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To: M^{me} Cécile DUEVELLE
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Subject: Consultation on the modalities and methods of facilitating the contribution
of NGOs from developing countries

Dear Madame DUEVELLE,

I am very pleased to respond to your letter of 9 November 2009 in which you requested for comments to Decision 3. COM 9. "on ways and methods to facilitate the contribution of NGOs in developing countries for assistance as a advisory board to the Committee" and to Decision 4. COM 10.

There is no doubt that Non-Governmental Organization(s) (*hereinafter NGO(s)*) contribute valuable information and ideas, advocate effectively for positive methodological development and provide good capacity in understanding Cultural Heritage issues. They can identify new areas in which to devote additional energy and efforts that allow them to play a critical role in exchange of experience. In the field of Cultural Heritage, we can profit from the NGOs expertise in identifying ICH elements, their analysis and description to make the communities aware of the importance of living heritage. I find it very crucial to get the NGOs fully involved by the concerned governments for the adoption of new ICH elements and creating new measure toward preserving them in developing countries.

UNESCO should consider equitable geographic and territorial representation in each country as an important factor to ensure the rightful representation of diverse ICH elements spread over its soil; i.e. selected NGOs from different parts of the country should be taken up for advisory purposes, as the variety of NGOs reflects the divergence of ICH. The selection should depend on certain criteria that the country (e.g. its exact vision, mission, activities and other features), and possibly UNESCO, can work out for this goal.

Another important issue is that in most of the developing countries NGOs are not organized in a compatible manner to the western style and structure. This will decrease the chances of a wide range of NGOs to be involved in consultative matters, as the criteria defined by the UNESCO are highly demanding. Social, economic and other peculiar circumstances of a certain community, which a particular NGO represents, should be taken into account.

Networking between NGOs from developing countries and similar bodies from the developed countries can be of great importance for exchanging experience and opportunities and will help to create criteria, measures and modalities to share information and knowledge on how to improve the quality of work conducted on ICH. Modern communication technologies can provide a mean for further enhanced participation of NGOs based a distance and reduce the cost. We should find the right ways to assist NGOs from developing countries to organize seminars and workshops on the problems facing ICH preservation and the promotion of the Conventions among them. This will help to take up a position and enhance their ability to deal with their targeted groups and governments; UNESCO can give innovative tools to NGOs to help them increase the recognition and quality of their work.

The participation of a competent NGO in the Committee with the State Parties in each electoral group is a further issue, which UNESCO can take under advisement for consultative policy.

Governments of State Parties, in cooperation with the UNESCO, should be in the position to assess and assist NGOs in developing countries to advance method of consultation that would sustain the dialogue between member state and NGOs.

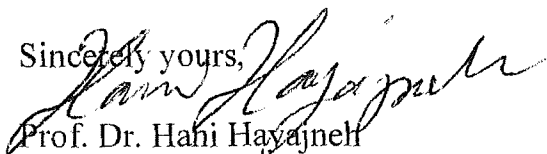
NGOs can be consulted, as representatives of wide spectrum of the civil community in developing countries, regarding the implementation of programs on ICH education for children and youth development. They can give advice to the UNESCO and the governments on how to stimulate and develop the heritage policy in developing countries. UNESCO can support or encourage establishing programs aimed at developing and building their capacity in the field of ICH.

There is no doubt, that Jordan accepts as a fact the value of NGOs as an important factor in development. One of the excellent examples of Jordanian NGOs is *The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development*, which is a major force for sustainable human development, including the documentation and studying the Jordanian ICH. Some Jordanian NGOs suffer from several problems and challenges that make its sustainability and mission not easy to realize, e.g. the lack of financial support and inadequate resources. A further issue related to this subject is that NGOs are not distributed adequately on the Jordanian soil, i.e. as the majority is concentrated mainly in Jordanian cities. I believe, as mentioned above, that the geographic representation of NGOs should inevitably be linked with the cultural diversity in each country. Due to political and economic openness of Jordan and its involvement in the process of globalization, in addition to the rapid social changes, the number of NGOs has increased. Such factors caused the government to reconsider and review the legislation governing the Jordanian NGOs and their relationship with the government. This would definitely give Jordanian NGOs more opportunity to participate in sustainable development and will create a new basis for the Jordanian NGOs to contribute vehemently to facilitating the work with international organizations, like UNESCO, especially in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Please receive my deep appreciation for your efforts.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Dr. Hani Hayajneh