



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/3791

Subject: **Nominations for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture 2006**

Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure of inviting your Government to submit nominations for the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture 2006. This Prize, established in 1998, is awarded every year.

As indicated in its Statutes, the purpose of the Sharjah Prize is to reward the efforts of a national of an Arab Member State and a national of any other country, each of whom has contributed through artistic, intellectual or promotional work, to the development and diffusion of Arab culture in the world. Endowed by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), this prize was awarded first in 2001, and then annually in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

The Prize consists of a sum of US \$50,000 offered annually by the Government of Sharjah, to be divided equally between the two laureates, selected by the Director-General on the basis of the recommendation of an international jury established for that purpose.

In 2005 the Prize was awarded to Mr Michel Lagarde (France) and to Mr Tahar Ouettar (Algeria).

Since the promotion of culture and intercultural dialogue constitutes one of its fundamental missions, UNESCO has strongly supported the Prize as a stimulus to promoting better understanding of Arab culture which, over the centuries, has developed mutually enriching contacts with other cultures.

Confident as I am of your Government's interest in the promotion of Arab culture throughout the world and cultural dialogue, I am sure that it will attach great importance to this prize and will wish to submit nominations for it. Candidates should have acquired an international reputation in this field and distinguished themselves by meritorious action extending over several years.



15/45

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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

I should be grateful if you would nominate a candidate for the Prize by completing the attached form (Annex III), which should be submitted **no later than 31 July 2006** to Ms Jeannette Tchilinguirian, Programme Specialist, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex, France (tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 42 16, fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 55 97, email: j.tchilinguirian@unesco.org), so that candidates can be duly considered by the international jury.

Candidature files received after the above-mentioned deadline will be treated as proposals for 2007.

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



Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO