

Ref: CL/4500

Subject: **Call for nominations – 2025 UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite your Government to submit nominations for the inaugural edition of the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

Established at the initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, the Prize seeks to reward individuals, institutions and organizations that have made significant contributions to the understanding of artificial intelligence and its ethical implications. Three prize-winners will be chosen, each receiving a Beruniy medal, a certificate and a monetary award of \$30,000.

The call for nominations is open until **30 June 2025**.

Nominations may be submitted by Member States, via their National Commissions, or by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 institutes and centres, international scientific unions, universities or non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in fields covered by the Prize.

Member States are invited to share this call for nominations with all relevant organizations and institutions.

Further information on the Prize and the nomination process can be found online at the following address: <https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/beruniy>.

Should you have any queries, please contact the Secretariat of the Prize (email: beruniy.prize@unesco.org).

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Enclosures: 2

- Nomination form
- Statutes of the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices
UNESCO Chairs
Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX I

UNESCO-UZBEKISTAN BERUNIY PRIZE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Nomination Form

A. NOTE FOR THE NOMINATORS:

1. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations. Nominees (i.e. candidates) must be living persons or existing institutions.
2. The purpose of the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is to encourage ethical design, development, use and deployment of AI and promote scientific endeavour and cooperation in this field. The selection of prize-winners will take into account the balance between global/ regional projects, regional/intra-regional projects, and national/local communities projects. Particular attention would be given to female candidates and/or candidatures that advance the Policy Area 6 of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI on Gender.
3. The Prize rewards the activities in the field of ethics in science, such as:
 - (i) Scientific research that addresses ethical challenges in AI and provides new insights or solutions to these issues;
 - (ii) International scientific cooperation on ethics of AI across various levels;
 - (iii) Initiatives that demonstrate the practical application of ethical AI principles in real-world scenarios.
4. The application dossier shall preferably be submitted by email to Beruniy.prize@unesco.org.
5. The application dossier shall be filled in in either English or French, and include:
 - (i) **Nomination form:** it must be completed in full in either English or French. It is the responsibility of nominators to ensure all nominations submitted are complete and comply with the requirements as per Article 3 of the Statutes of the Prize. To ensure this, nominators may obtain any necessary details from the nominees. The nomination should include:
 - a description of the candidate's background and achievements extending over several years;
 - a summary of the work submitted to the Jury for consideration, including a clear description of the candidate's contributions of major importance in the field of ethics of AI, as well as publications and other supporting documents;
 - a review of the way in which the work submitted has contributed to the development of research in the field of ethics of AI, which includes but not limited to: (i) Scientific research that addresses ethical challenges in AI and provides new insights or solutions to these issues; (ii) International scientific cooperation on ethics of AI across various levels; and (iii) Initiatives that demonstrate the practical application of ethical AI principles in real-world scenarios;
 - a high-resolution photo portrait of the candidate and brief summary for public information purposes.

(ii) If a candidate is an institution/organization, the nominator should provide UNESCO with a **copy of the candidate's General Rules/Statutes** (the relevant document may be sent to UNESCO by email to: Beruniy.prize@unesco.org).

(iii) At least **two statements (letters or email messages) of support**, from an institution/, providing the supporters' own professional perspectives concerning the nominated achievement and emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize (please indicate full coordinates of the references, including their telephone numbers and email addresses);

(iv) **List of enclosed annexes** (publications, books, digital supports and other materials, illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize).

(v) **List of translations:** Please note that if an official translation of the candidate's work into either English or French does not exist, it is recommended to supply a detailed explanation in English or French, or a partial translation, of the content.

6. Nominations must be received by the Secretariat of the Prize **by Monday 30 June 2025, 23:59 (Paris time, UTC+1)**.

7. Any inquiries concerning how to fill in the nomination form should be addressed directly to the Secretariat of the Prize: (email: Beruniy.prize@unesco.org).

