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UNESCO PRIZES

REVIEWS AND RENEWALS

PART II

UNESCO-HAMDAN BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE IN ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHERS

SUMMARY

In conformity with Article 8.1 of the Statutes of the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers (195 EX/Decision 11.III) and the Revised Overall Strategy for UNESCO Prizes and its Constituent Criteria (191 EX/Decision 12), an external review of the UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers has been undertaken. By way of this report, the Director-General informs the Executive Board about the main results of this review and recommends the renewal of the Prize.

Decision required: paragraph 18.



I. BACKGROUND

1. The UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers ("UNESCO-Hamdan Prize" or "the Prize") was established in 2008 for an initial period of six years and renewed in 2014 for a second cycle covering the period 2015-2020. The Prize, with the support from its donor, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates, awards \$300,000 to three laureates per biennial edition (\$100,000 each), with particular attention paid to initiatives that make a significant contribution to enhancing teaching and learning, in line with UNESCO's mandate in this field. Throughout the second cycle of the Prize, the donor had committed \$200,000 per biennial edition to fund UNESCO's management of the Prize.

2. In conformity with Article 8.1 of its Statutes, an external review of the Prize's activities was completed and presented to the donor six months prior to the agreed end of the Prize's second cycle. In compliance with the relevant provision of the Revised Overall Strategy for UNESCO Prizes and its Constituent Criteria (191 EX/Decision 12), the Director-General hereby submits the findings of the review with her recommendation for the continuation of the Prize for a period of six years (2021-2026), starting with the 2021-2022 edition.

II. FINDINGS OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW

3. The external review was conducted in June and July 2020 and consisted of desk research and semi-structured telephone interviews. The external evaluator conducted a total of 21 interviews with UNESCO staff, the donor, jury members as well as a number of laureates and National Commissions. In line with the constituent criteria of the Revised Overall Strategy for UNESCO Prizes (191 EX/Dec.12), and the assessment framework for renewal studies (196 EX/12 Part I, Annex), the review covered the following five key elements of the Prize: its relevance, prestige and visibility, integrity, management aspects as well as financial considerations.

Relevance of the Prize to UNESCO's Programme priorities

4. The Prize contributes to the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4) Strategic Objective 1 that aims at "supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high-quality education and inclusive lifelong learning for all" as well as the Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework of Action for the implementation of SDG 4. Its focus on teachers' effectiveness is aligned with the SDG Target 4.c.

5. There are no major thematic overlaps with existing UNESCO prizes and UNESCO does not currently organize any prize with a similar exclusive focus on support to teachers' effectiveness. While the Prize contributes to UNESCO's programmatic work related to teachers, the review highlights that there is an opportunity to further develop analytical work on emerging trends regarding teaching innovation.

Prestige and visibility

6. The UNESCO-Hamdan Prize awards three laureates with \$100,000 each, every two years, which is the largest cash award of all prizes in the Education Sector. The Prize contributes to visibility for the laureates and allows for scaling-up their activities. Laureates report that while the prize money itself enables them to further enhance their programmes, the prestige and visibility they gain from the Prize opens new doors, such as the mobilization of additional funds from existing or new donors, access to high-level contacts including with Ministers of Education, as well as invitations to present their projects at national and international fora or through the media. However, the review remarks that the visibility gains are limited in time.

7. The visibility of the Prize is reflected through the consistent increase in the number of applications received at every edition, which come from around the world and are relatively well-

distributed across different regions. The award ceremonies are organised on World Teachers' Day in October and held at UNESCO Headquarters in conjunction with the other global events related to teachers.

8. Communication materials are jointly designed by UNESCO and the donor and are produced by the donor. In this regard, the review found that although communication material is produced for each edition of the Prize, it is not easily accessible through UNESCO's communication channels, such as its website and Youtube channel, and more efforts should be made to make better use of it. In addition, storytelling about the laureates could be improved to further enhance visibility, and the title of the Prize could be revised in view of its length to ensure better branding.

