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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Sixth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room II**

**30 May to 1 June 2016**

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Revision of the Operational Directives for the   
implementation of the Convention**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  At its ninth and tenth sessions, the Intergovernmental Committee adopted a number of decisions proposing that the General Assembly amend the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention (Decisions [9.COM 13.a,](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/13.a) [10.COM 14.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.a), [10.COM 14.b,](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.b) [10.COM 14.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.c), and [10.COM 15.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/15.c)). The present document includes, in its Annex, proposed texts of such amendments.  **Decision required:** paragraph 37 |

1. The first set of Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by the General Assembly at its second session in June 2008 ([Resolution 2.GA 5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/2.GA/5)). During the debates at that session, States Parties considered that the directives should evolve over time and be amended periodically as experience is gained with the implementation of the Convention. At its third, fourth and fifth sessions, in June 2010, 2012 and 2014 respectively, the General Assembly adopted new directives and amended some of the existing ones (Resolutions [3.GA 5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/3.GA/5), [4.GA 5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/4.GA/5), [5.GA 5.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/5.GA/5.1)).
2. In conformity with Article 7(e) of the Convention, the Committee at its ninth and tenth sessions discussed and endorsed a new chapter to the Operational Directives and further revisions to the existing ones and recommends that the General Assembly approve them at its current session. These proposed revisions are either the outcome of reflections invited by the General Assembly or of the Committee’s own initiative resulting from its experience in implementing the Convention and they are related to the following five topics:
   1. International Assistance requests examined by the Bureau of the Committee
   2. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development
   3. Periodic reporting
   4. Referral option
   5. Schedule of non-governmental organizations accreditation
3. The proposed revisions and new chapter to the Operational Directives for approval by the General Assembly are included in the annex of the current document.
4. **International Assistance requests examined by the Bureau of the Committee**
5. The Consultative and Evaluation Bodies have repeatedly regretted the underutilization of the international assistance mechanism. The 2013 evaluation of the 2003 Convention by the Internal Oversight Service of UNESCO (IOS) also underlined this tendency. It identified two factors that may explain this situation: on the one hand, the priority given by States Parties to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, rather than international assistance greater than US$25,000, when having to choose which file should be examined by the Committee within the ceiling of files that it can treat during a given cycle; on the other hand, the lack of human and financial resources in many States to develop International Assistance requests that adequately meet the eligibility criteria.
6. The continuous efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen Member States’ institutional and human capacities to effectively safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories should, in the medium-term, increase the number of successful International Assistance requests. In parallel, the Secretariat proposed to the Committee, at its eighth session in 2013, to follow recommendation 7 of the IOS Evaluation, namely, to ‘give priority to International Assistance requests within the ceiling of files to the Convention’s mechanisms’ ([Document ITH/13/8.COM/5.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-13-8.COM-5.c-EN.doc)). However, the proposal was not endorsed by the Committee, as it was considered the sovereign right of States to decide on the priority given to each of the mechanism of the Convention.
7. The current version of the Operational Directives in Chapter I.14 stipulates that requests of international assistance greater than US$25,000 are examined and approved by the Committee, whereas requests up to US$25,000 and emergency assistance requests regardless of their amount are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. Since the concern of States Parties regarding the under-utilization of resources provided in the Fund for International Assistance remained unchanged, a new measure was proposed by the Committee at its tenth session: ‘to increase from US$25,000 to US$100,000 the requests for International Assistance that can be approved by the Bureau of the Committee’ ([Decision 10.COM 15.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/15.c)). This change is in line with the tendency whereby the Committee has delegated five times since 2010 its authority to the Bureau to take a decision on requests greater than US$25,000. These requests had been revised along the recommendations of the Body responsible for their initial evaluation[[1]](#footnote-2). In addition the Bureau also examined three cases of emergency requests whose amount was greater than US$25,000. In practice, among the 14 requests greater than US$25,000 that have been approved so far, half were approved by the Bureau.
8. The raised budget ceiling for requests that can be examined by the Bureau does not therefore represent a radical change in its working methods, and should increase the number of beneficiary countries and the scope of supported projects. Since requests to be examined by the Bureau (with the exception of requests for preparatory assistance) can be submitted any time and the Bureau may meet several times a year (unlike the Committee), examination and approval opportunities for a greater number of projects of larger scale (up to US$100,000 instead of up to US$25,000) should be considerably increased. Moreover, States wishing to use the Fund to supplement their national efforts for safeguarding will be able to consider submitting a request for international assistance up to US$100,000 without having to choose between the latter and a nomination to the Convention’s List or a proposal for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices.
