

Form for comments by States Parties

Decisions adopted during the 1st session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage are available at:

http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich_convention/doc/src/00044-EN.pdf (in English)

http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich_convention/doc/src/00044-FR.pdf (in French)

All documents related to the 1st session of the Committee are available at:

http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich_convention/en/1COM/ (in English)

http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich_convention/fr/1COM/ (in French)

Comments, which are awaited before 31/01/2007, can be sent electronically at r.smeets@unesco.org and/or in hard copy to the Section ITH.

Comments by	Republic of Croatia
Date	26 / 01 / 2007

1. Outline for Operational Directives (see Decision 1.COM 5 and working document ITH/06/1 COM/CONF.204/5)

Please insert your comments below (box will expand as needed)

In our opinion, through its guidelines for the drawing up of required texts for the implementation of the Convention, the Committee for the protection of intangible cultural heritage has taken into consideration all the key issues of topic I in respect to which the Convention envisages further elaboration for its adequate implementation. Therefore, we support the text of the proposed Operational Directives. However, we wish to point out our view that in the elaboration of the implementation of the operational directives priority should be given to instructions for drawing up national lists of intangible cultural heritage, given that one of basic intentions of the Convention is to promote protection on the national level. The more so as the hitherto expert deliberations on national lists and their compilation have indicated differing approaches and views.

2. Advisory assistance to the Committee (see Decision 1.COM 6 and working document ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/6)

Please insert your comments below (box will expand as needed)

Along with relevant non-governmental organizations as consultants to the Committee, representatives of communities, namely, individuals from whose fields intangible goods are being considered for the purpose of their inscription in the list should also be invited.

**Comments solicited by the 1st Intangible Heritage Committee:
CROATIA**

3. Criteria for inscription (see Decision 1.COM 7 and working document ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7)

Please insert your comments below (box will expand as needed)

Having considered the proposed criteria, we are of the opinion that the draft criteria are appropriate. However, it is necessary to allow for their further advancement and supplementation, particularly through expert meetings and discussions as well as through the exchange of professional opinions and appropriate experiences by way of websites established specifically for that purpose.

Regarding the transfer of intangible cultural goods from the List of masterpieces of the oral and intangible cultural heritage of mankind to the Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of mankind in accordance with Article 31, tem 1 of the Convention, we consider that all the intangible goods inscribed in the List of masterpieces should without further consideration be included in the new Representative List.

In addition, we wish to point out the necessity of subjecting the goods from the List of Masterpieces to the same criteria of monitoring, verifying and possible removal from the Representative List as those whose inscription on the list is impending.

In that connection we consider the Committee should be vested with the urgent task of elaborating a method of monitoring and assessing the maintenance of the value and significance (integrity) of the good inscribed in the Representative List as well as the monitoring of its functionality in the life of the community/group/individual to which it belongs.

Given the numerous dilemmas which exist in connection with the introduction of a time limit regarding the inscription of a cultural good in the Representative List, we believe such a limit is not desirable and wish to point out once again to the need of adopting criteria for monitoring the properties of the cultural good and for its removal from the list if it no longer meets the established criteria.