



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

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

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

**Fifth session
Nairobi, Kenya
15 to 19 November 2010**

Item 17 of the Provisional Agenda:

**Voluntary supplementary contribution from the Kingdom of Norway to the
Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for strengthening the capacities of developing countries**

Summary

In accordance with [Article 25.5](#) of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions to the Fund for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee. The present document concerns an offer by the Kingdom of Norway to support several capacity-building activities benefitting developing countries.

Decision required: paragraph 5

1. Chapter VI of the Convention concerning the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund provides that its resources shall include not only the biennial contributions of States Parties ([Article 26](#)) but also voluntary supplementary contributions. [Article 25.5](#) of the Convention provides that the Committee may accept contributions for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by it.
2. Responding to the expressed needs of many Member States, the Secretariat has embarked upon a multi-year global strategy for strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Over the course of the next several years, UNESCO hopes to reach a large number of States – particularly developing countries – with a set of capacity-building activities including a series of workshops on several topics, practical experience in community-based inventoring, and support to integrating intangible heritage into national policy processes. This global strategy will be supported by the Regular Programme of the Organization, by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and by the generous contributions of States Parties. Through its network of Field Offices, the Secretariat has identified needs around the world and has elaborated a global strategy of activities that can be accomplished within the limits of its resources and delivery capacity. These initial activities must necessarily target the most urgent needs. However, as additional resources become available and our delivery capacity increases, the Secretariat hopes to expand the activities to eventually reach all countries in need.
3. In support of UNESCO's global strategy, the Kingdom of Norway has generously offered to provide a contribution of 7,774,000 Norwegian kroner in 2010 and 2011 (approximately US\$1.3 million at the UN exchange rate for October 2010) to support capacity-building activities for developing countries regarding implementation of the Convention, as set out in the Annex to this document. After consultation with the Secretariat, which identified several priority projects in the light of the global distribution of needs and other available resources, Norway has proposed that its voluntary supplementary contribution be used for three specific projects, subject to the Committee's approval. The projects are as follows:
 - a. Strengthening capacities of Lusophone countries in Africa for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
 - b. Strengthening capacities of developing countries in Central Asia for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
 - c. Strengthening capacities of developing countries in Latin America for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
4. The Committee may wish to encourage other donors to consider making similar voluntary supplementary contributions for specific projects. For those States that may wish to consider this possibility, such contributions offer an alternative to the normal Funds-in-Trust modality. Allowing the Committee to better coordinate international cooperation as described in Article 19 of the Convention, while permitting the Secretariat to match needs and resources responsively and deliver services effectively, this channel also offers other advantages over FITs, which are typically more complicated and less flexible from an administrative perspective. In keeping with the Organization's principle of results-based management, the Secretariat is responsible to the General Assembly – and through it, to the donors – for achieving concrete results in accordance with the specific purposes agreed between the donors and the Committee.

5. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 5.COM 17

The Committee,

1. Having examined Document ITH/10/5.COM/CONF.202/17,
2. Recalling [Article 25.5](#) of the Convention and [Chapter II](#) of the Operational Directives,
3. Commends the Kingdom of Norway for its generous offer of a voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support capacity-building activities in developing countries;
4. Approves the specific capacity-building projects proposed in that document and requests the Secretariat to move forward with their implementation;
5. Accepts with gratitude the generous contribution of the Kingdom of Norway;
6. Takes note that such voluntary supplementary contributions for specific purposes relating to specific projects allow the Committee and Secretariat to mobilize and utilize extrabudgetary funds strategically and effectively;
7. Invites other States Parties to consider the possibility of supporting the global capacity-building strategy by offering similar voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

ANNEX



ROYAL MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and
Cultural Organization
7, place de Fontenoy

75352 Paris 07 SP
Frankrike

Your ref.:

Our ref.:

Date:

10/06208-4

6.10.2010

Dear Ms. Duvelle,

Norway takes note that many developing countries that are States Parties to the Convention have not yet begun to participate effectively in its mechanisms of international cooperation, including the possibility to receive international assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. Despite the substantial need in many countries for such international assistance to support national safeguarding efforts, States Parties have not fully benefited from the Convention's opportunities for cooperation. Norway consequently believes that before one can expect targeted and sustainable project applications from developing countries, their awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage and their capacity to safeguard this heritage should be supported on the country level. Norway therefore wishes through our donation to encourage capacity building projects with the relevant authorities, institutions and centres in developing countries, in order to strengthen national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and to develop and manage safeguarding projects they might undertake in the future.

Subject to the forthcoming signature of the Programme Cooperation Agreement 2010-2011 between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and UNESCO, Norway proposes to provide a voluntary supplementary contribution during 2010 and 2011 in the amount of NOK 7,774,000 (seven million, seven hundred seventy four thousand Norwegian Kroner). After consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention, and in the light of the global capacity-building strategy it has elaborated for the coming years, Norway proposes that this contribution be used for the following specific capacity-building projects. The mentioned projects can also include other countries in the mentioned regions:

- Strengthening capacities of Lusophone countries in Africa for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, a 30-month project to be carried out in Mozambique (LDC), Angola (LDC), São

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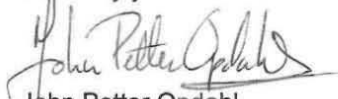
Tomé and Príncipe (LDC, SIDS), Cape Verde (LDC, SIDS) and Guinea-Bissau (LDC, SIDS) (NOK 2,591,333)

- Strengthening capacities of developing countries in Central Asia for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, a 30-month project to be carried out in Kazakhstan (LLDC), Kyrgyzstan (LLDC), Tajikistan (LLDC), Turkmenistan (LLDC) and Uzbekistan (LLDC) (NOK 2,591,333)
- Strengthening capacities of developing countries in Latin America for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, a 30-month project to be carried out in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Aruba and Haiti (NOK 2,591,333)

Should this proposal be received favourably by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is my understanding that the Secretariat will proceed to the elaboration of concrete work plans for the implementation of these four activities, to begin at the earliest possible opportunity. It is my further understanding that the contribution will be credited to the Special Account for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and governed by its Financial Regulations, as adopted by the Committee at its first extraordinary session in May 2007. Although the formal reporting on the use of these funds is made by the Director-General to the General Assembly of the States Parties, Norway will appreciate being kept informed by you on a regular basis of the development and implementation of these four activities, in the context of the annual review of cooperation between Norway and UNESCO.

It is the hope of my country that this voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund will produce tangible benefits in the form of strengthened capacities of the beneficiary countries and the Secretariat, so that together they can effectively implement the Convention and cooperate actively in the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. I hope that we may look forward to the approval of the Committee when it meets in November 2010, so that these activities may get underway soon thereafter. Thank you in advance for bringing this proposal to their attention, and please let me know if any additional information is required from Norway.

Sincerely yours



John Petter Opdahl
Deputy Director General
Section for Cultural Affairs
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs