REGULATION
on the organization and conduct of the
COMPETITION FOR BEST ACTIONS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS
TO RECEIVE UN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD 2016

BACKGROUND

1. The promotion of human rights is one of the major priorities of the United Nations in Moldova. Starting with 2004, the UN Country Team in Moldova has annually provided awards for the best action to promote and protect human rights. The awards are presented during the Human Rights Gala of Awards ceremony, organized annually around 10 December - international Human Rights Day.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

2. The competition is organized by the United Nations Country Team in Moldova (UNCT) and consists of a public nomination process to identify best actions in the promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
3. A public process will be organized to solicit proposals for nominees. Members of the public are encouraged to provide reasoned and detailed nominations for individuals, civil society organisations, journalists, media organisations, public authorities or other organizations and institutions they believe have recently made an outstanding and genuine contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and equality in Moldova.
4. On the basis of materials derived from this public consultation process, as well as on the basis of other materials available, including through independent research, awards will be decided as follows.
5. A Technical Team of consultants is engaged by UNCT to review materials received through the public consultation process, as well as to conduct independent research, to develop detailed recommendations on the nominations for the awards, and to present these recommendations to the Independent Awards Board (see below).
6. With due regard to the recommendations by the Technical Team, the Independent Awards Board will decide on the awards to be provided, based on materials they deem appropriate to reach such decisions, and with a view to the
most appropriate profile of awards for the given year, as per the agreed indicative categories. The members of the Independent Awards Board serve in a voluntary capacity and are derived from among international development partners, diplomatic missions and civil society. The Board shall decide by consensus unless it decides otherwise.

7. The members of the Technical Team and of the Independent Awards Board are expected to work on the basis of an understanding that all human rights are indivisible and interconnected. The Technical Experts and the Members of the Independent Awards Board will also be expected to declare any formal or informal conflicts of interest, and to recuse themselves from any decisions or recommendations where a conflict of interest may exist or be perceived to exist.

8. The Awards Board designates up to 6 (six) awards. Indicative categories for the awards nominations are:
- General Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement;
- Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement at the Local Level;
- Award for an Outstanding Individual Human Rights Activism;
- Award for an Outstanding Media Work on Human Rights;
- Award for an Outstanding Integration of Human Rights and Equality into Internal Structure and Operation of the Organization;
- Special Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement.

ELIGIBILITY and NOMINATIONS

9. The nomination should cover nominee’s human rights work during the period 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2016. Eligible activities and materials of the nominee should cover the indicated period should be an outstanding human rights achievement and should have produced a significant positive human rights impact and/or should have demonstrated unique creativity, perseverance, engagement, diligence or heroism in the field of human rights, or which otherwise merit recognition for human rights distinction. Actions of longer duration may also be considered, provided that they also took place during the period 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2016. Thematic areas are understood as any area of human rights as set out under the relevant international human rights standards.

10. Nominations will be assessed according to criteria including the following:
- Human rights impact;
- Innovation and creativity;
- Dedication and commitment
- Bravery in addressing difficult themes or issues;
- Outreach and visibility;
- Professionalism and compliance with the highest standards of ethics.
Award winners do not have to necessarily fulfil all of the above criteria!

11. Nominations for persons or entities whose means or purposes are contrary to human rights, democracy or the rule of law are not eligible for award.

12. Nominations are sought from any person or entity. Submitted nominations should include the following information in Romanian, English, Russian, or in any other minority language of the Republic of Moldova:
   (1) The name of the nominated person or entity, including contact information;
   (2) The name of the nominating person or entity, including contact information;
   (3) Details as to the relationship between the nominating person or entity, and the nominated person or entity;¹
   (4) Detailed reasoning as to why the person, organisation or entity should be provided with an award. An indicative length for the detailed reasoning is 750-2000 words. In providing the detailed reasoning, due regard should be given to:
      a. Explaining, in clear, factual language, why the nominee should receive a human rights award (providing relevant factual description of the acts undertaken by the nominee which merit award);
      b. Reflecting on the nominee’s human rights work in light of the selection criteria (human rights impact, innovation and creativity, dedication and commitment, bravery in addressing difficult themes or issues, outreach and visibility, professionalism and highest standards of ethics)

13. If possible and relevant, other relevant materials should be provided in support of the nomination. Such materials might include evidence attesting the results and impact of the action (publications, photographs, videos, audio, press clips, partnership agreements, testimonials or letters from beneficiaries, etc.), as well as other relevant materials. Nominations for journalists or media must include a representative sample of the work of the nominee. In addition, Letters of Recommendation or other statements by third parties attesting to the merit of the person, organization or entity for the particular award are very welcome.

¹ The provision of information as to the relationship between the nominator and the nominee is a required part of the application, in order to assist technical experts and the Independent Awards Board in arriving at a full assessment of all aspects of the nomination. In no cases will the fact of a relationship between nominator and nominee result in automatic disqualification for award. Nominations are encouraged from anyone, regardless of relationship to the nominee.
14. Persons and entities submitting nominations may be contacted and requested to provide further information with respect to the nomination. As a rule, the UNCT does not return nomination materials.

**SELECTION PROCEDURES and the AWARDS CEREMONY**

15. The public consultation process, involving an invitation of nominations from the public, is launched in August with a **deadline of 30 September**.

16. The Independent Awards Board will convene during October and November with a view to arriving to a decision as to awards by no later than 15 November. The Independent Awards Board may summon the technical consultants for consultation and/or request further information from them, with a view to arriving at final decisions on persons or entities to be awarded.

17. Nominations can be submitted electronically at [ohchr.md@one.un.org](mailto:ohchr.md@one.un.org) or in a sealed envelope by mail or to the office:

   **UN House**
   **131, 31 August 1989 St.**
   **MD 2012 Chisinau**
   **Republic of Moldova**

   The envelope should be marked with the title "Nomination for UN Human Rights Awards 2016".

18. Results of the competition will be made public during the **Human Rights Gala of Awards**, which will take place around 10 December, international Human Rights Day.

19. Each Award winner will receive a memorial award trophy with its name and designation of the UN Human Rights Awards edition. Award winner may receive monetary award and/or other forms of suitable recognition. The organisers reserve the right to determine the type of the award, as well as the level of any monetary awards given.

**USE OF NOMINATION MATERIALS**

20. In many cases, the UNCT uses materials submitted for nominations in future promotional activities and other publications. Nominators are requested to indicate if such usage is not allowed. The nominations submitted to the competition will remain in the archive of the UN Office in Moldova.
21. Submission of nominations to the competition implies acceptance of the present Regulation.

22. Organizers have the right to cancel, postpone or change the terms and conditions for conducting this competition.

Further information on the UN Human Rights Awards is available by e-mail: ohchr.md@one.un.org