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Issued by the Presidency (“Jefatura del Estado” or “Head of the State”)

Official Statement from the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on the Delay of the Resolution of the UNESCO-Obiang Mbasogo Prize

Following yesterday's announcement, June 15, 2010, by Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, about the decision not to set, for the moment, the date to issue the UNESCO-Obiang Prize for the Life Sciences [sic], and to delay the resolution of this matter until the next Executive Board meeting, to be held between the 5th and 22th of October of this year, the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea wishes to state the following:

16/06/10

- **We send our thanks and praise to the leadership of UNESCO for the prudence shown in the treatment of this issue**, despite the disconcerting and aggressive media campaign undertaken by a number of lobbyists that have nothing to do with our country, and who only use our name to offend us and deceive the world about our reality solely for the sake of their own interests.
- **We thank the African community as a whole for its selfless and global support in the headquarters of UNESCO during this controversy** that, just as our Government has previously expressed, challenges not only the dignity of Equatorial Guinea, but also that of the entire African continent.
- **We hope that in the coming months the best solution will be found to resolve this absurd problem, created by those who believe themselves to be the only moral authority to judge, without consideration of other cultures, visions and developments different from their own.**

The Government of Equatorial Guinea wishes to state as well that **the name of our country is inseparable from the name of H.E. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, a charismatic leader who for years, first for well-known historical reasons and then as a result of his repeated election by an independent, free and democratic majority of the people, has directed the destinies of our Nation.

We refer to the words spoken recently by our President insisting that the Government of Equatorial Guinea understands its need to learn and improve every day, and also expressing **our desire to do so with the help and guidance of the international community and of those institutions such as UNESCO and other bodies that have worked for decades in our country, and that have amply demonstrated their good intentions toward our State and our people.**

Signed:
Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea