



AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

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AAG Statement on the U.S. Withdrawal from UNESCO

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) is disappointed by the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Given our nation's global standing, it is especially important that we champion international exchanges that promote educational advancement, scientific collaboration, and cultural understanding.

The AAG and geographers across the nation and around the world have long shared UNESCO's goals, including a focus on supporting human rights, building peace, encouraging sustainable development, promoting diversity, and fostering intercultural dialogue. These values are critical to sustaining America's role in global leadership and the decision to leave UNESCO will further erode the standing of the U.S. amongst our allies.

The original concept for an international organization promoting cooperation on educational, scientific, and cultural goals dates back almost a century, and today, 195 nations are UNESCO members. The United States should not turn its back on this much-needed organization. We strongly encourage the Administration to revisit the decision to leave UNESCO.