

Ref.: CL/4515

Subject: **Call for nominations for the 2025-2026 edition of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Government to submit nominations for the next edition of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development.

Considering the critical shortage of qualified teachers worldwide, and the significant efforts needed to ensure their recruitment, retention and professionalization, the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development seeks to promote the enhancement of teacher education and professional development programmes.

Funded by the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance of the United Arab Emirates, the prize was created in 2008 and will be awarded for the ninth time next year. The three laureates of the 2025-2026 edition will receive an award of US\$100,000 each.

The prize aims to improve teaching practices worldwide, especially in developing countries and marginalized communities. It rewards candidates that have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

Candidates nominated for the prize may be institutions, organizations and educational or research institutes.

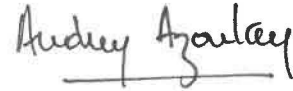
Applications are to be submitted in English or French **at the very latest by 31 October 2025** at midnight (Paris time, UTC+1) via a dedicated online platform. Nominated candidates can access the online application form through this link: [UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development](#).

Each Government may endorse up to five nominees. UNESCO encourages Member States to set up a national selection procedure and to announce selected candidates.

Applications for the prize will be examined by a Jury of international professionals with expertise and experience of teacher-related issues and representing all of UNESCO's geographical regions.

The Secretariat of the prize (teacherprize@unesco.org) remains at your disposal for any additional information.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Enclosures:

Annex I: Revised Statutes of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development (2021)

Annex II: Brochure of the Call for Nominations and Applications of the ninth edition of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices

ANNEX I

DRAFT STATUTES OF THE UNESCO-HAMDAN PRIZE FOR TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE

The purpose of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development is to support, encourage and benefit those working to enhance the performance and effectiveness of teachers for quality education for all. It will also serve to facilitate the global sharing and dissemination of outstanding practices related to teachers. 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 and teacher development.

ARTICLE 2 – DESIGNATION AMOUNT AND PERIODICITY OF THE PRIZE

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled the "UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development".

2.2 The Prize money shall be funded by the Donor, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance. As determined by the Director-General and in consultation with the Donor, the Prize money shall consist of US \$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.

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 In addition to the Prize money directly paid by the donor, the full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including costs related to the award ceremony, public information activities and overhead charges, estimated at a total of US \$1,161,500 throughout the six-year period 2021-2026 (US \$387,168 per biennial edition), shall be fully covered by the Donor, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance. To this end, 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 once every two years, over 6 years. A prize amount may be equally divided between up to three winners, each of which is considered to merit a Prize.

2.6 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 3 – CONDITIONS/QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

3.1 The program/project submitted by candidates shall have made a significant contribution to enhancing teaching and learning, in line with UNESCO's principles and objectives in this field:

(a) by demonstrating innovation aimed at promoting effectiveness of teachers;

by producing teaching materials or other special aids designed for the development of innovative teaching and learning;

by mobilizing initiatives and/or means likely to contribute to enhancing teacher effectiveness;

by strengthening coordination and research that inform and enhance teacher effectiveness;

(b) In addition, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

the program/project must be on-going for at least three years for its results to be evaluated and its effectiveness verified;

it must represent an outstanding contribution to the fundamental objectives of UNESCO and the United Nations in the fields of quality education for sustainable development;

the work accomplished must be exemplary and likely to stimulate similar initiatives;

it must have shown itself to be effective in mobilizing new intellectual and material resources;

3.2 The Prize may be conferred upon institutions or organizations; international or national governmental or non-governmental organizations; educational or research institutions.

ARTICLE 4 – DESIGNATION/SELECTION OF THE PRIZE-WINNERS

The three 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 be composed of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation and a high-level of knowledge and experience of teacher-related issues while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality 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 alternatives 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 by a jury shall be English.

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 two years, both for induction and for evaluation of all Prize submissions.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 31 July 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 of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by 31 October of the year preceding the Prize-awarding year, 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 a 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 nongovernmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered. Nominations should be in English or French.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a recommendation by the nominating body and must follow the template of the application form through an online platform including, *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 and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Patron of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance, at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of World Teachers' Day. The prizewinners shall receive a bank transfer, issued by the Donor, for the amount of the Prize. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize-winners and immediately inform the Board of Trustees of the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance.

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

7.3 The prize-winner/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 prize-winner dies before he has received the prize, then the prize may be presented posthumously.

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, 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 a Prize, any unspent balance of funds shall be returned to the donor unless otherwise agreed, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Special Account 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 a prize may not be divulged.

ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE PRIZE

Any amendments to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for its approval.



UNESCO-Hamdan Prize

for Teacher Development

Call for applications and nominations 2025

Deadline: 31 October 2025

The UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development was created in 2008 to support teaching and learning quality in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education, a UNESCO priority.

The Prize is awarded every two years to three winners whose projects aim to improve the performance and effectiveness of teachers.

It is generously supported by the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences of the United Arab Emirates. Each of the prize-winners will receive a certificate and US\$ 100,000.

Who is eligible to apply?

- International or national organizations and institutions
- Governmental or non-governmental organizations
- Educational or research institutions

What are the requirements for a project to be eligible?

- The project must have demonstrated innovation and made a significant contribution to enhancing teaching and learning, in line with UNESCO's principles and objectives in this field.
- The project must be exemplary, with the potential to inspire other programmes, cultivate new ways of thinking and working, and/or be adapted to other contexts.
- The project must have been ongoing for at least three years at the time of the application.

How are projects nominated?

All projects must be officially nominated by either:

- Member States in consultation with their National Commissions; or
- Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO and active in a field covered by the Prize.

Candidate organizations and institutions may request a [nomination form](#) by contacting the National Commission for UNESCO of their country or a non-governmental organization in official partnership with UNESCO (and active in a field covered by the Prize). Alternatively, one of the nominating bodies above may seek to nominate candidates by directly sending them a nomination form.

All nominating bodies can nominate up to 5 candidates before the deadline. The nomination form must comply with the Prize requirements and be uploaded by the candidate in the online platform. In exceptional cases (e.g. where candidates do not have access to Internet), nominating bodies can request access to the online platform to submit the candidate nomination and application. Self-nominations are not eligible for the Prize and will not be considered.

How to apply?

- Liaise first with the appropriate nominating body.
- Eligible candidates must then [register online](#) to request an account.
- Once their registration is completed, eligible candidates will receive an invitation link via email to access and complete the online application form.
- Applications must be submitted in English or in French only.
- Candidates will receive an email notification once they submit their application. The nominating body also receives an automatic notification of the candidate application.
- Once the finalized application is received by the Prize Secretariat, the application process is complete.

Scan to apply now



When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025 (midnight, Paris time). The online platform will be closed after the deadline.

What is the selection process?

- The Prize Secretariat reviews all applications received before the deadline and transmits eligible applications to the Prize's International Jury.
- The International Jury meets in person to assess the applications.
- The Director-General of UNESCO selects the three winners based on the recommendations of the International Jury.
- The Prize is awarded to the winners during an official ceremony organized on 5 October 2026, on World Teachers' Day, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners. UNESCO also leads efforts to respond to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.



The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*” The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



Stay in touch



Webpage:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/teacher-development>
www.ha.ae



Email:

The Secretariat of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development:
teacherprize@unesco.org



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