

Foundations and awards

Proposal to establish the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

PROPOSAL

1. At the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in 2018,¹ the Ministers of Health of the Member States of the African Region in their Nelson Mandela Centenary Declaration proposed the establishment of an award for best institutional or individual health promoter. The award is proposed to be administered by the Director-General and entitled the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion.
2. The award is proposed to be given annually to one or more individuals or organizations for a significant individual or institutional contribution to health promotion.
3. Draft statutes are attached at Annex 1.

BACKGROUND

4. The Director-General is the administrator of 12 foundation prizes and fellowships.²
5. These foundations have been generally established by, or in memory of, eminent health personalities. The Léon Bernard Foundation Prize is a legacy of the League of Nations, whereas the others have been created since the establishment of WHO.
6. With the exception of the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship, the procedure for the award of prizes is similar. Any national health authority or a previous laureate can nominate a candidate for a prize. For each award, there is a committee and/or selection panel, usually consisting of three members, including the Chairman of the Executive Board.
7. The usual procedure is for the committees or panels to recommend one or more candidates to the Board, which makes the final selection; the prizes are formally awarded to the laureates during the Health Assembly or during sessions of regional committees.

¹ Sixth plenary meeting, 25 May 2018.

² Awards (see <https://www.who.int/governance/awards/en/>, accessed 29 January 2019).

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

8. The Board is invited to consider the following draft decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the proposal contained in document EB144/40 Add. 1, decided to establish the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion and to approve the draft statutes annexed thereto, as well as the proposed streamlined measures to be applied for the first bestowing of the award in 2019.

ANNEX 1

**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE NELSON MANDELA AWARD
FOR HEALTH PROMOTION**

Article 1 – Establishment

Under the title of the “Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion”, an award is established within the framework of the World Health Organization, which shall be governed by the following provisions.

Article 2 – The Founder

The award is established upon the initiative of the Ministers of Health of Member States of the African Region.

Article 3 – Award

1. The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion shall be given to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, a governmental or nongovernmental organization or organizations, who or which has/have made a significant contribution to health promotion.
2. The award aims to reward work that has extended far beyond the call of normal duties, and it is not intended as a reward for excellent performance of duties normally expected of an official occupying a government position or of a governmental or nongovernmental institution.
3. In recognition of the humility of Nelson Mandela, the award given to each laureate shall be a plaque. The award shall be given annually.
4. The award shall be presented during the Health Assembly to the laureate(s) or, in their absence, to a person(s) representing them.

Article 4 – Proposal and selection of candidates

1. Any national health administration of a Member State of the World Health Organization, or any former recipient of the award, may put forward the name of a candidate for the award. The nomination must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for proposing the candidate. The same candidature may be submitted several times if unsuccessful.
2. Proposals shall be submitted to the Administrator, who shall submit them to the Award Selection Panel.
3. Current and former staff members of the World Health Organization and current members of the Executive Board shall be ineligible to receive the award.

Article 5 – Award Selection Panel

1. The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel (“the Award Selection Panel”) shall consist of the Chairman and the first Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board, and a member elected by the Executive Board from among its members from the African Region, for a period not exceeding his or her term of office on the Executive Board.
2. The presence of three members of the Award Selection Panel shall be required for the taking of decisions. The Panel shall take decisions by a majority of its members.

Article 6 – Proposal of the Award Selection Panel

The Award Selection Panel, in a private meeting, shall consider the candidates for the award, and shall propose the name(s) of the recipient(s) of the award to the Executive Board. The proposal shall be considered by the Executive Board, which shall decide who or which organization(s) the recipient(s) of the award shall be.

Article 7 – The Administrator

1. The Director-General of the World Health Organization shall be the Administrator of the award, and shall act as the Secretary of the Award Selection Panel.
2. The Administrator shall be responsible for:
 - (a) the execution of the decisions taken by the Award Selection Panel within the limits of its powers, as defined in these Statutes;
 - (b) the observance of the present Statutes and, generally, the administration of the award in accordance with the present Statutes.

Article 8 – Revision of the Statutes

On the proposal of one of its members, the Award Selection Panel may propose the revision of the present Statutes. Any such proposal, if endorsed by a majority of its members, shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

ANNEX 2

PROPOSED STREAMLINED MEASURES FOR BESTOWING THE FIRST NELSON MANDELA AWARD FOR HEALTH PROMOTION IN 2019

Composition of the Award Selection Panel

The Award Selection Panel will exceptionally be composed of the Officers of the Executive Board, excluding the Chairman of the Board.

Decision-making

The Chairman of the Board will consider the recommendation of the Panel and decide who or which organization(s) the recipient(s) of the award will be, on behalf of the Board.

Timeline

- Immediately after the Board at its 144th session has decided to establish the award and its statutes, a circular letter will be sent to Member States inviting nominations for the award.
- Mid-April 2019: the Secretariat will collect and distribute the relevant documentation to the Panel members and convene a virtual meeting of the Panel, for it to recommend a recipient(s).
- End of April 2019: the Chairman of the Board will consider the proposal and decide on the recipient(s) of the award, on behalf of the Board.
- Beginning of May 2019: the first laureate(s) of the award will be announced, and the information will be included in the relevant official documentation of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.
- End of May 2019: the award ceremony will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations, during the Health Assembly.

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