United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

- 7 MAR 2017

Ref.: CL/4194

Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education**

Sir/Madam,

It is my honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the second edition of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. Established by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 197th session in October 2015, the Prize was awarded for the first time in 2016, to honour and showcase outstanding projects that advance education for girls and women, undertaken by individuals, groups, organizations or other entities. It is generously funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and consists of two annual awards of US $50,000 for each recipient. The 2017 award ceremony will be organized in September.

As stipulated in the Statutes of the Prize (enclosed), nominations can be submitted by the Governments of Member States via their Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, and by non-governmental organizations (NGO) in official partnership with UNESCO. Each Permanent Delegation or NGO may not submit more than three nominations for any one edition of the Prize.

It should be noted that the nomination process takes place online via a platform through the UNESCO website, available from 8 March until 5 May 2017, at the following Internet link:

http://unesco.org/gwe

Online nominations should be received by UNESCO in English or French by **5 May 2017 at the very latest**. Any nomination received after midnight 5 May 2017 (UTC+1, Paris time), or through a different channel or means, will not be considered.

Further information on the UNESCO Prize on Girls' and Women's Education and the nomination process can be found at:

http://en.unesco.org/themes/women-s-and-girls-education/prize

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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

Any enquiries with regard to the nomination process should be addressed directly to the Secretariat of the Prize (Mr Leyong Gao, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, Education Sector, UNESCO; tel.: +33 1 45 68 17 96; e-mail: GWEprize@unesco.org;).

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Encs:

1. Explanatory note on the nomination process and Form
2. Statutes of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
Field offices of UNESCO
UNESCO Institutes for education

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ANNEX I

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: "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 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.

UNESCO PRIZE ON GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Call for nominations

(This form is for information purposes only. All nominations must be submitted strictly online via a platform accessible under this link: http://unesco.org/gwe)

Please present the project/programme of the nominee in a clear and structured way. Kindly make sure that all boxes of the form are completed according to the instructions given, respecting the indicated word limit. Please note that any text exceeding the word limit will be disregarded by the jury.

1. SUBMISSION	
Nomination submitted by: ☐ Member State, Country: ☐ Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in official partnership with UNESCO, Name:	
Name of submitting person: E-mail:	Function: Phone:
Supporting statement by the nominator	
[Please complete the following sentence in a maximum of 150 words:] The nominee deserves to receive the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education because…	
The nominee and the nominator agree that, even if the nominated project is not selected as one of the two prize-winners, a project summary and any photos provided via this form could be published on the UNESCO website as a good practice on girls' and women's education.	
☐ Yes ☐ No	

2. NOMINEE	
Type of nominee:	☐ Individual ☐ Organization *[Please specify type of organization:]* ☐ Governmental body ☐ International Organization ☐ Civil society organization ☐ Private sector/business ☐ Media ☐ Academia/research institution ☐ Education instituion ☐ Other: *[Specify]*
Name of Nominee	
Name of contact person	
Function	*[e.g. Director, Project Manager]*
Email address	
Telephone	*[with country code]*
Postal address	

Nominee's country	
Website	
Description of the Nominee	*[Please provide a summary description in a maximum of 150 words.]*

3. PROJECT/PROGRAMME

a. Project/Programme title

b. Abstract

[Explain the objective of the project and its methodology in a maximum of 150 words. Please include all important information in a structured way]

c. Contribution to the advancement of girls' and women's education

- ☐ Supporting girls/adolescent girls to transition from primary education to lower-secondary education and to complete full basic education
- ☐ Supporting adolescent girls and young women to acquire literacy skills
- ☐ Supporting the creation of a gender-responsive and safe teaching-learning environment, free of school-related gender-based violence
- ☐ Engaging female and male teachers to develop gender-responsive teaching attitudes and practices and be change agents
- ☐ 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

d. Main target group(s)

- ☐ Governments (National/Sub-national/Local)
- ☐ Intergovernmental organizations
- ☐ Civil society organizations
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Academia or research institutions
- ☐ Education institutions
- ☐ Educators
- ☐ Parents or caregivers
- ☐ Girls
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Other: *[Specify]*

e. Geographical coverage

- ☐ International
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ National
- ☐ Local

Specify country/ies:

f. Number of beneficiaries

[Indicate the number of beneficiaries to-date]

g. Duration
[Indicate the start and anticipated end-date of the project/programme. Please note that only projects/programmes that have been operational for at least two years will be considered]
h. Funding
[Indicate the current and anticipated funding source(s) in 150 words]
i. Project/programme resources
[Specify the annual cost of the project in US dollars, and the number of staff involved in the project in 2016]
j. Future strategy
[Describe the future strategy for the project/programme, indicating information such as scale-up strategy, target groups, duration and budget, in maximum 150 words]
k. Achievements and impact
[Describe the major achievements and impact of the project/programme, using concrete information such as feedback from participants, project scale up and expansion, number of site visits to the project website or citations, in maximum 150 words]
l. Innovation
[Please explain how the project/programme is stimulating or drawing on innovation and innovative practices in maximum 150 words]
m. Sustainability
[Please explain what measures the project/programme is taking to ensure it is sustainable, and able to achieve a lasting impact in maximum 150 words]
3. SUPPORTING MATERIALS
a. Links (websites, publications, videos or photo galleries)
[Provide up to 10 links, with a brief description]
b. Other relevant documents
[To upload documents that are not available online, please use the "Attach" function on the left corner above. Please note that the maximum size for attachments is 350 Mo.]

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO PRIZE FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION

(197 EX/47 14 October 2015)

Article 1 – Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the 'UNESCO Prize for girls' and women's education' is to reward the outstanding efforts of individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities engaged in activities promoting girls' and women's Education. The Prize would contribute 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). The Prize would reward in particular activities that are innovative and/or have far-reaching sustainable impact.

1.2 The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and is related to the Programme of the Organization in the field of Education. The proposed Prize is considered to be of high relevance to the programme of UNESCO and would directly contribute to three Strategic Objectives related to Major Programme I of UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021 (37C/4) and to those of the second 'UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan 2014-2021' (GEAP II).

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled 'UNESCO Prize for girls' and women's education'.

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China and shall consist of US $200,000 per year for its first five-year period (2016-2020), which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue shall 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 in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff cost will be borne by the People's Republic of China. Additional operating/ management cost of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at $100,000, shall also be fully covered by the People's Republic of China. 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 annually, initially for five years, starting from its 2016 edition. The Prize amount may be equally divided between up to two winners.

Article 3 – Qualifications of candidates

3.1 Candidates shall have made outstanding innovation in and significant contributions to supporting and/or promoting girls' and women's education. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations that have effectively promoted the advancement of girls' and women's education.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize winners

The 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 five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field, while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender balance in the composition of the jury 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 five-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 year.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than … [dates to be decided by the Director-General].

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… [dates to be decided by the Director-General] 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 at UNESCO Headquarters. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize winners.

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 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.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for the Prize. If, however, a prize winner dies before he/she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously (awarded to relatives or institutions).

7.5 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 (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 the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, 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.