9. In accordance with [Decision 10.COM 15.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/15.c), the General Assembly is hereby requested to examine the proposed amendments to all paragraphs of the Operational Directives that are concerned by the increase from US$25,000 to US$100,000 of the requests for International Assistance that can be approved by the Bureau of the Committee, included in Part I of the Annex of the present document.
10. **Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development**
11. The concept of ‘sustainable development’ is at the heart of the Convention, 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.’
12. The concepts of ‘sustainability’ and ‘sustainable development’ were integrated into the Operational Directives for 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)).
13. 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 examination of specific nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or periodic reports submitted by States Parties on 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](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/13.a)).
14. 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. At its tenth session in November-December 2015, the Committee examined a new set of draft Operational Directives, as revised on the basis of its debates at its ninth session, and endorsed it in view of submitting it for adoption to the present session of the General Assembly ([Decision 10.COM 14.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.a)).
15. The present document includes, in Part II of its Annex, a draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level. It 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 and tenth sessions, (iii) previous work undertaken by the Secretariat on the subject, (iv) discussions 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 sustainable development agenda.
16. 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 outcome document prepared for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome document constitutes a plan of action addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) 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 the 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)), endorsed by the General Conference at its 38th session ([38 C/Resolution 48](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002433/243325e.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)).
17. The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives presented here in Part II of the Annex 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 the 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. 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.
18. The proposed draft Chapter VI of the Operational Directives further responds to the lacunae noted in the 2013 evaluation by 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)).
19. Moreover, the draft text presented attempts to advise States Parties in a coherent 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.
20. The proposed new Chapter VI to the Operational Directives is included in Part II of the Annex of the present document.
21. **Periodic reporting**
22. At its eighth session, when examining the evaluation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage conducted by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO (Document [ITH/13/8.COM/INF.5.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-13-8.COM-INF.5.c-EN.doc)), the Committee acknowledged the need to revise the Operational Directives on periodic reporting to include different topics whose importance is increasingly relevant in the implementation of the Convention. In general, it was felt that although periodic reports provide a valuable source of information on the implementation of the Convention, alone they do not provide all the required information.
23. There was a clear need to include a number of important concepts in the Operational Directives and reporting forms; for instance, there was no specific reference to policy/legislation development related to intangible cultural heritage, although the Convention (Article 13) urges States Parties to adopt a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society. The Operational Directives and reporting forms also did not require States Parties to provide any information on if/how gender concerns are being dealt with in policy development and safeguarding and this was felt as a lost opportunity to create awareness about this important topic and collect relevant information and good practices. For these reasons the Committee decided to revise the Operational Directives on periodic reporting ‘to include specific questions on policy, legislation and gender and to ensure that the reports focus on results and activities in such a manner as to alleviate the burden of States Parties concerned and the Secretariat’ (Decisions [8.COM 5.c.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1) and [8.COM 6.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/6.a)).
24. From the findings of the IOS evaluation, the Committee was also able to reflect on the role of NGOs in the reporting exercise. Since periodic reports are submitted by States Parties they primarily present the Government’s perspective, even though States Parties were already asked to involve communities, groups and individuals concerned in the reporting. Given that the latter as well as NGOs and many other stakeholders play a key role in the implementation of the Convention, it was felt that no overall monitoring and follow up would be complete without also taking their views into account. For this reason the Committee saw the importance to ‘encourage States Parties to complement the data gathered on the implementation of the Convention through Periodic Reports submitted by States Parties including information provided by relevant NGOs’ (Decisions [8.COM 5.c.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1), [8.COM 6.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/6.a) and [8.COM 14.b](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/8.COM/14.b)).
25. During its ninth session, the Committee examined a number of revisions to Chapter V of the Operational Directives on reporting proposed by the Secretariat based on the decisions mentioned above and recommended to the General Assembly to approve the amendments included in the annex to Decision [9.COM 13.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/13.a). In large part, these revisions draw upon the specific language of the Convention, where the existing Directives were sometimes less explicit and consequently less clear.
