

Allow us to congratulate you for your election by the States members of the Security Council and subsequently by those of the General Assembly. It was vital that a man of your caliber takes over the UN in these turbulent times.

We write to you on a matter of deep concern.

Under the leadership of one of the contesters for the UNSG position, the former communist regime activist Ms Irina Bokova, who luckily for the UN and for the entire world did not get the job, our wonderful and deeply cherished Organization is totally agonizing. Ms Bokova is a disastrous Director-General, a mean human being and we are all happy that you won over her. After destroying UNESCO, she could have been in a position to dismantle the UN. The diplomatic battle over the UNSG position exposed the UNESCO Director General and transparently demonstrated her managerial inaptitude and total lack of moral values to lead UNESCO.

Irina Bokova must therefore immediately resign from UNESCO instead of using the scarce resources still available for her endless trips all over the world for no other reason but to be absent from assuming her duties to direct the House. Instead of creating chaos by mismanaging and continuing appointing top managers lacking basic skills and qualifications, she should leave and concentrate on an article covering the theme she knows best: "How to destroy an International Organization in less than 8 years". Ms Irina Bokova must resign from her position of Director General or – as no decency can ever be expected from her – she should be dismissed immediately by the Governing bodies of UNESCO for major diplomatic and managerial errors:

- I. Bokova enabled the anti-Israel resolutions, despite the US and EU efforts. Her post factum rhetoric about peace and understanding among nations is just a dust in the eyes. By her absence from the usual diplomatic process organized inside UNESCO that all previous Directors Generals led themselves, by her time spent on campaigning instead of working at UNESCO, by her interest directed only towards her personal ambition, she greatly contributed to this outcome that legitimately raises Israel's and US ire. Bokova never even created a working group to address these issues of all interested parties as was the case in the past. The Russian "Red Princess" is the only DG that proved capable to rile up simultaneously both Arab countries and Israel and its supporters. The UNSG should also keep in mind that

Bokova personally lobbied member states to have Palestine admitted as a member of UNESCO in 2011 and this was confirmed to us by a former EU Ambassador to UNESCO. Therefore she has a personal responsibility for the current budgetary agony of UNESCO. After losing the 25 % US funding in 2011 by facilitating the admission of Palestine to UNESCO, last year Japan stopped paying its dues to UNESCO because of the attitude of Bokova who went out of her way just to please China (crucial permanent member of the Security Council in her quest to become UNSG). By deciding to support China on the UNESCO Memory of the World files, once more Bokova preferred to risk UNESCO's reputation and financial stability over personal interests. In 2017, the global funding due to UNESCO by member states, refusing to pay because of this Administration, amounts to some 750 million USA dollars.

- Bokova used all azimuths UNESCO for her personal purposes and ambitions. In seeking the UNSG position, she appointed UNESCO Assistant Director Generals from the 4 permanent members of the Security Council – France China Russia and US in total disregard for normal practices and with no consideration for qualifications and competences.
- Bokova proved to be a very weak leader, with no managerial skills, with perfectly erroneous judgment of people's qualities for the highest positions in UNESCO, created a total chaos in the managerial scheme of UNESCO and enhanced bad practices within the organization such as corruption and traffic of influence. Bokova is neither respected nor appreciated by UNESCO's staff who considers her unfair, unreliable and selfish.
- Stealing funds from the programs in favor of girl's education or of promoting safety of journalists and freedom of speech for her travels or for campaigning for the UNSG is another inadmissible practice of the DG. More than 3 million US Dollars have been effectively "stolen" from priority activities of UNESCO for the travel and other campaign costs of Bokova. Only for that proven deed she should be asked to resign immediately. Also, using the private jets of presidents for her travels is not passive but active corruption.

In addition, Bokova refused to disclose her financial declaration as every UN high official should do and even prevented the Ethics Office of UNESCO to investigate her financial situation following the articles about her flats in France and in the US. Bokova is the incarnation of negativism, of disdain towards everything UNESCO stands for. She did not succeed in having a single reform implemented in more than 7 years, lied on her CV as "former Minister of Foreign Affairs" and went against the Executive Board decisions on the conclusions of the report covering the irregular appointment of the Assistant Director General for strategic planning. This Brazilian staff member, whose case personified the practices and failures of Bokova's Administration, Ms Thomson Flores, is still a UNESCO staff - Director in Venice Office - instead of being dismissed immediately after the findings from the internal oversight (IOS) report have been communicated to DG.

In September 2016, when other agencies went to the General assembly of the UN with less than 5 staff in their respective delegations, Bokova took with her from Paris 25 close entourage members of the UNESCO campaign team to work and lobby for her in New York - all paid by tax-payers money - in order to desperately try to convince Member States to vote for her UNSG position. Those 25 UNESCO collaborators must be investigated as well.

Mobilizing the entire UNESCO resources for her campaign is indeed traffic of influence and active corruption since she was using public money for private goals. Taxpayers deserve to know where and how was UNESCO money used over the last 4 years. We therefore appeal to the UNSG, to the internal and to the external UNESCO auditors for a rapid investigation of Bokova's decisions on using UNESCO funds over that period. The findings must be made public, then discussed by the Executive Board in order to trigger off the accountability and impeachment procedure.

At the Executive Board of UNESCO, Arab ambassadors affirmed that UNESCO has never been in such a bad shape and the Ambassador of Yemen clearly pointed out her lack of vision for UNESCO, the crisis of credibility provoked by her administration and the absence of sound management by Bokova's team for more than five years. EU Ambassadors underscored the incoherent budget proposals, the need to cut programs, close down sectors, and stop using money for travel on useless missions. As a result, Member States refuse to give more funding to UNESCO for the next programmatic cycle precisely because of Bokova and her top management team failures. The trust is broken.

The Chief of Office of Bokova, who practically breeds incompetence, is as blameworthy and accountable as is Irina Bokova for all the mismanagement and negligence with regard to rules and procedures. Decisions on how to redirect UNESCO resources to Bokova's campaign have been approved personally by Paola Leoncini, who did not hesitate to use her family ties to please the Bulgarian Foreign Minister when the candidacy of Bokova as the Bulgarian candidate for UNSG had not yet been endorsed by her Government. Ms Leoncini facilitated the traffic of influence endorsed by Bokova hoping to save her career by getting a job in New York. She must resign the same day together with Bokova.

This letter is an appeal to you dear UNSG, – please put an end to the very harmful management of UNESCO in the last months of the mandate of the Bulgarian DG. Help please installing immediately a moratorium on all DG trips and appointments of senior staff. Make us believe in the UN values and principles again.

With sincere and respectful regards,

UNESCO current and former Staff members,

UNESCO Unions and Associations

(159 signatures collected)

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