



STATUTES OF THE UNESCO EQUATORIAL GUINEA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences is to reward projects and activities of individuals, institutions or non-governmental organizations working in the life sciences leading to improving the quality of human life. The objectives of the Prize are in conformity with UNESCO's policies and are in line with the central function of UNESCO's Major Programme II: to encourage research and the setting up and further development of networks of centres of excellence in the life sciences contributing to improving the quality of human life.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and shall consist of an endowment of \$4,687,000 over a period of six years, including support costs. The amount shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the cost of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution. The Prize also includes an "Integracion Tribal" statuette by the Equatorial Guinean artist Leandro Mbomio.

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 the Annex of this document).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including the monetary value of the Prize, all costs relating to the jury meeting, award ceremony, communication and public information activities, the purchase of the statuette(s), as well as an external evaluation of the Prize once in every six-year period, shall be fully covered by the donor. The direct costs are estimated to be \$717,000 per year. To this end, the Director-General shall 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 of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize of \$350,000 shall be awarded once a year for a six-year period, on an initial basis

for three biennia. The Prize amount may be equally divided among a maximum of three laureates, each of which is considered to merit the prize. The laureate(s) shall also receive a certificate and an "Integracion Tribal" statuette by Equatorial Guinean artist Leandro Mbomio

Article 3 – Conditions/qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant research contribution to the life sciences. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/selection of the laureate(s)

The laureate(s), maximum three, shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by an international jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field of life sciences, while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical representation, gender balance and the principle of non payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for two-year periods for a maximum period of six years. 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 on legitimate grounds.

5.2 The jury shall elect its own chairperson and deputy chairperson. 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 by 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, for two working days, in order to make its recommendations to the Director-General for the selection of the laureate(s).

5.5 The jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than **15 June** of each year.

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 by 15 March of each year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from the 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 to the jury 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 on a rotating basis at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, or in another location jointly determined by UNESCO and Equatorial Guinea. UNESCO shall present to the laureate(s) a cheque for the total amount of \$350,000 (three hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars), a certificate and the “Integracion Tribal” statuette. UNESCO shall officially announce the name/s of the laureate(s).

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three individuals, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three individuals.

7.3 The laureate/s, 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 a Prize. If, however, a laureate dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously (awarded to relatives or an institution).

7.5 Should a laureate 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, 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 unless otherwise agreed, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for 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 a 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.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE UNESCO-EQUATORIAL GUINEA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

Article 1 - Creation of a Special Account

1.1 In accordance with the Statutes of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences and Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, hereinafter referred to as the "Special Account".

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

Article 2 – Financial period

2.1 The financial period for budget estimates shall be two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even-numbered year.

2.2 The financial period for accounting shall be one calendar year.

Article 3 – Purpose

The purpose of this Prize is to reward projects and activities of an individual or several individuals, institutions, entities or non-governmental organizations for scientific research in the life sciences that have led to the improvement of the quality of human life. The amounts deposited in the Special Account shall be used to finance the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, its operational and related costs.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account, in line with its Statutes, shall consist of:

- (a) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (b) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (c) 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 and the Statutes of the Prize, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it and management costs applicable to it.

Article 6 – Accounts

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer 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 part of the consolidated financial statements presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO.

6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

Article 7 – Investments

7.1 The Director-General may make short-term or long-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.

7.2 Revenue from these investments shall be credited to the Special Account in line with UNESCO's Financial Rules.

Article 8 – Reporting

8.1 At the end of each financial period, a financial report showing the income and expenditure under the Special Account shall be prepared and submitted to the donor(s) to the Special Account.

8.2 An annual narrative report shall be submitted to the donor(s) to the Special Account.

Article 9 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall consult the Executive Board at such time as he/she deems that the operation of the Special Account is no longer necessary. Any balance upon closure of the Special Account shall be returned to the donor(s) of the Prize unless otherwise agreed.

Article 10 – General provision

10.1 Any amendment to these Financial Regulations shall be approved by the Director-General after consultations with the donor(s) of the Prize. The Executive Board shall be informed accordingly of any such amendments.

10.2 Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.