

**Hundred and sixty-seventh Session**

167 EX/19  
PARIS, 11 July 2003  
Original: English

Item 5.4 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES  
OF THE SHARJAH PRIZE FOR ARAB CULTURE**

**SUMMARY**

The Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture was established in 1998, on the initiative of the United Arab Emirates. By 155 EX/Decision 3.5.6, the Executive Board approved the Statutes of the Prize and took note of its Financial Regulations.

Upon the request of His Highness Sheikh Bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), the Director-General proposes amendments of the Statutes of this Prize and the Financial Regulations of its Special Account and submits the proposed amendments of the Statutes of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture and its Financial Regulations to the Executive Board for approval and taking note.

Decision proposed: paragraph 7.

1. The purpose of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture is to reward the efforts of a national of an Arab country and a national of any other country who have contributed, through their artistic, intellectual or promotional work to the development and diffusion of Arab culture in the world. This initiative was taken as part of activities carried out in 1998 when “Sharjah, was the Cultural Capital of the Arab Region”.

2. The agreement signed between the Director-General of UNESCO and the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) stipulates that the prize shall be awarded once every two years during the General Conference of UNESCO.

3. The first ordinary session of the International Jury for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 1 to 3 October 2001. In October 2001 the Prize was awarded to Professor Abulaziz El Makaleh (Yemen) and to Professor Na Zhong (China).

4. The Director-General has received from His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qassemi, Ruler of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) a letter dated 23 December 2002, indicating the desire to award the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture every year, instead of every two years, starting from October 2003, and that indicating an amount of US \$50,000.00 will be allocated annually.

5. The proposed amendments within the Statutes (Annex I) are as follows:

Art. 2, Paragraph 2.1: The article would then read as follows:

“The value of the Prize shall consist of a sum of US \$50,000 offered annually by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates). The costs of administration of the Prize shall be covered by interests on the investment by the Secretariat in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO of the sum of US \$250,000 donated by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) for this purpose.”

Art. 2, paragraph 2.2: replace the words “once every two years” by “once a year”. The paragraph would then read:

“The Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture shall be awarded once a year (...);”

Art. 5, paragraph 5.3: replace the words “every two years” by “every year”. The sentence would then read:

“The jury shall meet every year.”

Art. 7: replace the words “every two years” by “every year”. The paragraph would then read:

“The names of the prizewinners shall be announced every year (...).”

6. The Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture (Annex II) would be therefore amended as follows:

Art. 2: The article would then read as follows:

“The Special Account shall be credited with an annual amount of US \$50,000 to be divided equally between the two laureates, in addition to the existing funds for investment, the interest on which shall be used to finance the expenses related to the Prize which shall be awarded for the promotion of Arab culture. The Prize shall be awarded every year as from 2003, on a date fixed by the Director-General.”

7. In view of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 155 EX/Decision 3.5.6 by which it approved the Statutes of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture and took note of its Financial Regulations,
2. Having examined document 167 EX/19,
3. Approves the amendments proposed in Articles 2.1, 2.2, 5.3 and 7 of the Statutes of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture as underlined in Annex I to this decision;
4. Takes note of the amendment proposed in Article 2 of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture as underlined in Annex II to this decision.

## ANNEX I

### AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE SHARJAH PRIZE FOR ARAB CULTURE

#### Original Text

##### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture is to reward the efforts of a national of an Arab country and a national of any other country who have contributed, through their artistic, intellectual or promotional work, to the development and diffusion of Arab culture in the world. The objective of this Prize is in conformity with the second and sixth preambular paragraphs and with Article I, paragraph 2 (c), of the Constitution of UNESCO, according to which the Organization is assigned the task of promoting the mutual understanding of peoples through activities that encourage greater knowledge of the cultures of different peoples and international exchange between the different peoples and international exchange between the different cultures.

##### 2. Amount and frequency of award

2.1. The value of the Prize shall be determined by the Director-General on the basis of the interest on the investment by the Secretariat in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO of the sum of US \$250,000 offered for this purpose by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), it being understood that the interest shall also be used to administer the Prize.

2.2. The Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture shall be awarded once every two years and shall be shared, in equal parts, between one prizewinner from an Arab country and one prizewinner from another country.

##### 3. Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall be eminent persons, groups or institutions that have made a significant contribution to the development, the diffusion and the promotion of Arab culture throughout the world, and to the safeguarding and revitalization of the Arab intangible cultural heritage.

#### Proposed text

(The proposed amendments are underlined)

##### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture is to reward the efforts of a national of an Arab country and a national of any other country who have contributed, through their artistic, intellectual or promotional work, to the development and diffusion of Arab culture in the world. The objective of this Prize is in conformity with the second and sixth preambular paragraphs and with Article I, paragraph 2 (c), of the Constitution of UNESCO, according to which the Organization is assigned the task of promoting the mutual understanding of peoples through activities that encourage greater knowledge of the cultures of different peoples and international exchange between the different peoples and international exchange between the different cultures.

