

**Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education**

UNESCO has Called for nominations for the 2026 World Book Capital.

Detailed applications along with relevant documents should be forwarded to the National Book Trust latest by **15th April, 2024** at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

**Lt. Col. Yuvraj Malik
Director
National Book Trust
Nehru Bhawan,
5 Institutional Area Phase -II
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
Contact No. +91-11-26707771
Email : - director@nbtindia.gov.in**

End. As above.

Director (NBT) - Nehru Bhawan
A. K. Puram, New Delhi.



To all Permanent Delegations and
Observers to UNESCO

Cc: National Commissions for UNESCO

6 March 2024

**Assistant Director-General
for Priority Africa and External Relations**

Ref: CLT/EO/2024.26

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Director-General, I am pleased to hereby launch the **2026 Call for Applications for UNESCO World Book Capital (WBC)**.

The International Authors Forum (IAF), the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the International Publishers Association (IPA) are associated with this initiative and are therefore represented on the Advisory Committee alongside UNESCO.

Each year, the Advisory Committee submits to the Director-General of UNESCO its proposals for cities to be designated as World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective each 23 April, on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day. The city of Strasbourg (France) was designated as World Book Capital 2024 and the city of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) as World Book Capital 2025.

All applications must be submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat in English or French no later than **Friday 10 May 2024** using the **new on-line application form**.

To successfully carry out this call, we need your assistance to encourage cities or municipalities to submit their applications.


The application form as well as the application guidelines are available online at the following website: <https://www.unesco.org/en/world-book-capital-network>

For any further information, you may wish to contact Mr. Pablo Guayasamin, (p.quayasamin@unesco.org).

I thank you for your collaboration and support for this initiative.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration

Yours sincerely,


Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah



Ref: CLT/EO/2024.26

**UNESCO WORLD BOOK CAPITAL
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2026**

1. Through the World Book Capital programme, UNESCO acknowledges cities' commitment to promoting books and fostering reading during a 12-month period – between one World Book and Copyright Day and the next (23 April) – and beyond.
2. The Advisory Committee – operating under the auspices of UNESCO – is made up of one representative of the **International Authors Forum (IAF)**, the **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**, the **International Publishers Association (IPA)**, the **European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF)** and one UNESCO representative.
3. The Director-General of UNESCO is responsible for the designation of the cities, in light of the values and objectives guiding the Organization, and in conformity with the procedure set out below, and consultations with the other members of the Advisory Committee.
4. **The World Book Capital Advisory Committee calls for nominations for World Book Capital 2026.**
5. The complete applications, drafted in one of UNESCO Secretariat's working languages (English or French), should reach UNESCO no later than **Friday 10 May 2024**. No application received after this date will be taken into consideration.
6. All applications should be entered through UNESCO's [new online application form \(click here\)](#)
7. To ensure a balanced representation of Member States from all regions¹ of the world, the Advisory Committee will not consider consecutive nominations of cities from the same region. Applications from Latin America and the Caribbean are therefore ineligible for 2026.
8. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee will only consider an application for a city in a country where another city has been a UNESCO World Book Capital if a period of 10 years or more has elapsed since the previous host city's designation.

¹ According to its own criteria based on operational needs, UNESCO distinguishes five regions: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Applicants' programme proposals will be evaluated in the light of the following six criteria using a weighting system:

∅ the submission of an activity programme (specifically conceived for World Book Capital) implemented during the city's term as Capital, but with long-term benefits for partners and society at large; the city's vision for candidature as World Book Capital, including conformity with the values and objectives of UNESCO and the aims of new **World Book Capital Network Charter and Mission Statement**.

∅ a general outline of expenses foreseen, and fundraising strategies;

∅ the degree of municipal, regional, national and international involvement, including professional and non-governmental organizations, the foreseeable impact of the programmes and how this will be monitored and evaluated;

∅ the quality and scope of one-time, or ongoing, activities organized by the applicant city in collaboration with national, regional and international professional organizations representing writers, publishers, translators, booksellers, librarians, or other representatives of the book sector.

