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UNDP STORY TELLING CONTEST ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

What is UNDP storytelling contest on climate change?

While climate change is a global phenomenon, it is hitting the world's poorest regions - and most marginalized communities - the hardest. These changing conditions are impacting human health, economic activity, and are threatening basic human rights including access to water and food security. Climate change is already affecting local communities in low and middle income countries but stories on the negative impacts as well as on the solutions that governments, communities and individuals are implementing often get lost in the global climate change debate.

UNDP, together with other international partners, aims to provide young journalists in developing countries a platform to contribute to the global dialogue on climate change on the run up to COP21. The goal of the contest is to raise awareness of the challenges most vulnerable countries face as well as the solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Who can participate?

Journalists working in the developing world are invited to submit their stories on climate change.

Journalists must meet the following criteria in order to enter the contest:

- Entrants must be aged 35 or under on the closing day of the call for entries;
- They must be working in low and middle income countries, please refer to the World Bank list of countries [here](#);
- They must contribute regularly to a recognized print and/or online media as staff or freelance contributor.

Journalists can team up but the maximum number of people in a team is 3. The team can be designated as the winner of the contest. However, only one person from the team will be invited to COP21.

The contest will honour journalists who use their professionalism and influence to promote awareness of and provide new insight toward climate change issues through the production of powerful and eye-opening news and current affairs reports.

What kind of story can be submitted?

All story ideas are welcome, but we have a special interest in articles that address the impact of climate change on human rights (impact on health & work environment, access to food and water, right to live in a specific community, etc.) and the solutions that can impact positively local communities. The impact could be at any scale – individual, community, city, country or region.

Both published and unpublished stories are eligible but stories have to be published between August 24th and October 11th to be considered. If a story is unpublished by October 11th, the journalists need to submit a letter from their editor confirming intent for publication and tentative date of publication.

Stories' length needs to be 600 to 1000 words long and include at least 5 pictures.

Deadline to submit an entry

Journalists can submit their entry on a rolling basis between August 27th and October 11th 2015. However the contest won't accept entries after **October 11th 2015**, Midnight CET.

Why should you participate?

We expect journalists through their entry to contribute to the national and international dialogue on climate change on the run up to the COP21 agreement and learn from this process.

Journalists will gain exposure for their work. Entries will be published on UNDP website and disseminated through our partners' channels.

The authors of the best two stories will be invited to attend and cover the COP21 in December in Paris.

The participants - if they are interested in the mentoring approach - will be paired with a senior journalist who will coach them and provide advices on how to cover news for international media outlets.

First step: Indicate your interest

Applicants should send an email to media4climate@undp.org indicating their intention to participate as soon as they can so that we can share relevant information on climate change that could help their coverage.

How to enter?

Journalists need to submit a story featuring the impact of climate change in their country and/or solution(s) that are implemented to reduce emissions or adapt to climate change. We encourage journalists to submit both their published and unpublished stories. We expect stories to be 600/1000 words long and include at least 5 pictures embedded in the text.

Journalists need also to fill and submit an application form.

Journalists will have to provide a scanned copy of the published story in a print media certified by their editor or a link to the online media to attest of the effective publication of the story between August 24th and October 11th. If the story is not published by October 11th, they will have to submit a letter from their editor confirming the interest and tentative date of publication.

All documents are to be sent to media4climate@undp.org.

Journalists can submit the form and the story in word document as attachments. Any supporting documents (published article, letter from editors) can be shared in PDF format. If necessary, they can use a file-transfer application such as [WeTransfer](#) for large files. In addition, we also need a picture and a short biography of the journalists.

Entries can be submitted in English. Entries in French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese are also accepted but should be accompanied by an English-language translation.

No entry will be accepted if incomplete and/or after the closure of the contest on October 11th 2015 midnight CET.

Checks will be made for plagiarism and any entrant found to have submitted work which is not their own will be automatically disqualified.

Check list

- Application form
- Story including five pictures
- Scanned copy of print article certified by editor or link to the online media page attesting of the effective publication of the story
- Letter from editor confirming the interest and tentative date of publication (if the story is not published by October 11th)

Can I submit multiple entries?

The journalists can submit only ONE entry, either individually or as a team, to UNDP climate change story telling contest.

Selection

A selection panel will review all entries and score them according the following criteria:

- Technical aspects (grammar, style, punctuation, etc.)
- Substance (accuracy of climate change information)
- How well the story is told
- Pictures
- Dissemination and potential impact on public debate

Key questions judges will have in mind when evaluating the stories

- Does the story break new ground?
- Is the story relevant to current climate change issues in the region?
- How powerful is the story?
- Does the story present information accurately?
- Does the story inform the audience about possible solutions?
- Does the story help the reader better understand the issues related to climate change?
- How well do the pictures illustrate the story? Is the quality good enough for publication?
- What was the reach and impact of the story? Does the story encourage further thought and action and can the call to action be heard by policy makers and/or civil society?

Force majeure

UNDP will accept no liability arising out of circumstances around the organization of the Contest beyond its control such as unforeseen cancellation of sponsorships or celebration events cancelled by third parties