

**PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON DECISIONS OF THE FIRST
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

1. **Decision 1.COM.5: Preparation of the Texts Required for the Implementation of the Convention**
 - a) As these texts will be the key to acceptance and success of implementation programs, they must be clear and concise in statement of purpose. They must also provide clear guidelines and simple formats that allow for flexibility. This is necessary because of the great diversity of manifestations of the ICH and the wide range of forms of expertise that are required to implement meaningful programs in particular localities and communities around the world.
 - b) An expert meeting should be convened before the next General Assembly of the States Parties. Participants at the proposed expert meeting should bring brief write-ups of typical examples in a given format from their different regions and sub-regions. From these write-ups, the expert meeting will then come up with an agreed list of typical examples covering different domains from different geographical regions. This will provide people engaged in practical work on the ground with familiar examples and acceptable guidelines to use.
 - c) The outcome from (b) should be viewed only as typical examples for reference and guidance without evaluative connotations.

2. **Chapter 6, Advisory Organisations:**
 - a) Instead of having non-governmental bodies to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee Zimbabwe proposes an open list of local, regional and international experts, centres/institutions and organisations (including non-governmental organisations) that can be called upon from time to time to assist or give advice on specific issues and in specific domains, situations and localities. This list must accommodate community intellectuals, i.e. in addition to experts with formal qualifications.
 - b) In view of the above we propose that a data base of local regional and international experts, centres/institutions and organisations which the Committee could call upon especially to consider ICH for listing be set up.

3. **Decision 1.COM.6: Advisory Assistance to the Committee:**
- a) Accreditation and representativeness ought to be guided by diversity of expertise and geographical representation. These two criteria will ensure that no region or sub-region will be left out. The Africa region in particular is vast and extremely diverse. While all its sub-regions may not be represented in the ICH Committee, Southern Africa and East Africa in particular should be involved in the Advisory functions. These experts and their countries must be accommodated through structures for Advisory Assistance to the ICH Committee.
 - b) Participation in the Advisory bodies should also take into consideration whether the State Party from which the expert will be coming has acceded to the Convention.
4. **Decision 1.COM.7: Criteria for Inscription on the Representative list of the ICH.**
- a) The key issues are:
 - i) clarity on purpose and function of the representative list, to be stated in a preamble;
 - ii) full representativeness in both regional extent and domains of the ICH; and
 - iii) flexibility of the presentation formats.
 - b) On purpose and function, it must be stated clearly that the lists are not intended to be closed or exhaustive. Rather, they will simply serve as good examples of forms and expressions of the ICH covering all the domains that are enumerated in Article 2.2 on page 2 of the ICH Convention of 2003. This should be done in such a manner that those who will be responsible for implementing programs under the Convention can understand, use and explain easily and satisfactorily at the community, country and sub-regional levels. These are the levels at which they will be operating and where they will need to mobilise support and local participation. Ultimately it is the local communities that will ensure that the safeguarding and promotion activities succeed, not the experts.
 - c) Recommendations for modus operandi are similar to those for Decision 1.COM.5, i.e.:
 - i) Separate “Purpose and Function” from “Background” right at the beginning.
 - ii) Invite submissions of typical examples in written format for vetting and selection in a bottom-up process through local

experts, communities and institutions/centres from the various regions and sub-regions.

- iii) Convene a broadly representative expert meeting or meetings to examine, select and compile the list or lists for use and reference by people who are going to do the practical work on the ground.
- d) Incorporate items from the Proclamations of 2001, 2003 and 2005 under the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
- e) Do not consider or include any new item(s) or list(s) from States Parties that have not approved, ratified or accepted the ICH Convention.