**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE   
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Tenth session**

**Windhoek, Namibia**

**30 November to 4 December 2015**

**Item 14.a of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Draft amendments to the Operational Directives on   
safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development**

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| **Summary**  At its ninth session, the Committee decided to examine at its tenth session the revised draft Operational Directives on intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development with a view to submitting them for adoption at the sixth session of the General Assembly. It requested the Secretariat to propose the draft as revised on the basis of its debates at the ninth session, which is annexed to the present document.  **Decision required:** paragraph 10 |

1. The concept of ‘sustainable development’ is at the heart of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, whose preamble recognizes ‘the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee of sustainable development’. Article 2.1 of the Convention, dedicated to the definition of intangible cultural heritage, stipulates that ‘consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.’
2. The concepts of ‘sustainability’ and ‘sustainable development’ were integrated into the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention in 2010, at the time of their first revision by the General Assembly of the States Parties. Sustainable development was included in Chapter II concerning the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. Paragraph 73, discussing contributions to the Fund, stipulates that ‘No contributions may be accepted from entities whose activities are not compatible […] with the requirements of sustainable development’. Sustainable development was further integrated in the Operational Directives with the adoption in 2012 of Chapter IV concerning raising awareness about intangible cultural heritage, including the use of the emblem of the Convention. Paragraph 111 stipulates that ‘The media are encouraged to contribute to raising awareness about the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a means to foster […] sustainable development’. The presence of sustainable development in the text of the Convention and gradual inclusion in the Operational Directives reflect UNESCO’s broader efforts to integrate culture into the international sustainable development agenda. In 2013, the Chengdu International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage organized in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention called upon the international community to pursue its efforts to ‘renew its commitment to the Convention’s fundamental premise that intangible cultural heritage is a guarantee of sustainable development’ ([Document ITH/13/EXP/8](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/20548-EN.pdf)).
3. The Committee has discussed the links between safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development on numerous occasions. Such debates were often in the context of the examination of specific nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or in its examination of periodic reports submitted by States Parties on their implementation of the Convention at the national level. At its eighth session, the Committee considered, during a debate on draft amendments to the Operational Directives on safeguarding, commercialization and sustainable development, that it was better to gather within a single chapter directives concerning not only the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to the creative economy and issues related to commercialization but also links between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level. The Committee therefore recommended ‘a new chapter of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level be drawn up for examination by the Assembly at its sixth session’ (Decision 8.COM 13.a).
4. At its ninth session in November 2014, the Committee was presented with the results of a category VI expert meeting on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level that was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 29 September to 1 October 2014, together with a set of initial draft Operational Directives. The Committee welcomed the diversity of issues raised in the proposed initial draft Operational Directives and took note that in close connection to the spirit of the Convention the document positioned culture at the heart of development goals. The Committee decided to include the topic on the agenda of the present session with a view to examining a new chapter of draft Operational Directives, as revised on the basis of its debates at its ninth session in order to submit it for adoption to the sixth session of the General Assembly in June 2016 (Decision 9.COM 13.b).
5. The present document includes, in its annex, a draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level. It builds on the draft presented to the previous session of the Committee and reflects (i) earlier discussions of the Committee, notably the relationship between safeguarding, commercialization and sustainable development, (ii) a number of specific remarks and suggestions made by members of the Committee at its ninth session, (iii) previous work undertaken by the Secretariat on the subject, (iv) the discussion that took place at the above mentioned category VI expert meeting in Turkey as well as (v) recent developments in intergovernmental negotiations for the 2030 development agenda.