∅ the quality and scope of any other noteworthy projects – including those which involve the wider World Book Capital Network and partnerships with cities in the Global South – promoting and fostering books, storytelling, linguistic diversity, literacy, and reading;

∅ conformity with the principles of freedom of expression, freedom to publish, and the right to public information, as expressed in the UNESCO Constitution as well as Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by the Florence Agreement, as well as conformity with the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions.

10. By presenting its application each candidate city commits, in case of nomination, to:

∅ feature UNESCO, and the professional organizations represented in the Advisory Committee, in its communication and information campaign by displaying their respective logos on all publications and on the website dedicated to UNESCO World Book Capital;

∅ provide UNESCO, which will share it with all members of the Advisory Committee, with:

a. an interim report on the activities implemented during the first part of the year of designation (23 April 2026 – 23 October 2026);

b. a final report on the activities implemented during the entire year (23 April 2026 - 22 April 2027);

- ∅ systematically invite UNESCO and the professional organizations represented in the Advisory Committee to all main events relating to the World Book Capital;
- ∅ act as Chair of the World Book Capital Network in the year following designation, with attendant duties such as organization of the annual Network meeting;
- ∅ produce and circulate information and communication tools on the activity programme to the Advisory Committee members.

11. Indicative timetable for the designation process and call for applications 2026:

Phase 1	Call for Applications
6 Mars 2024	Launch of call for applications
10 May 2024	Deadline for receipt of the applications by UNESCO
Phase 2	Evaluation
May- July 2024	External and internal consultative evaluation process
Phase 3	Notification of results
15 July 2024	Publication of designation by the Director-General of UNESCO

12. UNESCO, with the Advisory Committee, will assist the chosen capital in the planning and implementation of its activity programme during the two years prior to its mandate. The panel will take stock and evaluate the preparatory work. The city should facilitate possible evaluation audits implemented on UNESCO's request.

13. If the work doesn't meet the panel's expectations, the Advisory Committee may withdraw the title from the city at any time during the monitoring phase, with one month's notice.

14. The city authorities should also commit to support the administrative work of the World Book Capital Secretariat and Network through a one-time financial contribution to this work and participating in the development of fundraising strategies.

15. In submitting an application to UNESCO World Book Capital, the city undertakes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, indicating the main lines of action for the year of designation. **The selected city will only be officially announced at the signing of this memorandum.**

The first UNESCO World Book Capital designated, prior to the adoption of 31 C/Resolution 29, was Madrid (Spain) in 2001. Subsequent UNESCO World Book Capitals have been:

- Alexandria (Egypt) in 2002
- New Delhi (India) in 2003
- Antwerp (Belgium) in 2004
- Montreal (Canada) in 2005
- Turin (Italy) in 2006
- Bogotá (Colombia) in 2007

- Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in 2008
- Beirut (Lebanon) in 2009
- Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 2010
- Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2011
- Yerevan (Armenia) in 2012
- Bangkok (Thailand) in 2013
- Port Harcourt (Nigeria) in 2014
- Incheon (Republic of Korea) in 2015
- Wroclaw (Poland) in 2016
- Conakry (Republic of Guinea) in 2017
- Athens (Greece) in 2018
- Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) in 2019
- Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2020
- Tbilisi (Georgia) in 2021
- Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022
- Accra (Ghana) in 2023
- Strasbourg (France) in 2024
- Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 2025

MENTORING

In a new initiative for 2025 onwards, cities wishing to benefit from advice or mentoring from current Network cities – while making their application – can put this request directly to the UNESCO Secretariat, who will endeavour to arrange it. Please do not contact Network cities directly.

If a candidate city wishes to receive advice in the same year they plan to submit, it is strongly recommended significant work be put into the application beforehand (given the relatively short timeframe between the Call for Applications and Submission Deadline). In such a case, the candidate must contact UNESCO as soon as possible to ensure enough time is given to this process. Please note that participation in a mentoring process in no way presupposes, or can ever guarantee, a successful application.

If you wish to receive mentoring or advice, please email wbcc@unesco.org at the earliest convenience.

Contact:
UNESCO
Culture Sector
7, place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP (France)
E-mail: wbcc@unesco.org