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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General  
for Natural Sciences



To:  
National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

Cc:  
UNESCO Field Offices

Ref: SC/PCB/SPR/FWIS/3

16 April 2013

Subject: **UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Awards For Women in Life Sciences – 2014**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that, within the framework of the **For Women in Science** partnership between the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO, we are launching the 2014 call for nominations for outstanding women scientists from all over the world. Five \$100,000 Prizes will be awarded in March 2014 in Paris to five women scientists, one per region, for the contributions of their research, the strength of their commitments and their impact on society.

Since the beginning of the programme in 1998, L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science has honored 77 Laureates, including two who went on to win the Nobel Prize. Scientists around the world are invited to submit candidates, and an international jury of eminent scientists presided in 2013 by the Nobel Prize winner, Ahmed Zewail, makes the final selection.

Given your Government's interest in the promotion and the enhancement of the Programme For Women in Science, we would be grateful if you could pass on the information that the call for nominations has been opened to renowned scientists in your countries who could present and nominate the most qualified candidates.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce the launch of the new Platform "For Women in Science" accessible on [www.fwis.fr](http://www.fwis.fr). The platform is user-friendly and will be the only tool for the submission of the candidates' applications and later for the selection process. The nominators will have to sign into the platform and upload all the necessary documents in order to submit the candidates' application.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday, 17 May 2013**. Please note that only nominations received through the platform and prior to this deadline will be considered by the Members of the Jury. No paper applications will be considered anymore. In the annex you will find the background and selection criteria. Should you experience any difficulty or if you need further information about the platform, do not hesitate to contact [fwis@unesco.org](mailto:fwis@unesco.org).

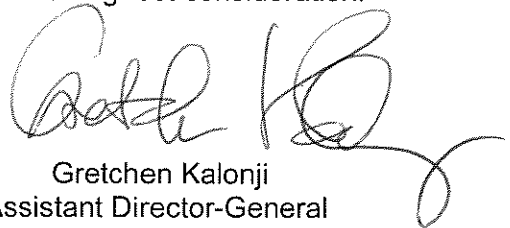
We are confident that this joint venture will serve to strengthen UNESCO's efforts to promote the participation of women scientists in global development issues.

We thank you for your active participation in ensuring that the best women in research from each region are recognized and rewarded for their scientific excellence.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Sara Ravella  
Director-General  
L'Oréal Foundation



Gretchen Kalonji  
Assistant Director-General  
for Natural Sciences  
UNESCO

## ANNEX

### **Background:**

Each year, five outstanding women scientists – one per region – are honoured for the contributions of their research, the strength of their commitments and their impact on society. Since its inception in 1998, the For Women in Science partnership has distinguished 77 eminent women scientists from 30 countries at the height of their career.

An historic moment for the Awards happened when two of the 2009 Nobel Prizes in science were awarded to Laureates of the 2008 L'Oreal-UNESCO Awards in Life Sciences: Elizabeth Blackburn (USA) in Medicine and Ada Yonath (Israel) in Chemistry.

The 2014 Awards will be given to 5 women scientists who have made a significant contribution in the Life Sciences.

One Award is given per geographic region as follows:

- Africa/Arab States
- Asia (including Oceania and Pacific)
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America (Canada and USA)

Each award is worth \$100 000.

### **Selection Criteria:**

The candidate must:

- Be recognized for her personal scientific excellence
- Be actively involved in scientific research
- Be involved in any field of the Life Sciences

### **Multiple Nominations and Renominations:**

If you wish to nominate several candidates or renominate a candidate you presented in the past you may do so.