AFFIDAVIT FOR: Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) as a non-US Grantee

I am making this statement to assist grant making foundations in the United States of America in determining whether the EPFL is the equivalent of a public charity described in Section 509(a)(1), (2), or (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

1. I am the General Counsel of the EPFL.

2. Created in 1853, the EPFL became a federal institute in 1969 directly controlled by the Swiss federal government and governed as such under the laws of Switzerland.

3. The Swiss federal law presently applied to the EPFL is available on the web in French, German or English at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19910256/index.html.

4. The laws and customs that apply to the EPFL do not permit any of its income or assets to be given to, distributed to, or applied for the benefit of, a private person or non-charitable organization other than (a) as part of the EPFL’s scientific, or educational activities, or (b) as payment of reasonable compensation for services provided to the EPFL, or (c) as payment for the fair market value of property the EPFL has purchased.

5. The annual financial statements of the EPFL are audited regularly by the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) according to the generally accepted professional standard in this field.

6. The EPFL has no shareholders or members who have a proprietary interest or ownership claim in the income or assets of the EPFL.

7. The laws and customs that apply to the EPFL do not permit it, other than as an insubstantial or minor part of its activities, (a) to engage in activities that are not for scientific, or educational purposes, or (b) to attempt to influence legislation, by propaganda or otherwise.

8. The laws and customs that apply to the EPFL do not permit it, directly or indirectly, to take part in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
9 The EPFL is a school, meaning an educational organization for which all of the following statements are true: it normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum; it normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are regularly carried on; it has adopted, and operates according to, a racially non-discriminatory policy as to students; and it receives substantial funding from the government.

10 The laws and customs that apply to the EPFL do not contemplate dissolution because it is not an option under the mandate given to the EPFL by the Swiss federal government.

I declare that the foregoing and any supporting documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Susan Killias
General Counsel of the EPFL

Lausanne, 13 October 2016