

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO-JAPAN PRIZE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Approved by 207 EX/Decision 10.III.B, October 2019)

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development is to reward the outstanding efforts of institutions, organizations or other entities engaged in activities on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This is done within the framework “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)”, [adopted by] the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference, and acknowledged by the UN General Assembly in 2019 as global framework for ESD (2020-2030), in follow-up to the UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD (2015-2019). The Prize rewards in particular activities that are innovative or have a high impact. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO’s policies, namely the Strategic Objective 2 of UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37C/4) – “empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens” – and the programme of the Organization in the field of ESD. The Prize also recognizes the role of ESD as an integral element of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education and as key enabler of all 17 SDGs.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled “UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development”.

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of Japan and shall consist of a total minimum payment of US \$690,000 for its next six-year period (2020-2025), which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize for three biennial editions, excluding staff cost. 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.

2.4 The daily administration/management tasks of the Prize will mainly be undertaken by a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) seconded by the Government of Japan to the UNESCO Section of ESD, Education Sector, based on his/her post description. Additional operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony, public information activities and overhead charges, estimated at a minimum of US \$80,000 per biennial edition, shall be fully covered by the Government of Japan. 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 once every two years, starting from its 2021 edition. The Prize shall consist of three awards of US \$50,000 for each of the three recipients, each of which is considered to merit a Prize.

Article 3 – Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made significant contributions to ESD, focusing on one or more of the five Priority Action Areas of the “ESD for 2030” framework: (1) policy support, (2) whole-institution approaches, (3) educators, (4) youth and (5) local communities, and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through education. Prizes may be conferred upon institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities engaged in ESD.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize winners

The three prize winners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of a number of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field of ESD, while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for an initial two year period, with the possibility of renewal for the remainder of the six-year period of the Prize. 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 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 of the 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 two years for the evaluation of all Prize submissions.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than three months before the planned Prize award ceremony.

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, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by the 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 official partnerships 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 at an official ceremony held for that purpose on a date determined by the Director-General. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize winners.

7.2 The prize winners, 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.

7.3 Should a prize winner 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 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize (six 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 the Prize, any unspent balance shall be returned to the donor(s) unless otherwise agreed, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of 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 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.