December 14, 2011

Ms. Alissandra Cummins
Chairman of the Executive Board
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75353 Paris 07 SP

Dear Madame Chairman,

The world has been witnessing, and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic has verified (A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1), the Government of Syria's repressive actions in violation of the human rights of the Syrian people. The situation in Syria challenges UNESCO's basic Constitutional objectives, in particular, "--- to further respect for justice, for the law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms ---" (Art.1.1)

UNESCO must not fail to respond to the call for action by the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/Res/S.18/1). As the Director General said in marking Human Rights Day this year, "--- the observance of human rights is not negotiable."

We are writing, pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board to request the inscription of an item entitled, "Response of UNESCO to the Situation in Syria". An "Explanatory Note" which provides additional information will follow.

Sincerely,

US Delegation

Albania

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Spain

United Kingdom

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DENMARK

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Germany

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