

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS



SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER,
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

HOMELAND SECURITY

lowey.house.gov

WASHINGTON

2365 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6506
FAX: (202) 225-0546

WESTCHESTER

222 MAMARONECK AVENUE
SUITE 310
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605
(914) 428-1707
FAX: (914) 328-1505

ROCKLAND

(845) 639-3485

Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
18th District, New York

October 5, 2011

Ms. Irina Bokova
Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

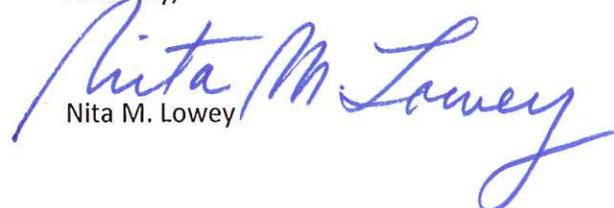
Dear Director-General Bokova:

As the senior Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations in the United States House of Representatives, I write with deep concern about a pending vote before UNESCO to accept the membership of the Palestinian Authority.

Following President Abbas's recent address to the United Nations General Assembly, the Palestinian Authority has taken steps to seek recognition as a state by the United Nations. This action would assuredly interfere with the prospects for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and have an impact on one of the most volatile regions of the world. The significance of the Palestinian Authority's request, especially related to global security, warrants thorough consideration by the United Nations Security Council before any other agency of the United Nations considers accepting membership of the Palestinian Authority.

I have long been a proponent of international engagement and have fought efforts in Congress to defund the United Nations in recent years because I believe that it has been a positive force for global security and international cooperation. It is incumbent on every agency affiliated with the United Nations to do its utmost to foster – not thwart – conditions for peace wherever there is instability around the world. Toward that end, I urge you and the full Executive Board of UNESCO to cancel the vote scheduled for later today on Palestinian Authority recognition in your organization.

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey