

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	BULGARIA
Date	31 / 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)

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)

There is certain tension concerning the way of formulation and designation of the participants in the envisaged future consultative organ. On the one hand the Nongovernmental organizations (the NGO's) are specifically indicated, basing on the experience of UNESCO's Secretariat, gained in the work process on the three Proclamations for world masterpieces. On the other hand, "private persons, with recognized competence in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage" is definition, formulated vague enough.

One of the solutions for evading this tension is, for example, to have a discussion over a concrete list, prepared in advance, of the NGO's and private persons (with brief argumentation attached).

Another solution is to enrich the document with an instrument (rules, criteria, election system etc.), which should regulate the participation of the so called "private persons" in the structure.

Regarding the participation in the advisory organ, we consider it necessary to regulate:

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- regional equity of the representation in the advisory body, based on allocation of the countries' participation
- internal rotation within the frames of the regional representation

As far as the participation of the so called "private persons" – in fact experts is concerned, other, than the abovementioned principles are also:

- to have wide recognition in the professional field
- to be well versed and in possession of significant knowledge over the Intangible cultural heritage of broad regions.

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

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On the:

1. Criteria project (i) (related to the explanatory note of the second bullet)

- Bearing in mind the extremely diverse nature of the Intangible cultural heritage, better practical option would be to leave open the possibility for future supplements to the specific formulations. An attempt to achieve a final and definite formulation would always be inaccurate.

2. Criteria project (iii), (iv), (v)

- the term "rooted" could be replaced with "steady"
- In these criteria a stable and steady parameter can be included – the time. Basing on the Bulgarian experience, we suggest as a minimum term for proving the steadiness of a certain cultural practice in a given community, to be accepted the period of 50 years.

3. Criteria project (vi)

The traditional or the unwritten cultures are cultures of the variant. Providing variety of elements in the lists should not be achieved through restrictions, because this may cause the risk to exclude preliminary some forms of Intangible cultural heritage

4. Criteria project (x)

A realistic "Protection plan" should be brought up. The precondition for already "effective conservation" creates the risk to build-up a list of dead forms.

p.8 – in this case, a solution of compromise should be found, so that already inscribed masterpiece does not drop out of the lists. A list of "Pantheon of honor", representing the assembly of already inscribed masterpieces (regardless the fact whether in time they are still living or not), would contribute to the cultural memory of the humankind.

p.12 –the definition of the community types do not have its final solution until now, and also the related practices are quite different, so because of these, the proper way of acting would be to wait for the states-parties to gain the practical experience needed.

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