



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Executive Board

Hundred and eighty-first session

181 EX/56

PARIS, 25 April 2009
Original: Spanish

Item 56 of the agenda

INSTITUTION OF A UNESCO/JUAN BOSCH PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 181st session of the Executive Board at the request of the Dominican Republic and all the other Member States of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) of UNESCO.

An explanatory note and a draft decision proposed by the Dominican Republic are attached.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision proposed in paragraph 9.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. In the light of the objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4), particularly overarching objective 3, “Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges”, and its relationship with strategic programme objective 7, “Enhancing research-policy linkages on social transformations”,
2. Taking into account the new strategy and criteria outlined in the Report by the Director-General on the overall review of UNESCO prizes (171 EX/19), pursuant to 171 EX/Decision 24,
3. Having examined Blue Note No. 18 of 21 May 2008 and 25 June 2008 by the Director-General, which draws attention to coordination of the strategy and administration of the UNESCO prizes, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Director-General contained in document 180 EX/INF.13,
4. The delegation of the Dominican Republic proposes the institution of a “UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean”, awarded every two years for the best social science thesis written by young people in the Latin American and Caribbean region. This proposal is submitted with the support of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and in coordination with the delegations of Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Costa Rica – countries in which Professor Juan Bosch lived in exile and which have been historically linked to the experience of democracy in the Dominican Republic.
5. Professor Juan Bosch – author, politician, social analyst and fervent advocate of democratic values and a culture of peace in Latin America and the Caribbean – made an impact through his work on life in the Dominican Republic and in the entire region. His significant contribution to literature, to storytelling and to novel- and essay-writing has made him a mentor for writers, short-story writers, essayists, journalists and historians, among them some of the most outstanding figures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Similarly, his patriotism, public-spiritedness, honesty, courage and militancy, as a ruler and leader, have made him a symbol of national dignity, a source of great pride to our peoples and an example to be followed for present and future generations.
6. Professor Juan Bosch, through his work in sociology and history, made a remarkable contribution to the study of social and political processes in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean region, which justifies this prize in the field of the social sciences.
7. In connection with the 2009 commemoration of the centenary of Professor Bosch’s birth, the Dominican Republic presents this prize to reward those candidates who, through their research, have made an exceptional contribution towards improving the knowledge and understanding of the critical issues affecting contemporary society and enhancing the role of the social sciences in furthering our understanding of contemporary social challenges. This prize will motivate young people of the region and will encourage intellectual exchange and dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. The prize is sponsored by the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Juan Bosch Foundation. The Dominican Government will bear the initial financial cost of three biennia, depositing the amount of \$125,000 in a special account with UNESCO, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Action expected of the Executive Board

9. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Bearing in mind that the Government of the Dominican Republic, with the support of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and in coordination with the delegations of Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Costa Rica, proposes the establishment of a “UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean”, awarded every two years for the best thesis in social sciences written by young people in the region,;
2. Taking into account that this proposal is consistent with UNESCO’s objectives and policies and ties in with overarching objective 3, “Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges” of the Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013, and with strategic programme objective 7, “Enhancing research-policy linkages on social transformations”;
3. Taking into account that the proposed prize complies with the new strategy and criteria for UNESCO prizes as set out in document 171 EX/19, in accordance with 171 EX/Decision 24,
4. Having examined document 181 EX/56,
5. Expresses its deep gratitude to the countries that support and collaborate in this initiative, in particular the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous offer of a donation of US \$125,000, which will cover all ordinary operational costs relating to this Prize for three biennia;
6. Approves the Statutes of the “UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean”, as set out in Annex I to document 181 EX/56;
7. Takes note of the financial regulations that govern the special account established for this Prize, as set out in Annex II to document 181 EX/56;
8. Urges Member States and other donors to support this initiative and thus strengthen UNESCO’s programmes in the field of research in the social sciences.

ANNEX I

Statutes of the UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean is to reward social science research work by young researchers in Latin America and the Caribbean which has contributed to stronger research-policy linkages. The purpose of the Prize is consistent with UNESCO's main policy lines and ties in with the Organization's programme in the field of the social and human sciences [overarching objective 3 in the Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2013), "Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges", and strategic programme objective 7, "Enhancing policy-research linkages on social transformations"].

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled the "UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean".

2.2 The Prize shall be financed by the Government of the Dominican Republic and shall consist of a single donation of US \$125,000, which will concomitantly cover the monetary value of the Prize and the administrative costs for three biennia. Any interest accruing on this amount will be added to the overall contribution. The Prize also provides for the publication of the prize-winning thesis from extrabudgetary funds, if available, with the assistance of a publishing house and under the auspices of UNESCO.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize.

2.4 All staff costs and all operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs relating to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at US \$41,000, shall be fully covered by the Government of the Dominican Republic. 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 shall be awarded every two years, initially for three biennia. The Prize amount of US \$10,000 may be divided equally among a maximum of three prizewinners.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant research contribution to the promotion of social science research geared to social development policy. The Prize shall be awarded to the author(s) of the prize-winning thesis.

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

The prizewinner(s) shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO in the light of the Jury's assessment of the nominations and on its recommendation.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of three independent members, of different nationalities and gender, appointed by the Director-General for a period of six years renewable. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board may not 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 any legitimate reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own chair. Jurors shall receive no remuneration. A quorum of two jurors will be required for jury deliberations to proceed. The Jury's working languages shall be English and Spanish.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its work and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes and with the assistance of a member of the UNESCO Secretariat, designated by the Director-General. Its members shall conduct their work individually and shall communicate with each other by email until a decision has been reached. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by a simple majority vote. A juror shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet every two years.

5.5 The Jury shall send a nominations assessment and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than eight months after the date of closure of the submission of nominations.

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 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 the Prize, to submit nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize by 31 August at the latest.

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 Spanish, *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 by the Jury;
- (c) a statement specifying 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 at an official ceremony held for that purpose in Paris on the occasion of the statutory meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinners a cheque for the amount of the Prize. UNESCO shall officially announce the name(s) of the prizewinners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. Any prize amount may not under any circumstances be shared among more than three persons.

7.3 The prizewinner(s) shall, if possible, give a presentation of the prize-winning works. Such a presentation shall be organized during or in conjunction with the award 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 or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be awarded posthumously (awarded to relatives or an 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 six years, the Director-General of UNESCO, together with the donor, shall undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General shall inform the Executive Board of UNESCO of the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the 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. Nominations received for the award of the 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/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean

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/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean, hereinafter referred to as the Special Account.
- 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 interest produced by these funds and other donations for the promotion of social science research in Latin America and the Caribbean, contributing to the strengthening of research-policy linkages. The Special Account will also be used to cover all costs relating to the Prize, in line with its Statutes and these 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.

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.