



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

Patrimonio  
Cultural  
Inmaterial



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



CRESPIAL

Bajo los auspicios de  
la UNESCO

## Workshop

ITH/16/WOR/2

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

### GLOBAL PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A WORKSHOP FOR FACILITATORS FROM THE REGION

Lima, Peru  
3 to 7 October 2016

## WORKSHOP NOTE

## A. Background and rationale

UNESCO is organizing, for the third time, a workshop in Latin America and the Caribbean for expert facilitators of the global capacity-building programme for the effective implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.<sup>1</sup> The workshop is co-hosted by the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) and will take place in Lima, Peru, from 3 to 7 October, 2016.

The first workshop in 2011 (Havana) familiarized experts from the region with the rationale and initial training curriculum and launched the global capacity-building programme in countries of the region. The second gathering took the form of a review meeting to take stock of the initial experiences in implementing the programme (Cusco, Peru, 2013). It made useful recommendations for programme development and improvement, which are largely reflected in the programme today.<sup>2</sup> The third and present workshop focuses on a topic that the first evaluation of the 2003 Convention discusses,<sup>3</sup> namely, policy development for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and the related question of how UNESCO can effectively support countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in this important area.

### *Policy development in the Convention and the Operational Directives*

Under the Convention, countries are encouraged to develop public policy and legislation for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH).<sup>4</sup> They are furthermore encouraged to develop measures to raise awareness of ICH at national and local levels<sup>5</sup> and fully integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into their development plans, policies and programmes at all levels.<sup>6</sup> As the evaluation of the Convention pointed out, countries have started integrating provisions in their heritage law, but less so in other policy areas that are relevant for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. There is still confusion about what policy development for safeguarding ICH encompasses, and what it implies from a conceptual and operational point of view in the context of the Convention.

### *Support for policy development in capacity-building projects*

Since 2009, UNESCO's support to States Parties for the implementation of the 2003 Convention has focused on capacity building by means of a global programme. The programme aims to strengthen countries' capacities to safeguard ICH and harness their potential for sustainable development while promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention's concepts and objectives. A pamphlet briefly presents the programme and is available online (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/delivery-at-country-level-00513>).

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1. Hereafter, 'the Convention'.
  2. For information on this workshop, please visit <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/events/global-strategy-for-strengthening-national-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-review-meeting-00396>.
  3. In 2013, UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service carried out an evaluation of the standard-setting work of UNESCO's Culture Sector. The first part was dedicated to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. *Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-setting Work of the Culture Sector: Part I – 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* available in [English](#)|[French](#)|[Spanish](#).
  4. Article 2.3 of the Convention defines safeguarding as 'measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.' Article 13 (a) specifies that States should 'adopt a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society, and at integrating the safeguarding of such heritage into planning programmes'.
  5. Operational Directives 103 to 105.
  6. Operational Directives 170 to 197.

UNESCO identified policy revision early on as one of the four areas the programme needs to address:

- redesign of the institutional infrastructure and strengthened human resources for safeguarding;
- revision of policies and strategies in relevant policy areas (culture, education, environment, peace, food security, ect.);
- development of community-based inventorying and safeguarding methodology; and
- effective participation in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention.

UNESCO initially included policy issues in the thematically broad training workshop on basic concepts and mechanisms of the Convention. However, the evaluation of the Convention did not consider this approach sufficient. It instead recommended that the Secretariat strengthen its support to States for the development of policies for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage within the Culture Sector and in all other relevant policy areas, involving development experts. Concretely the evaluation recommended developing appropriate formats for providing policy support within the global capacity-building programme.

The Secretariat has worked on strengthening the policy development aspect of its capacity-building programme so that in situations where the institutional infrastructure and supportive policy frameworks are not yet in place in a project country, the programme can provide long-term support to policy and legal development in culture and other relevant fields, extending throughout the life of the project.

UNESCO follows a demand-driven approach and hence only integrates specific policy-related activities and services in projects if requested by the beneficiary country at the needs assessment and project design stage. Political will for policy development is essential for its success. Furthermore, policy development should not be an end in itself, but has to be effective. For example, there may be cases where the decision not to develop legal regulations is more beneficial to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage than to fall into the trap of overregularization. The UNESCO approach is therefore flexible and each intervention tailored to the specific local context.

Capacity-building projects developed as of 2013, in most cases, contain budgets and activities for policy support. While there is clearly no one-size-fits-all approach, policy support typically combines advisory services with stakeholder consultation and, in some cases, training for national teams that are charged with specific tasks in the field of policy development for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.<sup>7</sup>

Providing these support services is a highly complex task and they are comparatively new, with little research available so far to draw upon. The ***UNESCO guidance note: providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage*** explains the complexity of these services. UNESCO developed this guide and a corresponding set of training materials to equip facilitators with useful knowledge and tools to provide policy advice effectively (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/materials-repository-00417>).

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7. More on the process of developing new capacity-building formats to support policy development can be found in the report of the workshop entitled 'How to provide policy advice effectively? Learning from others to refine UNESCO's approach in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage'. Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 25 June 2014. Available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/27703-EN.doc>.

### *Demand for support for policy development*

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the beneficiary regions of the global programme, alongside other regions, notably Africa, the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific.<sup>8</sup> While capacity-building needs are numerous, States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly requesting UNESCO to provide support for the development of ICH-related policies and legislation. In order to provide these services successfully, UNESCO relies on feedback from experts and national counterparts to ensure that its approach, modalities and tools respond appropriately to the demand.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Section is therefore consulting facilitators at regional level to discuss and assess initial experiences of providing policy support, make programme improvements as required and ensure that a core group of experts is adequately equipped to provide policy support in the months and years to come.

