UNESCO
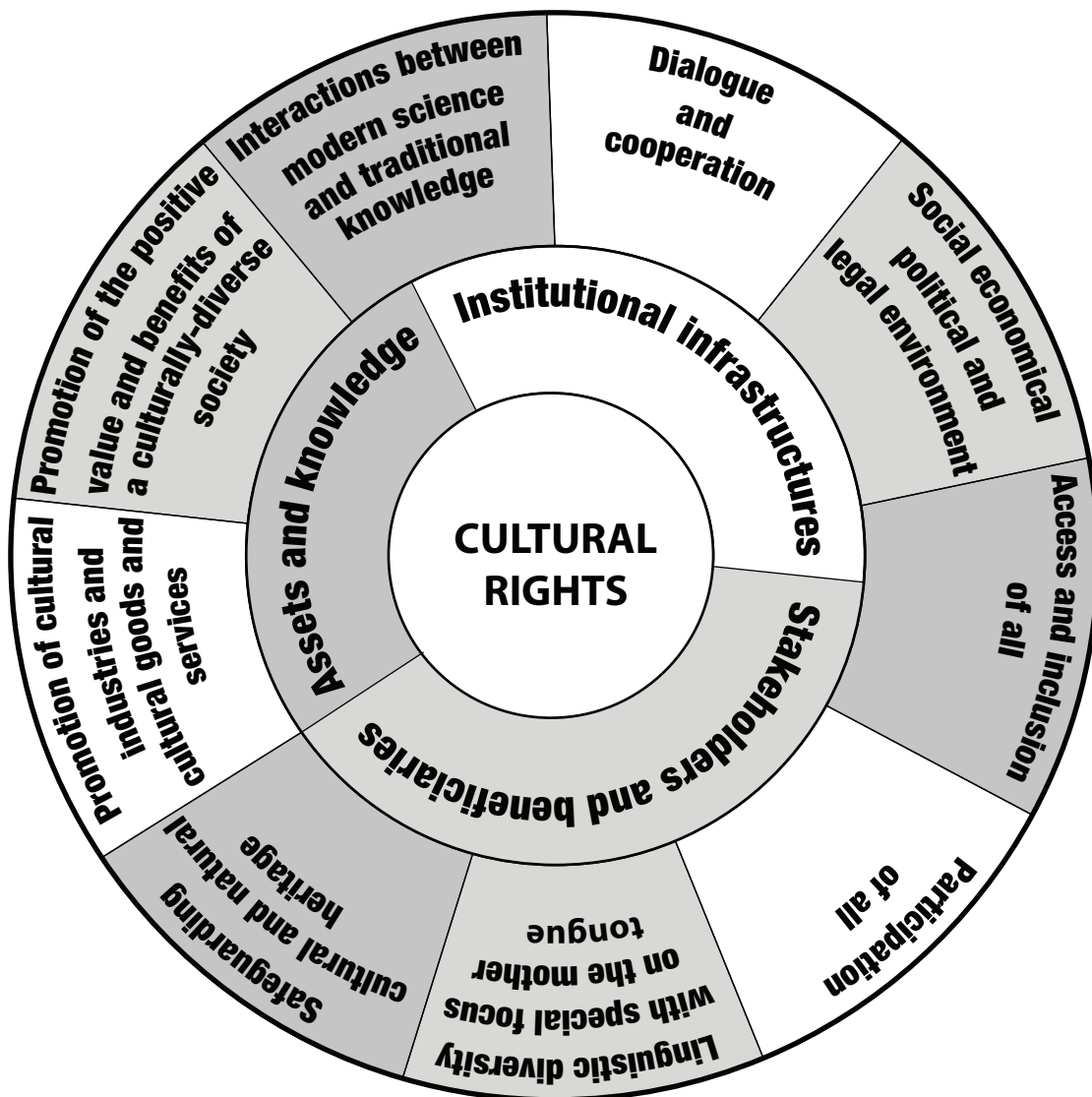United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Cultural Diversity
Programming Lens

Integrating Cultural Diversity in Programming

Interactions between modern science and traditional knowledge

Dialogue and cooperation

Promotion of the positive value and benefits of a culturally-diverse society

Social economical political and legal environment

Institutional infrastructures

Promotion of cultural industries and inductural goods and cultural services

Assets and knowledge

CULTURAL RIGHTS

Access and inclusion of all

Stakeholders and beneficiaries

Safeguarding cultural and natural heritage

Linguistic diversity with special focus on the mother tongue

Participation of all

What is Cultural Diversity?

"Cultural diversity refers to the manifold ways in which the cultures of groups and societies findexpression. These expressions are passed on within and among groups and societies. Culturaldiversity is made manifest not only through the varied ways in which the cultural heritage ofhumanity is expressed, augmented and transmitted through the variety of cultural expressions,but also through diverse modes of artistic creation, production, dissemination, distribution andenjoyment, whatever the means and technologies used".

Reference: UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

What is a cultural diversity programming lens?

- A lens enables people to see. The purpose of a cultural diversity lens is to **raise awareness** and open minds to new ways of thinking. The lens thereby opens the way to new solutions and activities.

- It is a supplementary tool which can be used in complement of other means to evaluate whether programmes, policies, proposals and practices promote and safeguard cultural diversity and therefore enhance work efficiency.

- It is a check-list or a list of criteria and questions supplemented by **indicators** and other means of verification.

- It can be used at all stages of a programme: planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluating. For example, the lens can be used to plan a project, and then re-used (with adaptations, if necessary) during the monitoring stage to compare the plans with the outcomes.

- It is a tool that can be used for all programmes and activities, not simply for the ones related to Culture.

- It allows programme officers and policy-makers to make **informed decisions**.

- It is ideally created in a participatory manner by those who use it. There is no perfect lens. Each programme can develop its own lens.

- This framework has been developed by UNESCO Bangkok and derived from the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. It reflects one interpretation of the Declaration and can be adapted to the users' needs and context.

Reference

- UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)

- UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

For more information:

The Cultural Diversity Programming Lens Toolkit, UNESCO Bangkok (2006)

http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/lens