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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE
RETURN OF CULTURAL PROPERTY TO ITS COUNTRIES OF
ORIGIN OR ITS RESTITUTION IN CASE OF ILLICIT
APPROPRIATION**

**Nineteenth Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI
1-2 October 2014**

Provisional agenda point 14: Examination of the Fund of the Committee

This document presents a follow-up of the discussions regarding the Fund of the Committee. As requested by the Committee, the Secretariat communicated the existence of, and the opportunities offered by the Fund.

The Annex presents a summary of the substantial information distributed during the 18th session of the Committee (ref. ICPRCP/12/18.COM/4).

Decision required: paragraph 7

INTRODUCTION

1. During the 18th session of the Committee in 2012, the Secretariat presented a document entitled 'Discussions on the Fund of the Committee' (ref. ICPRCP/12/18.COM/4). This document included information on the following points: 'History and background', 'Contributions to the Fund', 'Criteria for grants', 'Application process to request funding' and 'Priorities of the Fund in selecting projects'.
2. In its recommendation No. 6 made during the 18th session, the Committee invited the Secretariat to further communicate the existence of, and the opportunities offered by the Fund in order to encourage voluntary contributions.

I. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

3. Following the recommendation adopted by the Committee, the Secretariat of the Committee – which is also the Secretariat in charge of the 1970 Convention – systematically notifies in all its presentations and communications made during training sessions, workshops and seminars organized on this topic the existence of this Fund, its aims and the possibility to contribute to it.
4. During meetings with potential donors or recipients, the Secretariat emphasizes the possibility to contribute or to apply for grants to this Fund while presenting its objectives and criteria.
5. The UNESCO website features, a specific page¹ to increase the visibility of information related to the Fund. This page, provides historical background as well as :
 - the Rules of the functioning of the Fund, and;
 - the procedure for assessment of projects.
6. Despite all these efforts, the Secretariat did not receive new request or voluntary contribution. By consequence, as of 1 September 2014, the balance of the Fund amounts to USD 124,202\$.
7. In view of foregoing, the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following recommendation:

II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 19.COM 7

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ICPRCP/14/19.COM/7 ;
2. Takes note of the Secretariat's efforts to communicate on the existence, usefulness and the opportunities offered by the Fund in order to encourage voluntary contributions;
3. Strongly encourages States to submit requests for funding and to increase further their voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to make it more operational.

¹ See ANNEX I

ANNEX I

UNESCO's website on 1st September 2014:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/restitution-of-cultural-property/fund-of-the-committee/>

The screenshot shows the UNESCO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories: UNESCO, Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information, and Media Services. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with: About us, Themes, Worldwide, Communities, Events, and Resources. The main header features the UNESCO logo and the title "Restitution of Cultural Property". A breadcrumb trail reads: UNESCO » Culture » Themes » Restitution of Cultural Property » Fund of the Committee. On the right side of the header, there are accessibility icons (A, A+, magnifying glass, printer, and email).

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left sidebar (Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property):** 1970 Convention, 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, Meeting of States Parties, Subsidiary Committee, Emergency actions, Capacity-building, Partnerships, Legal and practical instruments.
- Left sidebar (Restitution of Cultural Property):** Intergovernmental Committee, Sessions, Return or Restitution Cases, Requesting return or restitution, **Fund of the Committee** (highlighted), Mediation and Conciliation, Standards for ownership, Related events.
- Main content area:**
 - ### Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee

When the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation was created in 1978, it was recommended that a Fund would also be created in order to facilitate its function. In addition, the *Study on the Principles, Conditions and Means for Restitution or Return Of Cultural Property in View of Reconstituting Dispersed Heritages*, carried out in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), also recommended the creation of such a Fund.

It was finally in November 1999, during the 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference that the Resolution 27 was adopted and the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee was created, in compliance with Recommendation No.6 (adopted in 1999 by the 10th session of the Committee).

This Fund aims to support Member States in their efforts to pursue the return or restitution of cultural property and effectively fight illicit traffic in cultural property, particularly with regard to: the verification of cultural objects by experts, transportation, insurance costs, setting up of facilities to exhibit them in satisfactory conditions, and training of museum professionals in the originating countries of cultural objects.

In March 2001, the Director General of UNESCO launched an appeal to participate in this unanimous effort and contribute generously to the Fund in order to facilitate the effective restitution of cultural property to its State of origin or its owner.
 - Documents:**
 - Rules for the functioning of the Fund: EN | FR | ES
 - Procedure for assessment of project
 - The Fund is open to voluntary contributions from States and private donors.**
 - [Back to top](#)
- Right sidebar (RELATED INFORMATION):**
 - HIGHLIGHTS**
 - 19th Session of the ICPRCP 1-2 October 2014, UNESCO HQ
 - RESOURCES**
 - Publications
 - Videos
 - Articles by Experts
 - Databases
 - Bibliography
 - Contact
 - UNITED NATIONS**
 - Resolutions adopted by the UNGA on the return and restitution of cultural property
 - PRESS REVIEW**
 - Illicit trafficking and restitution of cultural property in the international press
- Recovered Treasures** (video player)

ANNEX II

History

The Fund of the ICPRCP was initiated in January 1999 by Recommendation No. 6 of the 10th session of the Committee and adopted in November 1999 by Resolution 27 of the 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Nonetheless, the history of the conception and development of the Fund dates back to several decades.

Objectives

The Fund was created with a view to facilitating the work of the Committee and supporting Member States in their efforts to pursue the return or restitution of cultural property and effectively fight against illicit trafficking.

The main reasons for the creation of the Fund are, essentially, to cover the costs of:

- verifying the cultural objects by experts;
- training museum professionals in the country of origin;
- creating and maintaining comprehensive inventories; and
- setting up facilities to cover: shipping and handling; insurance costs, and outfitting the venue to exhibit the objects in satisfactory conditions.

Contributions to the Fund

All States are encouraged to contribute generously to the Fund to make possible the effective restitution of cultural property to its rightful owner. The Fund is financed exclusively by voluntary contributions.

Who can contribute?

- UNESCO Member States
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations system
- Intergovernmental organizations

Contributions may also be made in the form of services (such as technical assistance, training) and in kind (such as equipment).

Criteria for grants

Requests for funding must:

- be related to the requests by a UNESCO Member State or Associate Member of UNESCO for the return or restitution of a cultural object that constitutes fundamental significance from the point of view of the spiritual value and cultural heritage of the people of such State and which has been lost as a result of colonial or foreign occupation or as a result of illicit appropriation; and
- be in conformity with the objectives and principles articulated in the Committee Statutes and mandate, taking into consideration cultural identity, educational needs and the policies of the countries or regions concerned, and;
- strengthen the national capacities to combat illicit traffic and facilitate its prevention or the restitution of cultural heritage objects or exchange of information in this area.

Application process to request funding

As per the Operational Guidelines of the Fund of the Committee, requests for application of the Fund are to be submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee by:

- the national authority of the Member State responsible for relations with UNESCO; or
- inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations and similar institutions with which UNESCO has official relations, if endorsed by a Member State.

Priorities of the Fund in selecting projects

Priority is given to projects submitted by UNESCO Member States:

- that aim to return cultural objects to their countries of origin where cultural heritage has become an object of extreme dispersion; or
- that aim to strengthen regional and national capacities (particularly in developing countries) through public awareness-raising campaigns and the creation of museums and other institutions responsible for the preservation of cultural property.

In the event that a proposal is approved, the Director-General of UNESCO will administer funding through the resources available to the Secretariat of the Committee.
