

UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO UNESCO

August 16, 2010

THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Madam Director-General:

I know you share our concern about the tragedy in Pakistan caused by the recent massive flooding, and that UNESCO has already begun to mobilize to assess the damage and determine how best to assist the Pakistani people in this time of great need. The U.S. is similarly engaged, and has already committed \$76 million in funding towards urgent humanitarian relief as well as in-kind contributions towards logistical and other urgent needs, such as 19 Helicopters, 436,944 Halal meals, 12 prefabricated bridges, 18 Zodiac rescue boats, and six large-scale water-filtration systems. Ships carrying relief supplies have left the United States for Pakistan.

Given the extent of the flooding, which has affected over 13.8 million people thus far, Pakistan's needs are extensive and will extend well beyond the immediate humanitarian requirements. Keeping in mind the important role that UNESCO played in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti in providing international leadership in responding to educational and other needs, we believe it is imperative that UNESCO offer the same leadership in the case of Pakistan.

The U.S. would like to lend its support to the request by Pakistan for UNESCO to launch a "Flash Appeal for Assistance to Pakistan" on the lines of similar appeal launched by UNESCO for Haiti in its areas of core competence.

In this context, I would like to commend Assistant Director Gretchen Kalonji for her initiative in organizing an early visit by a team of UNESCO experts to Pakistan and in identifying scientific and technical resources that can be made available to assist Pakistani authorities respond to the crisis. We also applaud similar efforts underway in other sectors of UNESCO to assess how best to assist Pakistan in its time of need.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to respond to the crisis in Pakistan.

Sincerely,



David T. Killion

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