

Information note on the United Nations Population Award



United Nations Population Award



2020 Edition

United Nations Population Award

The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Population Award in resolution 36/201 on 17 December 1981. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, or to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions.

The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureates of the Award. The Committee is composed of ten representatives of Members States of the United Nations (*Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Fiji, The Gambia, Iceland, the Republic of Indonesia, Lebanon, the Republic of Liberia, Panama, Romania, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*) elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of three years (2019-2021).

Laureates of the 2020 Award

1. Individual

Her Majesty Queen Mother Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck was selected due to her longstanding advocacy and leadership on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the need to end violence against women, girls and children in Bhutan. Among her many achievements in recent decades, she has helped to create an enabling environment to openly discuss sexual reproductive health in the Kingdom and founded a volunteer organization called “Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women” (RENEW) in 2004. She has also been a Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA for more than 20 years.

2. Institution

HelpAge India, a voluntary organization founded in 1978, was selected for its achievements through works which address and advocate for the urgent concerns of the elderly population, serving their needs holistically and enabling them to live active, dignified and healthier lives. Additionally, it runs livelihood programmes; post natural disaster relief, rehabilitation and risk reduction programmes across India. The organization also equips local organizations so that they can support respective elderly populations.

Nominations

Written nominations for the Award may be received from:

- a) Governments of Members States;
- b) Intergovernmental organizations engaged in population-related activities;
- c) Population-related non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the United Nations;

- d) University professors of population or population-related institutions;
- e) Laureates of the Award.

Each nominator is asked to submit no more than one nomination, either for an individual or for an institution.

Only nominations which provide the information requested on the United Nations Population Award data sheet will be considered valid. The data sheet calls for detailed information describing the population-related activities of both the nominator and nominee. Detailed information concerning the nominee, whether an institution or an individual, is needed to ensure full consideration by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award.

The information required includes general background, specific information about population activities, and a full description and assessment of the nominee's contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions. Copies of the data sheet may be obtained by writing to Dr. Natalia Kanem, Secretary, Committee for the United Nations Population Award, c/o United Nations Population Fund, 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158, USA. It can also be accessed online at <http://unfpa.org/public/home/about/popaward>.

Nominations for the 2021 Award will be accepted until **31 December 2020**. Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the 2022 Award. The 2021 Award will be announced in early 2021 and will be presented by the United Nations Secretary-General in mid-2021. Each award consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a monetary prize.

Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the United Nations Population Award and the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award are presented in the following pages.

Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the establishment of the United Nations Population Award

36/201. Establishment of the United Nations Population Award*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Population Plan of Action,¹ adopted by the United Nations World Population Conference, held in 1974, and noting with satisfaction the significant contributions made by the United Nations to the implementation of that Plan,

Recognizing the economic and social implications of the population trends, particularly related to development, as described in reports prepared by the United Nations and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which indicate that world population is projected to grow from 4.4 billion in 1980 to approximately 6.1 billion by the year 2000,

Recognizing the need to promote better awareness and understanding of population issues, especially at the individual and community levels of each country and in accordance with national plans and priorities,

Further recognizing the special significance of establishing an award in order to promote that objective,

1. *Decides* to establish an annual award, to be named the United Nations Population Award, for the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions, by an individual or individuals, by an institution or institutions or by any combination thereof, to be presented through the United Nations;

2. *Adopts* the Regulations governing the United Nations Population Award, annexed to the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements, under the Regulations, for the commencement of the Award in 1983, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award to receive voluntary contributions for the Award;

5. *Decides* that all costs related to the Award should be borne out of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1981*

¹*As amended by General Assembly decision 41/445, 5 December 1986.

¹Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75. XIII.3), chap. I.

Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly

61/268. United Nations Population Award

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981, entitled “Establishment of the United Nations Population Award”,

Recalling also its decision to set up the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award and to finance all costs relating to the Award from the investment income of the Fund,

Stressing the importance of the Award in promoting excellence in the field of population and development for the reduction of poverty and for sustainable development,

Noting that the investment income of the Trust Fund has fallen below the monetary value of the Award and related expenditure,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the 2006 United Nations Population Award;¹

2. *Invites* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award in order to generate adequate investment income and sustain the Award;

3. *Welcomes* additional contributions from foundations, individuals and other sources.

*102nd plenary meeting
25 May 2007*

¹ A/61/273.

ANNEX

Regulations governing the United Nations Population Award

Article 1

Aim

The aim of the United Nations Population Award (hereinafter referred to as “the Award”) is to promote the solution of population questions through encouraging the efforts of people in population-related activities and increasing the awareness of population questions.

