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## ORAL SOURCES COLLECTION PROGRAMME



## STORYTELLING COMPETITION ON AFRICAN CULTURAL VALUES

The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO), a specialised office of the African Union Commission based in Niamey, Niger, is pleased to announce the launch of a storytelling competition with prizes on African cultural values.

## **1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION**

The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO) was founded in 1968 under the name Centre de Recherche et de Documentation pour la Tradition Orale (CRDTO). Jointly created in Niamey by the Republic of Niger and UNESCO, the CRDTO has been integrated into the African Union system since 1974 under the name Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO).

The vision of the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO) is to contribute to African integration through the development and promotion of African languages as well as a better knowledge of the history of the continent through oral traditions.

At its inception, the Centre's initial mission was to coordinate research programmes on oral languages and traditions on the African continent. For more than half a century, CELHTO has been collecting, documenting and promoting African oral sources, thus working towards the recovery of the continent's autonomy from external cultural visions through the affirmation of a cultural identity favouring the integration and development of the continent. Its missions are perfectly in line with Aspiration 5 of the African Union's 2063 Agenda, which aims to build an Africa with a strong cultural identity, a common heritage, and shared values and ethics. These values will only be truly shared in this "Africa that we want" if they are promoted throughout the continent. It is with this in mind that CELHTO is initiating several projects to collect oral sources, promote and enhance African cultures around its three programme areas of history, linguistics, diaspora and conflict resolution. The values on which African cultures are based are transmitted from father to son and from mother to daughter through language, therefore orality, and constitute a common intangible heritage. Faced with the progressive and immutable disappearance of the holders of these traditions, it is of the utmost urgency to work

on collecting them in order to pass them on to future generations and instil in them the African values that will lead to an endogenous development of the continent.

On the basis of these elements, the CELHTO initiated this competition in order to collect tales, legends and proverbs from across the continent with a view to teaching the African values and virtues they convey and at the same time create a data bank of these values for research in several languages while promoting and enhancing the value of cross-border African vehicular languages necessary for Africa's integration.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE COMPETITION**

### **2.1. Objective**

The aim here is to collect African tales, legends and proverbs across the five regions of the continent in order to turn them into thematic publications on African cultural values to be taught in schools.

For the year 2020, the competition is open to participants from West and Central Africa.

### **2.2. Technical specifications**

The main themes proposed are:

1. Courage, determination and resilience;
2. Good manners, tolerance and respect for others;
3. Hospitality and mutual assistance;
4. Politeness and respect for elders;
5. Honour, a sense of family and belonging to the group;
6. Honesty, ethics and justice;
7. The culture of peace;
8. Solidarity and generosity;
9. Discretion;
10. Humility.

Texts must comply with the following characteristics:

- the first page of the text will include the name and surname of the candidate, the title, the African value for which the candidate is competing, the e-mail address as well as the telephone number preceded by the country indicator of the candidate's country;
- an unpublished work of fiction, drawn from the tales and popular legends of the candidate's country;
- be typescripts written in French or English and if possible, with a version in the original language of the story;
- fit on a minimum of 5 pages and a maximum of 10 pages with Arial font (size 12, line spacing 1.5).
- Have a proverb at the end of the story that supports the value conveyed.

### **2.3. Jury**

Proposals for texts will be submitted to a selection committee composed of academics, artists, CELHTO staff and other sensibilities related to the oral tradition, according to the following criteria:

- adequacy with traditional oral sources;
- adequacy with the virtues cited in the project description;
- quality of the texts: style and form, originality in the treatment of the theme;
- respect of deadlines and technical specifications;

The jury reserves the right not to award prizes if no applications meet the requirements.

### **2.4. Prices**

On the decision of the members of the jury, for each of the 10 values, prizes will be awarded to the authors of the three best stories:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: A certificate from CELHTO and a cash prize of \$1000;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: A certificate from CELHTO and a cash prize of \$700;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: A certificate from CELHTO and a cash prize of \$500.

## **2.5. How to apply**

For 2020, the competition is open to west and central African researchers, storytellers and traditionalists over 18 years old active in the field of oral tradition.

. The application file will include:

- the typed text with, on the first page, the full name of the applicant, title preceded by the African value, e-mail address and telephone number preceded by the country code of the applicant's country;
- a short biography of 150 words maximum;
- a passport photo.

## **2.6. Commitment**

Anyone who submits a text proposal for the purpose of competition certifies that he/she is the author and certifies that his/her proposal does not infringe the rights of third parties or violate any rights.

Participation in the competition automatically implies acceptance of the fact that the text proposals become the property of CELHTO, which may make them public on social networks and any other medium.

No use will be made of these prize-winning texts without the express notification of CELHTO.

The texts will become the exclusive property of CELHTO.

The winners transfer their exploitation and distribution rights to CELHTO.

Participation in this competition implies full and complete acceptance of these rules.

## **2.7. Deadline for applications:**

The deadline for receipt of applications is 20 November 2020. The results will be communicated to the candidates on 05 December 2020 and will also be published on the CELHTO website.

**Incomplete applications or applications received after the closing date will not be considered.**

All applications (or any other questions) should be sent to the following address: [celhto@africa-union.org](mailto:celhto@africa-union.org) with a copy to [neneg@africa-union.org](mailto:neneg@africa-union.org).

The call for applications and the results can be downloaded from the CELHTO website ([www.celhto.org](http://www.celhto.org) ).