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

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

**Twelfth session**

**Jeju Island, Republic of Korea**

**4 to 9 December 2017**

**Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor’s  
‘Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities’ (Document 38 C/23)**

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| **Summary**  In accordance with Resolution 38 C/101 of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Committee examined at its eleventh session an item concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor’s ‘Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities’. By its Decision 11.COM 7, the Committee requested that the Secretariat include this item again on the agenda of its twelfth session, with a view to presenting it to the seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.  **Decision required:** paragraph 6 |

1. By its [Resolution 38 C/101](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/GBS/38GC/pdf/101_Resolution.pdf), the General Conference of UNESCO established an open-ended working group with the mandate to examine the procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO with the objective to harness the potential for greater synergy, harmonization, efficiency and impact. Its method of examination would be based on the proposals received from Member States, the External Auditor’s report on the governance of UNESCO, relevant evaluations and audits by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), as well as previous decisions and resolutions related to governance. By the same resolution, the General Conference invited all intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the Conventions to inscribe, in 2016 if feasible, an item on their agenda concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor’s report ([document 38 C/23](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002352/235207e.pdf)), to improve their governance through concrete measures, and to report on their proposals to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group.
2. Accordingly, the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor’s report was inscribed on the agenda of and examined by the Committee during its eleventh session in 2016 (see document [ITH/16/11.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM-7-EN.docx)). In its [Decision 11.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/7), the Committee took note of the efforts and steps already undertaken to improve and streamline the working methods of the governing organs of the 2003 Convention, in line with the Recommendations by the External Auditor and the IOS in this regard. By the same decision, the Committee requested that the Secretariat include this item on the agenda of its twelfth session with a view to presenting it to the seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties. Furthermore, the Committee transmitted a report on the status of the foreseen or ongoing reforms to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies.
3. The open-ended working group itself established two sub groups: Sub-Group 1, responsible for examining the ‘structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)’, and Sub-Group 2, responsible for examining the ‘Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental bodies’.
4. The open-ended working group and its two sub-groups held several meetings in 2016 and 2017 and concluded to a number of recommendations and good practices presented to the Executive Board at its 202nd session ([202 EX/21](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002590/259083e.pdf)). The Executive Board in turn made its recommendations to the General Conference at its thirty-ninth session.
5. With regard to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Sub-Group 2[[1]](#footnote-1) recommended strengthening the decision-making procedures and credibility of the Committee while taking due note of the ad hoc working group established to address these issues. Furthermore, it recognised as a good practice, the initiative to develop an overall results framework for the Convention to which the reporting mechanisms of the Convention would be aligned.
6. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 16

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM/16,
2. Recalling Decision 11.COM 7 and the ongoing and foreseen actions taken by the governing bodies of the Convention to assess, improve and streamline their working methods,
3. Takes note of the efforts and steps already undertaken with a view to improving and streamlining the working methods of the governing organs of the 2003 Convention, in line with the Recommendations by the External Auditor and the IOS on this matter;
4. Takes further note of the recommendation and good practice regarding the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage presented by the Sub-Group 2 of open-ended working group on governance.

1. . For the informal summary of the meetings of Sub-Group 2 of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO as well as its draft recommendations, see: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference-39th/working-group-on-governance/sub-group-2/>  
   (last accessed on 27 October 2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)