L’ORÉAL-UNESCO PRIZE “FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE”

SUMMARY

Following the partnership agreement signed on 29 September 1999 with L’ORÉAL, UNESCO and L’ORÉAL started to work together to carry out joint projects encouraging the development of women’s role in science. The present document proposes to the Executive Board for its approval the Statutes of a L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science” intended to promote the place of women in the field of science and to reward outstanding scientific figures.

Decision proposed: paragraph 6.

1. Following the signing on 29 September 1999 of a partnership agreement between UNESCO and L’ORÉAL, UNESCO and L’ORÉAL have implemented the following two projects:

   (a) The L’ORÉAL Awards “For Women in Science”, supported by UNESCO, have been awarded annually to five women researchers from five continents – Africa (including the Arab countries), Asia (including Oceania and the Pacific), Europe, Latin America, North America – who have made a significant contribution to progress in the life sciences. These Awards, carrying a prize of $20,000 for each winner, have been made on three occasions (2000, 2001 and 2002) on the recommendation of a Jury chaired by the winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, Professor Christian de Duve, who now holds the position of Founding President of the Awards;

   (b) Ten UNESCO-L’ORÉAL Fellowships, have been granted each year to ten young women from the five regions of the world (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean). The fellowships are intended to encourage young women carrying out research at doctoral or post-doctoral level in the life sciences by helping them to initiate new research projects.
L’ORÉAL recently decided to increase the amount of the Awards “For Women in Science” to $100,000 per prizewinner (that is, a total of $500,000 each time the Awards are made) and to increase the number of fellowships from ten to 15 and the amount of each fellowship grant from $10,000 to $20,000.¹

2. A third project aimed at developing and improving science and technology education, in particular for young girls, is being prepared. The project, which will be based in the relevant UNESCO networks (including the Associated Schools Network and UNESCO Chairs for “Women and Science”), will seek to alert young people, in particular young girls, to the scientific challenges of the future and encourage them to pursue careers in science.

3. In view of the growing success achieved by the L’ORÉAL Award “For Women in Science” with the support of UNESCO, as evidenced by its increasingly high profile, the mobilization of scientific communities, the support of national authorities, the number of candidates presenting themselves and the outstanding quality of the prizewinners, the Director-General proposed to the Chairman and CEO of L’ORÉAL, who accepted the proposal, to transform the Awards into a L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize and to submit its Statutes to the Executive Board for approval, in accordance with the relevant procedures. The Prize will be awarded in recognition of significant contributions by women to the advancement of science both in the life sciences and the science of matter. The contributions should of course be in keeping with UNESCO’s policy and objectives, whilst having a link with the programmes undertaken by the Organization in this specific field.

4. The draft Statutes contained in Annex I stipulate that at least five prizes will be awarded each year, preferably in connection with the celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March, to honour five well-established women scientists representing the five continents: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America; and North America. The amount of the five prizes (which is currently $100,000 per winner) will be decided by L’ORÉAL, which will transfer the sums directly to the winners. All expenditure relating to the Prize, including the meeting of the Jury, the award ceremony, and the operating costs of the Executive Secretariat, will be borne by L’ORÉAL.

5. In addition to the above-mentioned international awards, other initiatives to promote women in science in various countries could be developed.

   (a) These could take the form of local ceremonies featuring international prizewinners or international fellowship-holders.

   (b) They could include the awarding of a national prize, the “Special Honour”, to certain high-level candidates chosen by the Jury from among those nominated for the international prize.

   (c) They could also include local actions of all kinds in favour of women in science within a given country.

These initiatives will be developed on the basis of joint agreement between L’ORÉAL and UNESCO and will be implemented in the countries concerned by the respective national structures of the two partners (in particular, the National Commissions for UNESCO).

¹ For more detailed information on the projects, prizewinners and fellowship holders, please consult the website www.loreal.com/loreal-women-in-science.
6. In the light of the foregoing, the Board may wish to adopt a decision worded as follows:

The Executive Board,

1. **Having examined** document 165 EX/38 concerning the L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science”, intended to reward and promote the contribution and role of women in science,

2. **Considering** that the objectives of the Prize are in line with those of UNESCO, as set out in the second and sixth paragraphs of the Preamble and Article I, paragraph 2(c) of its Constitution,

3. **Expresses** its gratitude to L’ORÉAL for this initiative and for its generous offer to finance all expenditure pertaining to the Prize;

4. **Approves** the Statutes of the L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science”, as contained in the Annex to this decision.
ANNEX

Draft Statutes of the L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science”

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Prize is to promote the contribution and role of women in science, in particular in the life sciences and the science of matter, in the service of sustainable development. These contributions must be in harmony with the policy and objectives of UNESCO, whilst having a link with the programmes undertaken by the Organization in this specific field.

