

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	Estonia
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)

Estonia believes that the outline for Operational Directives is well balanced and can be used as a basis for the preparation of the draft operational directives.

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)

Estonia is of the opinion that in addition to the organizations that have been named in document ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/6, paragraph 7, there is a need to include international organizations which embody and represent indigenous peoples.

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)

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ESTONIA**

Concerning criterion (v): Estonia welcomes using the phrase “rooted in the community” rather than “transmitted from generation to generation” so as not to exclude ICH the transmission of which has been temporarily interrupted.

Concerning criterion (ix): while supporting the idea that the elements proposed for listing need to be included in the national inventory of the ICH present in the territory of the submitting state, Estonia believes that it is important to recognize the fact that the national inventories take time to develop. By the stipulations of the Convention, each country can choose a separate path to draw up the inventory/inventories. It is logical to assume that, for instance, a national community-based inventory would start with a certain number of communities and later proceed to include all communities present in the territory of the state. In other words, this criterion should not exclude these ICH items which have been included in the national inventory which does not (yet) cover the whole territory of the state.

Concerning criterion (x): the present wording seems somewhat loose. It should be more clearly defined that the Committee should consider for inscription only such ICH items for which a realistic safeguarding plan has been elaborated.

More general comments on document **ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7**:

1. Duration of inscription of ICH items on the Representative List

Estonia supports the principle of limited duration (our proposal: 15 years) of inscription of ICH items on the Representative List, in order to emphasize the living and evolving nature of ICH and to keep the List manageable. The dynamic List in which the elements inscribed are regularly replaced by other elements, facilitates the visibility of the ICH in all its diversity.

Estonia believes that it would be a good idea to create a Register of elements that have been listed on the Representative List. The transition from the Representative List after agreed time period to such a Register of the ICH of the World should be automatic, in order not to create negative connotations.

2. Incorporation of former Masterpieces into Representative Lists

Former Masterpieces, once incorporated into the Representative List, should be treated as newly inscribed items.

3. National safeguarding plan for proposed ICH items

Estonia believes that this is of utmost importance for furthering the aims of the convention and should be regarded as an essential element of the proposed candidature file.

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