



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

**13 COM**

ITH/18/13.COM/15  
Paris, 29 October 2018  
Original: English

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

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Thirteenth session  
Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius  
26 November to 1 December 2018**

**Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Number of files submitted for the 2018 and 2019 cycles and  
number of files that can be treated in the 2020 and 2021 cycles**

#### **Summary**

In conformity with paragraph 33 of the Operational Directives, the Committee is to determine two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of nominations to the Lists of the Convention, proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and International Assistance requests greater than US\$100,000 that can be treated during the following two cycles. To that effect, this document includes an overview of the distribution of such files submitted for the 2018 and 2019 cycles against the anticipated workload of the Committee, the Evaluation Body and the Secretariat during that period.

**Decision required:** paragraph 12

1. Paragraph 33 of the Operational Directives stipulates that '[t]he Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US\$100,000.'
2. While the issue has been brought to the Committee's attention every year, the Secretariat did not include it in the agenda of the twelfth session, considering that the Committee at its eleventh session had already established the ceiling of files for the 2019 cycle. Following this schema and in order to lighten the workload of the Committee, it is proposed that the Committee examine the issue every two years at sessions falling in odd-numbered years, rather than annually. In other words, the Committee takes note of the number of files submitted for two years (the year of the Committee in question and the following year). At the same time, the Committee determines the overall number of files that can be treated in the two further cycles (this is because the Committee cannot predict the distribution of files among the Lists, the Register and International Assistance for the cycles beyond the year immediately following the session in question). The Committee is therefore called upon on this occasion to take note of the number of files submitted for the 2018 and 2019 cycles and to determine the overall number of files that can be treated for the 2020 and 2021 cycles.

### **Report on the 2018 and 2019 cycles**

3. At the eleventh session in 2016, the Committee established a ceiling of fifty files to be applied for the 2018 and 2019 cycles, respectively, and that at least one file per submitting State should be processed during that period, within the agreed ceiling ([Decision 11.COM 12](#)). Furthermore, it requested that the Secretariat 'report to it on the number of files submitted for the 2018 cycle and its experience applying the Operational Directives and the present decision at its twelfth session'. By the deadline of 2 April 2018 (the next working day following the 31 March 2018 deadline), the Secretariat had received fifty-five new files from sixty-four States for the 2019 cycle, in comparison to fifty-seven for the 2018 cycle from fifty-seven States Parties. Along with the newly received files, there were numerous files carried over from previous cycles (called 'backlog files') that were not previously treated due to the established ceiling or the limited capacity of the Committee; the number of receivable files for the 2019 cycle was 225.
4. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives, States Parties with several receivable files indicated to the Secretariat the file they wished to have processed for the 2018 or 2019 cycle. As a result, there were seventy-three potential files for the 2019 cycle compared to sixty-four for the 2018 cycle. The list of potential files for the [2019 cycle](#) and for the [2018 cycle](#) is displayed on a dedicated page of the website of the Convention along with an indication of those files that are or were to be treated for each of the two cycles. Furthermore, for ease of reference, the annex to this document provides the list of potential files for the [2019 cycle](#). The Secretariat determined the files to be treated by applying the decisions of the Committee and the levels of priority set out in paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives, the result of which is presented on the dedicated pages and in the annex.
5. In application of the Committee's Decisions [10.COM 13](#) and [11.COM 12](#) to have at least one file per submitting State processed over the two cycles concerned, the first set of files marked with priority (0) are from submitting States that did not have any national files treated in the preceding cycle. This category includes files from States that had submitted a file in a preceding cycle which could not be treated, as well as files from States that had refrained from submitting files in the given preceding cycle and only submitted one in the cycle in question.
6. Subsequently, the files are ordered according to the levels of priority set out in paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives. Priority level (i) consists of files from submitting States with no elements inscribed on any of the Lists, good safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 approved as well as nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (including one multinational

file). Priority (ii) corresponds to multinational files. Priority (iii) includes the remaining files, in increasing order of the number of elements previously inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance approved, in comparison with other submitting States.