Therefore, UNESCO, in collaboration with CRESPIAL is organizing the present workshop on supporting policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean following the example of a similar workshop for facilitators from Africa organized in Constantine, Algeria in September 2015.

While the main workshop topic is policy support, participants will also devote time, during the last one-and-a-half days, to review the experience of implementing the capacity-building programme in Latin America and the Caribbean and make recommendations for the future.

### **B. Objectives of the workshop**

The general goal of the workshop is to contribute to improving the effectiveness and impact of UNESCO's policy support to national authorities in the context of the global capacity-building programme for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. More specifically, it aims to:

- Equip facilitators with the knowledge and tools required to support policy development.
- Take stock of the lessons learned from implementing the global programme in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

NB: Participants are kindly requested to read the ***UNESCO guidance note: providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage*** prior to the workshop, as it will be a key reference document. Participants will be requested to make suggestions for its further improvement throughout the workshop session.

### **C. Outputs of the workshop**

The workshop intends to produce three outputs:

- A set of suggestions and proposals to further improve the *UNESCO guidance note: providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage*;
- An analytical report of the discussions, lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the workshop for the further development of UNESCO's programme to provide effective policy support in the field of intangible cultural heritage; and
- A report on the review meeting that consolidates the discussions and that suggests ways forward.

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8. The number of capacity-building extrabudgetary projects that have been implemented or are being implemented since 2009 – many of them involving multiple countries or sub-regions – is approximately 10 for Africa (including North African countries), 6 for Asia and the Pacific, 2 for the Arab States, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 for North America and Europe.

## D. Participants

The Lima workshop will bring together about 35 participants, 12 of them members of the expert facilitators' network of the Convention's capacity-building programme with experience in providing training and advisory services in Latin America and Caribbean countries and 12 UNESCO colleagues from field offices in charge of coordinating implementation of capacity-building projects at country level. UNESCO is furthermore welcoming five national experts from Latin America and the Caribbean who are not facilitators, but who have specific experiences in the field of policy development in their countries. They will be able to provide valuable insights on capacity-building needs and policy support from yet another perspective. From CRESPIAL, three staff will participate. The five-person team from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section will be headed by the Secretary of the Convention and include the Chief of the Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit as well as the Section's regional officers in charge of Latin America and the Caribbean (see the list of participants, attached).

## E. Meeting structure and methodology

The workshop is divided into two parts: two-and-a-half days will be devoted to policy support and one-and-a-half days to the capacity-building programme review in Latin America and the Caribbean (see the provisional agenda). Interpretation will be provided in English and Spanish for the plenary sessions.

UNESCO staff from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and the field offices will co-facilitate the sessions. Two members of the UNESCO expert facilitators' network will also facilitate some sessions: Dr Harriet Deacon, who has substantially contributed to the elaboration of training materials, notably the UNESCO policy guidance note and Adriana Molano, currently a facilitator for a capacity-building project in Ecuador that has a strong focus on policy development.

The meeting will start with an opening session on Monday afternoon. UNESCO and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) will welcome everyone and introduce the background and objectives of the session. Participants will have the opportunity to get to know each other before taking up the substantive work.

### Part 1: Policy support

As detailed in the attached agenda, part one will start on the **first day** with discussions and group work on conceptual issues to clarify what policy development for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage actually means in the context of the 2003 Convention, and discuss why it is a particularly complex subject. A comprehensive presentation on the subject, based on the *UNESCO guidance note: providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage* will provide ample input for the substantive debate.

Sharing experiences in the field of policy development will be a core element of the **second day**. Presentations on experiences from Belize, Colombia and Guatemala will touch upon a wide range of issues (community involvement, interaction between different policy frameworks, intersectorality, etc.) and trigger exchanges among all participants. The day will conclude with a dedicated session on the challenging issue of intangible cultural heritage policies and intersectorality.

The **third day** will focus on the actual modalities of UNESCO's support in the field of policy-development. UNESCO will present its approach to policy support within the Convention's global capacity-building programme and explain the specific role of the facilitators.

Participants will then revisit the UNESCO guidance note and discuss the recently developed training materials. Facilitators, who have already conducted policy-related activities within the global programme, for example in Jamaica and Ecuador, will share their experiences. This part of the workshop will close with a feedback session to consolidate suggestions on how to improve the effectiveness of UNESCO's approach to policy support and the related curriculum materials it developed in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Part 2: Review meeting**

**The fourth day** of the workshop foresees a general update on the implementation of the global capacity-building programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will commence with a brief presentation on UNESCO's response to the recommendations of the 2013 review meeting in Cusco followed by an overview of the implementation of the global programme in Latin America and the Caribbean covering the period from 2013 to 2016.

Facilitators, national experts and Culture Programme Specialists from UNESCO Field Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean will then have the opportunity to work in groups and share their experiences. They will provide feedback on the training materials and on how they tailored them to specific workshop audiences. This session will conclude with a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the programme in the Latin American and Caribbean context.

**The fifth day (morning)** will begin with a presentation by CRESPIAL on its capacity-building activities. UNESCO will then provide participants with the opportunity to discuss the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Convention and their implications for the capacity-building programme.

The session will continue with a discussion on conclusions and ways forward and close with some final remarks by the host institution and UNESCO.