

## THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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### New International Science and Technology Initiatives Resolution by the U.S. Liaison Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

We enthusiastically welcome the new international science and technology initiatives announced by President Barack Obama in his address in Cairo on June 4, 2009. As noted by the President, the economic, diplomatic and health drivers for these initiatives are compelling. Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia will provide fertile ground for establishing scientific centers to meet the stated goals, and the U.S.A. should play a significant role in establishing such centers. We strongly encourage the vigorous pursuit of these initiatives through the budgeting and appropriation processes.

We cite the **S**ynchrotron Light for **E**xperimental **S**cience and **A**pplications in the **M**iddle **E**ast (SESAME) project as an initiative that is designed to build bridges between diverse societies and to contribute to the culture of peace through international scientific cooperation. The SESAME project is a major international center for research and advanced technology, currently under construction in Jordan, that will enable world class research by scientists from across the Middle East and is expected to develop into a center of scientific excellence in the region. The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) emphatically endorsed SESAME at its General Assembly in October 2008. We note that SESAME receives support from many individual countries, as well as from UNESCO and IAEA. We believe that SESAME can serve as a model for the future centers of scientific excellence that President Obama proposed in Cairo.

June 12, 2009