7. As a result, fifty-one files are being treated for the 2019 cycle (forty-six national and five multinational files) and fifty files were treated for the 2018 cycle (forty-four national and six multinational files). With regard to the 2019 cycle, twenty-two States with two elements or more inscribed could not have their files treated. As a comparison, the number of States for which no file could be treated for the 2018 cycle was fourteen for States with four or more elements inscribed.
8. As a parenthesis, a recent trend needs to be recorded that points to an increased number of files in category zero (0), namely from submitting States that did not have any national files treated in the preceding cycle. This concerns thirty-two files for the 2019 cycle, that is, two thirds of the files to be treated. In comparison, there were twenty-five such files in the 2018 cycle and twenty-two in the 2017 cycle. If this trend continues, States Parties may face a situation in which files corresponding to category (ii) – multinational files – may not be treated. This, in turn, means that the current system of priorities might need to be revised in the not so distant future.

#### **Number of files for the 2020 and 2021 cycles**

9. It is proposed that the Committee again set the overall number of files for the 2020 and 2021 cycles at fifty, while continuing to maintain the principle of at least one file per submitting State to be treated during each two-year period. Remaining in line with the practice of the recent past, this decision could again be accompanied by a request that the Secretariat exercise flexibility when applying these limits in order to allow for greater equity among submitting States with equal priority.
10. This proposal is based on the following assessment of the workload of the Committee and the Secretariat as well as of the Evaluation Body:

Committee: Given the increased volume and complexity of issues requiring the attention of the Committee, its annual meeting has been extended from five to six days since the twelfth session. The increased workload is related to the broadened scope of the implementation of the Convention. The Committee has been aware of the need to ensure the relevance of the Convention in relation to current debates about sustainable development; topics recently tabled include the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies and in urban contexts. In addition, the mechanisms of the Convention need to be revised following fifteen years since its adoption; in the current session alone, the Committee is called upon to discuss the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism, the follow-up of elements inscribed on the Lists of the Conventions, multiple submissions of International Assistance requests and a reflection on the participation of NGOs in the implementation of the Convention. An additional number of files to be examined would add yet more pressure to the already loaded agenda of the Committee.

Secretariat: The workload of the Secretariat has significantly increased in line with the growing number of States Parties (30% since 2010). Beyond the need to support the increasing workload for the Committee, as described above, the Secretariat has also been asked to bear the additional workload resulting from the larger number of requests to support national efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage both through statutory obligations and through operational capacity-building projects. Furthermore, in the recent years, the Secretariat has deployed additional efforts increasing the number of International Assistance requests up to US\$100,000 presented to the Bureau. The new dedicated team being recruited to operationalize the International Assistance mechanism will alleviate part of this additional work. However, as it will mainly focus its initial efforts on establishing effective implementation and monitoring systems for individual projects after the Bureau grants the funding, processing of those requests through the Bureau will continue to generate an important workload in the years

to come. The annual ceiling of fifty files already requires significant human resources on the part of the Secretariat, which has been stretched to serve the governing bodies and States Parties through the various mechanisms of the Convention.

Evaluation Body: The Evaluation Body is composed of six experts representative of States Parties and six non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation. According to the existing procedure, each member evaluates each file individually before the Body meets to engage in a collegial discussion to arrive at a consensus for every criterion of each file (see paragraph 13 of [document ITH/16/11.COM/12](#)). Experience shows that with the current collective, balanced approach – even if more financial and human resources were dedicated to the evaluation process – the time available for the current inscription process during a cycle is just enough for the Evaluation Body to evaluate around fifty files.

11. Any reflections that may lead to a change in the number of overall files to be treated must be undertaken carefully in conjunction with other reflections that the Committee has started in parallel. For example, the previous session of the Committee decided to ‘convene an open-ended intergovernmental working group [...], to reflect inter alia on the procedures for the removal of an element from a List and the transfer from one List to the other, on the nature and purposes of the Lists and the Register established under the Convention and on the relevance of the various criteria for each of these mechanisms’ ([Decision 12.COM 14](#)). While no voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund have been received to organize such a meeting, the outcome of this reflection would likely have an impact on the future of the inscription process. Similarly, the follow-up of elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention to be discussed during the current session might impact the process with additional workload for the Committee, the Secretariat, and potentially the Evaluation Body. More directly related to the inscription process itself, since last year the Committee has been discussing possible ways to facilitate a dialogue between the Evaluation Body and submitting States ([Decision 12.COM 13](#)).
12. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

