

Hundred and fifty-seventh Session

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THE GREAT MAN-MADE RIVER INTERNATIONAL WATER PRIZE

SUMMARY

The authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have proposed the establishment of a prize entitled the “Great Man-Made River International Water Prize” to reward action taken to promote research in the field of water management and usage in arid and semi-arid areas. Therefore this document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Decision required: paragraph 3.

INTRODUCTION

1. In a letter dated 14 September 1999, the Permanent Delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to UNESCO advised the Director-General of the intention of the authorities of his country to propose the establishment of a prize entitled the “Great Man-Made River International Water Prize” by placing a fund amounting to US \$350,000 at UNESCO’s disposal. The purpose of this Prize is to reward remarkable scientific work in the field of water usage in arid areas as well as areas subject to droughts and also for the development of agriculture for the benefit of humanity and the environment. Such work may be in the form of a scientific breakthrough or technical applications. The value of this Prize will be determined by the Director-General on the basis of the interest accruing to the fund.

2. On 12 April 1999 an initial agreement was signed between the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary of the People’s Committee of the Great Man-Made River Authority. The agreement stipulates that the Prize shall be awarded once every two years during the General Conference of UNESCO to honour intellectually distinguished persons, groups or institutions worldwide for their activities to promote research in the field of water management in arid and semi-arid zones.

3. If the Executive Board gives its assent to the draft Statutes, as proposed in Annex I to this document, it may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 157 EX/44 concerning the establishment of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize,
2. Considering that the objectives of the Prize are in conformity with those of UNESCO, as stated in the second and sixth preambular paragraphs and in Article I, paragraph 2(c), of the Constitution of UNESCO,
3. Expresses to the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya the Organization’s deepest gratitude for this initiative and for its generous offer of a fund amounting to US \$350,000;
4. Approves the Statutes of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize as set out in Annex I to this decision;
5. Takes note of the Financial Regulations governing the Special Account opened for this Prize, as set out in Annex II to this decision.

ANNEX I
STATUTES
OF THE GREAT MAN-MADE RIVER INTERNATIONAL WATER PRIZE

1. Purpose

The Great Man-Made River International Water Prize is intended to reward remarkable scientific research work in the fields of water usage in arid areas as well as areas subject to droughts and also for the development of food agriculture for the benefit of humanity and the environment. Such work may be in the form of a scientific breakthrough or technical applications.

2. Name and value of the Prize

The Prize, which shall consist of a certificate and a sum of money, shall be called the “Great Man-Made River International Water Prize”. The value of the Prize awarded each biennium shall be set, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, by the Director-General on the basis of the interest accruing from the donation made by the Great Man-Made River Authority, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

3. Periodicity

The Prize shall be awarded biennially by the Director-General at a public ceremony to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during the General Conference.

4. Selection of the prizewinners

A committee, called the Committee of the “Great Man-Made River Prize”, shall be constituted to review the candidatures and select the prizewinners. The Committee shall include representatives from the Great Man-Made River Authority and UNESCO as follows:

- the Secretary of the People’s Committee of the Great Man-Made River Authority or his delegate;
- a representative of the Director-General;
- five specialists appointed by the Director-General, including one member of UNESCO’s Scientific Advisory Board for the Great Man-Made River project.

The decisions of the Committee shall be taken unanimously.

5. Eligibility

(a) The Prize shall be awarded to an individual, a group of individuals or a research institution undertaking research and scientific studies and discoveries in the field of exploration of groundwater and surface water usage in arid zones of drought and desertification and contributing to environmental and human development.

(b) The Prize shall be awarded irrespective of any consideration of nationality, race, sex, language, profession, ideology or religion of the individual or individuals concerned. It shall be awarded only once to any individual, group of individuals, institute or organization.

(c) Serving members of the Great Man-Made River Authority as well as of UNESCO's Scientific Advisory Board for the Great Man-Made River project or members of their immediate family shall not be considered for the Prize.

6. Nomination of candidates

(a) Candidates for the Prize shall be proposed to the Director-General of UNESCO by governments of Member States in consultation with their National Commissions or by non-governmental organizations which have formal relations with UNESCO. Each nominator may make only one nomination in any biennium.

(b) Nominations for the Prize shall be accompanied by a biographical statement for each candidate or group of candidates, together with a detailed description of the work for which the candidature is proposed and an assessment of the results achieved.

ANNEX II
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
OF THE GREAT MAN-MADE RIVER INTERNATIONAL WATER PRIZE

Article 1 - Creation of a Special Account

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, a Special Account is hereby created to be known as the “Special Account for the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize”, hereafter referred to as “The Special Account”.
- 1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

Article 2 - Financial period

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

Article 3 - Purpose

The purpose of the Special Account is to mobilize funds to finance the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize.

Article 4 - Income

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) an initial donation of US \$350,000 from the Great Man-Made River Authority, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- (b) other voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities, after approval by the Committee of the “Great Man-Made River Prize”, hereafter referred to as the “Committee”;
- (c) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

Article 5 - Expenditure

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenses of administration, including those of the Committee, of the Prize and with the amount of the payment or payments made to the winner or winners of the Prize. Expenditure in any biennium shall be limited to 80 per cent of the interest earned during the biennium from funds available, plus any unspent balance of the 80 per cent interest earned in previous biennia.

(The remaining 20 per cent of interest earned from funds available in any biennium shall be added to the original donation to offset inflation and currency fluctuations.)

Article 6 - Accounts

- 6.1 The Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.

- 6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.
- 6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.

Article 7 - Investments

- 7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.
- 7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

Article 8 - Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as he deems that its operation is no longer necessary.

Article 9 - General provision

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.