

Opinion of the ROK on the Two Decisions on Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

I . Accreditation of Practitioners of ICH, NGOs and Experts etc.

- Considering the fact that non-Western regions such as Asia-Pacific have the intangible cultural heritage as rich as the Western region, the advisory body should be able to equally represent each region.
 - * Currently, about 70 percent of the NGOs in official cooperation with UNESCO are located in Europe, especially in a few countries in Western Europe.
- The diversity of the intangible cultural heritage makes it hard for an advisory body comprising just a small number of international organizations or experts to deal with all the matters seeking its advice. Therefore, the advisory body should be an umbrella group consisting of varied international NGOs working in the field of the intangible cultural heritage. A limited number of experts representing each region should also be included in the advisory body, on the recommendation of the States Parties to the Convention.

II . Criteria for Inscription on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity

1. Criteria (v): "...rooted in the community or the group..."

- ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7 Draft set of criteria (v)

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- The Article 2.1 of the “Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” is using the phrase “transmitted from generation to generation” in defining the intangible cultural heritage.
- In the ACCU expert meeting held in March 2006, it was recommended that the expression “transmitted from generation to generation” be rephrased as “rooted in the community or the group” considering that there is a case in which the transmission of an intangible cultural heritage had been stopped for a certain period of time and resumed again.
- However, the phrase “rooted in the community or the group” cannot cover the intangible cultural heritage that has been inherited in the community or the group for a long time, although it is not rooted in the community (or the group).
- Therefore, we recommend the phrase “handed down through the ages” or “preserved in the community or the group” over “rooted in the community or the group”.

2. Criteria (vii-viii): “Consent and participation of the community, group, or the individuals concerned”

- ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7 Draft set of criteria (vii-viii)

- The criteria VII and VIII specify respectively that the elements proposed for listing “are submitted with the free, prior and informed consent of the community, group, or, if applicable, the individuals concerned” and “are submitted following the participation of the community, group or, if

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applicable, the individuals concerned at all stages of identification, definition, documentation and nomination.”

- In reality however, it is not easy to ask all the community or group members, or the individuals concerned whether they consent to the listing. Also, it is unclear on which standard the final decision should be made (e.g. if the two thirds of the community members agree to the nomination, can it be regarded as the whole community reaching a consensus?). Not only that, it is hard to make all the members or the individuals concerned fully involved in all the stages of the nomination.

- Therefore, it is recommended to change the criteria as follows:

“...the submitting States Parties should give proof that they have made every effort to make the community, group, or the individuals concerned fully acknowledged and involved in the nomination.”

3. Criteria (ix): “...are already included in an inventory of the ICH present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies)”

- ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7 Draft set of criteria (ix)

- It is likely that a number of States Parties to the Convention do not have an inventory of the ICH present in their territory.
- Therefore, it is advisable to give a grace period, three years for instance, in order for the States Parties without a national inventory to develop a relevant system and their own ICH inventory.

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- * During the grace period, a State Party can apply for the listing of the ICH that is not on its national inventory. But, after the grace period it is not allowed. /end/