



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/4282

Subject: Call for nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2019)

Sir/Madam,

I hereby have the honour of launching the call for nominations for the 2019 award of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science.

Intended to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science, the Prize encourages ethical reflection, research and activities on issues raised by recent scientific and technological advances.

The theme of this year's edition of the Prize is "Ethics of Environment" with a specific thematic focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability – a goal that fully converges with UNESCO's priorities.

Established in 2002 and funded by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Prize currently consists of a gold Avicenna medal, a certificate and the sum of US \$50,000.

The prize-winner is also invited to pay a one-week academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

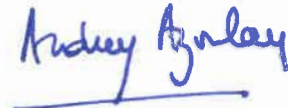
Your country is invited to submit nominations for this year's edition of the Prize. In accordance with its statutes, nominations may be submitted to me by Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO, and active in relevant fields covered by the prize, as well as by international, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology, including members of relevant UNESCO expert bodies and partners.

UNESCO invites you to disseminate this call for nominations widely in your country among public scientific research, education, learning and training institutions, public and private organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders involved in the ethics of science and technology programmes.

All applicants are invited to complete the attached nomination form, either in English or French, online at the following address: www.unesco.org/shs/Avicenna, where further information on the Prize and the nomination process can be found. Nominations must be received by UNESCO by **Monday, 9 September 2019**.

Any inquiries in regard to the nomination process should be addressed directly to the Secretariat of the Prize (e-mail: Avicenna.prize@unesco.org).

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



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Encs: 2

Cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO
Field offices of UNESCO
UNESCO institutes for science and education

ANNEX I

THE AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE 2019

Theme of the 2019 edition of the Prize:

“Ethics of Environment” with a specific thematic focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability

Nomination Form

A. NOTE FOR THE NOMINATORS:

1. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations. Nominees (i.e. candidates) must be living persons or existing institutions.
2. The theme of this year's edition of the Prize is **“Ethics of Environment” with a specific thematic focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability**. The nominations should strictly take into consideration this year's theme and the specific thematic vision of the Prize.
3. The Prize rewards the activities in the field of ethics in science, such as:
 - The Prize recognizes high-quality ethical scholarly reflection and research on issues raised by recent scientific and technological advances.
 - The Prize rewards major contributions to providing advice to policy-makers on ethical questions in research and development in order to establish and support science ethics policies and committees.
 - The Prize honours activities aimed at developing education and training regarding the ethical dimensions of science.
 - The Prize also recognizes outstanding contributions to fostering science communication, public awareness and debate on the ethics of science and technology.
4. The application shall preferably be submitted through the online platform at the following address: www.unesco.org/shs/Avicenna.

If, however, it has to be sent by postal services, the complete file should be sent in three 'hard copies', or copied on three digital supports (USB, CD or DVD). Applications should be addressed to the Secretariat of the Prize:

Ms Dafna Feinholz
Secretary of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics of Science
Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section
Social and Human Sciences Sector
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75732 Paris Cedex 07 SP
France

5. The application shall be completed in either English or French, and include:

- (i) **Nomination form:** it must be completed in full in either English or French. It is the responsibility of nominators to ensure all nominations submitted are complete and comply with the requirements as per Article 6.3 of the Statutes of the Prize. To ensure this, nominators may obtain any necessary details from the nominees. The nomination should include:
- a description of the candidate's background and achievements extending over several years;
 - a summary of the work submitted to the Jury for consideration, including a clear description of the candidate's contributions of major importance in the field of ethics of science and technology, as well as publications and other supporting documents related to this year's theme "Ethics of Environment" with a specific thematic focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability;
 - a review of the way in which the work submitted has contributed to the development of research in the field of ethics of science and technology and a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's specific objectives, bearing in mind the 2019 theme of the Prize;
 - a high-resolution photo portrait of the candidate and brief summary for public information purposes;
- (ii) If a candidate is an institution/organization, the nominator should provide UNESCO with a **copy of the candidate's General Rules/Statutes** (the relevant document may be sent to UNESCO by e-mail to: Avicenna.prize@unesco.org).
- (iii) At least **two statements (letters or e-mail messages) of support**, from an institution/personality, providing the supporters' own professional perspectives concerning the nominated achievement and emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize (please indicate full coordinates of the referees, including their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses);
- (iv) **List of enclosed annexes** (publications, books, digital supports, and other materials, illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize). These additional materials can be uploaded via the online application platform or sent by electronic mail to: Avicenna.prize@unesco.org. They can also be sent by postal services to:

The Secretariat of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science
Section of Bioethics and Ethics of Sciences
Social and Human Sciences Sector
UNESCO House,
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

Additional material will be presented to the Prize's Jury and will remain at UNESCO.

