

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	Peru
Date	26 / 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)

The Peruvian State deems it urgent that emphasis be made on the promotion of ICH by means of its appropriate dissemination through the mass media. This should be done by UNESCO and as a task for the Inter Governmental Commission.

The impact of the media in the transformation of the forms of life of societies cannot be denied. It is therefore necessary to deploy a campaign to sensitize the member States of the Convention with respect to promoting the visibility of ICH in the media.

It is also suggested that UNESCO studies the possibility of having a world-wide cable TV channel devoted to ICH. This proposal was also put forward during the Meeting of Experts, *The role of the media in divulging the ICH*, organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of Colombia, which took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in May 2002.

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)

The Peruvian State reaffirms its support to the position expressed by Bolivia regarding the fact that it would be better to create an advisory body comprised of representatives of the indigenous peoples and of the communities carrying the ICH, rather than to create an advisory body formed by NGOs. However, Peru does not object the creation of a secondary advisory body of NGOs, which should include institutions of all the continents.

This position is supported by the need to involve the tradition bearers and performers of the cultural expressions in the safeguard of their heritage, as stated in Unesco's ICH Convention and further developed in the Tokyo Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding ICH held on March 2006, and at the same time it would be an efficient way to make them come closer to knowledge and to the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguard of the ICH.

The direct contribution of the carriers of the ICH would give the Inter Governmental Commission the view of the bearers and performers, thus allowing for a better decision-making process. The participation of the representatives of the communities could be established following the guidelines set by the aforementioned Tokyo Expert Meeting.

The involvement of the ICH carriers by means of their representatives in the advisory body would therefore give more legitimacy to the decision-making processes of the Commission.

The decision to create such advisory body would also be seen as a very democratic one, since it would help to revert the situation of exclusion in the process of drafting and implementing cultural policies to which these peoples and communities have generally been subjected.

3. Criteria for inscription (see Decision 1.COM 7 and working document ITH/06/1.COM/CONF.204/7)

The Peruvian State suggests to include endangered languages as a priority in the criteria for registration in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, since language not only constitutes a heritage in itself, but is also a means for expressing the whole ICH of a group or society.

This position is supported by the fact that much of the traditional knowledge and learning and many of the traditional technologies are expressed in these languages; therefore, the disappearance of languages entails the loss of all this knowledge.

Language is, additionally, one of the main references of the cultural identity of the peoples; the cease of its use is one of the most severe symptoms of cultural loss. To the extent that language is the basis of cultural identity, its protection and promotion are directly related to the objectives of Unesco's *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (20 Oct. 2005), inasmuch as the Convention states that "linguistic diversity is a fundamental element of cultural diversity". To the effect of selecting the languages to be included in the Representative List, it would be convenient to take into account the "Recommendations to UNESCO for Action Plans on the Safeguarding of Endangered Languages" that were issued at the International Expert Meeting on 10-12 March 2003, and further developed in the concept paper entitled *Language Vitality and Endangerment*.

On the other hand, the Peruvian State considers that the series of definitions of intangible heritage listed in article 2.2 of the Convention is not explicit enough, and thus believes it would be convenient to hold a meeting of experts with representatives of indigenous peoples and carrying communities in order to appraise and enhance the said listing.