##### 2. Amount and frequency of award

“2.1. The value of the Prize shall consist of a sum of US \$50,000 offered annually by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates). The costs of administration of the Prize shall be covered by interests on the investment by the Secretariat in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO of the sum of US \$250,000 donated by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) for this purpose.”

2.2. The Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture shall be awarded once a year and shall be shared, in equal parts, between one prizewinner from an Arab country and one prizewinner from another country.

##### 3. Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall be eminent persons, groups or institutions that have made a significant contribution to the development, the diffusion and the promotion of Arab culture throughout the world, and to the safeguarding and revitalization of the Arab intangible cultural heritage.

#### 4. Selection of prizewinners

The prizewinners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the proposals made to him/her by a Jury.

#### 5. Jury

5.1. The Jury shall consist of a minimum of five members, of different nationalities, appointed by the Director-General for a period of four years.

5.2. The Jury shall adopt its own working procedures and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General.

5.3. The Jury shall meet every two years.

#### 6. Submission of nominations

6.1. 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.

6.2. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, *inter alia*:

a description of the candidate's work;

a summary of the results of his or her work;

a definition of the candidate's contribution to promoting Arab culture or improving its diffusion.

#### 7. Procedures for awarding the Prize

The names of the prizewinners shall be announced every two years, on a date fixed by the Director-General of UNESCO. The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General or his/her representative at an official ceremony held for that purpose.

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**ANNEX II**  
**AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**  
**OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE SHARJAH PRIZE FOR ARAB CULTURE**

**Original Text**

**1. Establishment of the Special Account**

In accordance with Regulations 6.6 and 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby established an account which shall be known as the 'Special account for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture', hereinafter called 'the Special Account'.

**2. Purpose of the Special Account**

The Special Account shall be credited with funds for investment, the interest on which shall be used to finance a Prize which shall be awarded for the promotion of Arab culture. The Prize shall be awarded every two years as from 1999, on a date fixed by the Director-General .

**3. Income**

Donations made by the authorities of the United Arab Emirates (the Government of Sharjah) and other donors – with the prior agreement of the United Arab Emirates (the Government of Sharjah) – and interest accruing on the investment of those donations shall be credited to the Special Account.

**4. Expenditure**

The Special Account shall be debited with the amount (or amounts) awarded to the prizewinner (or prizewinners) and the administrative expenses, including those incurred for the holding of meetings of the Jury entrusted with the selection of the prizewinners. Expenditure may not exceed the amount of interest accrued.

**5. Financial statements and accounts**

5.1. The financial period shall be the same as that of UNESCO's regular programme.

5.2. The financial statements of the Special Accounts shall be presented in dollars of the United States of America. Subsidiary accounts may, be kept in other currencies.

**Proposed text**

**(The proposed amendments are underlined)**

**1. Establishment of the Special Account**

In accordance with Regulations 6.6 and 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby established an account which shall be known as the 'Special account for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture', hereinafter called 'the Special Account'.

**2. Purpose of the Special Account**

The Special Account shall be credited with an annual amount of US \$50,000 to be divided equally between the two laureates, in addition to the existing funds for investment, the interest on which shall be used to finance the expenses related to the Prize which shall be awarded for the promotion of Arab culture. The Prize shall be awarded every year as from 2003, on a date fixed by the Director-General .

**3. Income**

Donations made by the authorities of the United Arab Emirates (the Government of Sharjah) and other donors – with the prior agreement of the United Arab Emirates (the Government of Sharjah) – and interest accruing on the investment of those donations shall be credited to the Special Account.

**4. Expenditure**

The Special Account shall be debited with the amount (or amounts) awarded to the prizewinner (or prizewinners) and the administrative expenses, including those incurred for the holding of meetings of the Jury entrusted with the selection of the prizewinners. Expenditure may not exceed the amount of interest accrued.

**5. Financial statements and accounts**

5.1. The financial period shall be the same as that of UNESCO's regular programme.

5.2 The financial statements of the Special Accounts shall be presented in dollars of the United States of America. Subsidiary accounts may, be kept in other currencies.

5.3. Separate accounting records shall be maintained for the operations of the Special Account and they shall be included in the financial report of the Director-General.

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

5.5. The financial accounts shall be submitted for verification to the External Auditor of UNESCO.

#### **6. Investments**

In accordance with Regulations 9.1 and 9.2 of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, the Director-General is authorized to invest the funds credited to the Special Accounts. Interest accruing from these investments shall be credited to the said account.

#### **7. General provision**

Unless otherwise provided in the present financial regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with UNESCO's Financial Regulations.

#### **8. Termination of the Prize**

UNESCO or the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) may terminate the Prize. Any unspent balance upon termination of the Prize shall be transferred to the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) after the deduction of expenses not yet recorded in the accounts.

5.3 Separate accounting records shall be maintained for the operations of the Special Account and they shall be included in the financial report of the Director-General.

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

5.5 The financial accounts shall be submitted for verification to the External Auditor of UNESCO.

#### **6. Investments**

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