



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

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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 THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Issue of admission of observers

Summary

Following Decision [2.COM 4](#) and Decision [2.EXT.COM 15](#), this document concerns the examination of the issue of admission of observers to the sessions of the Committee, with a view to taking a decision on this matter.

Decision required: paragraph 4

1. At its first session, the Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure that govern, inter alia, the participants at Committee sessions (Decision [1.COM 2](#)). Rule 8 provides that:

Rule 8 - Observers	
8.1	States Parties to the Convention which are not Members of the Committee may attend its sessions as observers.
8.2	States not party to the Convention which are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may, upon written request, also be authorized by the Committee to attend the sessions of the Committee as observers.
8.3	The Committee may authorize the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as, upon written request, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions active in the fields covered by the Convention, to attend its sessions as observers.
8.4	The Director-General shall invite any entity whose participation has been authorized by the Committee in conformity with Rules 8.2 and 8.3.

2. At its first extraordinary session, the Committee took note that the Rules, as adopted, did not allow the admission of Associate Members. The Committee further noted that it was unusual that States non party or representatives of the United Nations or the United Nations system not be admitted automatically as observers, without the Committee having to take a decision in each case. In its Decision [1.EXT.COM 4](#) the Committee suspended Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure, and that suspension remains in effect until the Committee decides otherwise.
3. In its Decisions [1.EXT.COM 4 bis](#), [2.COM 4](#) and [2.EXT.COM 15](#), the Committee has adopted a series of temporary procedures for the admission of observers. The Committee has also permitted other entities that were not admitted as observers to attend its sessions without the right to address the meeting. With the adoption of the Operational Directives and the experience gained over its several past sessions, the Committee may now wish to consider amending Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure to resolve the question of observers, as follows:

Original		Proposed Amendment	
Rule 8 Observers		Rule 8 Other participants	
8.1	States Parties to the Convention which are not Members of the Committee may attend its sessions as observers.	8.1	[Unchanged]

8.2	States not party to the Convention which are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may, upon written request, also be authorized by the Committee to attend the sessions of the Committee as observers.	8.2	States not party to the Convention which are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations, Associate Members of UNESCO, Permanent Observer Missions to UNESCO, representatives of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system may attend the sessions of the Committee as observers.
8.3	The Committee may authorize the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as, upon written request, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions active in the fields covered by the Convention, to attend its sessions as observers.	8.3	The Committee may authorize intergovernmental organizations other than those referred to in Rule 8.2, as well as non-profit-making institutions active in the fields covered by the Convention, to attend its future sessions as observers , upon their written request. The Committee may authorize such institutions or organizations to attend a single session or several of its sessions, without prejudice to its right to limit the number of representatives per organization or institution.
8.4	The Director-General shall invite any entity whose participation has been authorized by the Committee in conformity with Rules 8.2 and 8.3.	8.4	[Unchanged]
		8.5	Public meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public as an audience, within the limitations of available space.

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

DRAFT DECISION 3.COM 12

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/08/3.COM/CONF.203/12;
2. Recalling its decisions [1.EXT.COM 4](#), [1.EXT.COM 4 bis](#), [2.COM 4](#) and [2.EXT.COM 15](#);

3. Recalling that accredited non-governmental organizations may attend its sessions in conformity with [Rule 6](#) of its Rules of Procedures, and that the Committee may invite other public or private bodies as well as private persons to attend its sessions in conformity with [Rule 7](#);
4. Decides to amend Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure as follows:

Amendment to the Rules of Procedures	
Rule 8 Other participants	
8.1	States Parties to the Convention which are not Members of the Committee may attend its sessions as observers.
8.2	States not party to the Convention which are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations, Associate Members of UNESCO, Permanent Observer Missions to UNESCO, representatives of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system may attend the sessions of the Committee as observers.
8.3	The Committee may authorize intergovernmental organizations other than those referred to in Rule 8.2, as well as non-profit-making institutions active in the fields covered by the Convention, to attend its future sessions as observers, upon their written request. The Committee may authorize such institutions or organizations to attend a single session or several of its sessions, without prejudice to its right to limit the number of representatives per organization or institution.
8.4	The Director-General shall invite any entity whose participation has been authorized by the Committee in conformity with Rules 8.2 and 8.3.
8.5	Public meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public, as an audience, within the limitations of available space.