Information note on the United Nations Population Award
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 Gyalyum 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

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