



United Nations
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Intangible
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

**Third session
Istanbul, Turkey, 4 to 8 November 2008**

Item 1 of the provisional agenda: Incorporation of items proclaimed Masterpieces in the Representative List

Summary

[Article 31.1.](#) of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage stipulates that the Committee shall incorporate in the Representative List the items proclaimed by UNESCO 'Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' before the entry into force of that Convention.

Decision required: paragraph 6

1. By Resolution 29/23, the General Conference of UNESCO created in 1997 an international distinction entitled 'Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'. At its 155th session, the Organization's Executive Board adopted the regulations relating to the Proclamation. Over 100 countries have participated in the programme since its inception.
2. In three successive proclamations (2001, 2003 and 2005), the Director General of UNESCO proclaimed as Masterpieces 90 items from 71 countries in all the regions of the world: 19 in 2001, 28 in 2003 and 43 in 2005. The geographical distribution of the 90 items proclaimed Masterpieces is as follows: 18 in Africa, 7 in the Arab States, 20 in Europe, 19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 26 in Asia and the Pacific. Nine of the items proclaimed Masterpieces are multinational.
3. Recalling the proclamation programme in its preamble, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage emphasizes the important role of this initiative, which has made the international community more aware of the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. All the items proclaimed Masterpieces are representative of the richness of this heritage and illustrate cultural diversity and human creativity.
4. [Article 31.1](#) of the Convention provides that "the Committee shall incorporate in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity the items proclaimed 'Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' before the entry into force of this Convention". Paragraph 2 of the article specifies that such incorporation shall in no way prejudice the criteria for future inscriptions on the Representative List decided upon in accordance with [Article 16.2](#), and paragraph 3 provides that no further proclamation will be made after the entry into force of the Convention.
5. By its Resolution [2.GA 5](#), the General Assembly of the States Parties meeting in Paris on the occasion of its second session in June 2008 approved the Operational Directives, including the formal and procedural conditions for incorporating the items proclaimed Masterpieces in the Representative List (paragraphs [34-42](#)).
6. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 3.COM 1

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/08/3.COM/CONF.203/1;
2. Recalling Articles 31 and 16 of the Convention;
3. Also recalling paragraphs 34-42 of the Operational Directives, adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties at its second session (Resolution 2.GA 5);
4. Incorporates in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity the 90 items proclaimed 'Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' before the entry into force of the Convention, as listed in the annex to this decision;
5. Requests the Director General to invite States non party having present on their territory incorporated Masterpieces to consent explicitly in writing to accept the

rights and assume the obligations arising from the Convention, while respecting the conditions and deadlines provided for in the Operational Directives;

6. Calls on the States non party to the Convention so concerned to consider ratifying it as soon as possible, in accordance with Articles [32](#) and [33](#) therein.

ANNEX

**Items proclaimed by UNESCO
Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**

| List of the 90 items proclaimed Masterpieces by UNESCO | |
|---|---|
| Albania | Albanian Folk Iso-polyphony (2005) |
| Algeria | The Ahellil of Gourara (2005) |
| Armenia | The Duduk and its music (2005) |
| Azerbaijan | The Azerbaijani Mugham (2003) |
| Bangladesh | Baul Songs (2005) |
| Belgium | The Carnival of Binche (2003) |
| Belgium and France | Processional Giants and Dragons in Belgium and France (2005) |
| Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua | Language, Dance and Music of the Garifuna (2001) |
| Benin, Nigeria and Togo | The Oral Heritage of Gelede (2001) |
| Bhutan | The Mask Dance of the Drums from Drametse (2005) |
| Bolivia | The Carnival of Oruro (2001) The Andean Cosmivision of the Kallawayaya (2003) |
| Brazil | Oral and Graphic Expressions of the Wajapi (2003) The Samba de Roda of Recôncavo of Bahia (2005) |
| Bulgaria | The Bistritsa Babi – Archaic Polyphony, Dances and Rituals from the Shoplouk Region (2005) |
| Cambodia | The Royal Ballet of Cambodia (2003) Sbek Thom, Khmer Shadow Theatre (2005) |
| Central African Republic | The Polyphonic Singing of the Aka Pygmies of Central Africa (2003) |
| China | Kun Qu Opera (2001) The Guqin and its music (2003) The Uyghur Mugam of Xinjiang (2005) |
| Colombia | The Carnival of Barranquilla (2003) The Cultural Space of Palenque de San Basilio (2005) |
| Costa Rica | Oxherding and Oxcart Traditions in Costa Rica (2005) |
| Côte d'Ivoire | The Gbofe of Afounkaha – the Music of the Transverse Trumps of the Tagbana Community (2001) |
| Cuba | La Tumba Francesa (2003) |
| Czech Republic | Slovácko Verbuňk, Recruit Dances (2005) |

| List of the 90 items proclaimed Masterpieces by UNESCO | |
|---|---|
| Dominican Republic | The Cultural Space of the Brotherhood of the Holy Spirit of the Congos of Villa Mella (2001) The Cocolo Dance Drama Tradition (2005) |
| Ecuador and Peru | The Oral Heritage and Cultural Manifestations of the Zápara People (2001) |
| Egypt | The Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah Epic (2003) |
| Estonia | The Kihnu Cultural Space (2003) |
| Georgia | Georgian Polyphonic Singing (2001) |
| Guatemala | The Rabinal Achí Dance Drama Tradition (2005) |
| Guinea | The Cultural Space of Sosso-Bala (2001) |
| India | Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre (2001) The Tradition of Vedic Chanting (2003) Ramlila – the Traditional Performance of the Ramayana (2005) |
| Indonesia | The Wayang Puppet Theatre (2003) The Indonesian Kris (2005) |
| Iraq | The Iraqi Maqam (2003) |
| Italy | Opera dei Pupi, Sicilian Puppet Theatre (2001) Canto a tenore, Sardinian Pastoral Songs (2005) |
| Jamaica | The Maroon Heritage of Moore Town (2003) |
| Japan | Nôgaku Theatre (2001) Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre (2003) Kabuki Theatre (2005) |
| Jordan | The Cultural Space of the Bedu in Petra and Wadi Rum (2005) |
| Kyrgyzstan | The Art of Akyns, Kyrgyz Epic Tellers (2003) |
| Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania | The Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations (2003) |
| Lithuania, supported by Latvia | Cross-crafting and its Symbolism (2001) |
| Madagascar | The Woodcrafting Knowledge of the Zafimaniry (2003) |
| Malawi | The Vimbuza Healing Dance (2005) |
| Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia | The Gule Wamkulu (2005) |
| Malaysia | Mak Yong Theatre (2005) |
| Mali | The Cultural Space of the Yaaral and Degal (2005) |
| Mexico | The Indigenous Festivity dedicated to the Dead (2003) |
| Mongolia | The Traditional Music of the Morin Khuur (2003) |

| List of the 90 items proclaimed Masterpieces by UNESCO | |
|---|--|
| Mongolia and China | Urtiin Duu – Traditional Folk Long Song (2005) |
| Morocco | The Cultural Space of Jemaa el-Fna Square (2001) The Moussem of Tan-Tan (2005) |
| Mozambique | The Chopi Timbila (2005) |
| Nicaragua | El Güegüense (2005) |
| Nigeria | The Ifa Divination System (2005) |
| Palestinian Territories | The Palestinian Hikaye (2005) |
| Peru | Taquile and its Textile Art (2005) |
| Philippines | The Hudhud Chants of the Ifugao (2001) The Darangen Epic of the Maranao People of Lake Lanao (2005) |
| Republic of Korea | The Royal Ancestral Ritual in the Jongmyo Shrine and its Music (2001) The Pansori Epic Chant (2003) The Gangneung Danoje Festival (2005) |
| Romania | The Căluș Ritual (2005) |
| Russian Federation | The Cultural Space and Oral Culture of the Semeiskie (2001) The Olonkho, Yakut Heroic Epos (2005) |
| Senegal and Gambia | The Kankurang, Manding Initiatory Rite (2005) |
| Slovakia | The Fujara and its Music (2005) |
| Spain | The Mystery Play of Elche (2001) The Patum of Berga (2005) |
| Tonga | The Lakalaka, Dances and Sung Speeches of Tonga (2003) |
| Turkey | The Arts of the Meddah, Public Storytellers (2003) The Mevlevi Sema Ceremony (2005) |
| Uganda | Barkcloth Making in Uganda (2005) |
| Uzbekistan | The Cultural Space of the Boysun District (2001) |
| Tajikistan and Uzbekistan | Shashmaqom Music (2003) |
| Vanuatu | Vanuatu Sand Drawings (2003) |
| Viet Nam | Nha Nhac, Vietnamese Court Music (2003) The Space of Gong Culture (2005) |
| Yemen | The Song of Sana'a (2003) |
| Zambia | The Makishi Masquerade (2005) |
| Zimbabwe | The Mbende Jerusarema Dance (2005) |