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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XIV**

**24 October 2012**

**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Examination of International Assistance requests greater than US$25,000**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  At its sixth session, the Committee examined four International Assistance requests greater than US$25,000, deciding not to approve them but delegating to its Bureau the authority to approve revised requests, on condition that they responded to the concerns laid out in the respective decisions (Decisions 6.COM 10.1 through 6.COM 10.4).  The present document concerns two of those revised requests. The Bureau is asked to take its decision on the requests through electronic consultation.  **Decision required**: paragraph7 |

1. At its sixth session in November 2011, the Committee examined four International Assistance requests greater than US$25,000 (Document 6.COM 10). It decided not to approve any of those four requests (Decisions 6.COM 10.1 through 6.COM 10.4). Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Body, the Committee nevertheless considered that with proper revision the requests could potentially respond adequately to the selection criteria as established in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives and subsequently serve as the basis for a contract between UNESCO and the requesting State. In its decision, the Committee invited the States to submit revised requests by February 2012 and requested the Secretariat to work with them in this revision work. It delegated to its Bureau the authority to approve the requests, on condition that the State Party submits a revised request responding to the concerns laid out in the respective decisions.
2. On 16 December 2011, the decisions of the Committee were published on the website of the Convention at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-11-6.COM-CONF.206-Decisions-EN.doc>. In February 2012, the Secretariat wrote to each of the six States Parties concerned (one of the requests was submitted by three States Parties) to remind them of the Committee’s decision and summarize the main shortcomings identified by the Consultative Board and Committee to be addressed in their revised requests. By 29 February 2012, the Secretariat had received one revised request; the other three were received between 21 March and 30 May 2012. The Secretariat sent letters of additional information for the first three revised requests, indicating to the requesting States when the information provided was unclear or not sufficiently detailed to allow the Bureau to determine whether the conditions formulated by the Committee in its Decisions 6.COM 10.1 through 6.COM 10.4 had been met. The fourth revised request that was received only on 30 May 2012 and was not the subject of an additional information letter by the Secretariat due to time constraints. Between 30 April and 11 September 2012, the Secretariat received three requests, revised for the second time after the Committee’s decision, one of which could not properly be assessed since it was an uncompleted work in progress that appeared to have been sent prematurely to the Secretariat with sections not translated into English.
3. Consequently, two of the revised versions of the 2011 requests are hereby brought to the consideration of the Bureau for its examination at this time:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **Request** | **Summary of correspondence** |
| Mongolia | File 00549 Safeguarding and revitalizing the Mongolian traditional epic | Revision received by Secretariat 2/04/2012; additional information requested 20/04/2012; second revision received by Secretariat 20/06/2012 |
| Uganda | File 00557 Inventorying the intangible cultural heritage of four communities in Uganda | Revision received by Secretariat 24/02/2012; additional information requested 13/04/2012; second revision received by Secretariat 11/09/2012 |

1. The Bureau is asked to decide whether the revised requests, available online in the two working languages of the Committee, satisfy the criteria for conferring International Assistance in conformity with paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives as well as the specific conditions incorporated in the respective decisions of the Committee (Decisions 6.COM 10.2 and 6.COM 10.3). Because the Committee already took a decision on these files and clearly indicated its concerns, the Secretariat has not assumed the intermediary role that it normally plays regarding International Assistance requests up to US$25,000 before they are presented to the Bureau for examination – that is, to offer its assessment of whether the requests respond to the criteria for approval. It is therefore to the Bureau to determine whether after revision these requests satisfy the conditions set by the Committee.
2. A favourable decision to approve International Assistance leads to the establishment of a contractual relationship between UNESCO and the organization designated by the requesting State Party as responsible for the project’s implementation. That contract must strictly reflect the scope of work proposed in the approved request and correspond exactly to its timetable and budget, except for minor technical corrections.
3. The requests are available online for consultation by the Bureau at [http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/7COM-BUREAU](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/7COM-BUREAU%20) together with the original request examined by the Committee and its decision at its sixth session. Intermediary revised version(s) of the requests and the letters requesting additional information from the Secretariat were also circulated to the mailing list of the Bureau. The Bureau may also wish to refer to document [ITH/11/6.COM/CONF.206/10](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-11-6.COM-CONF.206-10-EN.pdf) which provides general observations and recommendations resulting from the evaluation conducted by the Consultative Body in 2011 and which was also provided as guidance to States Parties in revising their requests.
4. The Bureau is asked to examine and decide on these two requests, through electronic consultation as provided in Rule 12.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. In accordance with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the requesting States Parties were informed about the examination date of their requests by the Bureau. As provided in paragraph 52 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat shall communicate the decision of the Bureau concerning the granting of assistance to the requesting party within two weeks following the decision.
5. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

**DRAFT DECISION 7.COM 5.BUR 4.1**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document ITH/12/7.COM 5.BUR/4 and its annex,
2. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives, concerning the examination and approval of international assistance requests,
3. Further recalling Document ITH/11/6.COM/CONF.206/10 and the Committee’s Decision 6.COM 10.2,
4. Having further examined the revised request for International Assistance submitted by Mongolia in the amount of US$107,000 for the project **Safeguarding and revitalizing the Mongolian traditional epic**,
5. Decides that the conditions established by the Committee in its decision 6.COM 10.2 for the granting of such assistance [have been] [have not been] satisfied by the requesting State;
6. [Approves the request in the maximum amount of US$107,000 and requests the Secretariat to reach agreement with the State Party on the technical details of the assistance.]

[Further decides not to approve the request and invites the State Party to submit a revised request for a subsequent cycle.]

**DRAFT DECISION 7.COM 5.BUR 4.2**

1. Having examined document ITH/12/7.COM 5.BUR/4 and its annex,
2. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives, concerning the examination and approval of international assistance requests,
3. Further recalling Document ITH/11/6.COM/CONF.206/10 and the Committee’s Decision 6.COM 10.3,
4. Takes note that Uganda has submitted a revised request for International Assistance in the amount of US$216,000 for **Inventorying the intangible cultural heritage of four communities in Uganda**;
5. Decides that the conditions established by the Committee in its decision 6.COM 10.3 for the granting of such assistance [have been] [have not been] met by the requesting State;
6. [Approves the request in the maximum amount of US$216,000 and requests the Secretariat to reach agreement with the State Party on the technical details of the assistance.]

[Further decides not to approve the request and invites the State Party to submit a revised request for a subsequent cycle.].