

NSC/EC(2025)4  
21 May 2025

## **Regulations of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe**

### **Article 1: The Prize**

1.1 The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is awarded every year to two nominees, selected from a combination of the categories Global, North and South, keeping, when possible, the gender and geographical balance.

1.2 The Prize rewards their commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of intercultural dialogue and the reinforcement of the North-South partnership and solidarity, in conformity with the principles and priorities of the Council of Europe.

### **Article 2: Nature**

2.1 The Prize is honorific commending the Prize winners' achievements.

### **Article 3: Eligibility**

3.1 The Prize shall be awarded to grass root activists, personalities and organisations or institutions recognised for their commitment to the principles referred to in article 1.2.

3.2 The Prize is not awarded posthumously, and self-nominations are not eligible.

3.3. Nominees must have a proven record of advancing and safeguarding the Council of Europe's shared values, embodying the highest standards of ethical conduct, personal integrity and a steadfast commitment to peaceful principles in their actions.

### **Article 4: Nominations**

4.1 A call for nominations is published on the North-South Centre's (NSC) website during the first half of each year.

4.2 The Chair of the Executive Committee also sends invitation letters calling for nominations to the Centre's members, other Council of Europe member States, as well as to the chairs of the Council of Europe's institutions, Partial Agreements and intergovernmental steering committees. Former winners of the North-South Prize and international organisations are also encouraged to relay the call for nominations.

4.3 Any organisation or individual may submit one nomination through the attached online form in English or French, providing the identification of the nominee and the nominator, a detailed description of the nominee's achievements and any other relevant supporting documents when possible.

4.4 Each nomination shall correspond to a distinct category, chosen from among the three existing categories.

4.5 Unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee, nominations should be submitted to the Secretariat by the 15 September.

4.6. The North-South Centre Secretariat acknowledges receipt of every application no later than seven working days after receipt of the application.

4.7 The North-South Centre Secretariat shall be responsible for verifying the completeness and eligibility of all submitted nominations.

### **Article 5: Jury**

5.1 The Jury is presided by the Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Committee and is made up of members of the Bureau of the North-South Centre and a representative of the North-South Centre's host country, if the country's representative is not a Bureau member.

### **Article 6: Selection Procedure**

6.1 All eligible nominations received by the Secretariat are submitted to the Jury. The Secretariat shall also inform of any ineligible nominations, along with the reasons for their exclusion.

6.2 For the Jury meeting, there shall be a quorum of 2/3 of the Jury members.

6.3 The voting proceeds as follows:

6.3.1 Firstly, each member of the Jury shall vote for maximum two nominees, combining the categories Global, North and South, keeping, when possible, the gender and geographical balance.

6.3.2. A nominee that gets more than 50% of the votes from the members of the Jury present, during the procedure referred in Article 6.3.1, will be selected by the Jury as a Prize winner. The selection of the second laureate shall then proceed through a new vote, involving the nominees who received the two highest numbers of votes in the previous round. This second vote shall take into account the principle of combining different Prize categories, in light of the nominee already selected.

6.3.3 If no nominee gets more than 50% of the votes during the procedure referred to in Article 6.3.1, a new vote will take place which will only include the names of those nominees who got the two highest number of votes per category. The two nominees who receive the highest number of votes respecting the principle of combining different Prize categories, will be selected as Prize winners.

6.4. In case of a tie, the Jury will submit the decision to the North-South Centre Executive Committee, which will be informed of the results of the different phases of the Jury's selection procedure.

6.5. Considering the Jury's decision, and after any further consultations it may consider necessary the North-South Centre Executive Committee will make the final decision regarding the attribution of the Prize.

6.6. The meeting of the Jury and final decision by the Executive Committee will take place by 31 October.

6.7. Before the public announcement of the Prize, the winners must confirm their acceptance and availability to be present at the official award ceremony.

## **Article 7: Award ceremony**

7.1 The Prize is awarded at an official ceremony in Lisbon, in principle during the first half of the following year.

7.2 The President of the Portuguese Republic, the Speaker of Portuguese Parliament, the Portuguese Government, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly are invited to attend the ceremony.

7.3 The North-South Centre is responsible for the organisation of the ceremony, in cooperation with the Portuguese authorities, as well as the public promotion of the Prize and its winners.

## **Article 8: Interpretation and Application**

8.1 The process of submission, admission, organisation, and awarding shall be governed exclusively by these regulations. The Executive Committee shall have sole and final authority regarding interpretation and application of these regulations, as well as the resolution of any omissions or unforeseen situations therein.

## **Article 9: Entry into force**

9.1 These regulations shall enter into force as of 22 May of 2025.

