



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## UNESCO Prize on Girls' and Women's Education

### Explanatory note

### 2017 Call for Nominations

#### Background

The UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education rewards outstanding efforts of individuals, institutions other entities or non-governmental organizations engaged in activities in girls' and women's education. The Prize was established by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 197th session, and launched in 2016 with generous support by the government of the People's Republic of China. The Prize contributes to two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (Goal 4) and "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" (Goal 5).

#### Nominations

Nominations can be made by Governments of UNESCO Member States via their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in official partnership with UNESCO. Nominations must focus on a specific project or programme of the nominee advancing girls' and women's education. Each Permanent Delegation or NGO can make up to three nominations for any edition of the Prize. Self-nominations are not accepted.

#### Selection Criteria

The two Prize winners will be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of recommendations made by the independent International Jury of the UNESCO Prize on Girls' and Women's Education consisting of five experts from all geographical regions. The project/programme of the nominee will be assessed by the Jury based on the following criteria:

**a. Impact:** The project/programme's impact should be qualitatively and/or quantitatively measureable, and deliver tangible results relative to the invested resources. This can include demonstrable changes in: (1) attitudes, beliefs and practices toward gender equality; (2) girls' educational participation, attendance, completion and learning outcomes; and/or (3) other relevant parameters to advance girls' and women's education.

**b. Innovation:** The project/programme is stimulating, and/or drawing on, innovative approaches advancing girls' and women's education. This includes new ways of working where "business as usual" has failed, and transformative "out-of-the-box" thinking and actions. The project/programme can demonstrate innovation in terms of: (1) the themes covered; (2) the methodology employed; (3) the channels used to create change for girls and women; and/or (4) other aspects.

**c. Sustainability:** The project/programme has taken steps, ideally from its design or implementation phases, to ensure it will have a lasting impact beyond the project lifecycle. This may include efforts to ensure the: (1) continuation of local action; (2) institutionalization

of project components; and (3) generation of further initiatives as a result of the project/programme.

In addition to these three criteria, the project/programme should:

- have already been running for **at least two years**
- show evidence that it may be **replicable, scalable** and/or provide **significant learning potential** for initiatives in other contexts
- contribute to **one or more of the five priority action areas** of the Prize:
  1. supporting girls/adolescent girls to transition from primary education to lower-secondary education and to complete full basic education;
  2. supporting adolescent girls and young women to acquire literacy skills;
  3. supporting the creation of a gender-responsive and safe teaching-learning environment, free of school-related gender-based violence;
  4. engaging female and male teachers to develop gender-responsive teaching attitudes and practices and be change agents; or
  5. supporting adolescent girls and young women to acquire knowledge and skills for them to adequately transition from school to work and lead a fulfilling life.

### **Submission Procedure**

(1) The nomination form must be completed online in English or French via a platform accessible through the UNESCO website under the following link:

<http://unesco.org/gwe>

(2) Nominations must be submitted online by the **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** of the concerned Member State, or by an **NGO in official partnership with UNESCO**, through their official UNESTEAMS account.

(3) It is possible for **National Commissions to UNESCO** to access and complete the online form. However, any nomination by a National Commission will need to be submitted by the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of the respective Member State. An automatic notification message will be sent to the official e-mail address of the Delegation to this end.

(4) If a National Commission or Permanent Delegation to UNESCO wishes that the form be completed electronically by the nominees, UNESCO can create a UNESTEAMS account for each **nominee**. A request should be sent to [GWEprize@unesco.org](mailto:GWEprize@unesco.org) before **22 April 2017**. After completion of the online form by the nominee, the concerned National Commission and Permanent Delegation will receive a notification e-mail and can review the nomination before the Permanent Delegation submits to UNESCO.

(5) Attention should be paid to presenting the project/programme of the nominee in a **clear and structured way**, following the instructions given in the form and respecting the indicated word limit. All **supporting material** (e.g. publications, photos, videos) must be transmitted electronically through the online system.

(6) Nominations have to be submitted in the online system by the concerned Permanent Delegations to UNESCO or the NGO by **midnight of 5 May 2017** (UTC+1, Paris time). Kindly note that each Permanent Delegation or NGO may not submit more than three nominations.

(7) For any questions regarding the UNESCO Prize on Girls' and Women's Education or the submission process, please contact the Secretariat of the Prize at the Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality at UNESCO: Mr Leyong Gao, phone: +33 (0) 1 45 68 17 96; e-mail: [GWEprize@unesco.org](mailto:GWEprize@unesco.org).