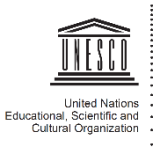


ANNEX I

#ESDfor2030



UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Explanatory note for the 2021 call for nominations

A. Background

1) What is ESD?

“ESD empowers learners with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to take informed decisions and make responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society empowering people of all genders, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. ESD is a lifelong learning process and an integral part of quality education that enhances cognitive, social and emotional and behavioural dimensions of learning. It is holistic and transformational and encompasses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment itself. ESD is recognized as a key enabler of all SDGs and achieves its purpose by transforming society.” (*Education for Sustainable Development: A Roadmap, UNESCO 2020*)

2) Establishment of the Prize

The Prize was established by the UNESCO Executive Board in 2014, and has been awarded five times since the first edition in 2015. The Prize was renewed in November 2019 for a period of six years (2020-2025) with a biennial cycle. It consists of three awards of US \$50,000 for each recipient.

Within the framework of “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)”, adopted by the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference, and acknowledged by the UN General Assembly in 2019, the renewed UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development honours institutions or organizations for outstanding projects or programmes undertaken in the field of ESD. The Prize also recognizes the role of ESD as an integral element of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education, and as key enabler of all 17 SDGs.

B. Nominations

Nominations can be made by Governments of UNESCO Member States via their **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, in consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO**, as well as by **non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in official partnership with UNESCO**. Nominations must focus on a specific ESD project or programme. Each Member State or NGO can make up to three nominations for any edition of the Prize. If more than three nominations are submitted by a Member State or NGO, the submission will not be considered. Member States are invited to closely coordinate between the Permanent Delegation and the National Commission. Self-nominations are not accepted.

C. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The three winners will be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of recommendations made by an independent international jury, consisting of five experts from all geographical regions. To be eligible, the project/programme of the nominee must:

- be ongoing and have already been running for **at least four years**
- show presence of evidence of **results** and a **high impact** relative to the invested resources
- be **replicable and scalable**
- contribute to **one or more of the five priority action areas** of the ESD for 2030 framework (i.e. advancing policy, transforming learning and training environments, developing capacities of educators and trainers, mobilizing youth, accelerating sustainable solutions at local level).

Eligible projects will then be assessed by the jury on the basis of the following three criteria:

1) Transformation: practices ESD as transformative education in support of sustainable development, leading to individual and social change

ESD empowers learners to transform themselves and the society they live in. The project/programme of the nominee should therefore enable learners to bring about changes with a view to building a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. This can mean, for example, taking action against climate change, changing one's consumption patterns, developing social entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods, or supporting those struggling against poverty.

2) Integration: addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, economy, environment) in an integrated way

Sustainable development calls for the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. The project/programme of the nominee should be in line with this definition of sustainable development. It should address the three dimensions (society, economy, environment), and help learners understand the interdependence between them and act accordingly.

3) Innovation: demonstrates an innovative approach to ESD

Sustainable development requires going beyond 'business as usual' and 'out-of-the-box' thinking. The project/programme of the nominee should demonstrate an innovative and inspirational approach to ESD, be it in the themes it covers, the methodology it employs, or the way the learning environment is designed. Reaching out to sectors beyond education and working with new partners can also be a sign of innovation.