November 2017

Your Excellency Michel Temer
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Palácio do Planalto, Brasilia

via email to: gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br
naradedeus@presidencia.gov.br

Mr. President,

The L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science recognizes outstanding women researchers who have contributed to scientific progress. Each year 5 women scientists along different continents are chosen by an international jury to receive this distinction. Brazilian scientists have been chosen 6 times since 1998, a significant score among all countries. As we see it, this level of excellence in Brazilian Science is now threatened by progressive cuts in Science budget in the country.

It is our understanding that the Brazilian government investment in C&T dropped by 44% from last year, and an additional cut of 15% is expected for next year, adding up to a loss around 50% in a two-year period. As recipients of the L'Oreal-UNESCO award, we feel that it is our responsibility to alert you on the damages resulting of this asphyxiating drop.

In the history of humanity, wealthy, developed and independent nations are those that invest in Science and technology. The future of a country depends on its investment in Science and technology. If such support is postponed the gap between Brazil and developed countries may be irreversible.

Mr. President, we count on your urgent and meaningful steps in this direction.

Thank you very much for your attention,

On behalf of the 33 co-signing laureates named below

Mayana Zatz
Professor of Genetics
Director- Human Genome and Research Center
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1. Ana Belén Elgoyhen
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

2. Andrea Gamarnik
Fundación Institute Leloir, Argentina

3. Anne Dejean-Assémat
Institute Pasteur, França

4. Anne L´Huillier
Lund University, Suécia

5. Brigitte Kieffer
MCGill - Douglas Institute, Canadá

6. Cecilia Bouzat
Centro Científico Tecnologico Bahia Blanca, Argentina

7. Dominique Langevin
Université de Rouen - Normandie, França

8. Esther Orozco
Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, México

9. Frances Ashcroft
University of Oxford, Inglaterra

10. Gloria Montenegro
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

11. Jill Farrant
University of Cape Town, África do Sul

12. Joan A. Steitz
Yale School of Medicine, Estados Unidos

13. Laurie Glimcher
Harvard University, Estados Unidos

14. María Teresa Ruiz
Universidad de Chile, Chile

15. Mariana Weissmann
Centro Atómico Constituyentes, Argentina

16. Margaret Brimble
The University of Auckland, Nova Zelândia

17. Mary Osborn
Georg-August-Universitat Göttingen, Alemanha

18. Molly S. Shoichet

University of Toronto, Canadá

19. Myriam P. Sharachik
City College of New York, Estados Unidos

20. Pamela Bjorkman
California Institute of Technology, Estados Unidos

21. SilviaTorres-Peimbert
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

22. Susana López Charetón
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

23. Suzanne Cory U
University of Melbourne, Austrália

24. Tatiana Birshtein
Institute of Macromolecular Compounds Russian Academyi of Science, Russia

25. Tebello Nyokong
Rhodes University, África do Sul

26. Vivian Wing-Wah Yam
The University of Hong Kong, China

27. Zhenan Bao
Stanford University, Estados Unidos

28. Beatriz Barbuy
Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil

29. Belita Koiller
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

30. Lúcia Mendonça Previato
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

31. Marcia Barbosa
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

32. Mayana Zatz
Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil

33. Thaisa Storchi-Bergmann
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil