Ref: CL/4567

Subject: **Call for nominations – 2027 UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Dear Minister,

It is my pleasure to invite your government to submit nominations for the second 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 January 2027. Nominations may be submitted either through the dedicated online Nomination Platform or by email at the following address: beruniy.prize@unesco.org.

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, dear Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Khaled El-Enany
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

To Ministers responsible for relations with 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 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 to promote scientific endeavour and cooperation in this field.

3. The Prize rewards activities in the field of scientific research on the ethics of artificial intelligence and provides (i) new insights or solutions; (ii) international scientific cooperation on the ethics of AI; and (iii) initiatives demonstrating the practical application of ethical AI principles in real-world scenarios.

4. In line with the assessment criteria, nominators are invited to provide clear evidence of the nominee's contributions across the following dimensions: breadth and depth of scientific research on AI ethics; policy influence and standards development; international and cross-cultural cooperation; practical application and implementation; societal benefit and future-oriented vision; and recognition and thought leadership.

5. The selection of prize-winners will take into account the balance between global/regional projects, regional/intra-regional projects, and national/local community projects.

6. The nomination form shall be completed in full in English or French. It is the responsibility of nominators to ensure that nominations are complete and comply with the requirements set out in the Statutes of the Prize. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

7. The nomination dossier should preferably be submitted via the dedicated platform or by email to Beruniy.prize@unesco.org and include this nomination form, supporting statements, annexes, translations where applicable, and a high-resolution photo portrait and public summary.

A.1. TYPES OF NOMINEES

Individual candidate
This category applies when the nomination concerns one individual candidate.

Joint nomination
A joint nomination concerns two or more persons submitted together for consideration under the same nomination. In accordance with the Prize Statutes, a prize may not be divided between more than three persons. (Art. 7.2 of the Statutes of the Prize)

Institutional nomination
An institutional nomination concerns an institution, organization, other entity or non-governmental organization submitted for consideration in its own capacity. The nominated institution or entity must have an established legal identity at the time of nomination.

B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATOR

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.

Type of nominator	Member State/NGO in official partnership with UNESCO/international, regional or national professional, academic or non-governmental organization/UNESCO Chair/category 2 centre/international scientific union/university/other eligible partner
Name of nominating institution or organization	
Country	
Responsible person	Name and title of the official qualified to submit the nomination on behalf of the relevant organization
If applicable, National Commission consulted	
Full postal address	Street, house number, post code, city, country
Name and function of focal point	
Telephone	Please indicate country and city codes
Email	
Website	

C. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEE

The candidate may be an individual, institution, other entity or non-governmental organization.

C.1 Institutional candidates (Nomination of an institution, entity or NGO)

Name and acronym	
Date and place of creation	Please provide a copy of the General Rules/Statutes
City and country of headquarters	
Field of activity	
Financial sources	

C.2 Individual candidates

Form of address	e.g. Mr/Ms/Mx, title, function
Surname/family name(s)	
First/given and middle name(s)	
Date and place of birth	
Nationality	
Education	
Profession / current position	
Institutional affiliation, if any	

C.3 Contact details for institutional and individual candidates

Full postal address	Street, house number, post code, city, country
Contact person, if applicable	Name and function
Telephone	Please indicate country and city codes
Email	
Website / professional profile	

D. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

D.1. Candidate background and sustained achievements

Provide a concise description of the candidate's academic/professional background. Suggested length: not more than one A4 page.

D.2. Breadth and depth of scientific research on AI ethics

Describe the nominee's main scientific contributions to the ethics of AI.

D.3. Policy influence and standards development

Explain how the nominee's work has influenced governance, laws, regulations, official international agreements, standards, guidelines or high-level policy processes. Please provide concrete evidence such as references in legislation, policy documents, standards, government or intergovernmental outputs, official advisory roles, membership in standard-setting bodies or contributions to international processes.

D.4. International and cross-cultural cooperation

Describe the nominee's contribution to international scientific cooperation on the ethics of AI, including collaboration across regions, disciplines and communities.

