



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Culture Sector**  
**Division for Creativity**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

Permanent Delegations of the States  
Parties to the Convention for the  
Safeguarding of the Intangible  
Cultural Heritage

1 March 2016

Ref.: CLT/CRE/ITH/16/035

Dear Ambassador,

I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will hold its sixth session from 30 May to 1 June 2016, at UNESCO Headquarters (Room II). An official invitation letter to this session will be sent under separate cover.

One of the tasks of the General Assembly will be to renew half of the States Members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Article 6.4 of the Convention). The 12 States whose mandates will expire in June 2016 are:

- Group I: Belgium, Greece;
- Group II: Latvia;
- Group III: Brazil, Peru, Uruguay;
- Group IV: Kyrgyzstan;
- Group V(a): Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda;
- Group V(b): Egypt, Tunisia.

The remaining States Members of the Committee are, by electoral group:

- Group I: Turkey;
- Group II: Bulgaria, Hungary;
- Group III: Saint Lucia;
- Group IV: Afghanistan, India, Mongolia, Republic of Korea;
- Group V(a): Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia;
- Group V(b): Algeria.

Pursuant to paragraph (ii) of Rule 13.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, 24 Committee seats shall be distributed among electoral groups in proportion to the number of States Parties from each electoral group, provided that, after such distribution, at least three seats have been attributed to each group.

As you know in accordance with its Article 34, the Convention enters into force for a State Party three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification. At the date of the election of the members of the Committee on 1 June 2016, 166 States will be party to the Convention.

The General Assembly will first have to agree on the distribution of the 24 Committee seats and, consequently, to determine the distribution of the 12 vacant seats. In conformity with Resolution 3.GA 12, the geographical distribution of seats in the Committee is determined by mathematical calculation on the basis of 166 States as follows:

Group I:	21 States	3.04 seats (3)	2 vacant seats
Group II:	24 States	3.47 seats (3)	1 vacant seat
Group III:	30 States	4.34 seats (4)	3 vacant seats
Group IV:	33 States	4.77 seats (5)	1 vacant seat
Group V(a):	40 States	5.78 seats (6)	3 vacant seats
Group V(b):	18 States	2.60 seats (3)	2 vacant seats
Total:	166 States	24 seats	12 vacant seats

In conformity with Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat by 15 April 2016 whether your country intends to stand as a candidate for the Committee, to enable the Secretariat to establish a provisional list of candidate States Parties. Please note that the correspondence is to be sent to the Secretariat of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: CLT/CRE/ITH, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07, France, email: [ichmeetings@unesco.org](mailto:ichmeetings@unesco.org).

In this context, may I draw your attention to Article 6.6 of the Convention, which stipulates that a 'State Member of the Committee may not be elected for two consecutive terms', as well as to Article 26.5 of the Convention, which provides that 'any State to this Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the Committee' and that 'the term of office of any such State which is already a Member of the Committee shall come to an end at the time of the elections'.

In accordance with Rule 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, a provisional list of candidates as well as updated information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund will be provided to all States Parties at least four weeks before the sixth session of the General Assembly and this list will be revised as necessary. Furthermore Rule 14.4 stipulates that the list will be finalized three working days prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

If you have already submitted your candidature and received a confirmation of receipt from the Secretariat there is no need to act on this circular letter.

For all information related to the General Assembly, I invite you to consult the website of the Convention at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/6.GA> that will be regularly updated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Curtis  
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of  
the Intangible Cultural Heritage  
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

cc: National Commissions of the States Parties concerned