

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE & NATIONAL ORIENTATION

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

CULTURE

DEPARTMENT

ABUJA

→ Unit 1



FMCT/ECR/1/S.32/1/56

6TH April, 2009.

Date:

Ref No:

CECILE DUVILE
SECRETARY,
CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING
OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
UNESCO SECTION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGE (NGO's).

1 Rue Miollis,
75732, Paris Cedex 15,
France

Reçu CLT / CIM
Le 17 AVR. 2009
N° 0521

RE : CONSULTATION ON THE MODALITIES OF FACILITATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF NGO's FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

I am directed to respond to the above subject matter which was exhaustively discussed at the 3rd session of the Inter – governmental Committee For the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which took place at Istanbul, Turkey from 4th – 8th November, 2008.

2. Permit me to raise some observation which reflects in general terms some of the reservations of the Africa, Asia and Caribbean Group. While the Non-governmental organizations in Nigeria have a long and sustained involvement in safeguarding different aspects of Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is not organized in the formal western style sense. I refer to Article 88 (b) which requires NGOs' to have "...local, national, regional or international nature..." You may wish to note that concurrent characters encompassing local, national, regional or international nature is not applicable to most NGOs' in Nigeria, albeit Africa who have local communal relevance and at best, national nature. Most NGOsin Nigeria' do not have regional or international tentacles. At times, the burden of colonial boundaries has created artificial division across cultural boundaries i.e. Nigeria is surrounded by Franco – phone countries (Republic of Benin, Cameroun, Chad and Niger Republic) even though the Yorubas of Western

Comment received in response to Decision 3.COM 9 from: Nigeria

Nigeria share common cultural affinity such as having their convenience in what is geographically Nigeria while the living room is geographically in the Republic of Benin.

3. Another observation concerns Article 88 (c) II which prescribes that NGOs have "...recognized legal personality as compatible with domestic law". In a country where Intangible Cultural heritage is communal based and literacy level comparatively less than the desirable level, most of the NGOs do not have legal personality and those who have legal recognition such as **Committee for Relevant Arts** with outstanding credentials (which is attached for your perusal) was only registered in 2007 so fail the test of Article 88 (e) (iii) of the operational directives.

4. It is our considered opinion that the Convention should live up to the dictates of its spirit and operational directives by reflecting the principle of equitable geographical representation as espoused in Article 90 of the operational directives.

5. In summary, in order for the Convention to have global relevance certain strictures have to be waived or reviewed to accommodate particular nuances or peculiar circumstance of Nigeria and other developing countries.

6. Please, accept the assurances of my highest esteem.



A. B. AJIBOLA
Asst. Director