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de las Naciones Unidas  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
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## Diversity of Cultural Expressions

4 IGC

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### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Fourth Ordinary Session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
29 November – 3 December 2010

**Item 4 of the provisional agenda:** Progress of ratifications to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

In its Decision 3.IGC 4, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its fourth session a document reporting on the progress of ratifications to the Convention as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2009-2010. This document provides the report requested.

Decision required: paragraph 30.

1. At its second extraordinary session (March 2009), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) requested the Secretariat to submit to it a strategy for encouraging ratifications of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) (Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7). At its second ordinary session (June 2009), the Conference of Parties invited Parties to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to achieving a greater number of ratifications to the Convention (Resolution 2.CP 7).

2. At its third ordinary session (December 2009), the Committee adopted a ratification strategy and action plan for the period of 2010-2013 as presented in the amended document CE/09/3.IGC/211/4. The strategy encourages the Parties, the Secretariat and civil society to intensify their efforts and improve their cooperation so that it could be implemented as soon as possible in a coordinated and consistent manner. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its fourth session a document reporting on the progress of ratifications to the Convention as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2009-2010 (Decision 3.IGC 4).

### **State of ratification**

3. As of 20 October 2010, 116 States or regional economic integration organizations had ratified the Convention (11 ratifications in 2009 and 11 in 2010). In terms of geographical distribution, of the 22 States that ratified, 1 belonged to Group I, 5 to Group II, 8 to Group III, 3 to Group IV, 4 to Group V(a) and 1 to Group V(b). A breakdown of ratification by Group is provided in the Annex.

### **Key elements of the action plan (2010-2013)**

4. The ratification strategy (2010-2013) and its action plan are intended to maintain the momentum of ratifications, improve geographical balance by addressing under-represented regions and subregions such as Asia and the Pacific as well as the Arab States, and raise the visibility of the Convention. The ratification strategy’s success depends on the active involvement of all stakeholders (Parties, UNESCO and its field offices, as well as civil society) and their coordinated efforts to promote the Convention. According to the action plan, 35 to 40 additional ratifications are expected over the 2010-2013 period, particularly in the under-represented regions and subregions.

5. Within the framework of this strategy, *Parties* are called upon to define at the national, regional and subregional levels measures to encourage ratifications and activities to be carried out in collaboration with their National Commissions, national points of contact as well as civil society. In addition, they are invited to use international forum to promote the benefits of ratifying the Convention.

6. *UNESCO* is invited to:

- ensure coordination with other relevant sectors concerned by this strategy;
- establish close and active cooperation between field offices and the Convention Secretariat by encouraging, in particular, awareness-raising activities in UNESCO Member States that are not parties to the Convention, especially in under-represented regions and subregions.

In collaboration with field offices, the Convention Secretariat is called on to:

- develop new information tools responding to identified needs;
- prepare a document reporting on the progress of ratifications, steps taken and actions carried out (2009-2010) by all stakeholders, and transmit it to the Conference of Parties (2011);
- publish the information kit in downloadable format on the Convention’s website in UNESCO’s six working languages.

7. *Civil society* is invited to play a key role in promoting the ratification of the Convention, particularly in under-represented regions and subregions, by disseminating information about the Convention and through networking activities and events, as well as by organizing information and awareness-raising workshops.

### **Steps taken and actions carried out (2010)**

8. Pursuant to Decision 3.IGC 4 (see document CE/09/3.IGC/211/4 as amended in its paragraph 10), *Parties* were invited to communicate the results of their actions to the Convention Secretariat. On 18 August 2010 the Secretariat sent all Parties a letter asking them to forward by 1 October 2010 any relevant information about activities undertaken as part of the strategy to encourage ratifications. The Secretariat received responses from 28 Parties<sup>1</sup>. For specific activities undertaken by Parties, see information document CE/10/4.IGC/205/INF.4.

9. An analysis of the responses shows that Parties' interventions to promote the ratification of the Convention and to implement the action plan on different levels (national, regional and international), has involved the engagement of a wide array of Convention stakeholders and the development of diverse tools and means.

10. With regard to the promotion of ratification in under-represented regions, be it the Asia Pacific region or the Arab States, the information collected reveals that action was taken to organize awareness-raising seminars, for example in Jakarta, and to promote ratification within international organizations based in these regions.

11. The analysis indicates that a majority of Parties promote ratification by communicating information about the Convention's principles and objectives within other regional and international organizations of which they are members. This communication may take place during bilateral, regional or international meetings, such as regional meetings of Ministers responsible for Culture.

