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Launch of international competition for a Permanent Memorial to the Honour Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade at UN Headquarters in New York

New York and Paris, 30 September: Following the announcement by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova on 23 August 2011 (International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition) of an International Design Competition for the creation of a Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Permanent Memorial Committee and UNESCO are pleased to invite proposals for an appropriate memorial on the following theme:

Acknowledging the Tragedy; Considering the Legacy; Lest We Forget.

Pursuant to relevant United Nations Resolutions, this permanent memorial will recognize the tragedy of slavery and draw attention to the lingering consequences of the centuries-long trade in, and enslavement of Africans supplied to the colonies of the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe. The legacy of hatred, bigotry, racism, and xenophobia are still evident today, closely linked to persistent economic and social inequalities in many parts of the world.

The competition will culminate in the selection of an outstanding design that will embody the legacy of millions of African captives whose untold stories, memories and contribution to humanity forever changed the world. The Memorial will also aim to strengthen the promotion of greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage and cultures of the African Diaspora. Aesthetically, the Memorial is required to complement the landscape of the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

UNESCO therefore invites artists, designers, sculptors, architects and other visual arts professionals from all over the world to take part in this global effort to commemorate the history and contributions of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. **The deadline for the submission of design proposals to UNESCO is 19 December 2011.**

The international competition will consist of two phases: a shortlist of 16 finalists will be selected during Phase I. In Phase II, a jury of experts will determine the winning entry, which will be announced in spring 2012 and awarded a prize of US\$ 50,000.

The Competition Guidelines and Rules can be downloaded at the following websites: www.unslaverymemorial.org and www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute. Information is also available through the global network of 197 National Commission for UNESCO (consult the list of National Commissions at:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=44812&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

"Acknowledging the Tragedy; Considering the legacy; Lest we forget"