26. In addition to the revisions specifically requested by the Committee as mentioned above, additional revisions were adopted in paragraphs 152, 161 and 169 of the Operational Directives to bring the language used for reporting forms (ICH-10 and ICH-11) into conformity with that used for nomination forms (in paragraphs 20 and 23) and for NGO accreditation forms (in paragraph 98). Similarly, the text of paragraph 166 was revised to conform to existing practice for the Committee’s working documents. All the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives concerning periodic reporting are included in Part III of the Annex of the present document.
27. **Referral option**
28. The referral option, available until now only for nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, was introduced to the Operational Directives by the General Assembly at its third session in June 2010 ([Resolution 3 GA 5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/3.GA/5)). At its fourth session in June 2012, the Assembly requested that the Committee begin a process of reflection on experience gained in implementing the referral option and report back to it concerning that process ([Resolution 4.GA 5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/4.GA/5)). The Committee began such a reflection at its seventh session ([Document ITH/12/7.COM 13.a](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-12-7.COM-13.a-EN.doc)), and continued at its eighth ([Document ITH/13/8.COM 13.b](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-13-8.COM-13.b-EN.doc)) ninth ([Document ITH/14/9.COM 13.c)](hhttp://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-14-9.COM-13.c-EN.doc) and tenth sessions ([Document ITH/15/10.COM 14.b](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM-14.b_EN.docx)).
29. As has been emphasized repeatedly by the evaluation bodies and the Committee itself, nominations for inscription on the Convention’s Lists, selection for proposals to the register of selected programmes, projects and activities as well as requests of international assistance are evaluated and examined solely on the basis of information included in the relevant file and its required annexes. It is also emphasized that no judgement is made by the evaluation bodies or the Committee on the element, project or activity underlying the file. The submitting State is requested to provide information to demonstrate that the relevant criteria are satisfied. In the vast majority of cases where an element could not be inscribed, a project not selected or international assistance not approved the evaluation bodies and Committee concluded that the information provided was not adequate to demonstrate that the criteria were satisfied.
30. Nevertheless, files lacking information led to different results for the four mechanisms. In the case of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, proposals to the register of selected programmes, projects and activities as well as requests for international assistance such a conclusion led to a decision not to inscribe, select or approve while in the case of nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, similar conclusions leads to a decision to refer the nomination to the submitting State for additional information.
31. Given that files to all the mechanisms of the Convention are now evaluated by a single Evaluation Body, the Committee considered appropriate that the procedures be aligned.
32. The Committee accordingly decided at its ninth session that the referral option should be extended to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and that the four year waiting period should be deleted, while retaining the possibility not to inscribe an element. Accordingly, it requested the Secretariat to propose a draft text of amendments to the Operational Directives accordingly ([Decision 9.COM 13.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/13.c)). At the same time, the Committee emphasized that a decision to refer a nomination to the submitting State should in no way be understood to imply or guarantee that the element will be inscribed in the future. The Committee also chose to reserve the option not to inscribe for cases where the nomination provides sufficient evidence that clearly demonstrates that the criterion is not satisfied for both Lists and deleting the four year waiting period concerning the Representative List.
33. During its tenth session the Committee adopted ([Decision 10.COM 14.b)](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.b) proposed amendments to the Operational Directives extending the referral option to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as well as to proposals for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and to requests for international assistance, in the interests of coherency and simplicity. At the same time it endorsed retaining the possibility not to inscribe an element, approve a proposal or a request and deleting the four year waiting period concerning the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
34. The proposed revisions of the Operational Directives concerning the Referral Option are included in Part IV of the Annex of the present document.
35. **Schedule of non-governmental organizations accreditation**
36. The current modalities and procedures of accreditation of non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to the Committee were initiated by the first extraordinary session of the Committee (Decision 1.EXT COM 10). The second session of the General Assembly subsequently adopted the Operational Directives which included the timetable of the non-governmental organization accreditation process ([Resolution 2.GA 5).](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Resolutions/2.GA/5)
37. In accordance with Paragraphs 93 and 98 of the present Operational Directives, the Committee shall examine the requests for accreditation from non-governmental organizations at each of its ordinary sessions and submit its recommendations to the General Assembly for decision. Nevertheless the non-governmental organizations will in any case need to wait for accreditation at the General Assembly which only convenes in even-numbered years.
