

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
4 January 2002

Original: English

For action

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

First regular session 2002

21-25 January 2002

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Recommendation to the Executive Board**UNICEF Maurice Pate Award***Summary*

The selection process for the Maurice Pate Award and its monetary value was last revised in 1994 (E/ICEF/1994/L.16 and E/ICEF/1994/13/Rev.1, decision 1994/R.2/12). In order to reflect changes since then, it is proposed to rename the Award "The UNICEF Maurice Pate Leadership for Children Award" and set the prize money at \$50,000. The selection criteria will be revised to link the Award with the Global Movement for Children and the priorities of the organization's medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (E/ICEF/2001/13).

I. Background of the Maurice Pate Award

1. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money received by UNICEF be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval, in principle, was also given to a suggestion that the fund be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund that contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate.

2. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the

* E/ICEF/2002/2.



value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year the fund would honour an institution in a developing country that adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The institution selected would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

3. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted, and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

4. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale (E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37). The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and resolution 1988/9).

5. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include achievements on behalf of children, the provision of resources to further those achievements and the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further relevant activities, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

6. The Executive Board last reviewed and revised the selection process and criteria in 1994 (E/ICEF/1994/L.16 and E/ICEF/1994/Rev.13, decision 1994/R.2/12). According to those procedures, nominations shall be sought from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF, and the Bureau shall review all nominations. The Award may not be conferred upon any Government or head of State or Government or upon any United Nations organization or official. The main criteria for the Award are: (a) extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children; (b) innovative and inspirational work; (c) action on a national or regional scale with the potential for emulation; and (d) action that serves to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. Lastly, due regard shall be given to equitable geographical balance.

7. In early 2001, the Bureau of the Executive Board asked the secretariat to review the selection process and criteria to ensure that the Award was continuing to meet its purpose. Informal discussions were held with Bureau members, and a small working group in the secretariat was asked to propose any necessary modifications. The Bureau decided not to make an Award for 2001 while this review was undertaken.

8. In most respects, the stated purpose and selection criteria of the Maurice Pate Award remain valid. However, a number of developments since the last revision suggest that a modest revamping of the Maurice Pate Award is timely.

9. The emphasis of the emerging Global Movement for Children on the crucial roles leadership and partnership play in achieving sustainable results for children is very much in accord with the stated aims of the Maurice Pate Award. The Award is,

therefore, a valuable way of acknowledging and commending examples of leadership in the global partnership for children's rights. In order to make more explicit the Award's recognition of leadership, it is proposed that it should be renamed "The UNICEF Maurice Pate Leadership for Children Award".

10. Another lesson that has been learned in recent years is that projects that give children and young people themselves a significant role in the definition of the challenges faced in realizing their rights and in the elaboration of ways to overcome them often have more successful and sustainable outcomes. In light of this, it is proposed that the Award selection criteria be broadened to include, where feasible, special recognition for organizations that endeavour to involve children and young people in their operations in a meaningful way.

11. The UNICEF MTSP for the period 2002-2005 (E/ICEF/2001/13), presented to the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2001, identified five priority areas where UNICEF believes it can make the greatest contribution to improving the lives of children, such as through girls' education; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; fighting HIV/AIDS; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. This clear definition of five organizational priorities allows the selection process for the Maurice Pate Award to become more strategic by linking the activities of the Award recipient with one of the five UNICEF organizational priorities. It is proposed that for each of the four years of the MTSP, the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Executive Board Bureau, will choose one of the organizational priorities as the focus for the Maurice Pate Award. The secretariat will narrow its search each year to identifying an organization that has made an outstanding contribution and shown significant leadership for children in that particular area. To sharpen the search further, and to ensure appropriate geographic balance, it is also proposed that a UNICEF region should be chosen as the focus of the search process, matching the MTSP organizational priority and geographic area. In addition to making the Award a more strategic advocacy tool linked to the MTSP, this will also lighten the administrative burden on nominating entities.

12. As noted above, the first Maurice Pate Award in 1966 was funded from the proceeds of the Nobel Peace prize. The Award has been increased several times since then to compensate for the effect of inflation. While the financial award attached to the Maurice Pate Award should not be the primary benefit for those who receive it, there is no doubt that the level of the prize money enhances its prestige. The prize money was last increased in 1984 to \$25,000. To reflect the inflation over the 17 years since then, it is proposed to increase the value to \$50,000, to be met from regular resources.

II. Draft recommendation

13. The Executive Director **recommends** that the Executive Board adopt the following draft recommendation:

The Executive Board

Decides that the procedure related to objectives, recipients, nominations, selection and value for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be amended to reflect the following:

1. Objectives and criteria

The Award shall be renamed “The UNICEF Maurice Pate Leadership for Children Award”. The Award is intended to convey recognition of extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of children’s rights whether on a regional, national or global scale. It should also serve to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. The work of the recipient should be innovative and inspirational, reflecting leadership in its field. It should also be on a country or regional scale, with the potential of emulation, so as to have a multiplier effect. In the case of organizations, meaningful participation by children and young people in the projects and operations shall be a selection criterion.

2. Recipients

The Award may be conferred upon an institution, agency or individual, but not upon a head of State or Government, nor upon a Government. The Award shall not be conferred upon any United Nations organization or official. Caution shall be exercised in the selection to ensure that a selected recipient does not inappropriately figure within national political processes. Due regard shall be given to the principle of equitable geographical balance.

3. Nominations

Each year, the Executive Director shall invite nominations for the Award from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF in order to ensure a broad range of nominations. Solicitation of nominations shall stipulate a deadline of 1 June of the year of the presentation of the Award.

4. Selection Process

The data of all formally submitted nominations shall be reviewed and evaluated by the officers of the Board, the Executive Director and the Director of Programme Division. On the basis of this comprehensive review and evaluation, the Executive Director shall submit a single recommendation for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session.

5. Value

The value of the Award shall be set at \$50,000 to be met from regular resources.