Integrity

9. The integrity of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize is well-ensured, as reflected through its sound management. The review also confirms that all reputational risks for UNESCO and the donor have been avoided. Furthermore, the Prize jury consists of renowned and committed experts, representing diverse geographical backgrounds and thematic expertise within the broader area of teachers' performance and effectiveness. The review confirms that the jury's deliberations are carried out independently and that their recommendations leading to the selection of winners are made without interference.

Management of the Prize

10. The UNESCO Prize Secretariat effectively manages the key tasks of running the Prize, as per the Revised Overall Strategy for UNESCO Prizes and its Constituent Criteria (191 EX12). It is responsible for running the nomination process, supporting the process of jury deliberations and coordinating the organization of the award ceremony with the donor. The donor performs some tasks related to the management of the Prize, such as the eligibility screening, the organization of the jury meetings and the production of communication material, especially videos.

11. The staff member dedicated to the Prize, funded by the overall Prize budget, oversees the day-to-day management, planning and implementation of the Prize. While between 2015 and 2019, this was a staff member in the general service (GS) category, the Prize is now supported by a professional (P) staff member. This reflects the increased focus on linking the Prize with UNESCO's programmatic work on teachers.

Financial considerations

12. The biennial sum of \$200,000 covers the UNESCO overhead charge, a professional staff member, operational and travel costs for the staff member and minor communication and administration costs. This, however, cannot fully cover the full scope of communication and programmatic activities, and the Prize depends on in-kind support from the donor. The annual budget should be revised to allow for further strengthening and linkages with UNESCO's programmatic work related to teachers and to ensure that a dedicated professional staff member is maintained.

Overall recommendations of the review

13. The external review presents evidence to recommend the continuation of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for a third cycle. The Prize meets the mandatory criteria and offers clear added value for UNESCO to strengthen its work in the field of teachers' performance and teaching effectiveness. Should the Prize be renewed, it could expand its visibility and relevance by capitalizing on the practices showcased by the laureates in the work of UNESCO, including in the activities of country and regional offices and by fostering a community of practice.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

14. Having examined the findings of the evaluation report on the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers, the Director-General, in consultation with the donor, proposes to the Executive Board to renew the Prize for the duration of six years (2021-2026), with proposed amendments to the current Statutes as contained in Annex I of this document. Throughout the first and the second cycle of the Prize, the donor was His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates. Starting with the third cycle, the donor will be the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance.

15. The proposed Statutes follow the standard template except for certain deviations in articles 2.6 and 6.3. Article 2.6 has been added to clarify that the Prize money is granted with the expectation that it be used to directly further the work of the recognized project of the organization. Article 6.3 has been revised as the online nomination platform developed in 2017 requests the candidates nominated by Member States to be validated by National Commissions and/or submitted by Permanent Delegations through the platform. These are in addition to deviations observed in Article 3.2 concerning the conditions/qualifications of candidates as well as Article 7.1 on the procedure for the awarding of the Prize, which were already brought to the attention of the Executive Board at the time of the last renewal of this Prize in 2014 through document 195 EX/11 Part III.

16. Should the Executive Board approve the renewal of the Prize, the donor will provide a total of US \$1,161,500 throughout the six-year period 2021-2026 (\$387,168 per biennial edition) to UNESCO. In addition, the Prize money shall consist of \$300,000 to be divided equally among three winners (\$100,000 each) and paid directly by the donor, and a certificate for each of the three Prize-winners.

17. Based on the findings of the review, UNESCO and the donor have agreed to sharpen the title of the Prize to strengthen its branding and visibility, which would read "UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development".

Proposed draft decision

18. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 180 EX/Decision 54,
2. Taking into consideration 191 EX/Decision 12 and 201 EX/Decision 24,
3. Having examined document 210 EX/16.II,
4. Expresses its appreciation to the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance for its generous support and commitment to the promotion of teachers' effectiveness;
5. Decides to renew the Prize with a revised title, UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development, for a period of six years (2021-2026);
6. Takes note of the deviations between, on the one hand, the standard model text for the statutes of prizes as approved by 191 EX/Decision 12, and on the other hand, the amended Statutes of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development as set out in Annex I to document 210 EX/16.II;
7. Approves the amended Statutes of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development, and takes note of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the Prize as set out in Annexes I and II, respectively, of document 210 EX/16.II.