



Ambassador

यूनेस्को में भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि  
पैरिस।

Permanent Representative of India  
to UNESCO

1, RUE MIOLLIS  
750 15 PARIS

No. PDI/PAR/CUL/7/06

29<sup>th</sup> January 2007

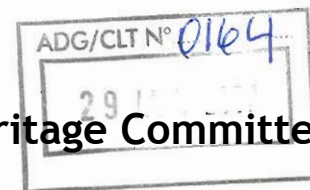
*Chère Mme. Rivière,*

By decision 1. Com.7 the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Algiers in November 2006 "encouraged States Parties to the Convention to submit to the Secretariat comments on document ITH/06/1.Com/Conf.204/7 before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007". The comments of the Government of India are as follows:

India believes that the draft set of criteria should be flexible and key criteria as indicated in the document in question should be highlighted. It would not be possible for States Parties to meet all the criteria listed in the document for inscription. Under these circumstances Government of India would recommend that the following elements be listed as essential and key criteria for inscription:

- ❖ Fall within one or more of the domains listed in Article 2.2 of the Convention (Draft Criteria i in the document in question).
- ❖ Are compatible with international human rights instrument and with the requirements of mutual respect and of sustainable development (Draft Criteria ii in document in question).

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- ❖ Rooted in the Community or the Group in which they are continuously transmitted and recreated (Draft Criteria v of document in question).
- ❖ Have been identified and defined and already included in an inventory of the ICH present in the territory of the submitting State Party (Draft Criteria ix of document in question).
- ❖ Are effectively safeguarded through appropriate means and measures, or may be effectively safeguarded by means of a well-elaborated and feasible safeguarding plan (Draft Criteria x of document in question).

2. In addition, India believes that the following criteria included in paragraph 77 (vi) of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention could also be considered i.e. *"be directly or intangibly be associated with events or living traditions, with ideas or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works"* that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage (latter sentence cited from Article 2(i) of the ICH).

3. India would suggest that an additional criteria be included which would correspond to the preamble of the ICH as follows:

"Should reflect the regional and cultural balance as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guaranter of sustainable development of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."

4. It would be appreciated if the above could be reflected by the Secretariat in the report of the Director General at the

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next Session of the Intergovernmental Committee regarding establishment of a set of criteria for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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*Bhaswati Mukherjee*

(Bhaswati Mukherjee)

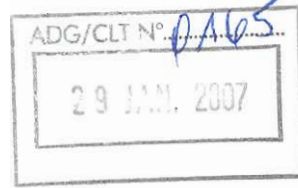
Ambassador/PR of India to UNESCO

Ms Françoise Rivière  
ADG Culture  
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RS

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29<sup>th</sup> January 2007*Chère Mme. Rivière,*

By decision 1. Com.6 the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Algiers in November 2006 "invited States Parties to the Convention to submit proposals before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007 regarding the accreditation and representativeness criteria of practitioners of Intangible Cultural Heritage, non-governmental organisations, experts and centres of expertise with recognized competence in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage to be considered at its next Session."

2 The above was pursuant to the debate within the Committee regarding the different proposals and recommendations contained in document TH/06/1.Com/Conf.204/6 including the proposal to establish an advisory body.

3 Government of India is of the view that the notion of an umbrella advisory body is outside the scope of the Convention. Article 8.4 of the Convention only states that "the Committee may invite to its meetings any public or private bodies, as well as private persons, with recognized competence in the various fields of the ICH, in order to consult them on specific matters." Under these circumstances, Government of India would prefer that in formulating criteria for accreditation, as indicated in paragraph 6 of the Decision cited above, the Committee be guided by Rule 38 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention i.e. "the Committee may call on other international and non-governmental organizations with appropriate competence and expertise to assist in the implementation of the programmes and projects." India would suggest that the accreditation reflect the regional and cultural balance as a mainstream of cultural

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diversity of ICH. In addition, it would be useful to coordinate and share information between these practitioners of Intangible Cultural Heritage, non-governmental organisations etc. with those who interact with the World Heritage Convention. India would, therefore, suggest that in accordance with paragraph 42 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention, this Committee ensure appropriate coordination and information sharing with the World Heritage Committee and other Conventions, Programmes and International Organizations related to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

4. Finally, India would suggest that States Parties be invited to submit names of non-governmental organizations as well as practitioners of Intangible Cultural Heritage who could be invited to act in an advisory capacity at future sessions of the Committee through a process of accreditation which would ensure the representative criteria of the Convention. Government of India would be separately submitting a list of such practitioners /representatives of civil society for the consideration of the Committee.

5. It would be appreciated if the above could be reflected by the Secretariat in the report of the Director General at the next Session of the Intergovernmental Committee regarding the future accreditation and representativeness criteria of civil society, non-governmental organizations and practitioners of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

*Bien Amicalement,*

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