#### **DRAFT DECISION 13.COM 15**

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/18/13.COM/15,
2. Recalling paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Operational Directives, and its Decisions [10.COM 13](#), [11.COM 12](#), [12.COM 13](#) and [12.COM 14](#),
3. Taking note that the number of files being treated for the 2019 cycle is fifty-one (forty-six national and five multinational files) and that for the 2018 cycle fifty files were treated (forty-four national files and six multinational files),
4. Considering that its capacities to examine files during a session are still limited, as are the capacities and human resources of the Secretariat,
5. Further considering that the Evaluation Body’s composition and working method are designed to promote both an equitable geographical representation and even representation of experts and NGOs in the evaluation of each criterion of every individual file, the time constraints of which limit its capacity,
6. Decides that, in the course of the 2020 and 2021 cycles, the number of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US\$100,000 that can be treated is determined to be fifty per cycle;
7. Also decides that at least one file per submitting State should be processed during the two-year period 2020-2021, within the agreed number of nominations per biennium, in

conformity with paragraph 34 of the Operational Directive, that those States Parties that submitted files that could not be treated in the 2019 cycle will see their files given priority in the 2020 cycle and that those States Parties whose files will not be examined for the 2021 cycle will be given priority in 2022, following the principle of one file per submitting State during the two-year period;

8. Further decides that the Secretariat may exercise some flexibility if that will permit greater equity among submitting States with equal priority under paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives;
9. Invites States Parties to take the present decision into account when submitting files for the 2020 and 2021 cycles;
10. Requests that the Secretariat report to it on the number of files submitted for the 2020 and 2021 cycles, its experience in applying the Operational Directives and the present decision at its fifteenth session.

**ANNEX**  
**Files for the 2019 cycle**

Countries		Submitted files		Level of priority
1	Armenia	RL	Armenian letter art and its cultural expressions (01513)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
2	Belgium	RL	L'Ommegang de Bruxelles - cortège historique et fête populaire annuels (01366)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
3	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	RL	La festività de la 'Santísima Trinidad del Señor Jesús del Gran Poder' de la ville de La Paz (01389)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
4	Brazil	RL	Cultural Complex of Bumba-meu-boi from Maranhão (01510)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
5	Bulgaria	RL	Nedelino two-part singing: an island with the monophonic sea of Rhodope songs (00966)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
6	Burkina Faso	IAR	Le renforcement des capacités des acteurs intervenant dans la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel au Burkina Faso (01501)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
7	Cabo Verde	RL	Morna, musical practice of Cabo Verde (01469)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
8	Colombia	GSP	Safeguarding strategy of traditional crafts and peace building (01480)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
9	Congo	RL	Le football traditionnel et ses valeurs (01493)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
10	Dominican Republic	RL	Music and dance of Dominican Bachata (01514)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
11	Ethiopia	RL	Ethiopian epiphany (01491)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
12	India	RL	Sowa-Rigpa, knowledge of healing or science of healing (01358)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
13	Indonesia	RL	Traditions of Pencak Silat (01391)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
14	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	RL	Traditional skills of crafting and playing Dotār (01492)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
15	Iraq	RL	Provision of services and hospitality during the Arba'in visitation (01474)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
16	Italy	RL	Celestinian forgiveness celebration (01276)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
17	Kyrgyzstan	RL	Ak-kalpak craftsmanship, traditional knowledge and skills in making and wearing Kyrgyz men's headwar (01496)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
18	Mongolia	RL	Traditional technique of making Airag in Khokhuur and its associated customs (01172)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
19	Morocco	RL	Gnaoua (01170)	(0) one file for 2018-2019

