

Hundred and sixty-first Session

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**PRIZE REGULATIONS, INTERIM REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE
IN PROCESSING THE CANDIDATURES, AND ACTION PLAN
FOR THE SAFEGUARDING, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
OF CULTURAL SPACES OR FORMS OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION
OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY**

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 160 EX/Decision 3.5.2, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board for approval the draft prize regulations and an interim report on the progress made in the processing of candidatures relating to the Proclamation, together with an action plan for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

Decision required: paragraph 18.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its 155th session, in 155 EX/Decision 3.5.5, the Executive Board approved the Regulations relating to the Proclamation by UNESCO of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity (hereafter referred to as “the Proclamation”). After having appointed an international jury, consisting of nine eminent figures representative of all the regions of the world, the Director-General submitted to the Executive Board at its 157th session an interim report on the project concerning the Proclamation. At its 160th session, the Executive Board requested the Director-General to continue his efforts to encourage Member States and public or private donors to work towards the safeguard, revitalization and promotion of examples of the heritage to be proclaimed by UNESCO “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”, in particular through extrabudgetary resources and the creation of prizes. In the same decision, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to submit to it for approval at its 161st session (i) the regulations governing the prizes which could be awarded in order to encourage the safeguarding and revitalization of cultural expressions proclaimed “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”; (ii) an interim report on the progress made in processing the candidatures; (iii) an action plan for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity (160 EX/Decision 3.5.2).

I. PRIZES FOR THE SAFEGUARDING, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL SPACES OR FORMS OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION PROCLAIMED BY UNESCO “MASTERPIECES OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY”

2. At its 154th, 155th, 157th and 160th sessions, the Executive Board, in its decisions 154 EX/Decision 3.5.1, 155 EX/Decision 3.5.5, 157 EX/Decision 3.4.1 and 160 EX/Decision 3.5.2 concerning the project relating to the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity, invited the Director-General to seek public and private donors in order to obtain extrabudgetary resources that would be used to encourage the creation of prizes or the funding of actions designed to safeguard, protect and promote masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

3. Since the 154th session and in accordance with the successive requests of the Executive Board, the Director-General has endeavoured to obtain extrabudgetary funds which could be used to encourage the creation of prizes for the project. On submitting his interim report on the progress of the project concerning the Proclamation to the Executive Board at its 157th session (157 EX/8), the Director-General informed the Members of the Board that the Secretariat had established contacts with several Member States which had expressed their desire to contribute to the implementation of the project concerning the Proclamation. To date, three countries – Bolivia, the Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan – have proposed the creation of prizes for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression proclaimed by UNESCO to be masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. Similarly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates has given its agreement for the setting up of a fund which would be used to finance – through a prize – the implementation of the action plans to safeguard the proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

4. With a view to encouraging the creation of prizes and harmonizing the procedures whereby they are awarded, the Director-General proposes regulations to apply to all the prizes, like prizes for literacy work, in order to award them to individuals, groups, institutions or

organizations directly involved in the implementation of the action plans set out in the files on candidatures for the Proclamation (the draft prize regulations are appended hereto). With regard to extrabudgetary resources, UNESCO still has at its disposal Japanese and Italian funds-in-trust.

II. INTERIM REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN PROCESSING THE CANDIDATURES FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF MASTERPIECES OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

5. In pursuance of 160 EX/Decision 3.5.3 by which the Executive Board approved the increase in the number of jury members from 9 to 18, the Director-General appointed in January 2001 eight additional members to the international jury responsible for evaluating candidature files in preparation for the first Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. The ninth additional member will be appointed soon. The new members appointed so far are:

Ms Aziza Bennani (Morocco)
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Morocco to UNESCO
Specialist in Spanish literature and civilization

H.R.H. Princess Basma Bin Talal (Jordan)
President of the Board of Trustees of
the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development
Anthropologist

Mr Anzor Erkomaichvili (Georgia)
Choirmaster of polyphonic groups
Folklorist

Mr Carlos Fuentes (Mexico)
Writer

Mr Hideki Hayashida (Japan)
Former Commissioner, Agency for Japanese Culture
President, National Science Museum

Mr Alpha Oumar Konaré (Mali)
President of the Republic
Anthropologist

Ms Olive W.M. Lewin (Jamaica)
Ethnomusicologist/Musician

H.M. Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, Kabaka of Buganda (Uganda)
Anthropologist

6. During the year 2000, and thanks to the establishment of another Japanese fund-in-trust, more than 40 Member States – in all geographical regions – received financial aid in order to prepare their files for the submission of candidatures for the first Proclamation. The Secretariat registered 36 submissions and, after the administrative evaluation, a number of non-governmental organizations well known internationally for their expertise (ICTM, ISSC, ICPHS) were called upon to evaluate, from a technical and scientific standpoint, the

candidature files that had been submitted by the Member States. All the evaluations were submitted to the international jury which, after study and deliberation, recommended to the Director-General a list of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression that are to be proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity on 10 May 2001 (the list will be distributed separately).

