



General Assembly

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Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2020

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. The report covers the year 2020 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.



Report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award on the United Nations Population Award 2020

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution [36/201](#), entitled “Establishment of the United Nations Population Award”. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.
2. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureates for the Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund acts as Secretary of the Committee and submits to the General Assembly an annual report on the Award and the trust fund of the Award.
3. In its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award, so that an individual and an institution could share the award.
4. In its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee accordingly.
5. The current elected members of the Committee (until 31 December 2021) are Côte d’Ivoire, Fiji, the Gambia, Iceland, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Panama, Romania and Trinidad and Tobago.
6. During its organizational meeting, held on 20 January 2020, the Committee elected Ion Jinga (Romania) as Chair for 2020.

II. United Nations Population Award 2020

7. The Committee received 15 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2020 Award. Of those, 6 were for the individual category and 9 for the institutional category. The second regular session of the Committee, originally scheduled to be held on 26 April 2020, was twice postponed as a result of the implementation of action to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in keeping with the guidance provided by the President of the General Assembly. Subsequently, on 5 November, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, in the individual category and, in the institutional category, HelpAge India.

A. Individual category

8. The Committee selected the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, in recognition of her commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.
9. She was recognized for strong action in highlighting the centrality of essential health and fundamental rights issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and adolescents, as well as outreach and engagement with community-

based networks to promote economic independence among women, remove societal stigmas surrounding vulnerable groups and prevent gender-based violence and help victims.

B. Institutional category

10. The Committee selected HelpAge India in recognition of its programmes and services that work with and for older persons in India to address their rights, health, income and social protection needs; its engagement and advocacy with local organizations that also support older persons; and its interventions in livelihood, post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and risk reduction programmes to ensure that the well-being of older persons is at the centre of development, enabling them to live full, dignified and healthy lives.

III. Financial matters

11. As at 15 December 2020, the balance of the trust fund of the Award was \$1,762,957.41. Interest income in 2020 will be some \$23,500, with the final amount to be known and applied only towards the end of February 2021. Expenditure in 2020, including prizes awarded to the two laureates, totalled \$54,324.65.