6. The structure of the draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level is based on [*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E)*,* the draft outcome document prepared for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and was inspired by [*Realizing the Future We Want for All*](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf)*,* a report prepared by the UN system task team on the post-2015 UN development agenda and the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. The outcome document constitutes a plan of action addressing the three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development through 17 Sustainable Development Goals as highly interdependent spheres of action that inform development pathways at all levels, and respecting the three fundamental principles of human rights, equality, and sustainability. As the outcome document notes, the Sustainable Development Goals ‘are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development’. Furthermore, the document acknowledges ‘the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize[s] that all culture and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development’ and that ‘sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security’. Intangible cultural heritage can effectively contribute to sustainable development along each of its three dimensions, as well as to the requirement of peace and security, in accordance with the Decision of the Executive Board ([Decision 196 EX/29](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002328/232890e.pdf)) inviting UNESCO to ‘reinforce UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict’. The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is, therefore, essential if communities around the globe are to take the transformative steps ‘needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.’ It demonstrates how the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is conducive to the improvement of the social and cultural wellbeing of communities and to the mobilization of innovative and culturally appropriate responses to the various development challenges, in complement to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and, in particular, its Operational Guidelines ([Article 13 – Integration of Culture in Sustainable Development](http://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/Conv2005_DO_Art_13_EN.pdf)).
7. The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives presented here follows the sequence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, reflecting the indivisibility and interrelation of the three dimensions of sustainable development while integrating throughout the document the protection of and respect for human rights as overarching principle. This proposed draft chapter draws largely on specific language and concepts of the Convention, whereas the existing Operational Directives are less clear about links between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development. This proposed draft chapter also clarifies how the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage contributes to sustainable development and underlines the need for cooperation with non-governmental organizations, experts in sustainable development and cultural brokers for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and its integration into non-cultural policies (Paragraphs 170, 171 and 175). Further proposed revisions highlight the importance of ethical considerations in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Paragraph 171) and ensure that language used better caters for the diversity of contexts and challenges relevant to Member States. An additional revision pertaining to the introduction of the notion of equitable development also took into consideration analogous work carried out within the framework of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which led to the elaboration of a [*Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention*](http://whc.unesco.org/document/135650), as endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its thirty-ninth session in June 2015 (Paragraph 194).
8. The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives further responds to the lacunae noted in the 2013 evaluation by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), which noted that the Operational Directives ‘do not explain how ICH is expected to foster sustainable development and whether particular ICH domains foster sustainable development more than others, nor do they discuss the relationship between any of the proposed ICH safeguarding measures and other interventions that countries might implement to foster sustainable development.’ The proposed text addresses the observation of the same IOS evaluation that ‘although the link between ICH and sustainable development is generally considered to be important, clarifying the nature of this link, identifying its potential both for sustainable development and for the viability of ICH and identifying the potential risks that development, if not sustainable, holds for ICH are still very much work in progress’ ([Document IOS/EVS/PI/129](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002230/223095e.pdf)). The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives also responds to the recommendations of the draft evaluation of the Internal Oversight Service on UNESCO’s Work on Culture and Sustainable Development ([Document IOS/EVS/PI/145.REV.3](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002344/234443e.pdf)) by expanding considerations relating to gender equality and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the context of sustainable development (Paragraph 181) and clarifying that the Operational Directives address the role of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in both sustainable urban and rural development (Paragraph 170).
9. Moreover, the draft text presented herewith attempts to advise States Parties in a complete and concrete way on measures they could implement to give real effect and substance to the Convention’s potential as a tool for pursuing sustainable development. The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives in particular aims to assist States Parties to better take into account the linkages between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development. It also aims to provide to States Parties guidance for better integrating the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into the formulation and implementation of national development policies and strategies. While encouraging a participatory approach, this chapter is also elaborated to assist various types of stakeholders in preventing and mitigating excessive actions that might endanger the viability of living heritage. Once discussed and adopted, it may thus constitute a source of inspiration for other fields of heritage.
10. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 10.COM 14.a