7. This first experience was highly instructive, having on the one hand, shown the great interest of the Member States in this project and, on the other, enabled the Secretariat to identify more clearly the real needs of the Member States and the priorities to be set in furthering the implementation of the project concerning the Proclamation. The findings and the lessons learnt from this first experience have served as the basis for establishing the following action plan.

III. ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAFEGUARDING, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL SPACES OR FORMS OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

A. Aims

8. The intangible cultural heritage has gained international recognition, being considered as a vital factor in the assertion of cultural identity, the promotion of creativity and the preservation of cultural diversity. The safeguarding, protection and revitalization of this heritage, much of which is in danger of disappearing in the era of globalization, require that urgent measures be taken. In this connection, the project concerning the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity seeks to encourage governments, non-governmental organizations and local communities to take action to identify, preserve and enhance their oral and intangible heritage, considering that it is the guardian of the collective memory of peoples, which alone can ensure the long-term survival of distinctive cultural characteristics.

9. The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- (a) To raise awareness and enlist the support of international public opinion to recognize the importance of the oral and intangible heritage, stressing the need to adopt urgent measures for its safeguarding and its revitalization through the project concerning the Proclamation.
- (b) To evaluate and take stock of the present situation of the oral and intangible heritage throughout the world so as to identify the real needs of the local creators and the communities concerned. This information will facilitate the preparation of an international standard-setting instrument for the protection of this heritage if it is so decided.
- (c) To encourage Member States to establish a national inventory of the intangible heritage and to take the necessary measures for the legal and administrative protection of this heritage. Emphasis will be placed on training, especially for young people.
- (d) To promote at all levels the active participation of local creators and individual and collective repositories of skills in the actions taken to identify, preserve, protect and revitalize the intangible heritage.

B. Strategy

10. The purpose of the project is not simply to draw up a list of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage. It is above all to encourage contributions by individuals, groups, institutions and organizations to the preservation, management and enhancement of the oral and intangible heritage, in association with UNESCO's other activities in this field, and in particular with a view to following up the Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore (1989).

11. Particular efforts will therefore be made to:

- (a) encourage Member States to set up national committees for the protection of the intangible heritage and to select their members from among local creators and practitioners, holders of the relevant skills, representatives of the communities concerned, administrators, researchers, political decision-makers and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector;
- (b) stress the importance of the support to be given to local associations and organizations which have committed themselves to implementing the action plans set out in the candidature files relating to the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity;
- (c) collect and disseminate information on the oral and intangible heritage on the basis of information compiled from candidature files;
- (d) put the most up-to-date information and communication technologies at the service of the Member States, in respect of all the activities undertaken in the framework of the project;
- (e) establish a stable funding mechanism so as to provide material support for the safeguarding activities connected with the project.

12. An interim evaluation of the project concerning the Proclamation will take place immediately after the end of the first mandate of the international jury, on the basis of the experience acquired from the first two proclamations.

C. Chief beneficiaries and actors

13. The chief beneficiaries and actors under this project must be creators (individuals or groups) or custodial communities for the heritage in question. As far as possible, the beneficiaries should be local associations and non-governmental organizations which have established management procedures likely to ensure the safeguarding, protection, transmission and revitalization of the forms of cultural expression concerned.

D. Time-schedule

14. The estimated time-schedule for the project concerning the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity is as follows:

- October 2001 Granting of financial and technical aid for the implementation of the safeguarding and revitalization actions outlined in the action plans for proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity

Meeting of the international jury to award prizes for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity

Appeal by the Director-General for the submission of candidature files and beginning of the provision of assistance for the preparation of the second Proclamation
- November 2001 Submission to the General Conference at its 31st session of a number of proclaimed masterpieces and award of the prizes for safeguarding, protecting and promoting cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression proclaimed by UNESCO masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity
- 30 June 2002 Deadline for the submission of candidature files for the second Proclamation
- July 2002-April 2003 Procedure for the administrative, scientific and technical evaluation of candidature files
- May 2003 Second Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity, during the spring session of the Executive Board

E. Funding

15. The first proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity has been completed thanks to generous support from the Japanese Government, by the creation of a fund-in-trust.