38. Owing to the ever-increasing agenda of its recent sessions, and further taking into account the necessity of prioritizing the workload of the Secretariat of the Convention according to its available resources, the Committee at its eighth session acknowledged the importance of streamlining the tasks and procedures at each session of the Committee.
39. Consequently, at its ninth session, the Committee decided that it shall examine requests for accreditation from non-governmental organizations at its ordinary sessions in odd-numbered years and recommended that the General Assembly amend the Operational Directives to reflect this schedule of biennial examination ([Decision 9.COM 14).](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/14)
40. During its tenth session, the Committee adopted the amendments the Operational Directives with regards to the schedule of non-governmental organizations’ accreditation and recommended to the General Assembly to the proposed amendments ([Decision 10.COM 14.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/14.c)).
41. The proposed revisions of Paragraph 98 of the Operational Directives concerning the schedule of non-governmental organizations’ accreditation are included in Part V of the Annex of the present document.
42. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 6.GA 7

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/7,
2. Approves the amendments to the Operational Directives as annexed to this resolution.

**ANNEX**

1. **International Assistance requests examined by the Bureau of the Committee**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Current text of the Operational Directives** |  | **Proposed amendments** |
| 27. | On an experimental basis, the evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and of international assistance requests greater than US$25,000 shall be accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’. The Evaluation Body will make recommendations to the Committee for its decision. The Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage. | 27. | On an experimental basis, the evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and of international assistance requests greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** shall be accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’. The Evaluation Body will make recommendations to the Committee for its decision. The Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage. |
|  |  | [28 to 32] | [no change] |
| I.10 | Examination of files by the Committee | [I.10] | [no change] |
| 33. | The Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US$25,000. | 33. | The Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000**. |
| 34. | The Committee shall endeavour to examine to the extent possible at least one file per submitting State, within the limit of this overall ceiling, giving priority to:  i. files from States having no elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$25,000 approved, and nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;  ii. multi-national files; and  iii. files from States with the fewest elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$25,000 approved, in comparison with other submitting States during the same cycle.  In case they submit several files during the same cycle, submitting States shall indicate the order of priority in which they wish their files to be examined and are invited to give priority to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. | 34. | The Committee shall endeavour to examine to the extent possible at least one file per submitting State, within the limit of this overall ceiling, giving priority to:  i. files from States having no elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** approved, and nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;  ii. multi-national files; and  iii. files from States with the fewest elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** approved, in comparison with other submitting States during the same cycle.  In case they submit several files during the same cycle, submitting States shall indicate the order of priority in which they wish their files to be examined and are invited to give priority to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. |
| 35. | After examination, the Committee decides whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State for further information, whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as best safeguarding practice, or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than US$25,000 shall be approved. | 35. | After examination, the Committee decides whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State for further information, whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as best safeguarding practice, or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** shall be approved. |
|  |  | [36 to 46] | [no change] |
| I.14 | International assistance | [I.14] | [no change] |
| 47. | International assistance requests up to US$25,000 (except requests for preparatory assistance) and emergency requests regardless of the amount can be submitted at any time. | 47. | International assistance requests up to ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** (except requests for preparatory assistance) and emergency requests regardless of the amount can be submitted at any time. |
|  |  | [48] | [no change] |
| 49. | Requests up to US$25,000, including preparatory assistance, are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. | 49. | Requests up to ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000**, including preparatory assistance, are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. |
| 50. | Emergency requests greater than US$25,000 are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. For the purpose of determining whether a request for international assistance constitutes an emergency request eligible to receive priority consideration by the Bureau, an emergency shall be considered to exist when a State Party finds itself unable to overcome on its own any circumstance due to calamity, natural disaster, armed conflict, serious epidemic or any other natural or human event that has severe consequences for the intangible cultural heritage as well as communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are the bearers of that heritage. | 50. | Emergency requests, ~~greater than US$25,000~~ **regardless of the amount** are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. For the purpose of determining whether a request for international assistance constitutes an emergency request eligible to receive priority consideration by the Bureau, an emergency shall be considered to exist when a State Party finds itself unable to overcome on its own any circumstance due to calamity, natural disaster, armed conflict, serious epidemic or any other natural or human event that has severe consequences for the intangible cultural heritage as well as communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are the bearers of that heritage. |
| 51. | Requests greater than US$25,000 are evaluated by the Evaluation Body described in paragraph 27 above, and examined and approved by the Committee. | 51. | Requests greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** are evaluated by the Evaluation Body described in paragraph 27 above, and examined and approved by the Committee. |
| 52. | The Secretariat shall communicate the decision concerning the granting of assistance to the requesting party(ies) within two weeks following the decision. The Secretariat shall reach agreement with the requesting party(ies) on the details of the assistance. | 52. | [no change] |
| 53. | The assistance will be subject to appropriate monitoring, reporting and evaluation. | 53. | [no change] |
| I.15 | Timetable – Overview of procedures | [I.15] | [no change] |
| 54. | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Phase 1: | Preparation and submission | | 31 March Year 0 | Deadline for preparatory assistance requests for the elaboration of nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the objectives of the Convention (Article 18). | | 31 March Year 1 | Deadline by which nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals for programmes, projects and activities and international assistance requests greater than US$25,000 must be received by the Secretariat. Files received after this date will be examined in the next cycle. The Secretariat posts on the website of the Convention, in their original language, files as received. | | 30 June Year 1 | Deadline by which the Secretariat will have processed the files, including registration and acknowledgement of receipt. If a file is found incomplete, the State Party is invited to complete the file. | | 30 September Year 1 | Deadline by which missing information required to complete the files, if any, shall be submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat. Files that remain incomplete are returned to the States Parties that may complete them for a subsequent cycle. As files revised by submitting States reach the Secretariat following its requests for additional information, they are posted online and replace the original files received. Their translations into English or French are also posted online as they become available. | | 54. | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Phase 1: | Preparatio Preparation and submission | | 31 March Year 0 | Deadline for preparatory assistance requests for the elaboration of nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the objectives of the Convention (Article 18). | | 31 March Year 1 | Deadline by which nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals for programmes, projects and activities and international assistance requests greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** must be received by the Secretariat. Files received after this date will be examined in the next cycle. The Secretariat posts on the website of the Convention, in their original language, files as received. | | 30 June Year 1 | Deadline by which the Secretariat will have processed the files, including registration and acknowledgement of receipt. If a file is found incomplete, the State Party is invited to complete the file. | | 30 September Year 1 | Deadline by which missing information required to complete the files, if any, shall be submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat. Files that remain incomplete are returned to the States Parties that may complete them for a subsequent cycle. As files revised by submitting States reach the Secretariat following its requests for additional information, they are posted online and replace the original files received. Their translations into English or French are also posted online as they become available. | |

1. **Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development**

**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 and cultural brokers for the appropriate integration of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into plans, policies and programmes, both within and outside the cultural sector.
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, economic and cultural 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:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of issues linked to protection of various rights of the communities, groups and individuals, connected to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
   2. 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 ensure that the rights of the communities, groups and individuals that create, bear and transmit their intangible cultural heritage are duly protected when raising awareness about their heritage or engaging in commercial activities.
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 vulnerable 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 or groups themselves and by non-governmental organizations, aimed at understanding the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development and its importance as a resource for dealing with development problems and at demonstrating its value with clear evidence, including appropriate indicators if possible.
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 practices 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 farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral, food-gathering, food preparation and food preservation knowledge and practices, including their related rituals and beliefs, that contribute to food security and adequate nutrition and that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities or groups 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 or other tools of ethics, to promote and/or regulate access to farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral and food gathering, food preparation and food preservation knowledge and practices, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, 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 that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.1.2 Health care**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those health practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and that contribute to well-being, including their related knowledge, genetic resources, 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 and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of health care practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, 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 healing knowledge and raw materials, participation in healing practices, and transmission of such knowledge and practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage 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 or group, mutual respect for others and do not in any way alienate people from their intangible cultural heritage, characterize their communities or groups 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, along with innovative safeguarding methods, of modes and methods of transmitting intangible cultural heritage that are themselves recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their 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 and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of pedagogical methods that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage 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 and its safeguarding to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination while recognizing that communities and groups pass on their values, norms and expectations related to gender through intangible cultural heritage and it is, therefore, a privileged context in which group and community members’ gender identities are shaped. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. take advantage of the potential of intangible cultural heritage and of its safeguarding 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 and its safeguarding can play in building mutual respect among communities and groups whose members may not share the same conceptions of gender;
   3. assist communities and groups in examining expressions of their intangible cultural 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 and groups 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 water management systems that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and 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 and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those water management systems that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage 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 and equitable 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 and groups 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 and groups 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 and vice versa**

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, the potential of intangible cultural heritage for sustainable tourism and the impact 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 environmental and natural resource limits and that strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations in the face of climate change and natural disasters is essential.