- (v) **List of translations:** Please note that if an official translation of the candidate's work into either English or French does not exist, it is recommended to supply a detailed explanation in English or French, or a partial translation, of the content.
6. Nominations must be received by the Secretariat of the Prize by Monday 9 September 2019, 23:59 (Paris time, UTC+1).

7. Any inquiries concerning how to fill in the nomination form should be addressed directly to the Secretariat of the Prize: (information tel.: + 33 1 45 68 06 54 or + 33 1 45 68 14 08; e-mail: Avicenna.prize@unesco.org).

**B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATOR
(I.E. THE INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION PRESENTING THE CANDIDATE):**

1. Nominations may be submitted by Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnership with UNESCO, and active in relevant fields covered by the prize, as well as by international, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology, including members of relevant UNESCO's expert bodies and partners.:

1.1.1. Member State:

Name of UNESCO Member or Observer State:	
Nominator: (Please indicate the name and title of the officials and organizations, qualified to submit the nomination for the Prize on behalf of their Government.):	

The nomination is submitted in consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO of:

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(Taking into account that, in conformity with Article 6.2 of the Statutes, nominations shall be submitted by the governments of Member States in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO, please indicate the National Commission(s) of which UNESCO Member States have been consulted on the nomination. The officials and organizations qualified to submit nominations for the Prize on behalf of their Government are kindly invited to inform also the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of their country, whenever possible.

If the nominator(s) and the nominee (i.e. candidate) are nationals of different Member States, it is recommended that the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the National Commission for UNESCO of the candidate's Member State be informed of the nomination).

Or

1.1.2. Non-Governmental Organization in official partnership with UNESCO

Or

1.1.3. International, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology

Or

- 1.1.4. Members of UNESCO's expert bodies** (e.g. members of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) Intergovernmental Council, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Intergovernmental Council, International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Council, UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB))
- 1.1.5. UNESCO's partners** (e.g. Category 2 Institutes and Centres, UNESCO Chairs, Clubs for UNESCO and other partners active in the field of ethics of science and technology)

Name:

Country:

Responsible person:

(For organizations, please indicate the name and title of the official qualified to submit the nomination on behalf of the relevant organization)

1.2. Contact details (for all qualified nominators)

Full postal address:

(street, house number, post code, city, country)

Name and function of person(s) in charge:

Telephone and Fax:

Tel.:

(please indicate country and city codes)

Fax:

Email:

Internet:

C. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEE (I.E. THE CANDIDATE):

2.1. The candidates for the Prize may be individuals or institutions (or other entities or non-governmental organizations).

2.1.1. For institutional candidates

Name and acronym:

Date and place of creation (please provide a copy of the General Rules/Statutes):	
City and country of the headquarters:	
Field of activity:	
Financial sources:	

or

2.1.2. For individual candidates

Form of address (e.g. Mr/Mrs/Ms, title, function, etc.) Surname/last/family name(s) First/given and middle name(s) Date and place of birth: Nationality: Education: Profession:

2.2 For institutional and individual candidates: contact details

Full postal address:

(street, house number, post code, city,
country)

Name and function, if
appropriate, of contact
person(s):

Telephone and Fax:

Tel.:

(please indicate country and city
codes)

Fax:

Email:

Internet:

3. Presentation of the candidate, taking into consideration the theme of this years' Prize "Ethics of Environment" with a specific a thematic focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability.

3.1 A description of the candidate's academic background and achievements extending over several years (not more than one A4 page) in relation to "Ethics of Environment" with a focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability.

- 3.2** A summary of the nominee's activities, including publications and other relevant documents of major importance, etc. in relation to “Ethics of Environment” with focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability (not more than one A4 page).

- 3.3** A review of the way in which the work submitted has contributed to the development of research in the field of ethics of science and technology in relation to “Ethics of Environment” with a focus on the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability (not more than one A4 page).

