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SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954 FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

Ninth meeting
UNESCO Headquarters
18 to 19 December 2014

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda:
**Follow-up to the Audit of the Working Methods of Cultural Conventions and to
the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector**

This document provides an update on the follow-up of the recommendations on UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2013. In particular, it describes the Secretariat's efforts to streamline the working methods of the governing bodies and to obtain additional human and financial resources. Finally, it calls the attention to structural changes of CLT Sector such as the establishment of the Conventions Common Services Unit and Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit.

Draft decision: paragraph 4.

1. By Decision 8.COM 13, the Committee tasked its Bureau with studying the recommendations contained in UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) 'Audit of the Working Methods of Cultural Conventions' (Document IOS/AUD/2013/06) Report annexed to document CLT-13/8.COM/CONF.203/13 with a view of submitting to the Committee at its 9th Meeting a set of concrete recommendations to streamline the work of the Committee.
2. The table attached in the Annex to the present document provides an update on the status of the implementation of the IOS recommendations.
3. Finally, the Committee may wish to note that pursuant to Resolution 37 C/96 the External Auditor is undertaking the audit. In this context, the Secretariat provided the Chairperson of the Committee with purely technical information to complete one of the questionnaires.
4. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 9.COM 11

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/11 and its Annex,
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Bureau and the Secretariat for its work;
3. Takes note of the present document;
4. Requests the Secretariat to provide update information at its tenth Meeting of the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations contained in the IOS audit.

ANNEX**Action Plan for the Implementation of the IOS Recommendations on the Working Methods of the Culture Conventions
Implementation of the 1954 Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols**