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

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for, sharing of and enhancement of the knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and 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 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 and groups themselves, aimed at understanding systems of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable resource use, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, 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 and groups 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 and groups themselves, aimed at understanding and demonstrating the effectiveness of knowledge of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery, climate adaptation and climate change mitigation, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, 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 knowledge concerning the earth and the climate, that is recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, 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 and catalysts 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 and address 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 and groups 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 and groups 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 vulnerable 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.
2. **Periodic reporting**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Current text of the Operational Directives** |  | | **Proposed amendments** | |
| **V.1** | | **Reports by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention** | **V.1** | | [no change] | |
| 151. | | Each State Party to the Convention periodically submits to the Committee reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken for the implementation of the Convention. | 151. | | Each State Party to the Convention periodically submits to the Committee reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken for the implementation of the Convention. **States Parties are encouraged to complement the data gathered on the implementation of the Convention with information provided by relevant non-governmental organizations.** | |
| 152. | | The State Party submits its periodic report to the Committee, on the basis of common guidelines and in a simplified format prepared by the Secretariat and adopted by the Committee, by 15 December of the sixth year following the year in which it deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, and every sixth year thereafter. | 152. | | The State Party submits its periodic report to the Committee~~, on the basis of common guidelines and in a simplified format prepared by the Secretariat and adopted by the Committee,~~ by 15 December of the sixth year following the year in which it deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, and every sixth year thereafter. **Form ICH-10 is used for such reports, available at** [**www.unesco.org/culture/ich**](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) **or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form.** | |
| 153. | | The State Party reports on the measures taken for implementation of the Convention at the national level, including:   1. drawing up of inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, as described in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention; 2. other safeguarding measures as referred to in Articles 11 and 13 of the Convention, including: 3. promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society and integrating its safeguarding into planning programmes; 4. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding; 5. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it. | | | 153. | | The State Party reports on the **legislative, regulatory and other** measures taken for implementation of the Convention at the national level, including:   1. drawing up of inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, as described in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention; 2. other safeguarding measures as referred to in Articles 11 and 13 of the Convention, including: 3. **adopting a general policy aimed at** promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society and integrating its safeguarding into planning programmes; 4. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding; 5. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it. | |
| 154. | | The State Party reports on the measures taken at the national level to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as described in Article 13 of the Convention, including:   1. designating or establishing one or more competent bodies for safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage; 2. strengthening institutions for training in intangible cultural heritage management and transmission of this heritage; 3. establishing documentation institutions for intangible cultural heritage and, to the extent possible, facilitating access to them. | | | 154. | | The State Party reports on the **legislative, regulatory and other** measures taken at the national level to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as described in Article 13 of the Convention, including:   1. designating or establishing one or more competent bodies for safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage; 2. strengthening institutions for training in intangible cultural heritage management and transmission of this heritage; 3. establishing documentation institutions for intangible cultural heritage and, to the extent possible, facilitating access to them. | |
| 155. | | The State Party reports on the measures taken at the national level to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 of the Convention:   1. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes; 2. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned; 3. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage; 4. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge; 5. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory. | | | 155. | | The State Party reports on the **legislative, regulatory and other** measures taken at the national level to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 of the Convention:   1. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes; 2. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned; 3. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage; 4. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge; 5. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory. | |
| 156. | | The State Party reports on the measures taken by it at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including measures of international cooperation such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 of the Convention. | | | 156. | | [no change] | |