16. The experience of the first proclamation has shown the need to take several factors into consideration if the project is to be effectively implemented. First, the Secretariat needs permanent funding resources enabling it to carry out the planned activities in accordance with Member States' expectations and secondly existing structures in respect of human resources in the Secretariat must be strengthened.

17. For the continuation of the project concerning the Proclamation, a two-stage funding mechanism could be envisaged:

- First stage: The funds-in-trust and the prizes offered by the Member States would be used primarily to respond to requests for assistance in preparing the candidature files and to implement the action plans to safeguard cultural expressions that have been proclaimed masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

These extrabudgetary resources could help, in the implementation of measures requiring immediate action, the Member States experiencing the greatest difficulty in preserving and safeguarding their oral and intangible heritage, much of which is in danger of disappearing for ever.

- Second stage: A special account would be established to group together the voluntary contributions from donors wishing to finance actions to protect, preserve and safeguard the intangible heritage.

18. In view of the various points outlined above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision worded as follows:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 157 EX/Decision 3.4.1 and 160 EX/Decision 3.5.2 concerning the need to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds that could be used to encourage the creation of prizes and the funding of actions to safeguard and promote masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity,
2. Having examined document 161 EX/14,
3. Thanks the Member States that have contributed, by means of voluntary contributions and prizes, to the implementation of the project concerning the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity;
4. Also thanks the Director-General for his efforts and the encouraging results that have already been obtained;
5. Once again launches an urgent appeal to Member States and to public and private donors to strengthen their action to safeguard, revitalize and promote examples of the heritage proclaimed by UNESCO masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity, in particular by means of extrabudgetary resources and the creation of prizes;
6. Takes note of the interim report on the progress made in processing the candidatures relating to the Proclamation and the action plan for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity;
7. Approves the draft general rules governing the award of prizes for safeguarding, protecting and promoting cultural spaces or forms of popular or traditional expression proclaimed by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”, contained in the annex to document 161 EX/14,
8. Invites the Director-General to carry out a study with a view to the establishment of consolidated administrative and financial procedures for the implementation of the project concerning the Proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity and to submit the study to it for approval at its 162nd session.

ANNEX

General rules governing the award of prizes for safeguarding, protecting and promoting cultural spaces or forms of popular or traditional cultural expression proclaimed by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”

1. PURPOSE

These prizes form part of a set of measures designed to contribute to the safeguarding, protecting and promoting of the oral and intangible heritage. Their purpose is to encourage individuals, groups, institutions and organizations to safeguard, protect and promote those cultural spaces or forms of popular or traditional expression proclaimed by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”.

2. OFFICIAL NAME OF EACH PRIZE

Each prize will be given an official name, to be settled by mutual agreement between the donor and the Director-General.

3. PRIZES

The prizes, the amounts of which will be fixed by the donors, may be awarded every two years, in relation with the “Proclamation by UNESCO of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage”. The amount of a prize not awarded in a particular year may be awarded in one of the four years immediately following the year in question, as an additional prize.

4. ELIGIBILITY

The prizes are open to individuals, groups, institutions, organizations, which are mentioned in the candidature files for the Proclamation of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage, as responsible entities for the implementation of the action plan aiming at safeguarding those masterpieces.

5. SELECTION OF PRIZEWINNERS

The prizewinner(s) shall be selected by the Director-General on the recommendation of an international jury.

6. JURY

The jury which shall consist of five to twelve members of different nationalities appointed by the Director-General for a period of two years on the basis of the criteria established under paragraph 4 of the Regulations relating to the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (155 EX/Decision 3.5.5). The jury will be chaired by the President of the International Jury for the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage.

7. PROCEDURE FOR THE AWARD OF PRIZES

The names of the winners of the prizes will be announced during a special ceremony to be held at the time of the General Conference.

8. DURATION FOR THE AWARD OF PRIZES

Each prize is created per an indeterminate period. Should a donor or UNESCO decide to stop awarding the prize, the amounts remaining in the prize account shall be returned to the donor, after deduction of all charges outstanding at the time when the prize is terminated.