

**Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of Higher Education**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris has Call for application for the UNESCO Félix Houphouet-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize 2021. The Relevant details are on the next page.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by **15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021** at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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Ref.: CL/4330

**Subject: Call for nominations for the 2021 Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize. The Prize, named after the first President of Côte d'Ivoire, was established in 1989 by the UNESCO General Conference at its 25th session and is awarded every two years by a high-level international jury.

The Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize honours living individuals and active public or private institutions or bodies that have made a significant contribution to the promotion of, search for, safeguarding of, or maintenance of peace in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO. The candidates proposed must have gained an international reputation through commendable and proven action over several years.

The sponsor of the Prize is H.E. Mr Abdou Diouf, former President of Senegal, and the patron of the Prize is H.E. Mr Henri Konan Bédié, former President of Côte d'Ivoire. Both men were appointed *intuitu personae* by President Félix Houphouët-Boigny before his death.

In April 2019, the international jury decided to award the Prize to H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, "for his unflagging efforts to bring about peace and reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea". After the jury made its decision, in October 2019, Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Illustrious personalities such as Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr Frederik W. de Klerk, former Presidents of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, former Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Mr Shimon Peres, former President of the State of Israel, and Mr Yasser Arafat, former President of the Palestinian Authority, have also been awarded the Prize.

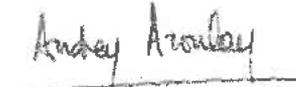
As the next recipient of the Prize will be named in 2021, UNESCO encourages you to nominate one or more candidates. A candidate's commitment to human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace, his/her work in this area, and his/her contemporary humanism regardless of ethnic, political and religious considerations should figure prominently in his/her nomination file.

The Prize consists of US \$150,000 (if necessary, divided equally among the laureates, of whom there can be a maximum of three), a gold medal and a diploma.

In view of the importance of the Prize, the Organization has established a rigorous process for the selection of candidates. We thus encourage you to nominate one or more particularly deserving candidates whose commitment can serve as an example for everyone.

In order to submit your nominations, I invite you to send an email to the Secretariat of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny–UNESCO Peace Prize ([PrxFHB@unesco.org](mailto:PrxFHB@unesco.org)). Please note that the deadline for the submission of nominations is **28 February 2021**.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General

cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
National Commissions for UNESCO

UNESCO invites Member States of the Organization, as well as interested individuals and/or legal entities, to submit one or more nominations for the Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO Prize for Peace Research. UNESCO thus intends to honour living persons or active public or private bodies or institutions, that have made a significant contribution to the promotion, seeking, safeguarding or maintaining peace, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO. Candidates must, moreover, have an international reputation.

Their commitment and work in the field of human rights, the promotion of a culture of peace, their humanism, irrespective of any ethnic, political and religious considerations, must constitute a notable part of their presentation file. More than one candidate can be presented to the jury of the [Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize](#), named after the first President of Côte d'Ivoire. Established in 1989, the Prize is awarded every two years. It is endowed with \$150,000 which may be divided equally among the laureates whose number cannot exceed three.

Members of the Jury are: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, François Hollande, former President of France, 2013 winner of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny – UNESCO Peace Prize, Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan of Jordan, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace Sciences, Michel Camdessus (France), former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh), founder of Grameen Bank, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, and Forest Whitaker (USA), founder of the Peace and Development Initiative.

Former laureates include, Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. De Klerk, as well as Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali, was honoured in 2019 “for his constant efforts to promote peace and reconciliation between his country and Eritrea.”

**Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny — UNESCO Peace Prize by 28 February 2021 to: [PrixFHB@unesco.org](mailto: PrixFHB@unesco.org).**

The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize is intended to honour living individuals and active public or private bodies or institutions that have made a significant contribution to promoting, seeking, safeguarding or maintaining peace, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO.

The Prize was established in 1989 by a resolution supported by 120 countries and adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session. It is in line with the philosophy of UNESCO's founders who, in the preamble to the Organization's Constitution, solemnly declare that: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed."

In establishing this Prize, the General Conference of UNESCO wanted to reaffirm its commitment to peace and dialogue between cultures and civilizations. It desired to endow itself with a significant instrument so as to encourage and honour all those who contribute to bringing about a world of greater mutual support and human fellowship.

## THE JURY

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In order to implement the resolution instituting the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize the Director-General called on international public figures who are reputed for their action on behalf of peace in the fields in which they have pursued their careers. Among them are statesmen, scholars, jurists, diplomats and human rights activists who have distinguished themselves through their attachment to the ideals of the United Nations Charter and the Constitution of UNESCO and who have agreed to give the Prize the benefit of their knowledge and prestige.



**Michel Camdessus**

Born in 1933, he was Director of the Treasury, Governor of the Banque de France, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. [read more](#)



**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

24th president of Liberia and first woman elected head of state in Africa.  
Nobel Peace Prize winner 2011 [read more](#)



**Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan**

Designated in 2017 UNESCO Special Envoy for Science for Peace. [read more](#)



**Muhammad Yunus**

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, father of social business and microcredit, founder of more than 50 other companies in Bangladesh. [read more](#)



**Francois Hollande**

Magistrate at the Court of Auditors, he was elected deputy in 1988. Candidate of the PS, he was elected head of state in 2012. [read more](#)



**Forest Whitaker**

American actor, producer and director. [read more](#)