- 3.4 A high-resolution photo portrait of the candidate and brief summary for public information purposes:** (not more than one A4 page) (Please outline the reasons for the nomination of the candidate for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2019) and include two to four succinct paragraphs, using words that a person with no scientific expertise could readily understand, which describe the nature, impact and importance of the nominee's achievement, for use in publicity, social and mass media, if required.):

3.5 At least two statements (letters or e-mail messages) of support, from an institution/personality, providing the supporters' own professional perspectives concerning the nominated achievement and emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize

3.6 Referees (please provide the names of two persons, not related to the candidates by relative or direct professional (supervisor/subordinate) links, who are familiar with his/her/their/its work, except the nominator):

(i) **Name:** _____
Profession: _____
Address: _____

Tel: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

(ii) **Name:** _____
Profession: _____
Address: _____

Tel: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

3.7 Please indicate whether the candidate has been informed about his/her/their/its nomination for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2019), and whether the candidate would be ready to accept it if a relevant decision is taken (please tick, several options are possible) :

- The candidate was informed by the nominator:
 - Directly in person / Video conference;
 - Orally by telephone
 - In writing (letter, electronic mail, sms, etc.)
 - Through a third party
 - Other (please indicate): _____
- The candidate was not informed
 - Please indicate, if possibly, why: _____

- In case of a relevant decision, the candidate:
 - would be able to accept the Prize and the invitation to undertake the academic visit specified in Article 7.4 of the Statutes;
 - Other (please indicate): _____

3.8 For statistical purposes only:

Please indicate where you as the nominator learned about the call for nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (please tick, several options are possible):

- Circular Letter received directly from UNESCO
- UNESCO website
- E-mail received directly from UNESCO
- Information provided by partners
- Other (please indicate): _____

3.9 List of enclosed annexes (publications, books, digital supports, and other materials, illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize) with **list of translations, if required.**

3.10 Date, signature and stamp (for organizations) of the nominator

Date: _____
Signature: _____
Name and Function: _____
Stamp:



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Annex II

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE

1. Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (the "Prize") is to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science. 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 ethics of science and technology.

2. Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled the "UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Islamic Republic of Iran and shall consist of a recurrent payment of US \$135,000 in each biennium. The Islamic Republic of Iran shall strive to contribute the amount of US \$405,000 at the beginning of the six-year life cycle of the Prize to ensure its financial stability. The cash value of the Prize shall be a minimum of US \$50,000, to be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the contribution received, 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. In addition to the monetary value of the Prize as thus determined, the prizewinner shall receive a gold medal of Avicenna along with a certificate. Costs relating to the academic visit specified in Article 7.4 shall not be covered by the special account.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see financial rules).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the jury meeting, lecture by the laureate, award ceremony and public information activities, as well as an external evaluation of the Prize once in every six-year period, shall be fully covered by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The direct support and operating/management costs are estimated at US \$69,469 (excluding US \$9,031 of indirect cost). In addition, 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 every two years, in the second year of each biennium, on an initial basis for three biennia.

3. Conditions/qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have contributed to high-quality research in the field of ethics of science and technology. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or nongovernmental organizations.

4. Designation/selection of the prizewinner

The prizewinner shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO, on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a jury.

5. Jury

5.1 The jury shall consist of three independent members, being personalities of a recognized reputation in the field covered 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 from among the members of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) for a period of two years, for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. 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 this reason.

5.2 The jury shall elect its own chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of two 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 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.

5.5 The jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 1 September of the second year of each biennium.

6. Nomination of candidates

6.1 When the Secretariat has received the funding of the Prize, as specified by Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by 1 November of the first year of each biennium, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by a prize, as well as from international, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology, including members of relevant UNESCO's expert bodies and partners.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO, and by international, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology, including members of relevant UNESCO's expert bodies and partners. 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*:

- (i) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (ii) a summary of the work submitted to the Jury for consideration, including a clear description of the candidate's contributions of major importance in the field of ethics of science and technology, as well as publications and other supporting documents;
- (iii) a review of the way in which the work submitted has contributed to the development of research in the field of ethics of science and technology and a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's specific objectives;
- (iv) a high-resolution photo portrait of the candidate.

7. Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose in a location and on an occasion determined by him/her with due regard to their significance with respect to the ethics of science and technology. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinner a check for the amount of the Prize along with a certificate and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the name of the prizewinner.

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

7.3 The prizewinner, 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 Following the Prize ceremony, at a date to be determined by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prizewinner shall be invited to participate in a week long academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the delivery of speeches in the relevant academic gatherings. Costs relating to the academic visit shall be borne directly and exclusively by the Islamic Republic of Iran and are not included in the recurrent payment specified in Article 2.2.

7.5 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a Prize. If, however, a prizewinner dies before receiving the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.6 Should a prizewinner decline the prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

8. Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 After a period of six years, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the Islamic Republic of Iran will undertake an external evaluation 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 through the submission of a document summarizing all pertinent developments in this regard in order to enable the Executive Board to adopt a decision on whether to renew or terminate the Prize.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined in consultation with the donor(s), in accordance with the financial regulations of the special account for the Prize.

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 the Prize may not be divulged.

10. Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

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