**B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATOR
(I.E. THE INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION PRESENTING THE CANDIDATE):**

1. Nomination may be submitted by Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize, as well as by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 centres, international scientific unions, and universities specializing in the ethics of science and technology:

1.1.1. Member State:

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of UNESCO Member or Observer State: | |
| Nominator: (Please indicate the name and title of the officials and organizations qualified to submit the nomination for the Prize on behalf of their Government.): | |

The nomination is submitted in consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO of:

| |
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(Taking into account that, in conformity with Article 6.2 of the Statutes, nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize, by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 centres, international scientific unions and universities. The officials and organizations, qualified to submit nominations for the Prize on behalf of their Government, are kindly invited to inform also the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of their country whenever possible. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

If the nominator(s) and the nominee (i.e. candidate) are nationals of different Member States, it is recommended that the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the National Commission for UNESCO of the candidate's Member State be informed of the nomination).

Or

1.1.2. Non-governmental organization in official partnership with UNESCO

Or

1.1.3. International, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ethics of science and technology

Or

1.1.4. UNESCO's partners (e.g. UNESCO Chairs, category 2 institutes and centres, International scientific unions, universities specializing in the ethics of science and technology, and other partners active in the field of ethics of science and technology)

Name:

Country:

Responsible person:

(For organizations, please indicate
the name and title of the official
qualified to submit nomination on
behalf of the relevant organization)

1.2. Contact details (for all qualified nominators)

Full postal address:

(street, house number, postcode, city,
country)

Name and function of person(s)
in charge:

Telephone and Fax:

Tel:

(please indicate country and city codes)

Fax:

Email:

Internet:

C. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEE (I.E. THE CANDIDATE):

2.1. The candidates for the Prize may be individuals or institutions (or other entities or non-governmental organizations)

2.1.1. For institutional candidates

| | |
|--|--|
| Name and acronym: | |
| Date and place of creation (please provide a copy of the General Rules/Statutes): | |
| City and country of the headquarters: | |
| Field of activity: | |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| | |
| Financial sources: | |

Or

2.1.2. For individual candidates

| |
|---|
| <p>Form of address (e.g. Mr/Mrs/Ms, title, function, etc.)</p> <p>Surname/last/family name(s)</p> <p>First/given and middle name(s)</p> <p>Date and place of birth:</p> <p>Nationality:</p> <p>Education:</p> <p>Profession:</p> |
|---|

2.2 For institutional and individual candidates: contact details

Full postal address:

(street, house number, postcode, city,
country)

Name and function, if
appropriate, of contact
person(s):

Telephone and Fax:

Tel:

(please indicate country and city codes)

Fax:

Email:

Internet:

3. Presentation of the candidate

3.1 A description of the candidate's academic background and achievements extending over several years (not more than one A4 page) in relation to "Scientific Research on Ethics of AI":

3.2 A summary of the nominee's activities, including publications and other relevant documents of major importance, etc. (not more than one A4 page):

3.3 A review of the way in which the work submitted has contributed to the development of research in the field of ethics of AI, which includes but not limited to: (i) scientific research that addresses ethical challenges in AI and provides new insights or solutions to these issues; (ii) international scientific cooperation on ethics of AI across various levels; and (iii) initiatives that demonstrate the practical application of ethical AI principles in real-world scenarios (not more than one A4 page):

3.4 A high-resolution photo portrait of the candidate and brief summary for public information purposes: (not more than one A4 page) (Please outline the reasons for the nomination of the candidate for the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and include two to four succinct paragraphs, using words that a person with no scientific expertise could readily understand, which describe the nature, impact and importance of the nominee's achievement, for use in publicity, social and mass media, if required.):

3.5 At least two statements (letters or email messages) of support, from an institution/personality, providing the supporters' own professional perspectives concerning the

nominated achievement and emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize.

3.6 Referees (please provide the names of two persons, not related to the candidates by relative or direct professional (supervisor/subordinate) links, who are familiar with his/her/their/its work, except the nominator):

(i) Name:

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

(ii) Name:

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

3.7 Please indicate whether the candidate has been informed about his/her/their/its nomination for the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and whether the candidate would be ready to accept it if a relevant decision is taken (please tick, several options are possible):

☐ The candidate was informed by the nominator:

- ☐ Directly in person/Video conference;
- ☐ Orally by telephone
- ☐ In writing (letter, electronic mail, sms, etc.)
- ☐ Through a third party
- ☐ Other (please indicate): _____

☐ The candidate was not informed:

- ☐ Please indicate, if possibly, why: _____

3.8 For statistical purposes only:

Please indicate where you as the nominator learned about the call for nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (please tick, several options are possible):

- ☐ Circular Letter received directly from UNESCO
- ☐ UNESCO website
- ☐ Email received directly from UNESCO
- ☐ Information provided by partners
- ☐ Other (please indicate): _____

3.9 List of enclosed annexes (publications, books, digital supports and other materials, illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize) with **list of translations, if required.**

3.10 Date, signature and stamp (for organizations) of the nominator

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name and Function: _____

Stamp:

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF UNESCO-UZBEKISTAN BERUNIY PRIZE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Article 1 – Purpose of the Prize

1.1 The purpose of the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is to encourage ethical design, development, use and deployment of AI and promote scientific endeavour and cooperation in this field.

1.2 The objective of the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI), financially supported by the Government of Uzbekistan, is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and will contribute to UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4), particularly Strategic Objective 4 "Foster a technological environment in the service of humankind through the development and dissemination of knowledge and skills and the development of ethical standards". The Prize will contribute to the Organization in the field of ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (2021).

1.3 The Prize will strengthen scientific research, cooperation and applications at all levels to promote ethics of AI by recognizing achievements that contributed outstanding research in the field of ethics of AI across various disciplines and serve as a lever for strengthening global capabilities in ethics of AI research, as well as giving visibility to those actively promote ethical practices of AI to both the community and society.

Article 2 – Designation, periodicity, geographical distribution and amount of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of Uzbekistan, and shall consist of a recurrent payment of \$988,032 for the total duration of a cycle of six years (\$329,344 per biennium), which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize. The Prize shall consist of a sum of US \$90,000 to be equally divided between three prize-winners. A certificate and a medal will be given to each of the recipients. Any interest that may accrue shall be added to the overall contribution.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see financial regulations in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the administration and public information activities, and the overhead costs to be applied and charged against the funds in the special account shall be fully covered by the Government of Uzbekistan. For the editions of the award ceremony which will take place outside of UNESCO Headquarters, travel costs of the laureates, jury members and UNESCO secretariat to the ceremony (international and local transportation, accommodation, catering, visa, etc.) and cost associated with the award-giving ceremony shall be covered through additional financial/in-kind contributions from the Government of Uzbekistan.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every two years to three prize-winners from candidatures received from all UNESCO geographical regions, on an initial basis for three biennia (three editions of the Prize in total).

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

3.1 Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to:

- (i) Scientific research that addresses ethical challenges in AI and provides new insights or solutions to these issues;
- (ii) International scientific cooperation on ethics of AI across various levels;
- (iii) Initiatives that demonstrate the practical application of ethical AI principles in real-world scenarios.

3.2 Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in activities that promote the ethical development and application of AI through scientific research. Candidates must be actively involved in scientific research and knowledge development on ethics of AI across various disciplines at the time of application to the Prize.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of Prize-winners

The prize-winners (three laureates) shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a Jury. The selection of prize-winners will take into account the balance between global/regional projects, regional/intra-regional projects, and national/local communities projects. Particular attention would be given to female candidates and/or candidatures that advance the Policy Area 6 of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI on Gender.

Article 5 – Jury of the Prize

5.1 The Jury shall consist of a number of three independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for two-year periods for a maximum period of six years. Representatives and alternatives of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of two jurors present will be required for jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by the jury shall be English and French.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet at least once every two years for deliberation on the candidates. Virtual meetings will be considered where necessary.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on the nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than two months before the award ceremony.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the Prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat

of the Prize every two years from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by the prize and by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 centres, international scientific unions and universities.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize, by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 centres, international scientific unions and universities. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:

- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;
- (c) a description of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General or his/her representative at an official ceremony held for that purpose, in alternation at UNESCO's premises at Headquarters and in Uzbekistan or any other place that might be considered appropriate. UNESCO shall present to the prize-winners a check for the amount of the prize as well as a certificate and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize-winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or more persons, the prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 The prize-winners, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a Prize. If, however, a prize-winner dies before he has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prize-winner decline the Prize, the Jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and determine about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the financial regulations for the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the prize. Proposals received for the award of a prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

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