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Organización
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Организация
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Speech by Salvatore Mineo, Officer-in-charge, UNESCO Office in Brussels,
on the occasion of the official presentation of the UNESCO Certificate of
Inscription of the “Safeguarding the carillon culture: preservation,
transmission, exchange and awareness-raising” programme to the Register
of Best Safeguarding Practices**

Brussels, 18 September 2015

Ms Karine Lalieux, Alderman for Culture in Brussels,
Dr Marc Vervenne, Honorary Rector of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven,
President of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO,
Mr Philippe Busquin, Minister of State, President of the Belgian French- and
German-speaking Commission for UNESCO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you here today at the Brussels Town Hall to celebrate Belgium's living heritage and in particular, its carillon culture. From the outset, allow me to thank the Flemish Commission for UNESCO, as well as the French- and German-speaking Commission for UNESCO for this initiative.

On this occasion, I wish to commend the Belgian authorities for their active support in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and for their tireless efforts to promote intangible heritage and involve local communities, who are the custodians of this heritage shared by diverse communities in Belgium.

The programme “Safeguarding the carillon culture: preservation, transmission, exchange and awareness-raising” was inscribed last November on the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices established under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, joining 11 other elements of Belgian living heritage.

This safeguarding programme aims to preserve carillon music and ensure its continuity by training young musicians, expanding its repertoire, as well by upgrading instruments, finding new performance venues. The success of the programme is reflected in the spread of carillon culture in Belgium and worldwide, with an increase in training programmes and learning opportunities.

In a Decision at its ninth session held last November, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage acknowledged the contribution of this safeguarding programme to the promotion of human creativity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. Serving as a potential international safeguarding model through its activities of transmission, documentation and promotion, the programme has been implemented with the active participation of communities, musicians and organizations. Moreover, the Intergovernmental Committee invited Belgium to share its experiences and know-how concerning the programme's safeguarding measures.

Traditions like carillon culture play a crucial role in the life of local communities, providing them with a sense of identity and continuity. Living heritage is a tool for social cohesion, mutual understanding and a way to safeguard practices that are vital for achieving sustainable development. This heritage is never more powerful, never more necessary, than in times of change, in times of transformation. This heritage may be intangible, but it is a wellspring of meaning and belonging, a tribute to our ancestors, and a way to transmit our dreams to future generations.

Safeguarding this living heritage means more than inscribing it on a list. The Belgian people have demonstrated their commitment to protect this heritage and to ensure its transmission. The inscription on the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices recognises this commitment, but also encourages the pursuit and expansion of these safeguarding efforts. Reiterating the message from the Intergovernmental Committee, I wish to encourage Belgium to ensure that the experience gained in the programme can be adapted to the safeguarding of other intangible cultural heritage elements in other contexts.

With this in mind, I have the great pleasure to present representatives of the communities with the certificate of inscription of the programme “Safeguarding the carillon culture: preservation, transmission, exchange and awareness-raising” to the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices.

Thank you and congratulations!