



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

01/08/2008

Ref.: CL/3856

Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the
Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights 2008**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the first UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights.

Thanks to a generous endowment from the City of Bilbao (Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain), this Prize follows on from, and enlarges the scope of, the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, established in 1978. It rewards outstanding contributions made by organizations and individuals to the cause of human rights through means of education and research, as well as awareness-raising among decision-makers and the general public. The winner receives a diploma, a trophy and a monetary award. The exact value of the monetary award shall be determined at the start of each award process.

The name of the prize-winner will be announced in November 2008 through a UNESCO press release disseminated worldwide and a dedicated page on the UNESCO website. The 2008 award ceremony will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on or around 10 December – Human Rights Day.

Nominations shall be submitted to me by Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as by non-governmental organizations maintaining formal consultative relations with the Organization, especially those concerned with human rights.

Please find enclosed a form for submitting nominations (Annex I), together with the Statutes of the Prize (Annex II).

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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

ANNEX I

UNESCO/BILBAO PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION
OF A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS 2008

Nomination form

to be completed in English or French only

This form must be completed in full. Nominations should reach UNESCO by 15 September 2008.

1. Information about the nominator:

1.1 Nomination submitted by (Member State):

.....

In consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO of:

.....

or

1.2 Nomination submitted by (Non-governmental organization maintaining formal consultative relations with UNESCO)

.....

Note:

1. A self-nomination cannot be considered.
2. Each Government of Member States may present a maximum of two nominations if it considers them eligible for the Prize.
3. If the nominator and the nominee are nationals of different Member States, it is recommended that the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the National Commission for UNESCO of the nominee's Member State be informed of the nomination.

1.3 Contact details

Full address:

City:

Country:

Person(s) in charge (full name and function):

Telephone (please indicate country and city codes):

Fax:

Email:

Internet:

ANNEX II

**STATUTES OF THE UNESCO/BILBAO PRIZE
FOR THE PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

(This Prize follows on with an enlarged scope
of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education established in 1978)

Article 1. Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights is to reward the efforts of institutions, organizations and individuals that have made a particularly important and effective contribution to the promotion of a culture of human rights at regional and international levels.

This contribution could be made through the dissemination of knowledge, development of human rights education and research, sensitization of decision-makers and general public on human rights issues and related challenges, as well as the imparting of skills and the moulding of attitudes aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Prize shall be awarded also to encourage or stimulate innovative initiatives serving to promote a culture of human rights.

The contribution should be in line with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO and fully correspond to the principles and standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international instruments.

The objective of the Prize conforms to the UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights, adopted by the General Conference at its 32nd session in 2003, and the policies and priorities for the entire Organization [the Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013 (34 C/4): overarching objective 3 – Addressing emerging ethical challenges; Strategic programme objective 8: Monitoring critical emerging ethical and societal issues].

Article 2. Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "The UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights".

2.2 The Prize (and all expenses related thereto) shall be funded by the City of Bilbao (the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain) – (the Donor), and shall consist of a sum of a recurrent payment of about US \$150,000. The exact value of the Prize shall be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Donor on the basis of the contribution received from the Donor, the interest on the sum deposited in the Special Account, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and the charges to be borne by the account for the cost of administering the Prize, and shall not be less than \$20,000. The Prize will comprise also the diploma and the trophy.

2.3 The financial contribution for the Prize will be made by the Donor every two years during the first trimester of the year of the award of the Prize. All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in the Special Interest-Bearing Account for the Prize in conformity with its Financial Regulations (see Annex I).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the meeting of the international jury, creation of trophies, award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at about \$150,000 shall be fully covered by the contribution from the Donor, received to the Special Account for the Prize. To this end, the Director-General will

- it should have proved effective in mobilizing new resources, both intellectual and physical, for promoting a culture of human rights;
- it should contribute to the understanding and solution of international and national human rights problems;
- it should contribute to the improvement of understanding among nations, peoples and individuals, to the promotion of peace, peaceful conflict management and international understanding, and to action to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3.2 The Prize may be conferred upon an individual, a group of individuals, institutions and other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4. Designation/Selection of prizewinner(s)

The prizewinner/prizewinners [up to two laureates] shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made by an international jury.

Article 5. Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members of different nationalities and gender, appointed by the Director-General for a period of six years. Members of the Jury should have internationally recognized reputation in the field of human rights. They shall be eligible for re-election. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board may not serve 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 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 the Secretary of the Prize (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 two working days three months after the closing date for the submission of nominations, to make its recommendations to the Director-General for the selection of that year's prizewinner.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO following its meeting at UNESCO Headquarters or in Bilbao (alternately) and no later than 30 September of the year of the award of the Prize.

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 shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by 15 July of the year of the award of the Prize, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining formal consultative relations with the Organization, especially those concerned with human rights.