12. It also shows that some Parties make reference to the Convention in their bilateral agreements, which increases the visibility of the Convention toward States that have not yet ratified. Some have made ratification of the Convention a prerequisite to the entry into force of a bilateral or multilateral protocol on cultural cooperation.

13. Other initiatives carried out in 2010 by Parties are the development of new information and communication tools (brochures, reports and guides on the Convention and the creation of regularly updated websites dedicated to the Convention), as well as the translation of existing tools in the official language(s) of their country, such as the Convention text and information kit.

14. Several Parties have actively involved civil society in their ratification strategy activities at national and international levels, maintain frequent exchanges and contacts, and fund projects and activities linked to the ratification of the Convention.

15. On 18 August 2010 the Secretariat also sent a letter to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, inviting it to forward relevant information on activities undertaken by *civil society organizations*. The Secretariat received replies from three civil society organizations<sup>2</sup>. Examples of their activities mainly undertaken in cooperation with other bodies can be found in paragraphs 19, 20 and 25 below. They demonstrate the important role played by civil society in promoting the ratification of the Convention. For more detailed information on actions taken by civil society organizations, see document CE/10/4.IGC/205/INF.4.

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and European Union.

<sup>2</sup> International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD); International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA); International Federation of Musicians (FIM).

16. *UNESCO and the Convention Secretariat* have established a process of collaboration and cooperation with *field offices* to implement the ratification strategy. The Culture Sector retreat in September 2010 enabled the Convention Secretariat to organize an information session on the Convention (26 September 2010) and to have in-depth discussions with programme specialists in field offices concerning timetables and arrangements for activities to be carried out and/or planned in 2011-2013. In addition, civil society organizations in countries not parties to the Convention have consulted the Secretariat when planning their awareness-raising activities.

### ***Priority activities in under-represented regions and subregions***

17. In 2010, the *Director-General of UNESCO* made a significant contribution to the implementation of the ratification strategy by encouraging UNESCO Member States that were not parties to the Convention to ratify the latter, especially in under-represented regions. On her first official visit to the Asia Pacific region (April-May 2010), where she travelled to Singapore, Australia and the Solomon Islands, as well as during her meeting with the Minister of Culture of Lebanon in March 2010, she stressed the importance of ratifying the Convention. In addition, she has continually pointed out in her many speeches the importance of UNESCO's standard-setting mechanisms in the field of culture, including the Convention – for example, in her address to the Fourth ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting that took place in Poznan, Poland, 8-10 September 2010.

18. Among the many activities to which *UNESCO field offices* have contributed or will be contributing before the end of 2010, mention may be made of two awareness-raising workshops that were organized in Jakarta (Indonesia) by the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos) with the assistance of the Bangkok and Jakarta Field Offices, which sent representatives who participated as resource persons. In addition, there was a workshop organized about the Convention in Cambodia by the Phnom Penh Office in cooperation with the Convention Secretariat (October 2010). Field office representatives have also participated in and/or contributed to a number of events in which emphasis was placed on the Convention, including: the Fourth ASEAN Arts Festival (Clark, Pampanga, Philippines, March 2010); the First Conference on Cultural Policies in the Arab Region (Beirut, Lebanon, June 2010); the National Workshop on a Cultural Strategy for the Solomon Islands (October 2010).

19. Important activities for implementing the ratification strategy have also been undertaken in under-represented regions by *intergovernmental organizations*. For example, the Commonwealth Foundation, in cooperation with the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), organized a meeting on the Convention with representatives of cultural organizations from Asia Pacific in Sydney, Australia in July 2010. In September 2010 the Foundation also organized in Singapore the sixth "Diversity Matters" conference on the theme of social cohesion and the arts, which was partly aimed at raising awareness of the Convention. As for activities in the Arab States, it should be noted that in February 2009 the Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) sent a letter to ministers in charge of culture in all Arab countries, urging them to ratify the Convention. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has also been actively involved in the promotion of the Convention. In the framework of its partnership with UNESCO, it contributed to the Arabic translation of the Convention's information kit, which will be published and distributed in all of the countries concerned. Studies on the Convention and its implementation have also been commissioned by ISESCO and distributed to policymakers and other key actors in the field of culture in Arab States.

### ***Awareness-raising activities and information tools***

20. As 2010 marks the fifth anniversary of the Convention's adoption, a number of stakeholders organized *awareness-raising activities* (workshops, round tables and other events) on the subject of the Convention, including: a meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Diversity and Globalization of the International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP), where one of the key themes was the implementation of the ratification strategy; a round table organized by the French Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Paris, November 2010); a celebration by the European Union of the fifth anniversary of the Convention's adoption (Brussels, December 2010); an *In Focus* feature on the UNESCO portal website by the Culture Sector.