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/15/10.COM/14.a,
2. Recalling Decisions 8.COM 13.a and 9.COM 13.b,
3. Reaffirming the important role of intangible cultural heritage as a driver, enabler and guarantee of sustainable development, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
4. Decides to endorse the new draft chapter of Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level, in view of submitting it for discussion and approval to the sixth session of the General Assembly in June 2016 in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention;
5. Recommends to the General Assembly to approve the proposed Chapter VI of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level, as annexed to this decision;
6. Encourages States Parties to fully integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in cultural and non-cultural legislation, policies and development strategies;
7. Requests the Secretariat, once the General Assembly will have approved inclusion of the proposed Chapter VI of the Operational Directives, to update the curriculum of the Convention's capacity-building programme accordingly.

**ANNEX**

**Draft Operational Directives on  
‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage  
and sustainable development at the national level’**

**Chapter VI SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

1. With a view to effectively implementing the Convention, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to recognize the importance and strengthen the role of intangible cultural heritage as a driver and guarantee of sustainable development, as well as fully integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into their development plans, policies and programmes at all levels. While recognizing the interdependence between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, sustainable development and peace and security, States Parties shall strive to maintain a balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development (the economic, social and environmental) in their safeguarding efforts and shall to this end facilitate cooperation with relevant experts, cultural brokers and mediators through a participatory approach. States Parties shall acknowledge the dynamic nature of intangible cultural heritage in both urban and rural contexts and shall direct their safeguarding efforts solely on such intangible cultural heritage that is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.
2. Insofar as their development plans, policies and programmes involve intangible cultural heritage or may potentially affect its viability, States Parties shall endeavour to:
   1. ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and involve them actively in such plans, policies and programmes;
   2. ensure that those communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries, both in moral and in material terms, of any such plans, policies and programmes;
   3. ensure that such plans, policies and programmes respect ethical considerations and do not negatively affect the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned or de-contextualize or denaturalize that heritage;
   4. facilitate cooperation with sustainable development experts for the appropriate integration of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into non-cultural plans, policies and programmes.
3. States Parties shall endeavour to take full cognizance of the potential and actual impacts of all development plans and programmes on intangible cultural heritage, particularly in the context of environmental, social and human impact assessment processes.
4. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a strategic resource to enable sustainable development. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in particular through the application of intellectual property rights, privacy rights and any other appropriate forms of legal protection, to:
   1. promote creativity, innovation and utilization of intangible cultural heritage while ensuring that the bearers of such heritage, whether communities, groups or individuals, benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from the use or adaptation of that heritage;
   2. ensure that the rights of communities, groups or individuals that create, bear and transmit their intangible cultural heritage are duly protected from misappropriation or abuse of their knowledge and skills.
5. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that their safeguarding plans and programmes are fully inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of marginalized groups, in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention.
6. States Parties are encouraged to foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves and non-governmental organizations, aimed at understanding the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development and its importance as a resource for solving development problems and at demonstrating its value with clear evidence, including appropriate indicators.
7. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that inscriptions of intangible cultural heritage on the Convention’s lists as provided in Articles 16 and 17 of the Convention and the selection of best safeguarding practice as provided in Article 18 of the Convention are used to advance the Convention’s goals of safeguarding and sustainable development and are not misused to the detriment of the intangible cultural heritage and communities, groups or individuals concerned, in particular for short-term economic gain.

**VI.1 Inclusive social development**

1. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that inclusive social development cannot be achieved without sustainable food security, quality health care, quality education for all, gender equality and access to safe water and sanitation, and that these goals must be underpinned by inclusive governance and the freedom for people to choose their own value systems.

**VI.1.1 Food security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral, food-gathering and food preservation knowledge and practices, including their related rituals and beliefs, that contribute to food security and adequate nutrition. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those knowledge and practices, demonstrating their efficacy, identifying and promoting their contributions to maintaining agro-biodiversity, providing food security and strengthening their resilience to climate change;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including codes of ethics, to promote and/or regulate access to traditional farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral and food gathering and preservation knowledge and practices, as well as equitable sharing of the benefits they generate, and ensure the transmission of such knowledge and practices;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to recognize and respect the customary rights of communities and groups to those land, sea and forest ecosystems necessary for their farming, fishing, pastoral and food-gathering knowledge and practices.

**VI.1.2 Health care**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional health practices that contribute to well-being, including their related knowledge, practices, expressions, rituals and beliefs, and to harness their potential to contribute to achieving quality health care for all. To that end, they are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of traditional health care practices, demonstrating their functions and efficacy, and identifying their contributions to meeting health care needs;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in consultation with knowledge holders, healers and practitioners, to promote access to traditional healing knowledge and raw materials, participation in healing practices, and transmission of such knowledge and practices while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of them;
   3. enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of health care practices and systems.

