



International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)

Explanatory Note

1. Context

On the 20 October 2005, the 33rd UNESCO General Conference adopted the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. The Convention entered into force in 2007. The speed at which this Convention was adopted is considered an extraordinary achievement and signals the urgency and commitment for action from governments around the world. As of 1 March 2010, there were 108 Parties to the Convention (107 States and the European Union as a regional economic integration organization).

Through its main objective – *to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions* – the 2005 Convention strives to create an enabling environment in which the diversity of cultural expressions may be affirmed and renewed in a globalised world for the benefit of all societies. At the same time, it reaffirms the ties that bind culture, development and dialogue and establishes an innovative basis for international cultural cooperation.

As a binding international legal instrument, the 2005 Convention has been heralded as the Magna Carta of International Cultural Policy reaffirming the right of governments to *maintain, adopt and implement cultural policies and measures* they deem necessary to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and to ensure the free flow of ideas and works.

The 2005 Convention spells out *eight key principles that are to guide the formulation and implementation of cultural policies and measures* to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions. Among them are: sovereignty to adopt cultural policy measures within their territory; international solidarity and cooperation; economic and cultural aspects of development; sustainable development; equitable access to cultural expressions from around the world.

Article 18 of the 2005 Convention provides for the creation of a voluntary International Fund for Cultural Diversity as a means to *support the operationalisation of these principles*.

2. International Fund for Cultural Diversity

2.1 Objectives and priorities

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support to *programmes, projects and activities* that aim to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector in developing countries that are Parties to the Convention. These could be designed to:

- facilitate the introduction of cultural policies that protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and, where appropriate, strengthen the corresponding institutional infrastructure;
- provide capacity-building opportunities aimed at formulating and implementing cultural policies;
- strengthen existing local cultural industries;
- foster the emergence of new cultural industry businesses;
- protect cultural expressions at risk of extinction, under serious threat, or in need of urgent safeguarding.

In addition, the Fund will provide support for *preparatory assistance* to identify the specific needs of developing countries that are Parties to the Convention and to assist them when preparing their requests for IFCD funding within the framework of activities described above. This may include, for example, engaging in stakeholder consultations, undertaking a mapping exercise, research study and/or situational analysis.

Separate application forms are available for those seeking project/programme funding and for preparatory assistance. Please make sure that you are using the correct application form.

Programmes/projects and assistance requests aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt or paying interest or relating solely to the production of cultural expressions will not be eligible for assistance from the Fund.

2.2. Who can apply to the IFCD?

The beneficiaries of the IFCD are *developing* and *least-developed countries*. Therefore, those who are eligible to apply to the Fund are:

- all developing countries which are Parties to the Convention. A full list is available in Annex 1;
- all State Parties to the Convention which have determined the existence of special situations on their territory in conformity with Articles 8 and 17 of the Convention and related operational guidelines;
- non-governmental organizations coming from developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, which meet the definition of civil society and criteria regulating admission of its representatives at meetings of organs of the Convention as mentioned in the operational guidelines relating to the role and participation of civil society¹;
- international non-governmental organizations, which meet the definition of civil society and criteria regulating admission of its representatives at meetings of organs of the Convention as mentioned in the operational guidelines relating to the role and participation of civil society, and which present projects with impact at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level;
- micro, small and medium sized enterprises of the private sector active in the cultural field of developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, to the limit of available funds from contributions provided by the private sector, in full conformity with the domestic laws of the Parties concerned;
- representatives of vulnerable groups and other social groups identified in Article 7 of the 2005 Convention (i.e. women and other social groups, including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples) from developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention.

Equitable geographic and gender distribution of the resources of the Fund are to be ensured.

2.3 Submitting funding requests

Funding requests are to be submitted in English or French duly filled in using the attached forms. The maximum numbers of words are indicated and should not be exceeded. Incomplete application forms will not be eligible.

These requests are to be submitted in digital form (.doc file), using a font size of 10 or larger; decorative fonts should be avoided and special characters, if needed, must employ a standard Unicode font. The original signed copies shall be presented on A4 or letter-size paper, and preferably in loose-leaf format (not in a bound volume).

¹ For the purposes of this Convention, civil society means non-governmental organizations, nonprofit organizations, professionals in the culture sector and associated sectors, groups that support the work of artists and cultural communities. Criteria identified in the Operational Guidelines on civil society are: civil society have interests and activities in one or more fields covered by the Convention; they have a legal status in compliance with the established rules of the jurisdiction in the country of registration; they are representative of their respective field of activity, or of the respective social or professional groups they represent.

Funding requests are to be sent to the UNESCO Secretariat of the 2005 Convention **through the National Commissions for UNESCO** or other official channels designated by the States Parties.

Before forwarding applications to the Secretariat, National Commissions for UNESCO shall first review them to ensure that projects are relevant, meet the country's needs, and have been subject to consultation among stakeholders.

International non-government organisations (INGOs) can submit their funding requests **directly** to the Secretariat providing that their programme/project proposals are supported in writing by the States Parties beneficiaries concerned.

2.4 Process for evaluating funding requests

Step 1: At the national level, the *National Commissions* or other official channels designated by the Parties shall receive completed applications. In submitting the completed applications, National Commissions will undertake a first review to ensure that projects are relevant, meet the country's needs and priorities, are deemed to be feasible, and have been subject to consultation among stakeholders before sending them to the UNESCO Secretariat. A special form is made available to National Commissions for this purpose.

National Commissions will set their own deadlines to receive applications on the national level. The deadline for National Commissions to submit applications to the UNESCO Secretariat is 30 June before midnight Paris time.

Step 2: Upon receiving the funding requests and review forms from National Commissions, the *Secretariat of the Convention* will perform a technical evaluation to ensure that the applications are complete and therefore admissible.

