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Intangible Cultural Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

First Extraordinary Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI
9 November 2006

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Distribution of seats among electoral groups in the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Decision required: paragraph 7

1. At its first session (27-29 June 2006), the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter "the General Assembly") adopted its Rules of Procedure. While doing so, it left open the possibility that a subparagraph might be added to Rule 13.2 establishing an upper limit for the number of seats to be attributed to each of the electoral groups on the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter "the Committee"). The General Assembly decided to consider this issue anew at its next session, with the understanding that such a subparagraph would be adopted by simple majority (Resolution 1.GA 3). In case the General Assembly does not wish to establish such an upper limit, it may consider adopting option 1 of the draft resolution presented in paragraph 7 below. If, on the other hand, the General Assembly wishes to establish an upper limit, option 2 might be adopted. Paragraphs 4 and 5 below summarize the effects of the two options for the election of the six additional States Members of the Committee to be held on 9 November 2006.
2. On 29 June 2006, when the General Assembly elected 18 States Members of the Committee, the Convention was in force among 45 States Parties. Following Rule 13.2 (i) of the Rules of Procedure, the seats were distributed over the electoral groups as follows:

Group	I	II	III	IV	V(a)	V(b)	TOTAL
States Parties	5	10	7	9	8	6	45
States Members	2	4	3	4	3	2	18

3. As at 9 November 2006, the Convention will be in force among the following 60 States Parties:

1	Algeria	15/03/2004	31	Estonia	27/01/2006
2	Mauritius	04/06/2004	32	Luxembourg	31/01/2006
3	Japan	15/06/2004	33	Nicaragua	14/02/2006
4	Gabon	18/06/2004	34	Cyprus	24/02/2006
5	Panama	20/08/2004	35	Ethiopia	24/02/2006
6	China	02/12/2004	36	Bolivia	28/02/2006
7	Central African Republic	07/12/2004	37	Brazil	01/03/2006
8	Latvia	14/01/2005	38	Bulgaria	10/03/2006
9	Lithuania	21/01/2005	39	Hungary	17/03/2006
10	Belarus	03/02/2005	40	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	23/03/2006
11	Republic of Korea	09/02/2005	41	Republic of Moldova	24/03/2006
12	Seychelles	15/02/2005	42	Jordan	24/03/2006
13	Syrian Arab Republic	11/03/2005	43	Slovakia	24/03/2006
14	United Arab Emirates	02/05/2005	44	Belgium	24/03/2006
15	Mali	03/06/2005	45	Turkey	27/03/2006
16	Mongolia	29/06/2005	46	Madagascar	31/03/2006
17	Croatia	28/07/2005	47	Albania	04/04/2006
18	Egypt	03/08/2005	48	Zambia	10/05/2006
19	Oman	04/08/2005	49	Armenia	18/05/2006
20	Dominica	05/09/2005	50	Zimbabwe	30/05/2006
21	India	09/09/2005	51	Cambodia	13/06/2006
22	Viet Nam	20/09/2005	52	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	13/06/2006
23	Peru	23/09/2005	53	Morocco	06/07/2006
24	Pakistan	07/10/2005	54	France	11/07/2006
25	Bhutan	12/10/2005	55	Côte d'Ivoire	13/07/2006
26	Nigeria	21/10/2005	56	Burkina Faso	21/07/2006
27	Iceland	23/11/2005	57	Tunisia	24/07/2006
28	Mexico	14/12/2005	58	Honduras	24/07/2006
29	Senegal	05/01/2006	59	Sao Tome and Principe	25/07/2006
30	Romania	20/01/2006	60	Argentina	09/08/2006

4. In accordance with Rule 13.2 (ii) of the Rules of Procedure, the 24 seats on the Committee shall be distributed among the electoral groups in proportion to the number of States Parties from each electoral group, provided that, after such distribution, at least three seats will be attributed to each electoral group. Given the regional grouping of the 60 States Parties, an initial calculation would yield from 2 to 6 seats per electoral group in the Committee (see step 2 in the table below). The principle of a minimum of 3 seats per electoral group requires that 1 additional seat be attributed to Group I.

Proportional distribution of 24 seats among electoral groups as at 9 November 2006 (60/24 = 2.5 States per seat)							
Electoral Group	I	II	III	IV	V(a)	V(b)	TOTAL
States Parties*	6	13	9	10	14	8	60
Step 1**	2.4	5.2	3.6	4	5.6	3.2	24
Step 2***	2	5	4	4	6	3	24
Step 3 ****	+1						

- * Distribution of States Parties to the Convention over UNESCO's electoral groups;
 ** Dividing the numbers of States Parties per electoral group by 2.5 (60 States Parties / 24 Committee members) for calculating the distribution of seats;
 *** Rounding up/down the results of step 2 to integers;
 **** Applying the 3-seat minimum principle.

5. In case the General Assembly decides not to establish an upper limit for the numbers of seats to be attributed to each of the electoral groups, it will have to take a decision on the attribution of one additional seat to Group I (in application of the 3-seat minimum principle). Following the practice of the United Nations system, the Assembly could first seek a solution by consultation, formally and/or informally, among the States Parties, thereby exploring possibilities that one of the electoral groups voluntarily proposes to give up a seat or that the Assembly comes to a consensus on a group, from which a seat will be transferred to Group I. Should such consultations fail in resolving the issue, the Assembly may decide to resort to the drawing of lots among regional groups with more than three seats.
6. If a maximum of 5 seats per electoral group were decided, the third seat for Group I would necessarily come from Group V(a).
7. The General Assembly may wish to adopt:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 1.EXT.GA 3

Option 1:

The General Assembly,

1. *Having examined* document ITH/06/1.EXT.GA/CONF.203/3,
2. *Recalling* Resolution 1.GA 3 adopted at its first session in June 2006,
3. *Decides* not to establish an upper limit to the number of States Members per electoral group for the purpose of the election of States Members of the Committee and, hence, to leave Rule 13.2 of its Rules of Procedure unamended;
4. *Decides* that, for the purpose of the election at its first extraordinary session, the six seats are distributed among the electoral groups in the following manner: Group I (...); Group II (...); Group III (...); Group IV (...); Group V (a) (...) and Group V (b) (...).

or

Option 2:

The General Assembly,

1. *Having examined document ITH/06/1.EXT.GA/CONF.203/3,*
2. *Recalling Resolution 1.GA 3 adopted at its first session in June 2006,*
3. *Decides to establish an upper limit of [...] to the number of States Members per electoral group for the purpose of the election of States Members of the Committee and to add the following subparagraph to Rule 13.2 of its Rules of Procedure: “13.2 (iii): No more than [...] seats shall be attributed to any of the electoral groups”;*
4. *Decides that, for the purpose of the election at its first extraordinary session, the six seats are distributed among the electoral groups in the following manner: Group I (...); Group II (...); Group III (...); Group IV (...); Group V (a) (...) and Group V (b) (...).*