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

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

**Seventh session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room II**

**4 to 6 June 2018**

**Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Accreditation of non-governmental organizations**

**to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee**

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| **Summary**  Article 9 of the Convention requires that the Committee propose to the General Assembly the accreditation of non-governmental organizations with recognized competence in the field of intangible cultural heritage to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee. The present document proposes twenty-nine such organizations.  **Decision required:** paragraph 9 |

1. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations
2. Article 9 of the Convention requires that the Committee propose to the General Assembly the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with recognized competence in the field of intangible cultural heritage to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee. The criteria for, and modalities of, such accreditation were adopted by the General Assembly at its second session and are included in Chapter III.2.2 of the Operational Directives (paragraphs 91-99). To date, the General Assembly has accredited 202 such organizations (97 by [Resolution 3.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/7), 59 by [Resolution 4.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/4.GA/6), 22 by [Resolution 5.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/5.GA/6) and 24 by [Resolution 6.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/8)).
3. Based on the modalities and procedures of the review process determined in Chapter III.2.2 of the Operational Directives (paragraphs 92-99), the Committee ‘reviews the contribution and the commitment of the advisory organization, and its relations with it, every four years following accreditation, taking into account the perspective of the non-governmental organization concerned’. On the basis of the recommendations by the Secretariat, which reviews the quadrennial reports submitted by accredited NGOs, the Committee may decide to maintain or terminate relations with the NGOs concerned.

* At its tenth session in 2015, the Committee decided to maintain the accreditation of 59 out of the 97 NGOs ([Decision 10.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/16)). It also decided to terminate relationships with 38 NGOs accredited by the third session of the General Assembly in 2010 ([Resolution 3.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/7)).
* At its twelfth session in 2017, the Committee decided to maintain the accreditation of 42 out of the 59 NGOs ([Decision 12.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/17)). It also decided to terminate relationships with 17 NGOs accredited by the fourth session of the General Assembly in 2012 ([Resolution 4.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/4.GA/6)).

1. As a result, there are currently 147 NGOs accredited to provide advisory services to the Committee. The geographical representation of these NGOs is as follows: Group I: 79; Group II: 12; Group III: 8; Group IV: 24; Group V(a): 18; and Group V(b): 6, as also illustrated below:
2. At its twelfth session in 2017, the Committee also examined fifty accreditation requests received from NGOs, of which twenty-nine are recommended to the General Assembly for accreditation by Decision 12.COM 17. These twenty-nine organizations are listed in the Annex to the draft resolution below; the [website of the Convention](https://ich.unesco.org/en/17-accreditation-of-ngos-00956) makes available all of the requests that were completed by that time in the language in which they were submitted, namely the standard Form ICH-09 filled in by each organization, together with the pertinent supplementary documents regarding items 8.a, 8.b and 8.c of that form.
3. At its sixth session, the General Assembly encouraged NGOs that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for accreditation at the earliest opportunity, especially those from countries and regions that have less representation and participation. The Committee, at its twelfth session, also emphasized the importance of the broadest possible participation of NGOs from under-represented Electoral Groups.
4. Initial observations on the participation of accredited NGOs
5. Having dealt with five cycles of accreditation and two cycles of reviewing the accreditation status of NGOs, the Committee considered it opportune, at its twelfth session in 2017, to take stock of its experience related to the accreditation of NGOs at a time when the governing bodies of the Convention are engaging in important reflections on the overall impact of the Convention and its future directions.
6. Paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives stipulates that ‘[a]ccredited non-governmental organizations who […] shall have advisory functions to the Committee, may be invited by the Committee to provide it, inter alia, with reports of evaluation’ of nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List, the Register of Good Practices, requests for International Assistance and the effects of safeguarding plans for elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. In its initial debate, the Committee acknowledged that it had not yet elaborated on what other advisory functions – mentioned as inter alia – it wished to request of the accredited NGOs. This in turn means that the majority of the accredited NGOs have not been concretely involved in the work of the Committee, notwithstanding their enthusiasm to contribute to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the Committee also took note of a wide range of issues, including the need to assess the relevance of current accreditation and renewal criteria, the role of the ICH NGO-Forum, the imbalance in terms of the geographical representation of the accredited NGOs and the workload of the governing bodies and of the Secretariat.
7. In its Decision 12.COM 17, the Committee ‘acknowledge[d] the need to take stock of the current situation and challenges as regards the participation of NGOs to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee’ and ‘invite[d] the Secretariat and the informal ad hoc working group to reflect, in consultation with accredited NGOs, on the possible ways in which the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention could be further enhanced and how this would be reflected in the accreditation and renewal mechanisms of NGOs’. The overall purpose of such reflection may be to move towards a system that is flexible enough to allow the Committee to benefit from the diverse sets of expertise and services of NGOs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, since this is key for linking the Convention to communities and grass-roots organizations and at the same time for ensuring that the Convention can continue to evolve in line with the experiences of the international community at large. The progress of these reflections will be discussed by the Committee at its thirteenth session in 2018.
8. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.GA 11

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/18/7.GA/11,
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91-99 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling Decision 12.COM 17,
4. Accredits the twenty-nine NGOs listed in the Annex to this Resolution to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee;
5. Encourages NGOs from under-represented Electoral Groups that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for accreditation at the earliest opportunity so as to improve the geographical distribution of accredited NGOs and invites States Parties from those Electoral Groups to make this call widely known among NGOs operating within their territories;
6. Invites the NGOs accredited in 2014 to submit to the Secretariat their quadrennial report in 2019 so that at its fourteenth session the Committee can review the contribution and commitment of each advisory organization;
7. Takes note of the ongoing reflection undertaken by the Secretariat and the informal ad hoc working group, in consultation with accredited NGOs, on the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention and requests that the Committee and the Secretariat present the outcomes of this reflection at a future session of the General Assembly.

**ANNEX**

**Non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation**

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Amagugu International Heritage Centre | Zimbabwe | NGO-90383 |
| Association Île du Monde | France | NGO-90388 |
| Association of Folk Artists | Poland | NGO-90372 |
| Centre de valorisation du patrimoine vivant | Canada | NGO-90394 |
| Centre des musiques traditionnelles Rhône-Alpes (CMTRA) - CMTRA | France | NGO-90387 |
| Centre d’interprétation de la culture traditionnelle Marius-Barbeau | Canada | NGO-90414 |
| Colles Castelleres Coordinating Body in Catalonia (Federation) | Spain | NGO-90366 |
| Ethnographic Society of Slovakia | Slovakia | NGO-90369 |
| European Federation for Architectural Heritage Skills | Belgium | NGO-90370 |
| Folk Music Institute | Finland | NGO-90407 |
| Georgian Arts and Culture Center | Georgia | NGO-90390 |
| German Confederation of Skilled Crafts | Germany | NGO-90413 |
| Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage | Turkey | NGO-90400 |
| International Council of Museums ICOM - ICOM | France | NGO-90376 |
| International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS | France | NGO-90412 |
| International Society for Ethnology and Folklore | Netherlands | NGO-90385 |
| Istanbul Camlıca Classic Art Center | Turkey | NGO-90410 |
| Mali Cultural Heritage Agency | Mali | NGO-90409 |
| Many Hands International | Australia | NGO-90379 |
| Norwegian Institute of bunad and folk costume | Norway | NGO-90384 |
| Public Association Kuhhoi Pomir (Pamir mountains) | Tajikistan | NGO-90403 |
| Routes Nomades | France | NGO-90371 |
| Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage | United States of America | NGO-90391 |
| Sozopol Foundation | Bulgaria | NGO-90389 |
| Teje Teje | Colombia | NGO-90368 |
| THAAP | Pakistan | NGO-90367 |
| The Norwegian Society of Rural Women | Norway | NGO-90395 |
| The Serfenta Association | Poland | NGO-90373 |
| Traditional Art Association | Turkey | NGO-90408 |