



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

15/06/2016

Ref.: CL/4162

Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea
International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my honour to invite you to submit nominations for the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences.

Established by UNESCO's Executive Board at its 180th session and at the initiative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Prize is intended to reward the scientific research projects and activities of an individual, institution, other entity or non-governmental organization working in the life sciences, which have led to an improvement in the quality of human life. It lies in the framework of UNESCO's efforts to promote research, as well as the establishment and development of networks of centres of excellence in the life sciences.

The Prize consists of a medal, a diploma and a cheque for the amount of US \$300,000, which may be divided equally between a maximum of three laureates who are considered to merit it.

The prizewinners shall be selected by the UNESCO Director-General on the basis of an assessment of the candidates, carried out by an international jury, as well as on their recommendation.

Confident of your interest in promoting research in the life sciences, I hope that you will be in a position to submit a nomination for this Prize. To this end, you will find enclosed a copy of the Statutes of the Prize and the guidelines for the presentation of nominations. The nominations, which should be submitted using the annexed form, should be received no later than on **31 December 2016** at the following address:

Secretariat of the UNESCO–Equatorial Guinea International
Prize for Research in the Life Sciences
Natural Sciences Sector
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France
tel.: + 33 1 45 68 41 41
e-mail: lifesciencesprize@unesco.org

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Encs: 3

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
UNESCO field offices

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO-EQUATORIAL GUINEA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of this Prize is to reward the projects and activities of an individual, individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations for scientific research in the life sciences leading to improving the quality of human life.

The objectives of the Prize are in conformity with UNESCO's policies and are related to the central function of UNESCO's Major Programme II: to encourage research and the setting up and further development of networks of centres of excellence in the life sciences contributing to improving the quality of human life.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

- 2.1 The Prize shall be entitled “the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences”.
- 2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Obiang Nguema Mbasogo foundation for the preservation of life and shall consist of payment of **US \$3 million**, of which US \$600,000 will be disbursed annually for the running costs of the prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution.
- 2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations, Annex II).
- 2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at **US \$300,000** yearly shall be fully covered by the donor. To this end, the Director-General will determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the special account, which is to be established under the financial regulations for the Prize.
- 2.5 The Prize of US \$300,000 shall be awarded once a year, on an initial basis for five years.

The Prize amount may be equally divided among a maximum of three laureates, each of which is considered to merit a prize.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant research contribution to the life sciences. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prizewinner(s)

The prizewinner(s), maximum three, shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by an international jury.

Article 5 – Jury

- 5.1 The Jury shall consist of five eminent independent members, of different nationalities and gender, appointed by the Director-General for a period of six years, eligible for re-election. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the jury for this reason.

- 5.2 The Jury shall elect its own chair and deputy chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by a jury shall be English and French.
- 5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.
- 5.4 The Jury shall meet once every year, for two working days, in order to make its recommendations to the Director-General for the selection of the prizewinner.
- 5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than **15 July** of each year.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

- 6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by **15 April**, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining formal consultative relations with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by a prize.
- 6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered.
- 6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:
- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
 - (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;
 - (c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

- 7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General (and His Excellency Obiang-Nguema Mbasogo, if awarded in the country of the donor) at an official ceremony held for that purpose in UNESCO Paris or the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinner (or the prizewinners) a cheque for the amount of **US \$300,000 (Three hundred thousand United States dollars)** as well as a diploma and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the name of the prizewinner(s).
- 7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three persons, the prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.
- 7.3 The prizewinner/s, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

- 7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a prize. If, however, a prizewinner dies before he/she has received the prize, then the prize may be presented posthumously (awarded to relatives or institution).
- 7.5 Should a prizewinner decline the prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

- 8.1 After a period of five years, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.
- 8.2 In case of termination of a Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the financial regulations for the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the prize. Proposals received for the award of a prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Guidelines for submission

Nomination of Candidates

1. Nominations for the Prize must be submitted to the Director-General:
 - (a) by the governments of UNESCO Member States, in consultation with their respective National Commissions; **or**,
 - (b) by non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize. (See attached list of such NGOs.)

Self-nomination cannot be considered.

2. Applications must be submitted in English or in French and in six (6) copies, and should include:
 - (a) the nomination form, duly completed (see attached form);
 - (b) a summary of the work/research, **not to exceed 1,000 words**, including the results of the work/research;
 - (c) a description of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives, **not to exceed 1,000 words**.
 - (d) a *curriculum vitae*, including awards received, participation in conferences, symposia, congresses, including mode of presentations (oral/poster/keynote speaker); **or**,

In the case of institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations, include the institution's Statutes, brief history and list of achievements, **not to exceed 150 words**, as well as **ten (10) major** publications including impact factor and h-Index;

- (e) **Ten (10)** major publications highlighting the candidate's role in case of joint publication including impact factor and h-Index.

3. The nominations comprising complete documentation as required applications must reach the Secretariat of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Natural – Sciences Sector, UNESCO (7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France) before **31 December 2016**. An electronic copy of the present guidelines and the application form is available on the following website: <http://www.unesco.org/lifesciencesprize>. An advance copy may be sent by e-mail on the following addresses: lifesciencesprize@unesco.org

**UNESCO-EQUATORIAL GUINEA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES**

Nomination Form

Please complete this form in English or in French only
(Self-nomination cannot be considered.)

A. To be completed only by UNESCO Member State or non-governmental organization in official partnership with UNESCO

Candidature submitted by (UNESCO Member State or non-governmental organization in official partnership with UNESCO):

.....

Country:

Address:

.....

Telephone: Fax:

E-mail:

Name and position of the official representative of UNESCO Member State or NGO submitting nomination:

B. To be completed only by nominated candidate

Surname of nominated candidate

First name:

Profession and position held currently:

Institution:

Nationality: Country:

Address:

Telephone: E-mail:

Website:

I hereby agree to this nomination

- ◇ The above nomination form, duly completed and signed;
- ◇ A summary of the work/research, **not to exceed 1,000 words**, including the results of the work/research;
- ◇ Description of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives, **not to exceed 1,000 words**, including:
 - A citation **with no more than 150 words**, which highlights the candidate's award achievement(s) that justify the award of the Prize.
 - How the research has contributed to progress in the Life Sciences.
 - How the research and its resultant innovations has improved the quality of human life.
 - How the research can potentially be translated into practical life-improving outcomes.
 - Whether the research has led to the establishment of a network, an institution or an organization, including the grants obtained, the awarding body, and the impact, scope and benefits of the established organization.
 - Is the research well disseminated and pertinent for a non-specialist audience. Applications in primary, secondary, tertiary-level education and socially.
 - The beneficiaries of the research (region/numbers, etc.).
- ◇ A curriculum vitae of the candidate, including awards received, participation in conferences, symposia, congresses, including mode of presentations (oral/poster/keynote speaker)
- ◇ **Ten (10)** major publications, highlighting the candidate's role in the case of joint publications including impact factor and h-Index;
- ◇ In the case of institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations, include the institution's Statutes, brief history and list of achievements, **not to exceed 150 words**, and **ten (10) major** publications including impact factor and h-Index.

Please list any supporting documents of major importance submitted with this nomination (not more than five):

The candidate's file must be submitted in English or in French, and in six copies, **before 31 December 2016** to:

Secretariat of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize
for research in the Life Sciences
UNESCO, Natural Sciences Sector
7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352
Paris 07 SP
France
E-mail: lifesciencesprize@unesco.org