21. Other awareness-raising activities (speaking engagements, participation in events) on the Convention were also undertaken by *field offices* at events such as the Fourth World Summit on Arts and Culture (Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2009); the presentation of the Convention during MERCOSUR's culture meetings; the International Seminar on Cultural Industries as Factors of Social and Cultural Rights (Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2010); the Training Seminar on Management of Cultural Institutions and Projects (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, July 2010); the Colloquium on the Convention and the Challenges of Cultural Management (Uruguay, September 2010).

22. Pursuant to Decision 3.IGC 4 and the action plan, the *Convention Secretariat*, in collaboration with the *field offices*, has continued its work on the production of *information and communication tools*.

23. The two brochures of the Convention's information kit – *Ten Keys to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* and *30 Frequently Asked Questions concerning the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* – have been translated into Arabic (in cooperation with the Rabat Office and ISESCO), Chinese (in cooperation with the Beijing Office), Russian (in cooperation with the Moscow Office) and Spanish. The information kit is now available in the Organization's six working languages and can be downloaded from the Convention website. In addition, the site offers versions translated in Khmer (by the Phnom Penh Office), Albanian (by the Venice Office) and Portuguese (*Ten Keys* only). Translated versions in Thai (Jakarta Office), Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian (Venice Office) will be published shortly.

24. The *Convention Secretariat* has also developed new information tools. The Convention website has been reorganized and now contains new sections (such as on the International Fund for Cultural Diversity), which are regularly updated. A new PowerPoint presentation with an accompanying guide, as well as fact sheets on the Convention, the ratification strategy and the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) have been developed for all Convention stakeholders. These tools are also available on the Convention website. Interviews have been conducted with the Director-General and the Convention Secretary, and the Assistant Director-General for Culture has contributed a preface for an upcoming publication on the Convention.

25. Information and communication tools relating to the Convention have also been developed by *international organizations* and *civil society organizations*, including for example: a briefing note by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA); a video and brochure by the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) and brochures by national coalitions for cultural diversity (Chile, France, Germany, Paraguay and Switzerland).

### ***Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations***

26. Pursuant to Decision 3.IGC 4, the Secretariat invited to the Committee's fourth session all intergovernmental organizations that could assume a role in promoting the Convention and the ratification process (see provisional list of participants, document CE/10/4.IGC/205/INF.2). Raising awareness among intergovernmental organizations also reflects Article 21 of the Convention, which requires Parties to promote its objectives and principles in other international forums.

27. In this context, UNESCO has established partnerships and pursued various cooperation projects with intergovernmental organizations.

- On 14 June 2010, UNESCO and the Latin Union signed an action plan to increase cooperation and coordination on matters of joint interest to both organizations, including the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and ratification of the Convention by all Member States of the Latin Union. A meeting was held in September 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during which the terms of this cooperation were developed.

- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, the International Organization of the Francophonie (IOF) and UNESCO established a partnership in the framework of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (CIDEDEC) to be held in Quebec, Canada on 2 and 3 February 2011.
- ISESCO and UNESCO have signed a new cooperation agreement for the 2010-2011 biennium, which includes joint projects to promote the Convention, whose implementation will be supported by ISESCO in close cooperation with the Rabat Field Office.

Other activities pursued by intergovernmental organizations to promote ratification are:

- IOF's Secretary-General has made ratifying the Convention a prerequisite to becoming a member or observer to the Organization. Moreover, during all of its meetings, the Francophonie's Permanent Council working group urges members, associate members or observers of the IOF that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as quickly as possible. The Secretary-General himself stresses the great necessity to ratify the Convention at all occasions. The IOF also mobilizes its networks to encourage ratification, and actively carries out awareness-raising activities to highlight the value of the Convention in the framework of its programme of actions aimed at developing national cultural policies in countries in the South and supporting their cultural industries.
- The Commonwealth Foundation, in close cooperation with civil society, has widely circulated its Commonwealth Statement on Culture and Development, which was published in 2009 urging its members to ratify the Convention.

### Next Steps

28. In 2011 the Convention Secretariat will continue to implement the strategy and will coordinate or organize priority activities in under-represented regions and sub regions, such as Asia and the Pacific as well as the Arab States, by planning awareness-raising activities (meetings and/or development of new information tools) in collaboration with UNESCO field offices. As laid out in the action plan, an information document on the progress of ratifications, steps taken and actions carried out (2009-2010) will be prepared and transmitted to the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties (June 2011).