2. Designation and amount of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be called the L’ORÉAL-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science”.

2.2 The Prize shall be awarded each year to at least five prizewinners. Its amount shall be set by L’ORÉAL, which shall be responsible for its financing and shall make direct payments to the prizewinners.

3. Frequency, number and geographical distribution of the Prizes

Each year the Prize shall be awarded to at least five established women scientists representing the following five continents:

- Africa (including the Arab countries)
- Asia (including Oceania and the Pacific)
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America

4. Required conditions

The (individual) candidates must have earned recognition for their scientific work in the life sciences or the science of matter in relation with UNESCO’s objectives in these fields.

5. Selection of prizewinners

The prizewinners shall be selected by an international jury.

6. Jury

6.1 The Jury shall be composed of:

(a) three permanent members who shall be: the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, a representative of L’ORÉAL and an eminent representative of the scientific community, who shall chair the Jury and shall be appointed by common agreement between UNESCO and L’ORÉAL;
(b) a number of distinguished personalities from the scientific community, proposed by the permanent members of the Jury and approved by the Director-General of UNESCO and by L’ORÉAL, respecting balanced geographical distribution.

6.2 The Director-General of UNESCO shall be the Honorary President of the Jury.

6.3 The Jury shall normally meet once a year.

7. Executive Secretariat

7.1 The Executive Secretariat shall be responsible for administering the Prize. It shall consist of one member designated by the Director-General of UNESCO, one member designated by L’ORÉAL and any person considered useful for the effective functioning of the Prize (expert in the life sciences or the material sciences, for instance) and selected by common agreement between UNESCO and L’ORÉAL.

7.2 The main duties of the Executive Secretariat shall be to:

(i) invite scientific sponsors to nominate candidates;
(ii) compile dossiers of candidates for the Prize;
(iii) organize meetings of the Jury;
(iv) contact the prizewinners;
(v) organize the prize-giving ceremony;
(vi) organize the preparation and distribution of the various press kits, notices, information letters and other documents;
(vii) contribute to the implementation of the third project “Promotion of science and technology education for young girls”, provided for in the partnership agreement.

8. Rules of Procedure

The Jury shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure, which cannot conflict with the provisions of the present Statutes and which shall be submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO and to L’ORÉAL for approval. The Jury shall be assisted in carrying out its task by the Executive Secretariat.

9. Nomination of candidates

9.1 The candidates shall be nominated by “sponsors”, eminent personalities from the international scientific community identified by the Jury and the Executive Secretariat, as well as by the National Commissions for UNESCO.

9.2 Nominations must reach the Executive Secretariat before 15 August of each year.

9.3 The Jury shall meet towards October-November of the same year to select the prizewinners and notify the Director-General and L’ORÉAL of its choice.
10. **Presentation of candidates**

10.1 The sponsors must provide a dossier in support of each candidate, comprising:

(i) the completed registration form signed by the sponsor;

(ii) the curriculum vitae of the candidate;

(iii) a list of all her publications;

(iv) copies of her five most important and significant publications;

(v) a summary in English (maximum of five typed pages) of her qualifications, main scientific achievements and contributions.

11. **Procedure for the award of the Prize**

   The Executive Secretariat shall contact the prizewinners and organize their participation in the prize-giving ceremony. The Prizes shall be awarded to the prizewinners in the first quarter of the year at a ceremony to take place at UNESCO Headquarters, to be presided over by the President of the Jury in the presence of the Director-General and the Chairman and CEO of L’ORÉAL.

12. **National initiatives of the UNESCO-L’ORÉAL Partnership For Women in Science**

   National initiatives may be developed as an extension of the UNESCO-L’ORÉAL Prize “For Women in Science”. Such initiatives shall be developed by common agreement between L’ORÉAL and UNESCO and shall be implemented in the countries concerned by the respective structures of L’ORÉAL and UNESCO (in particular the National Commissions for UNESCO).

13. **Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize**

   Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.