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(a): Formulate proposals to the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>a) supplement the current funding structure with General Trust funds formed out of contributions from the Contracting (State) Parties on a compulsory or voluntary basis to cover the ordinary expenditures of the secretariats, including staffing, administrative costs, preparation and translation of documents</p>	<p>The Secretariat will present to the 9th meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict ("the Committee") a proposal to create a Special Account, based on voluntary contributions, for the Secretariat's human resources, thus following the practice of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions.</p> <p>On 12 March 2014, the Director General wrote to all Member States calling them to contribute to the ordinary expenditures of the Secretariat including staffing, administrative costs, preparation and translation of documents. To date, Georgia has contributed 1,000 USD.</p> <p>The Secretariat and the Chairperson of the Committee also had meetings with a number of Permanent Delegations to seek extrabudgetary funds.</p>	<p>The Republic of Azerbaijan provided to the Secretariat a Junior Professional Officer for a two-year period. The Junior Professional Officer started his assignment on 15 June, 2014.</p> <p>In addition, Belgium provided funds in the amount of 50,511 USD for the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>Cyprus has expressed interest in contributing to the Secretariat's human resources.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(b): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>b) prioritize the current workload of the Convention Secretariat to align it with available resources.</p>	<p>In view of the resource constraints, the Secretariat has prioritized actions favoring the organization of statutory meetings and the promotion of ratifications of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols in conformity with the decisions of the Meeting of the Committee, the meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and that of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol.</p> <p>Other additional activities such as training, capacity-building or capacity-building seminars may be undertaken if extrabudgetary resources become available.</p>	<p>The preparation of the ninth meeting of the Committee is underway.</p> <p>Since the December 2013 meeting of the Committee, two High Contracting Parties have become party to the Second Protocol, and one to the 1954 (First) Protocol.</p>	<p><i>Secretariat does not have the human or financial resources to carry out all activities requested by the Committee, meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and those of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol.</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(c): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>c) reduce the frequency, when feasible, of the duration and agenda of the meetings of State Parties and that of the Intergovernmental Committees and synchronize the meetings of the State Parties to the conventions, when efficiencies can be achieved.</p>	<p>The frequency of the Meetings of the Committee and those of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol is set forth by the Second Protocol. Thus, its reduction would require a modification of this instrument.</p> <p>The frequency of the meetings of the High Contracting Parties is established by their recommendations. Thus, its reduction would require modifications of the recommendations.</p> <p>As the meetings of the Committee take two days, those of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention half a day and meetings of the Parties one day and a half, it is not possible to reduce their duration.</p> <p>It does not appear feasible to synchronize meetings of the Committee and those of States Parties to the Second Protocol, as well as meetings of the High Contracting Parties with meetings of other governing bodies of the Culture Sector Conventions because (i) the profile of participants is not the same; and, (ii) it is extremely difficult to participate in a string of intergovernmental meetings within a short period of time.</p> <p>Finally, in order to align working methods of the CLT Conventions, it was decided to discontinue informal meetings of the Bureau of the Committee. If the need arises, other forms such as informal consultations between the Bureau of the Committee and the Secretariat could be further explored.</p>	<p>No further action is needed.</p> <p>Informal Bureau sessions discontinued.</p>	<p><i>Status Quo</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(d): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>d) harmonize the translation and interpretation requirements across the convention meetings and seek extrabudgetary funding for additional languages.</p>	<p>Translation and interpretation requirements for the Governing Bodies of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol are provided for in their Rules of Procedures.</p> <p>The Rules of Procedure of the Committee provide for six languages (EN/FR/ES/AR/CH/RU). However, in conformity with Decision 6.COM 5 (B), the Committee decided to suspend provisionally the application of Rule 33 of its Rules of Procedure until its tenth Meeting in 2015 by using English and French as the languages for translation of its working documents and by using English, French and Spanish for interpretation of its deliberations.</p> <p>Six languages are used both for the meetings of the High Contracting Parties and those of Parties to the Second Protocol (EN/FR/ES/AR/CH/RU).</p> <p>By Decision 6.COM 5(B) adopted in December 2011 the Committee decided to suspend provisionally the application of Rule 33 of its Rules of Procedure until its tenth Meeting in 2015 by using English and French as the languages for translation of its working documents and by using English, French and Spanish for interpretation of its deliberations. It is proposed to renew this decision for an unlimited period of time or to modify the above-mentioned Rule to this end.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>The Committee Documents in 2014 only provided in English and French to reduce costs.</p>	<p><i>Status Quo</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 1(e): Formulate proposals to the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>e) modify the financial rules and regulations, if necessary, to allow application of cost recovery policy.</p>	<p>No action has been taken.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><i>Status Quo</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 2: Where applicable, explore more efficient ways of obtaining advisory services and consider potential chargeback mechanisms to the nominating State Parties and/or earmarked fund and formulate proposals to the respective Governing Bodies for possible economies and financial sustainability in the advisory service fees.</p>	<p>In 2013, the Secretariat has commissioned a series of studies on the evaluation of criteria of Article 10(a) and 10(b) of the Second Protocol. The studies were funded thanks to the Belgian contribution transferred to the regular budget.</p>	<p>The studies received by the Secretariat in September 2014 are currently being reviewed.</p>	<p><i>Status Quo</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 3: CLT Sector should expand its Common Logistics Unit to include additional services that add value and provide cost-effective solutions to support the work of all convention secretariats. The platform can function under the guidance of the Cultural Convention Liaison Group.</p>	<p>Following the restructuring of the Culture Sector (DG/Note/14/21 of 19 May 2014), the Conventions Common Services Unit was established to provide a common platform of pooled resources serving all Cultural Conventions for a number of common needs, in the areas of (i) communication, (ii) outreach and partnerships, and (iii) logistical aspects of statutory meetings.</p> <p>The Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit was also established. It is responsible for developing and disseminating CLT policies and resource materials and supporting the conception and implementation of capacity-building and technical assistance activities related to emergency preparedness and response for cultural and natural heritage, as well as co-ordinating the CLT's response to emergencies, including in the framework of Post Disaster Needs Assessments and Post Conflict Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The Executive Office will continue to be responsible for overseeing the strategic orientation and implementation of the Culture Sector's programme and its human and financial resources.</p> <p>The CCLG meets regularly to oversee coordination among Secretariats.</p>	<p>Conventions Common Services Unit was established and is operational.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 4: CLT Sector formulate, in consultation with BSP/CFS, a coordinated fundraising strategy for all Conventions Secretariats and form a common resource mobilization team.</p>	<p>The Convention Secretaries held two meetings with members of the BSP/CFS to discuss various options to form a common resource mobilization strategy.</p> <p>The Conventions Common Services Unit will be in charge of developing the coordinated fundraising strategy and mobilization of resources for all conventions.</p>		<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>