| 157. | | The State Party reports on the current status of all elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The State Party shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned during the process of preparation of such reports, which shall address, for each element concerned:   1. the element’s social and cultural functions; 2. an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces, if any; 3. its contribution to the goals of the List; 4. the efforts to promote or reinforce the element, particularly the implementation of any measures that might have been necessary as a consequence of its inscription; 5. the participation of communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding the element and their commitment to its further safeguarding. | | | 157. | | The State Party reports on the current status of all elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The State Party **shall pay special attention to the role of gender and** shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups**,** and, where applicable, individuals concerned **as well as relevant non-governmental organizations** during the process of preparation of such reports, which shall address, for each element concerned:   1. the element’s social and cultural functions; 2. an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces, if any; 3. its contribution to the goals of the List; 4. the efforts to promote or reinforce the element, particularly the implementation of any measures that might have been necessary as a consequence of its inscription; 5. the participation of communities, groups and individuals **as well as relevant non-governmental organizations** in safeguarding the element and their **continued** commitment to its further safeguarding. | |
| 158. | | The State Party reports on the institutional context for the element inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including:   1. the competent body(ies) involved in its management and/or safeguarding; 2. the organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding. | | | 158. | | [no change] | |
| 159. | | States Parties shall respond, in a timely manner, to specific requests addressed to them by the Committee for additional information, if needed between the deadlines set out in paragraph 152 above. | | | 159. | | [no change] | |
| **V.2** | | **Reports by States Parties on elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding** | | | **V.2** | | [no change] | |
| 160. | | Each State Party shall submit to the Committee reports on the status of elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding at its request or, in cases of extreme urgency, after consultation with it. The State Party shall endeavour to involve as broadly as possible the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned during the process of preparation of such reports. | | | 160. | | Each State Party shall submit to the Committee reports on the status of elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding at its request or, in cases of extreme urgency, after consultation with it. The State Party shall endeavour to involve as broadly as possible the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned **as well as relevant non-governmental organizations** during the process of preparation of such reports. | |
| 161. | | Such reports shall normally be submitted to the Committee, on the basis of common guidelines and in a simplified format prepared by the Secretariat and adopted by the Committee, by 15 December of the fourth year following the year in which the element was inscribed, and every fourth year thereafter. At the time of inscription the Committee may on a case-by-case basis establish a specific timetable for reporting that will take precedence over the normal four-year cycle. | | | 161. | | Such reports shall normally be submitted to the Committee~~, on the basis of common guidelines and in a simplified format prepared by the Secretariat and adopted by the Committee,~~ by 15 December of the fourth year following the year in which the element was inscribed, and every fourth year thereafter. **Form ICH-11 is used for such reports, available at** [**www.unesco.org/culture/ich**](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) **or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form.** At the time of inscription the Committee may on a case-by-case basis establish a specific timetable for reporting that will take precedence over the normal four-year cycle. | |
| 162. | | The State Party reports on the current status of the element, including:   1. its social and cultural functions; 2. an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces; 3. the impacts of the efforts to safeguard the element, particularly the implementation of the safeguarding plan that was submitted at the time of nomination; 4. the participation of communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding the element and their continued commitment to further safeguarding. | | | 162. | | The State Party **shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall** report~~s~~ on the current status of the element, including:   1. its social and cultural functions; 2. an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces; 3. the impacts of the efforts to safeguard the element, particularly the implementation of the safeguarding plan that was submitted at the time of nomination; 4. the participation of communities, groups and individuals **as well as relevant non-governmental organizations** in safeguarding the element and their continued commitment to **its** further safeguarding. | |
| 163. | | The State Party shall report on the institutional context for safeguarding the element inscribed on the List, including:   1. the competent body(ies) involved in its safeguarding; 2. the organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding. | | | 163. | | [no change] | |
| 164. | | States Parties shall respond, in a timely manner, to specific requests addressed to them by the Committee for additional information, if needed between the deadlines set out in paragraph 161 above. | | | 164. | | [no change] | |
| **V.3** | | **Receipt and processing of reports** | | | **V.3** | | [no change] | |
| 165. | | Upon receipt of reports from States Parties, the Secretariat shall register them and acknowledge receipt. If a report is incomplete, the State Party will be advised how to complete it. | | | 165. | | [no change] | |
| 166. | | The Secretariat transmits to the Committee, before each of its regular sessions, an overview of all reports received. The overview and the reports are also made available to States Parties for information. | | | 166. | | The Secretariat transmits to the Committee ~~before each of its regular sessions~~ an overview of all reports received **four weeks prior to its session**. The overview and the reports are also made available **on-line for consultation.** ~~to States Parties for information.~~ | |
