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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

(Document presented by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea)

### SUMMARY

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea proposed to the Director-General of UNESCO the establishment of a prize entitled “the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences” to reward projects and activities of an individual or group of individuals, scientific institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations who have contributed, through research in the life sciences to improving the quality of human life.

Decision proposed: paragraph 3.

1. During his speech to the 34th session of the General Conference on 30 October 2007, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, proposed to the Director-General the establishment of a prize entitled to reward projects and activities of individuals or institutions, that contribute through research in the life sciences to improving the quality of human life.
2. The donor – Obiang Nguema Mbasogo Foundation for the Preservation of Life – will deposit the amount of **US \$3 million** in a special account with UNESCO, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization. The Prize and its related costs will be paid out of the fund deposited by the donor and interest earned on the deposited amount.
3. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind that the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea proposed to establish and finance a prize entitled “the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences”, contributing to improving the quality of human life, whose objectives relate 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,

2. Noting that the proposed Prize is consonant with UNESCO's goals and policies and is related to the goals of the Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2013) of the overarching objective 2 "Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development" and its associated strategic programme objective 4, "Fostering policy and capacity-building in science and innovation",
3. Having examined document 180 EX/57 concerning the creation of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences,
4. Noting further that the proposed Prize complies with the strategy and criteria for UNESCO Prizes as contained in document 171 EX/19, in conformity with 171 EX/Decision 24,
5. Expresses its deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for this initiative and for the generous offer of **US \$3 million** for the regular running cost of the Prize,
6. Approves the statutes of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, as set out in Annex I to this decision;
7. Takes note of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for this Prize as set out in Annex II to this decision;
8. Encourages Member States and other donors to support this initiative to further strengthen UNESCO's programmes in the areas of research in the life sciences;
9. Requests the Director-General to establish as soon as possible the Secretariat of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences in the Natural Sciences Sector.

## **ANNEX I**

### **Statutes of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo 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-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo 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.

## **ANNEX II**

### **Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**

#### **Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account**

1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences.

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

#### **Article 2 – Financial period**

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

#### **Article 3 – Purpose**

The Special Account will be used to receive funds for the Prize, the interests produced by these funds and other donations in favour of scientific research for the life sciences. The Special Account will also be used to cover all related costs of the Prize, in line with its statutes and the present financial regulations.

#### **Article 4 – Income**

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (b) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;
- (c) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (d) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

#### **Article 5 – Expenditure**

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

#### **Article 6 – Accounts**

6.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.

6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.

6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.

6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account (171 EX/19).

### **Article 7 – Investments**

7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.

7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

### **Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account**

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as he deems that its operation is no longer necessary and inform the Executive Board accordingly.

The Director-General shall decide about the use of any unspent balance of funds.

### **Article 9 – General provision**

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

**THE UNESCO-OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE  
FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES  
(ESTIMATED YEARLY BUDGET)**

Component	Description	Total
<b>10</b>	<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$ 123,500</b>
	Executive Secretary (P-5 level, half-time)	87,500
	Secretarial assistance 3,000x12	18,000
	Field monitoring missions	18,000
<b>30</b>	<b>MEETINGS</b>	<b>384,500</b>
	<b><u>A. Jury meeting</u></b>	<b>34,000</b>
	Travel (5 members) 4,000x5	20,000
	Hotel/meals 1,800x5	9,000
	Translation/interpretation	3,000
	Production of documents	2,000
	<b><u>B. Award ceremony</u></b>	<b>350,500</b>
	<b>Prize</b>	<b>300,000</b>
	Medal(s)/diploma(s)	1,500
	Travel Jury and Prizewinner 4,000x6	24,000
	Printing/dissemination/publicity	10,000
	Technical assistance (security, protocol, electrician, etc.)	4,000
	Publication work of the Prizewinner	11,000
<b>40</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS</b>	<b>15,000</b>
	Equipment	5,000
	Communication	10,000
<b>50</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>7,974</b>
<b>80</b>	<b>OVERHEAD</b>	<b>13% 69,026</b>
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>600,000</b>