Article 2

Award

1. The Award shall be presented annually to an individual or to individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing the awareness of population questions or to their solutions. No staff member, organ or organization of the United Nations system shall be eligible for the Award.
2. The Award shall consist of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize, the amount of which shall be determined each year by the Secretary-General on the basis of the investment income of the Trust Fund for the Award.
3. The recipient or recipients of the Award shall be announced by the beginning of March each year, and the Award shall be presented by the Secretary-General in the middle of June.

Article 3

Financial matters

1. All financial resources related to the Award shall be composed of the voluntary contributions made by Member States specifically for the Award.
2. Contributions for the Award shall be deposited in the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award, to be established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981.
3. The Trust Fund shall be administered by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities on behalf of the Secretary-General.
4. All costs relating to the Award shall be financed from the investment income of the Trust Fund. The administrative costs shall be kept as low as possible.
5. The Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities shall submit to the General Assembly an annual report concerning the Award and the Trust Fund.

Article 4
Selection of laureates

1. The recipient or recipients of the Award shall be selected from among those nominated under article 5 below, by a Committee for the United Nations Population Award, to be composed of:
 - (a) Ten representatives of Member States of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that have made contributions for the Award;
 - (b) The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, to serve as *ex officio* members;
 - (c) Five eminent individuals who have made significant contributions to population-related activities, to be selected by the aforementioned members of the Committee, to serve as honorary members in an advisory capacity for a renewable term of three years.
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities shall act as Secretary of the Committee.
3. The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be established by the Economic and Social Council.

Article 5
Nomination of candidates

1. Written nominations for the Award may be received from the following:
 - (a) Governments of Member States;
 - (b) Intergovernmental organizations engaged in population-related activities;
 - (c) Population-related non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the United Nations;
 - (d) University professors of population-related studies and heads of population-related institutions;
 - (e) Laureates of the Award.
2. Nominations shall reach the Secretary-General not later than 31 December of the year prior to the year for which nominations are to be considered.
3. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award shall be convened during the month of February to select the laureate or laureates of the year.

Decision of the Economic and Social Council on rules of procedure

Decision 1982/112.

Rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award*

Meetings

Rule 1

1. The Committee shall hold a regular meeting in February of each year to select the laureate(s) of the year.
2. Special meetings may be convened with the agreement of six voting members of the Committee.
3. All meetings shall take place at United Nations Headquarters.

Chairman

Rule 2

1. The Committee shall elect a Chairman at each regular meeting, who shall serve until a successor is elected at the next regular meeting. The Chairman shall be eligible for re-election.
2. In the absence of the Chairman, the Secretary-General or his representative shall act as Chairman.

Selection of honorary members

Rule 3

1. Honorary members may be selected at any meeting of the Committee, whenever there is a vacancy or in anticipation of a vacancy during the next 12 months.
2. Honorary members selected to fill an unexpired term shall serve for the balance of that term.

***Ex officio* members**

Rule 4

The *ex officio* members may, if necessary, act in the Committee through representatives.

Quorum

Rule 5

Representatives of six of the ten members of the Committee elected by the Economic and Social Council shall constitute a quorum.

*As amended by ECOSOC decision 1987/129, 26 May 1987

Decisions

Rule 6

1. Unless otherwise provided, decisions shall be made by a majority of the elected and *ex officio* members present and voting.
2. Decisions under rule 3 or rule 7 shall be made by secret ballot.
3. When one or more candidates are to be selected under rule 3 or rule 7, each voting member of the Committee may vote for as many candidates as there are places to be filled, and those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be considered selected.
4. If the number of candidates selected under paragraph 3 above is less than the number of the places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held on a basis of similar to the first one, to fill the remaining places, provided that once one or more individual candidates have been selected pursuant to rule 7, paragraph 2, the Committee may decide not to select additional ones up to the maximum originally decided. From such additional ballots the candidate obtaining the least number of votes, or on the proposal of the Chairman, several candidates having received few votes shall be eliminated.
5. If any ballot results in a tie vote among all candidates, it shall be repeated; if the tie persists for two such repeated ballots, the Chairman shall select a successful candidate by drawing lots.

Selection of laureates

Rule 7

1. The Secretary of the Committee shall present to the Committee at the regular meeting all the nominations, received during the previous year, for laureates eligible for the United Nations Population Award.
2. The Committee shall consider the nominations submitted to it and decide on the recipient or recipients of the Award. As a rule, if the Committee decides to make the Award to more than one nominee, the Committee shall select: (a) no more than two individuals; or (b) no more than two institutions; or (c) no more than one individual and one institution.