**VI.1.3 Quality education**

1. Within their respective educational systems and policies, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in society, emphasizing its role in transmitting life skills, in particular through specific educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned and through non-formal means of transmitting knowledge. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. ensure that educational systems promote respect for one’s self, one’s community, mutual respect for others and do not in any way alienate people from their intangible cultural heritage, characterize their communities as not participating in contemporary life or harm in any way their image;
      2. ensure that intangible cultural heritage is integrated as fully as possible into the content of educational programmes of all relevant disciplines, both as a contribution in its own right and as a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects at the curricular, cross-curricular and extra-curricular levels;
      3. recognize the importance of traditional modes and methods of transmitting intangible cultural heritage and seek to harness their potential within formal and non-formal education systems;
   2. enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of educational practices and systems;
   3. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of traditional pedagogical methods and assessing their efficacy and suitability for integration into other educational contexts;
   4. promote education for the protection of biodiversity, natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.1.4 Gender equality**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to foster the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination while recognizing that communities pass on their values, norms and expectations related to gender through intangible cultural heritage and it is, therefore, a privileged context in which community members’ gender identities are shaped. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. take advantage of intangible cultural heritage’s potential to create common spaces for dialogue on how best to achieve gender equality, taking into account the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders;
   2. promote the important role that intangible cultural heritage can play in building mutual respect among communities and groups whose members may not share the same conceptions of gender;
   3. assist communities in examining expressions of their intangible heritage with regard to their impact and potential contribution to enhancing gender equality and to take the results of this examination into account in decisions to safeguard, practice, transmit and promote at the international level these expressions;
   4. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of gender roles within particular expressions of intangible cultural heritage;
   5. ensure gender equality in the planning, management and implementation of safeguarding measures, at all levels and in all contexts, in order to take full advantage of the diverse perspectives of all members of society.

**VI.1.5 Access to clean and safe water and sustainable water use**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the viability of traditional water management systems that promote equitable access to safe drinking water and sustainable water use, notably in agriculture and other subsistence activities. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those traditional water management systems and identifying their contributions to meeting environmental and water-related development needs, as well as how to strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to identify, enhance and promote such systems in order to respond to water needs and climate change challenges at the local, national and international levels.

**VI.2 Inclusive economic development**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge that the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage contributes to inclusive economic development, and to recognize that sustainable development depends upon stable, equitable and inclusive economic growth based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption and requires reduction of poverty and inequalities, productive and decent employment, low-carbon, as well as resource-efficient economic growth and welfare protection.
2. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of intangible cultural heritage as a powerful force for inclusive economic development, encompassing a diversity of productive activities with both monetary and non-monetary value, and contributing in particular to strengthening local economies. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to respect the nature of that heritage and the specific circumstances of the communities, groups or individuals concerned, particularly their choice of collective or individual management of their heritage while providing them with the necessary conditions for the practice of their creative expressions and promoting fair trade and ethical economic relations.

**VI.2.1 Income generation and sustainable livelihoods**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its role in supplementing other forms of income;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote opportunities for communities, groups and individuals to generate income and sustain their livelihood through the sustainable practice, transmission and safeguarding of their intangible cultural heritage;
      2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of income generated as a result of their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to generate income for others.

**VI.2.2 Productive employment and decent work**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for productive employment and decent work for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its adaptability to family and household circumstances and relation to other forms of employment;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including tax incentives, to:
      1. promote productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals in the practice and transmission of their intangible cultural heritage while extending social security protection and benefits to them;
      2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of work opportunities involving their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to create employment for others.

**VI.2.3 Impact of tourism on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that any activities related to tourism, whether undertaken by the States or by public or private bodies, demonstrate all due respect to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories and to the rights, aspirations and wishes of the communities, groups and individuals concerned therewith. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. assess, both in general and in specific terms, impacts of tourism on the intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development of the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to anticipating potential impact before activities are initiated;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. ensure that communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of any tourism associated with their own intangible cultural heritage while promoting their lead role in managing such tourism;
      2. ensure that the viability, social functions and cultural meanings of that heritage are in no way diminished or threatened by such tourism;
      3. guide the interventions of those involved in the tourism industry and the behaviour of those who participate in it as tourists.