29. As a follow-up to the debates of the Committee's third ordinary session, an information session on the ratification strategy might be organized by the Secretariat before the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties. UNESCO Member States that have not yet ratified the Convention would be invited, and Parties would share their experiences since ratification and the benefits they have derived from it.

30. The Committee might wish to adopt the following decision:

### DRAFT DECISION 4.IGC 4

*The Committee,*

1. *Having examined document CE/10/4.IGC/205/4 and its Annex;*
2. *Takes note of the progress of ratifications (2009-2010);*
3. *Requests the Secretariat to continue implementing the strategy for encouraging ratifications in 2011 and 2012;*
4. *Further requests the Secretariat to prepare an information document on this matter and transmit it to the Conference of Parties at its third ordinary session (June 2011);*

5. *Invites the Secretariat to organize an information session before the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, and to invite to it Member States that are not Parties to the Convention and civil society so that the Parties may present and share their experience since ratification and the benefits they have derived from it;*
6. *Further invites the Secretariat to submit to it at its sixth session in December 2012 a document reporting on the progress of ratifications of the Convention as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2011-2012;*
7. *Also invites the Parties and civil society to communicate to the Convention Secretariat the results of the steps that they have taken over the period of 2011-2012.*

**ANNEX**

**State of Ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Group I</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Andorra	Belgium
Austria	Israel
Canada	San Marino
Cyprus	Turkey
Denmark	United States of America
Finland	
France	
Germany	
Greece	
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Monaco	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Portugal	
Spain	
Sweden	
Switzerland	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	

<sup>1</sup> The classification of countries by electoral groups is based on the UNESCO document *Grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board*.

<sup>2</sup> The European Union is a Party to the Convention under Article 27.3 of the Convention.



<b>Group II</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention</b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Albania	Russian Federation
Armenia	Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan	
Belarus	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Czech Republic <sup>1</sup>	
Estonia	
Georgia	
Hungary	
Latvia	
Lithuania	
Montenegro	
Poland	
Republic of Moldova	
Romania	
Serbia	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Tajikistan	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Ukraine	

<sup>1</sup> For this State, the Convention will enter into force on 12 November 2010.

<b>Group III</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention</b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Argentina	Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados	Bahamas
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Belize
Brazil	Colombia
Chile	Costa Rica
Cuba	Dominica
Dominican Republic	El Salvador
Ecuador	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Grenada	Suriname
Guatemala	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Guyana	
Haiti	
Honduras <sup>1</sup>	
Jamaica	
Mexico	
Nicaragua	
Panama	
Paraguay	
Peru	
Saint Lucia	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Uruguay	

<sup>1</sup> For this State, the Convention will enter into force on 31 November 2010.

<b>Group IV</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention</b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Afghanistan	Bhutan
Australia	Brunei Darussalam
Bangladesh	Cook Islands
Cambodia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
China	Fiji
India	Indonesia
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Mongolia	Japan
New Zealand	Kazakhstan
Republic of Korea	Kiribati
Viet Nam	Kyrgyzstan
	Malaysia
	Maldives
	Marshall Islands
	Micronesia (Federated States of)
	Myanmar
	Nauru
	Nepal
	Niue
	Pakistan
	Palau
	Papua New Guinea
	Philippines
	Samoa
	Singapore
	Solomon Islands
	Sri Lanka
	Thailand
	Timor-Leste
	Tonga
	Turkmenistan
	Tuvalu
	Vanuatu

<b>Group V(a)</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention</b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Benin	Angola
Burkina Faso	Botswana
Burundi	Cape Verde
Cameroon	Central African Republic
Chad	Comoros
Congo	Eritrea
Côte d'Ivoire	Gambia
Democratic Republic of the Congo <sup>1</sup>	Ghana
Djibouti	Guinea-Bissau
Equatorial Guinea	Liberia
Ethiopia	Rwanda
Gabon	Sao Tome and Principe
Guinea	Sierra Leone
Kenya	Somalia
Lesotho	Swaziland
Madagascar	Uganda
Malawi	United Republic of Tanzania
Mali	Zambia
Mauritius	
Mozambique	
Namibia	
Niger	
Nigeria	
Senegal	
Seychelles	
South Africa	
Togo	
Zimbabwe	

<sup>1</sup> For this State, the Convention will enter into force on 28 December 2010.

<b>Group V(b)</b>	
<b>States Parties to the Convention</b>	<b>States not parties to the Convention</b>
Egypt	Algeria
Jordan	Bahrain
Kuwait	Iraq
Oman	Lebanon
Qatar	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Sudan	Mauritania
Syrian Arab Republic	Morocco
Tunisia	Saudi Arabia
	United Arab Emirates
	Yemen