Privacy of meetings and reports

Rule 8

1. The meetings of the Committee shall be closed.
2. The proceedings of the Committee shall be reflected in a report to be submitted to the Secretary-General after each regular meeting, which report shall be attached to the annual report to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

Rules of procedure

Rule 9

1. Any of these rules may be suspended by a decision of two thirds of the elected and *ex officio* members present and voting, provided that such a decision is not inconsistent with General Assembly resolution 36/201 or any other decision of the Assembly.
2. Any procedural matter not covered by these rules shall be settled in accordance with the rules applicable to committees of the Economic and Social Council.

**15th Plenary Meeting
26 April 1982**

United Nations Population Award laureates

2020 laureates

Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother, *Kingdom of Bhutan*
HelpAge India, *India*

2019 laureates

Dr. Mamadou Taranga, *Republic of The Gambia*
National Peace Hut Women of Liberia, *Republic of Liberia*

2018 laureates

Dr. Sir Prince Ramsey, *Antigua and Barbuda*
Guttmacher Institute, *United States of America*
Save a Child's Heart, *Israel*

2017 laureates

Prof. Hans Rosling (Posthumous), *Sweden*
Association des Chefs Traditionnels du Niger (ACTN)

2016 laureates

Dr. Carmen Barosso, *Brazil*
Childbirth with Dignity Foundation, *Republic of Poland*

2015 laureates

Dr. Thoraya Obaid, *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), *Republic of Kenya*

2014 laureates

Father Dr. Aldo Marchesini, *Italy*
Jhpiego, *United States of America*

2013 laureates

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, *Uganda*
The International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research (IICPSR), *Egypt*

2012 laureates

Ms. Adrienne Germain, *United States of America*
Federation of Reproductive Health Associations (FRHAM), *Malaysia*

2011 laureates

Prof. Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, *Islamic Republic of Iran*
Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique (IFORD)

2010 laureates

Mr. William Henry "Bill" Gates III and Ms. Melinda French Gates, *United States of America*
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

2009 laureates

Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy Fathalla, *Egypt*
Movimiento Comunal Nicaragüense, *Nicaragua*

2008 laureates

Dame Billie Miller, *Barbados*
Family Care International, *United States of America*

2007 laureates

Dr. Hossein Malek Afzali, *Islamic Republic of Iran*
Dr. Allan Rosenfield, *United States of America*
Comité National de Population, *Algeria*
National Population Family Development Board, *Malaysia*

2006 laureates

Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, *Bangladesh*
Fondation pour la Santé Reproductive et l'Éducation Familiale (FOSREF), *Haiti*

2005 laureates

Ms. Mercedes Concepcion, *Philippines*
Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala

2004 laureates

Prof. John C. Caldwell, *Australia*
Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, *Ethiopia*

2003 laureates

Mr. Werner Fornos, *United States of America*
Family Planning Association of Kenya

2002 laureates

Dr. Kwasi Odoi-Agyarko, *Ghana*
EngenderHealth, *United States of America*

2001 laureates

Dr. Nafis Sadik, *Pakistan*
Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

2000 laureates

Prof. Ismail Awadallah Salam, *Egypt*
Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar (MEXFAM), *Mexico*

1999 laureates

Dr. Syed Alireza Marandi, *Islamic Republic of Iran*
National Committee for Population and Family Planning, *Viet Nam*

1998 laureates

Hugh H. Wynter, *Jamaica*
Sabiny Elders Association, *Uganda*

1997 laureates

Elizabeth Aguirre de Calderón Sol, *El Salvador*
Toshio Kuroda, *Japan*
Mechai Viravaidya, *Thailand*

1996 laureates

Leticia Ramos Shahani, *Philippines*
Pathfinder International

1995 laureates

Halfdan Mahler, *Denmark*
Inter-African Committee on the Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

1994 laureates

President Hosni Mubarak, *Egypt*
Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation

1993 laureates

Fred T. Sai, *Ghana*
Mainichi Shimbun Population Problems Research Council, *Japan*

1992 laureates

J. R. D. Tata, *India*
The Population Council

1991 laureates

Julia J. Henderson, *United States of America*
Centre for Population Studies and Responsible Parenthood, *Ecuador*

1990 laureates

Professor Alfred Sauvy, *France*
National Family Health and Population Council of Mauritius

1989 laureates

President Muhammad Soeharto, *Indonesia*
Programme national de Bien-être familial de Togo

1988 laureates

Shidzue Kato, *Japan*
PROFAMILIA, *Colombia*

1987 laureates

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, *Bangladesh*
National Family and Population Office of Tunisia

1986 laureate

National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO)

1985 laureate

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

1984 laureates

Carmen A. Miró, *Panama*
Sheldon J. Segal, *United States of America*

1983 laureates

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, *India*
Qian Xinzhong, *China*