

**Statement Endorsing Sesame (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science
and Applications in the Middle East)**

by the

U.S. National Commission for UNESCO

(Presented by the Natural Sciences & Engineering Committee)

26 May 2010

We enthusiastically welcome the international science and technology initiatives announced by President Barack Obama in Cairo, June 4, 2009. We wish to recognize the Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) as a scientific initiative that supports the diplomatic interests of the United States.

The SESAME Project has been developed under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to provide a major international facility for world-class research to be conducted by scientists from Middle East. SESAME will build bridges between Arab and Israeli scientists through international scientific collaboration and, once operational, will also provide cooperative research opportunities for students and professional scientists from around the world.

The U.S. National Commission (USNC) for UNESCO strongly endorses SESAME. As the SESAME Project serves UNESCO's cross-cutting educational, scientific and cultural goals, the USNC urges UNESCO to work with its Member States to identify opportunities for continued support for SESAME and to highlight world-wide SESAME's objectives of "science for diplomacy."