Countries		Submitted files		Level of priority
20	Nigeria	RL	Kwagh-Hir theatrical performance (00683)	(0) one file for 2018-201
21	Norway	RL	Practice of traditional music and dance in Setesdal. Playing, dancing and singing (stev/stevjing) (01432)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
22	Peru	RL	Hatajo de Negritos and Hatajo de Pallitas from the Peruvian south-central coastline (01309)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
23	Portugal	RL	Winter festivities, Carnival of Podence (01463)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
24	Samoa	RL	'le Samoa, fine mats and its cultural value (01499)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
25	Seychelles	RL	Moutya/Moutia (01487)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
26	Switzerland	RL	Processions de la Semaine Sainte à Mendrisio (01460)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
27	Turkey	RL	Traditional Turkish archery (01367)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
28	Turkmenistan	RL	Traditional turkmen carpet marking art in Turkmenistan (01486)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
29	Ukraine	RL	Tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics (01456)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
30	Uzbekistan	RL	Khorazm dance - Lazgi (01364)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
31	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	GSP	Biocultural programme for the safeguarding of the tradition of the Blessed Palm in Venezuela (01464)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
32	Viet Nam	RL	Practices of Then by Tày, Nùng and Thái ethnic groups in Viet Nam (01379)	(0) one file for 2018-2019
33	Montenegro	RL	Boka Navy, traditional maritime organization (01507)	(i) no element inscribed
34	Syrian Arab Republic	RL	Practices and craftsmanship associated with the Damask rose in Al-Marah (01369)	(i) no element inscribed
35	Thailand	RL	Nuad thai, traditional thai massage (01384)	(i) no element inscribed
36	Belarus	USL	Spring rite of Juraŭski Karahod (01458)	(i) nomination for USL
37	Botswana	USL	Seperu folkdance and associated practices (01502)	(i) nomination for USL
38	Egypt	USL	Tally in Upper Egypt (01476)	(i) nomination for USL
39	Kenya	USL	Rituals and practices associated with Kit Mikayi Shrine (01489)	(i) nomination for USL
40	Mauritius	USL	Sega tambour Chagos (01490)	(i) nomination for USL
41	Philippines	USL	Buklog, thanksgiving ritual system of the Subanen (01495)	(i) nomination for USL

Countries		Submitted files		Level of priority
42	Austria; Greece; Italy	RL	Transhumance: the seasonal droving of livestock along migratory routes in the Mediterranean and in the Alps (01470)	(ii) multinational nomination
43	Bahrain; Egypt; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Mauritania; Morocco; Oman; Palestine; Saudi Arabia; Sudan; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates; Yemen	RL	Date palm, knowledge, skills, traditions and practices (01509)	(ii) multinational nomination
44	Cyprus; Greece	RL	Byzantine chant (01508)	(ii) multinational nomination
45	France; Italy; Switzerland	RL	L'alpinisme (01471)	(ii) multinational nomination
46	Mexico; Spain	RL	Artisanal talavera of Puebla (Mexico) and ceramics of Talavera de la Reina and El Puente del Arzobispo (Spain) making process (01462)	(ii) multinational nomination
47	Ireland	RL	Irish harping (01461)	(iii) 1 elements inscribed
48	Lao People's Democratic Republic	RL	Lam Vong Lao (lamvonglao) (01488)	(iii) 1 elements inscribed
49	Malaysia	RL	Silat (01504)	(iii) 1 elements inscribed
50	Panama	GSP	Ecological and cultural programme associated with the Armila Sea Turtle Festival (01481)	(iii) 1 elements inscribed
51	Tajikistan	RL	Falak (01455)	(iii) 1 elements inscribed
<b>Potential priority States for the 2020 cycle</b>				
52	Bosnia and Herzegovina			2 elements inscribe
53	Democratic People's Republic of Korea			2 elements inscribed
54	Germany			2 elements inscribed
55	Oman			2 elements inscribed
55	Serbia			2 elements inscribed
57	United Arab Emirates			2 elements inscribed
58	Cuba			3 elements inscribed



Countries		Submitted files		Level of priority
59	Czechia			3 elements inscribed
60	Kazakhstan			3 elements inscribed
61	Malawi			3 elements inscribed
62	Saudi Arabia			3 elements inscribed
63	Cambodia			4 elements inscribed
64	Slovakia			4 elements inscribed
65	Algeria			5 elements inscribed
66	Azerbaijan			8 elements inscribed
67	Mexico			9 elements inscribed
68	France			12 elements inscribed
69	Spain			13 elements inscribed
70	Croatia			14 elements inscribed
71	Republic of Korea			17 elements inscribed
72	Japan			21 elements inscribed
73	China			38 elements inscribed