**VI.3 Environmental sustainability**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge the contribution of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to environmental sustainability and recognize that environmental sustainability requires ensuring a stable climate, sustainably managed natural resources and protecting biodiversity, which in turn depend on improved scientific understanding and knowledge-sharing about climate change, natural hazards, the space environment and natural resource limits and that strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations in the face of climate change and natural disasters is essential to limiting the human, social and economic costs.

**VI.3.1 Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of the knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe that contribute to environmental sustainability recognizing their capacity to evolve, harnessing their potential role in the protection of biodiversity and in the sustainable management of natural resources. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about nature and the universe and as essential actors in sustaining the environment;
   2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding traditional systems of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable resource use and demonstrating their effectiveness while promoting international cooperation for the identification and sharing of good practices;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning nature and the universe while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
      2. conserve and protect those natural spaces whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.3.2 Environmental impacts in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize the potential and actual environmental impacts of intangible cultural heritage practices and safeguarding activities, with particular attention to the possible consequences of their intensification. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding such impacts;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to encourage environmentally friendly practices and to mitigate any possible harmful impacts.

**VI.3.3 Community-based resilience to natural disasters and climate change**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of knowledge and practices concerning geoscience, particularly the climate, and harness their potential to contribute to the reduction of risk, recovery from natural disasters, particularly through the strengthening of social cohesion and mitigation of climate change impacts. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about geoscience, particularly the climate;
   2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding and demonstrating the effectiveness of traditional knowledge of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery, climate adaptation and climate change mitigation while enhancing the capacities of communities, groups and individuals to face challenges related to climate change that existing knowledge may not address;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning the earth and the climate while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
      2. fully integrate communities, groups and individuals who are bearers of such knowledge into systems and programmes of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**VI.4 Peace and security**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge the contribution of safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to peace and security and recognize that peace and security – including freedom from conflict, discrimination and all forms of violence – are prerequisites for sustainable development and require respect for human rights, inclusive and equitable social development, effective systems of justice, inclusive political processes and appropriate systems of conflict prevention and resolution.
2. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance those practices, representations and expressions of intangible cultural heritage that have peace-making and peace-building at their core, bring communities, groups and individuals together and ensure exchange, dialogue and understanding among them. States Parties shall further endeavour to fully realize the contribution that safeguarding activities make to the construction of peace.

**VI.4.1 Social cohesion and equity**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize and promote the contribution of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to social cohesion, overcoming all forms of discrimination and strengthening the social fabric of communities and groups in an inclusive way. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to give particular attention to those practices, expressions and knowledge that help communities, groups and individuals to transcend differences of gender, colour, ethnicity, origin, class and locality and to those that are broadly inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of marginalized groups.

**VI.4.2 Preventing and resolving disputes**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that intangible cultural heritage can make towards the prevention of disputes and peaceful conflict resolution. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at demonstrating expressions, practices and representations of intangible cultural heritage as contributors to dispute prevention and peaceful conflict resolution;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. support such expressions, practices and representations;
      2. integrate them into public programmes and policies;
      3. reduce their vulnerability during and in the aftermath of conflicts;
      4. consider them, as fully as possible, as complements to other legal and administrative mechanisms of dispute prevention and peaceful conflict resolution.

**VI.4.3 Restoring peace and security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of the potential role of intangible cultural heritage in the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding how intangible cultural heritage can contribute to restoring peace, reconciling parties, re-establishing safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to integrate such intangible cultural heritage into public programmes and policies aimed at the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals.

**VI.4.4 Achieving lasting peace and security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups and individuals makes to the construction of lasting peace and security. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. ensure that their safeguarding efforts fully include and recognize the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities, and members of marginalized groups;
   2. take full advantage of the contribution of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to democratic governance and human rights by ensuring the widest possible participation of communities, groups and individuals;
   3. achieve the peace-building potential of safeguarding efforts that involve intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity.