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SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954 FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

Tenth Meeting
UNESCO Headquarters
10 and 11 December 2015

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda:

Follow-up to the Audit of the Working Methods of Cultural Conventions and to the evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector

This document provides an update on the follow-up of the recommendations on UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2013 and it describes the Secretariat's efforts to streamline the working methods of the governing bodies and to obtain additional human and financial resources.

Draft decision: paragraph 7

1. At the eighth meeting of the Committee, held on 18-19 December 2013, the Secretariat presented information (CLT-13/8.COM/CONF.203/13¹) to the members of Committee about the findings and recommendations of the Audit of the Working Methods of Cultural Conventions conducted by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS), and pursuant to Decision 8.COM 13, it provided an update (CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/11/REV²) on the status of the implementation of the IOS recommendations at the ninth meeting of the Committee, held on 18 and 19 December 2014.
2. At its ninth meeting, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict examined document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/11/REV and its Annex and by its Decision 9.COM 11 requested "the Secretariat to provide updated information about the key results at the Committee's Tenth Meeting on the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations contained in the IOS audit".
3. UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) conducted an audit of the working methods of the six conventions in the field of culture to assess the adequacy and efficiency of the working methods of UNESCO's standard-setting work in the Culture Sector in 2013. The report was presented to the Executive Board at its 192nd session (192 EX/5 Part II).³ The Executive Board noted "the importance of improving the quality of causal analysis and evidence of impact brought about by UNESCO's normative work", and invited the Director-General "to implement the recommendations, except those recommendations that require a decision by the Executive Board and/or General Conference, in which case the relevant issue shall be submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration".⁴ In addition, Executive Board Decision 194 EX/22 requested "the Director-General to continue her efforts to ensure that all Internal Oversight Service recommendations are properly implemented within a reasonable time frame, in consultation with the governing bodies of the cultural conventions, as necessary, and without prejudice to the conclusions of the working group".⁵
4. In January 2015, the Culture Sector organized an information meeting on the audit of the working methods of the six culture conventions. Follow-up is also provided through the Culture Conventions Liaison Group (CCLG) including the review of increased cost efficiency by reducing the frequency of meetings and, when feasible, the duration and agenda of the meetings of Parties as well as costs associated with translation and interpretation.
5. A detailed update on the status of the implementation of the IOS recommendations is provided in the table attached in the Annex to the present document. The table covers the period since December 2014.
6. Finally, in conformity with the UNESCO Corporate Rolling Evaluation Plan - 2013-2017 (Annex II to document 196 EX/24), IOS plans to undertake the evaluation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols in 2016.
7. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 10.COM 6

The Committee,

1. Having considered document CLT-14/9.COM/CONF.203/6 and its Annex,
2. Thanks the Secretariat for its work;
3. Takes note of the document and its Annex;
4. Requests the Secretariat to provide updated information on the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations contained in the IOS audit at the eleventh meeting.

¹ Please see the document: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002301/230110E.pdf>

² Please see the document: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002306/230688E.pdf>

³ Please see the IOS Report: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/IOS-AUD-2013-06-EN.pdf>

⁴ Please see the Decision: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002238/223810e.pdf>

⁵ Please see the Decision: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002274/227488e.pdf>

ANNEX**Action Plan for the Implementation of the IOS Recommendations on the Working Methods of the Culture Conventions
Implementation of the 1954 Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols**