| 167. | | Following the session at which they are examined by the Committee, reports are made available to the public for information, unless decided otherwise by the Committee in exceptional cases. | | | 167. | | [no change] | |
| **V.4** | | **Reports by States non party to the Convention on elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** | | | **V.4** | | [no change] | |
| 168. | | Paragraphs 157–159 and 165–167 of these directives shall apply fully to States non party to the Convention that have in their territories items proclaimed Masterpieces incorporated in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and that have consented to accept the rights and obligations attendant thereon. | | | 168. | | [no change] | |
| 169. | | Such reports shall be submitted to the Committee by States non party, in the specified format, by 15 December 2014, and every sixth year thereafter. | | | 169. | | Such reports shall be submitted to the Committee by States non party~~, in the specified format,~~ by 15 December 2014, and every sixth year thereafter. **Form ICH-10 is used for such reports, available at** [**www.unesco.org/culture/ich**](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) **or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form.** | |

1. **Referral option**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Current text of the Operational Directives** |  | **Proposed amendments** |
| 30. | The Evaluation Body shall submit to the Committee an evaluation report that includes a recommendation:   * to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; * to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * to select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity; or * to approve or not to approve the international assistance request. | 30. | The Evaluation Body shall submit to the Committee an evaluation report that includes a recommendation:   * ~~to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;~~ * ~~to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information;~~ * **to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information**; * to select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity, **or to refer the proposal to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or** * to approve or not to approve the International Assistance request, **or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information.** |
|  |  | [31 to 34] | [no change] |
| 35. | After examination, the Committee decides whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State for further information, whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as best safeguarding practice, or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than US$25,000 shall be approved. | 35. | After examination, the Committee decides**:**   * whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding~~, whether or not an element shall be inscribed~~ **or** on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State**(s)** for ~~further~~ **additional** information, * whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as a best safeguarding practice, **or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information;** * or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than ~~US$25,000~~ US$**100,000** shall be approved, **or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information.** |
| 36. | Nominations for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity that the Committee decides to refer to the submitting State for additional information may be resubmitted to the Committee for examination during a following cycle, after having been updated and supplemented. | 36. | Nominations ~~for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity~~**, proposals or requests** that the Committee decides **not to inscribe, select, or approve, or** to refer to the submitting State**(s)** for additional information, may be resubmitted to the Committee for examination during a following cycle, after having been updated and supplemented. |
| 37. | If the Committee decides that an element should not be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the nomination may not be resubmitted to the Committee for inscription on this List, before four years have passed. | 37. | ~~If the Committee decides that an element should not be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the nomination may not be resubmitted to the Committee for inscription on this List, before four years have passed.~~  **A decision by the Committee to refer a nomination, proposal or request to the submitting State(s) for additional information does not imply or guarantee that the element will be inscribed, the proposal selected or the request approved in the future. Any subsequent resubmission must fully demonstrate that the criteria for inscription, selection or approval are satisfied.** |

1. **Schedule of non-governmental organizations accreditation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Current text of the Operational Directives** |  | **Proposed amendments** |
| **III** | **Participation in the implementation of the Convention** | **III** | [no change]. |
| **III.2** | **Non-governmental organizations and the Convention** | **III.2** | [no change] |
| III.2.2 | Participation of accredited non-governmental organizations | III.2.2 | [no change]. |
| 98. | Requests for accreditation shall be prepared by using the Form ICH-09 (available at **www.unesco.org/culture/ich** or on request from the Secretariat) and shall include all the information requested and only that information. Requests shall be received by the Secretariat at least four months before an ordinary session of the Committee. | 98. | Requests for accreditation shall be prepared by using the Form ICH-09 (available at **www.unesco.org/culture/ich** or on request from the Secretariat) and shall include all the information requested and only that information. Requests shall be received by the Secretariat ~~at least four months before an ordinary session of the Committee~~ **by 30 April** **of odd-numbered years for examination by the Committee at its ordinary session in that same year.** |

1. . At its last session, the Committee delegated its authority the Bureau to take any appropriate decision on a revised international assistance request received from Kenya for Safeguarding of Enkipaata, Eunoto and Olng’esherr, three male rites of passage of the Maasai community (Decision 10.COM 10.c.2). At the time of writing, the revised request has not yet been submitted by the State Party. Therefore, the Bureau so far has exercised four times such delegation of authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)