D.5. Practical application and implementation

Describe initiatives through which the nominee's research or ethical AI principles have been translated into operational tools, resources, governance models or practices.

D.6. Societal benefit

Explain the societal relevance and benefits of the nominee's work, please mention if they include vulnerable groups and marginalized communities, gender equality, inclusion and sustainable development. Address, where applicable: direct benefit to communities; accessibility of outputs; long-term perspectives on emerging AI developments; contribution to inclusive and rights-based AI systems.

D.7. Recognition and thought leadership

Present the nominee's international recognition and influence in shaping the global field of AI ethics.

D.8. Summary of the work submitted for Jury consideration

Provide a clear summary of the work submitted to the Jury, including publications, reports, principles, guidelines, tools, platforms, initiatives or other relevant outputs of major importance.

D.9. Public information summary

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.):

E. EVIDENCE CHECKLIST FOR NOMINATORS

This checklist is intended to help nominators ensure that the nomination dossier provides evidence relevant to the assessment criteria. It is not necessary for every nomination to address every item, or each example included in the boxes as they are indicative, but the dossier should clearly demonstrate the nominee's strongest contributions.

Criterion to address	Evidence to provide in the nomination	Supporting material
Breadth and depth of research	Research addressing AI ethics across contexts; interdisciplinary methods; original frameworks, principles or models; sustained track record; high-impact publications.	CV; publication list; citation evidence; key articles/books/reports; guidelines/principles; descriptions of frameworks or models.
Policy influence and standards	Evidence that research informed governance, laws, regulations, international agreements, policy processes or standard-setting bodies.	Policy documents; official references; letters from institutions; standards documents; advisory mandates; meeting records.
International and cross-cultural cooperation	Collaboration across UNESCO regions; inclusion of underrepresented voices, Global South actors, persons with disabilities or Indigenous knowledge bearers; networks/platforms.	Partnership agreements; network descriptions; participant lists; project reports; regional evidence; testimonials.
Practical application and implementation	Translation of ethical principles into operational tools, resources or governance models adopted in practice; open access and	Toolkits; online platforms; training resources; adoption letters; user metrics; translations; case studies.

Criterion to address	Evidence to provide in the nomination	Supporting material
	multilingual availability; cross-sector use.	
Societal benefit and future-oriented vision	Benefits for vulnerable or marginalized groups; gender equality and inclusion; future-oriented perspectives on AGI, climate action, biodiversity or sustainability.	Impact reports; community evidence; gender/inclusion data; sustainability documentation; accessibility evidence.
Recognition and thought leadership	International recognition; awards/honours; invitations to advise global bodies; influence on public discourse and the AI ethics field.	Award certificates; invitation letters; media/public communication; keynote records; expert panel membership; public engagement outputs.

F. SUPPORTING STATEMENTS AND REFEREES

Please attach at least two statements of support from institutions or personalities providing their own professional perspectives on the nominated achievement and emphasizing its relevance vis-a-vis the requirements of the Prize.

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):

Referees

Referee 1: name, profession and affiliation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Referee 2: name, profession and affiliation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

G. CANDIDATE CONSENT AND INFORMATION

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) :

o 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): _____

o The candidate was not informed

□ Please indicate, if possibly, why: _____

H. SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CALL

For statistical purposes only:
Please indicate where you as the nominator learned about the call for nominations for the UNESCO-Uzbekistan Beruniy Prize for Scientific Research on the Ethics of AI (please tick, several options are possible):

o Circular Letter received directly from UNESCO

o UNESCO website

o E-mail received directly from UNESCO

o Information provided by partners

o Other (please indicate): _____

I. LIST OF ENCLOSED ANNEXES AND TRANSLATIONS

Please list all enclosed annexes, including publications, books, digital supports, tools, policy documents, letters, translations and other materials illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-a-vis the requirements of the Prize.

Annex title / description	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Translations provided, if applicable	

J. DATE, SIGNATURE AND STAMP OF THE NOMINATOR

Date	
Signature	
Name and function	
Stamp, for organizations	

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.