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Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2024

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 2024 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* [A/79/150](#).



Report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award on the United Nations Population Award 2024

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 2024) are: Bulgaria, Côte d’Ivoire, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Portugal and Trinidad and Tobago. There is one vacancy on the Committee.
6. During its organizational meeting held on 5 February 2024, the Committee elected Rawa Zoghbi (Lebanon) as Chair for 2024.

II. United Nations Population Award 2024

7. The Committee received 15 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2024 Award, of which six nominations were for the individual category and nine for the institutional category. The Committee selected Haifa Abu Ghazaleh of Jordan, in the individual category and the National Alliance to End Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage in Ethiopia, of Ethiopia in the institutional category.

A. Individual category

8. The Committee selected Haifa Abu Ghazaleh of Jordan in recognition of her leadership and advocacy efforts related to population and development issues in the Arab region and globally. She is a keen advocate against gender-based violence and child marriage and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation,. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh also supports creating enabling environments for marginalized or underserved population groups such as young people, older persons and persons with disabilities by spearheading collaborations with Governments to strengthen social protection mechanisms targeting relevant socioeconomic sectors to design and implement relevant legislation.
9. In her capacity as the Assistant Secretary-General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh is also credited with the

establishment of the Arab Council for Population and Development in 2019. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh led the development of the Arab strategy on youth, peace and security (2023–2028), the first such strategy in the region. The strategy promotes and sustains collaboration by ensuring the active participation of young people in decision-making, and in disseminating a culture of non-violence and the values of dialogue. Finally, she oversaw the introduction of legal amendments to ensure better protection of migrant workers, particularly women.

B. Institutional category

10. The Committee selected the National Alliance to End Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage in Ethiopia, which was established in 2012, in recognition of its significant contributions to see a country free of child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation and their adverse consequences by 2025, a commitment made by the Government of Ethiopia at the 2014 Girl Summit, held in London.

11. The Alliance initiated strategic partnerships between various institutions including faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations in Ethiopia, international development cooperation institutions and the United Nations system to meet the goal of ending harmful practices. The Alliance and its partners produced the National Roadmap to end child marriage and female genital mutilation. The Alliance is also engaged in research and sharing experiences to promote evidence-based intervention to end child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation in Ethiopia. In particular, the Alliance facilitated the enhancement of a national data and management information system on such experiences, thus consolidating the information, experiences and best practices in both the national and international arena.

III. Financial matters

12. As at 17 July 2024, the balance of the trust fund of the Award was \$1,868,973.02. The net cumulative interest income was \$145,673.02, with the final amount of the 2024 interest income to be known and applied towards the end of February 2025. Expenditure in 2024, including prizes awarded to the two laureates, totalled \$63,059.41.