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(a): Formulate proposals to the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>a) supplement the current funding structure with General Trust funds formed out of contributions from the Contracting (State) Parties on a compulsory or voluntary basis to cover the ordinary expenditures of the secretariats, including staffing, administrative costs, preparation and translation of documents.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will present to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol a proposal to create a Special Account, based on voluntary contributions, for the Secretariat's human resources.</p> <p>The Secretariat had meetings with a number of Permanent Delegations to seek extrabudgetary funds and human resources for the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The Republic of Cyprus provided to the Secretariat a secondment for a twelve-month period. The secondee started her assignment on 9 September 2015.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing.</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 1(b): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>b) prioritize the current workload of the Convention Secretariat to align it with available resources.</p>	<p>In view of the resource constraints, the Secretariat has prioritized actions favoring the organization of statutory meetings and the promotion of ratifications of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols in conformity with the decisions of the Meeting of the Committee, the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol.</p> <p>Other additional activities such as trainings or capacity-building seminars may be undertaken if extrabudgetary resources become available.</p>	<p>The preparations of the Eleventh Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention, Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol and Tenth Meeting of the Committee are underway.</p>	<p><i>Secretariat does not have the human or financial resources to carry out all activities requested by the Committee, meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and Meetings of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol.</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(c): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>c) reduce the frequency, when feasible, of the duration and agenda of the meetings of State Parties and that of the Intergovernmental Committees and synchronize the meetings of the State Parties to the conventions, when efficiencies can be achieved.</p>	<p>The frequency of the Meetings of the Committee and those of the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol is set forth by the Second Protocol. Thus, its reduction would require a modification of this instrument.</p> <p>The frequency of the Meetings of the High Contracting Parties is established by their recommendations. Thus, its reduction would require modifications of the recommendations.</p> <p>As the Meetings of the Committee take two days, those of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention half a day and Meetings of the Parties one day and a half, it is not possible to reduce their duration.</p> <p>It does not appear feasible to synchronize Meetings of the Committee, Meetings of States Parties to the Second Protocol and Meetings of the High Contracting Parties with meetings of other governing bodies of the Culture Sector Conventions because (i) the profile of participants is not the same; and (ii) it is extremely difficult to participate in a string of intergovernmental meetings within a short period of time.</p> <p>Finally, in order to align working methods of the CLT Conventions, it was decided to discontinue informal meetings of the Bureau of the Committee. If the need arises, other forms such as informal consultations between the Bureau of the Committee and the Secretariat may be explored.</p>	<p>No further action is required.</p> <p>Informal Bureau meetings discontinued, Formal Bureau session held on 21 May.</p>	<p><i>Status Quo.</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 1(d): Formulate proposals for the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>d) harmonize the translation and interpretation requirements across the convention meetings and seek extrabudgetary funding for additional languages.</p>	<p>Translation and interpretation requirements for the Governing Bodies of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol are provided for in their Rules of Procedures.</p> <p>The Rules of Procedure of the Committee provide for six languages (EN/FR/ES/AR/CH/RU). However, in conformity with Decision 6.COM 5 (B), the Committee decided to suspend provisionally the application of Rule 33 of its Rules of Procedure until its Tenth Meeting in 2015 by using English and French as the languages for translation of its working documents and by using English, French and Spanish for interpretation of its deliberations.</p> <p>The Secretariat prepared a document to be presented at the Tenth Meeting of the Committee to further suspend the application of Rule 33 of its Rules of Procedure until the Committee decides otherwise and to use English and French as the languages for translation of the Committee's working documents and English, French and Spanish for interpretation of its deliberations.</p> <p>Six languages are used both for the meetings of the High Contracting Parties and those of Parties to the Second Protocol (EN/FR/ES/AR/CH/RU).</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>The documents to be presented at the Tenth Meeting of the Committee to be provided only in English and French to reduce costs.</p>	<p><i>Status Quo.</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 1(e): Formulate proposals to the Governing Bodies of the Convention to:</p> <p>e) modify the financial rules and regulations, if necessary, to allow application of cost recovery policy.</p>	<p>No action has been taken.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><i>Status Quo.</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 2: Where applicable, explore more efficient ways of obtaining advisory services and consider potential chargeback mechanisms to the nominating State Parties and/or earmarked fund and formulate proposals to the respective Governing Bodies for possible economies and financial sustainability in the advisory service fees.</p>	<p>No action has been taken.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><i>Status Quo.</i></p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	Action Taken	KEY RESULTS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 3: CLT Sector should expand its Common Logistics Unit to include additional services that add value and provide cost-effective solutions to support the work of all convention secretariats. The platform can function under the guidance of the Cultural Convention Liaison Group.</p>	<p>Following the restructuring of the Culture Sector (DG/Note/14/21 of 19 May 2014), the Conventions Common Services Unit was established to provide a common platform of pooled resources serving all Cultural Conventions for a number of common needs, in the areas of (i) communication, (ii) outreach and partnerships and (iii) logistical aspects of statutory meetings.</p> <p>The Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit was also established. It is responsible for developing and disseminating CLT policies and resource materials and supporting the conception and implementation of capacity-building and technical assistance activities related to emergency preparedness and response for cultural and natural heritage, as well as co-ordinating the CLT's response to emergencies, including in the framework of Post Disaster Needs Assessments and Post Conflict Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The Executive Office will continue to be responsible for overseeing the strategic orientation and implementation of the Culture Sector's programme and its human and financial resources.</p> <p>The CCLG meets regularly to oversee coordination among Secretariats.</p>	<p>Conventions Common Services Unit was established and is operational, and benefits the 1954 Convention.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing.</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 4: CLT Sector formulate, in consultation with BSP/CFS, a coordinated fundraising strategy for all Conventions Secretariats and form a common resource mobilization team.</p>	<p>No action has been taken.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><i>Ongoing.</i></p>