Step 3: All funding requests will be evaluated by an *international panel of six experts* from all regions, appointed by the Intergovernmental Committee in December 2009.

Step 4: Each application will be reviewed by two members of the expert panel. Final recommendations of the panel will be communicated to the Intergovernmental Committee who will make the final decision on those applications to receive support from the IFCD. The Committee meets in ordinary session at the end of each year.

2.5 Evaluation criteria

Applications to the IFCD will be evaluated on the basis of criteria established by the Intergovernmental Committee on the use of resources of the Fund.

In particular, **how** the proposed activities:

- 1) address the objectives and priorities of the 2005 Convention and the IFCD (see 2.1 above);
- 2) meet the needs and priorities of the country where the project will be implemented and are deemed to be feasible and relevant;
- 3) contribute to achieving concrete and sustainable results. The structural impact of the programme/project is to be indicated;
- 4) engage stakeholders in both the design and implementation stages of the project or activity;
- 5) satisfy the principle of financial accountability. This means that funds are to be spent principally on programmes and ensure minimum overhead costs. Proposed budgets will be carefully examined to ensure that resources are not spread too thinly or are used to support sporadic activities.

Additional financial assistance or co-funding is highly advisable as a means to engage more partners in the process and to contribute to the smooth implementation of the programme/project.

2.6 Deadline for submission of funding requests

Applicants are to consult their National Commissions for UNESCO to find out about the deadline for receipt of applications at the national level.

The deadline for National Commissions to submit funding applications to the UNESCO Secretariat of the 2005 Convention is **30 June (before midnight Paris time)**.

Applications received after this deadline will not be eligible for this funding period.

2.7 Timeframe for programmes/projects 2010

Successful programmes/projects will be notified in December 2010.

Formal contracts will be issued in early 2011. Workplans and budgets are to be designed with this timeframe in mind.

2.8 Final programme/project reports

Those beneficiaries that have received funding will submit a mandatory descriptive, analytical and financial report on the execution of the programme/project and the realization of expected results.

Reports are to be submitted to the Secretariat no later than six months following the conclusion of the project. Following receipt of this Report, final payments can be made. No financial contributions for new projects will be allocated to applicants who have not submitted this report.

2.9 Ex-post evaluation

All programmes/projects that have received support from the IFCD may be subject to an *ex-post* evaluation with regard to efficiency and the achievement of objectives relative to the resources spent.

Ex-post evaluation of funded programmes/projects should present lessons learned, as well as the impact of these programmes/projects on the development of policies for culture. The evaluation is to demonstrate how experiences gained could benefit other projects, with a view to compiling a knowledge base of best practices.

2.10 Contact

For further information, please contact your National Commission for UNESCO.

Contact information is available from the following websites:

<http://www.unesco.org/en/national-commissions>

For further information on the 2005 Convention and the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, please consult the website:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/diversity/convention>

Specific inquiries on the application process can be sent to: IFCD.Convention2005@unesco.org

Annex 1

List of States Parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that are Eligible for Support from the IFCD

The purpose of the Fund is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention.

There is, however, no established convention for the designation of “developed” and “developing” countries or areas in the United Nations system.

The below list of countries eligible for support from the Fund was compiled on the basis of the official UNCTAD classifications of developing economies, least developed economies and economies in transition. For more information on UNCTAD classifications and indicators please see:

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intltemID=2187&lang=1>

The countries listed below represents the state of ratifications to the 2005 Convention as of 10 May 2010. For an updated list, please consult the 2005 Convention website:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/diversity/convention>

	States Parties	Year of ratification
1.	Afghanistan	2009
2.	Albania	2006
3.	Argentina	2008
4.	Armenia	2007
5.	Azerbaijan	2010
6.	Bangladesh	2007
7.	Barbados	2008
8.	Belarus	2006
9.	Benin	2007
10.	Bolivia	2006
11.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2009
12.	Brazil	2007
13.	Burkina Faso	2006
14.	Burundi	2008
15.	Cambodia	2007
16.	Cameroon	2006
17.	Chad	2008
18.	Chile	2007
19.	China	2007
20.	Congo	2008

21.	Côte d'Ivoire	2007
22.	Croatia	2006
23.	Cuba	2007
24.	Djibouti	2006
25.	Dominican Republic	2009
26.	Ecuador	2006
27.	Egypt	2007
28.	Ethiopia	2008
29.	Gabon	2007
30.	Georgia	2008
31.	Grenada	2009
32.	Guatemala	2006
33.	Guinea	2008
34.	Guyana	2009
35.	Haiti	2010
36.	India	2006
37.	Jamaica	2007
38.	Jordan	2007
39.	Kenya	2007
40.	Kuwait	2007
41.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2007
42.	Lesotho	2010
43.	Madagascar	2006
44.	Malawi	2010
45.	Mali	2006
46.	Mauritius	2006
47.	Mexico	2006
48.	Mongolia	2007
49.	Montenegro	2008
50.	Mozambique	2007
51.	Namibia	2006
52.	Nicaragua	2009
53.	Niger	2007

54.	Nigeria	2008
55.	Oman	2007
56.	Panama	2007
57.	Paraguay	2007
58.	Peru	2006
59.	Qatar	2009
60.	Republic of Moldova	2006
61.	Saint Lucia	2007
62.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2009
63.	Senegal	2006
64.	Serbia	2009
65.	Seychelles	2008
66.	South Africa	2006
67.	Sudan	2008
68.	Syrian Arab Republic	2008
69.	Tajikistan	2007
70.	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2007
71.	Togo	2006
72.	Tunisia	2007
73.	Ukraine	2010
74.	Uruguay	2007
75.	Viet Nam	2007
76.	Zimbabwe	2008

Source: UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics, 2009 www.unctad.org/statistics/handbook