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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 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Committee on its activities and decisions to the Conference of Parties

According to Rule 45.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, this document presents in Annex the Report of the Committee on its activities and decisions which will be examined by the Conference of Parties at its third ordinary session (June 2011).

Decision required: paragraph 2.

1. Rule 45.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee provides that the Committee shall submit a report on its activities and decisions to the Conference of Parties. This report is contained in Annex to the present document.
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 4.IGC 12

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CE/10/4.IGC/205/12 REV and its Annex;
2. Adopts the report on its activities and decisions since the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties as annexed to this Decision;
3. Submits the report to the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties.

**Report of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and
Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions on its activities and decisions to the
Conference of Parties**

Composition of the Committee

1. Article 23 of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) provides for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”). According to this provision, the Members of the Committee shall be elected for four years and their election shall be based on the principles of equitable geographical representation as well as rotation. In conformity with Rule 15.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties, the election of the Members of the Committee shall be conducted on the basis of the composition of the electoral groups of UNESCO, as determined by the UNESCO General Conference, it being understood that ‘Group V’ shall consist of two separate electoral groups: V(a) (African States) and V(b) (Arab States).
2. At its second ordinary session, on 16 June 2009, the Conference of Parties elected 12 Members of the Committee in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties.
3. The 24 States that are members of the Committee and term of their mandate are as follows:

Group I			
Canada	2009 – 2013	Greece	2007 – 2011
France	2009 – 2013	Luxembourg	2007 – 2011
Germany	2007 – 2011		
Group II			
Albania	2009 – 2013	Croatia	2007 – 2011
Bulgaria	2009 – 2013	Lithuania	2007 – 2011
Group III			
Brazil	2009 – 2013	Mexico	2007 – 2011
Cuba	2009 – 2013	Saint-Lucia	2007 – 2011
Group IV			
China	2009 – 2013	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2009 – 2013
India	2007 – 2011		
Group V(a)			
Cameroon	2009 – 2013	Senegal	2007 – 2011
Kenya	2009 – 2013	South Africa	2007 – 2011
Mauritius	2007 – 2011		
Group V(b)			
Jordan	2009 – 2013	Tunisia	2009 – 2013
Oman	2007 – 2011		

Meetings of the Committee since the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties (15-16 June 2009)

4. Since the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, the Committee met twice in ordinary session. Those meetings were held as follows:

Sessions	Dates
Third ordinary session, Paris, France (3.IGC)	7-9 December 2009
Fourth ordinary session, Paris, France (4.IGC)	29 November - 3 December 2010

5. In conformity with Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Committee at its first ordinary session and approved by the Conference of Parties at its second ordinary session, the Committee shall elect a Bureau at the end of each ordinary session whose mandate continues until the next ordinary session. During its third ordinary session, the Committee suspended the application of article 12.1 of its Rules of Procedure in order to elect the Chairperson of the Committee (Decision 3.IGC 10).

Sessions	Members of the Bureau	Dates
Third ordinary session Paris (France)	Chairperson: Ms Vera Lacoecilhe (Saint Lucia) Rapporteur: M. Mouhamed Konaté (Senegal) Vice-Chairpersons: Croatia, India, Luxembourg, Oman	7-9 December 2009
Fourth ordinary session Paris (France)	Chairperson: Ms Nina Obuljen (Croatia) Rapporteur: Mr Zaid Hamzeh (Jordan) Vice-Chairpersons: China, France, Kenya, Mexico	29 November - 3 December 2010

Activities of the Committee since the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties

6. Since the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, the main activities and decisions of the Committee, in conformity with Article 23.6(b), (e) and (f) of the Convention, were the preparation of:

Draft operational guidelines for the implementation of the Convention on:

- information sharing and transparency (Article 9);
- education and public awareness (Article 10);
- exchange, analysis and dissemination of information (Article 19);
- measures to increase the visibility and promotion of the Convention;
- the use of the emblem of the Convention.

Other matters, including:

- a strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention;
- the pertinence and feasibility of appointing public persons to promote the Convention;
- the implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and fundraising strategy.

Draft operational guidelines

Information sharing and transparency – Article 9

7. At its second session in June 2009, the Conference of Parties requested the Committee to continue its work and to submit to it for approval at its third session draft operational guidelines concerning Article 9 of the Convention (Resolution 2.CP 7). After a first debate, during its third ordinary session, the Committee requested that the Secretariat continue its work on the matter and submit to it for examination at its fourth ordinary session, preliminary draft operational guidelines on Article 9 that take into account its discussions (Decision 3.IGC 7). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee reviewed preliminary draft operational guidelines on Article 9 and a preliminary draft of the framework for quadrennial periodic reports of Parties to the Convention. After an in-depth discussion, which took into consideration written amendment proposals prepared by members of the Committee, it adopted the draft operational guidelines and the draft framework as amended (Decision 4.IGC 7).

Education and public awareness – Article 10

8. At its second session in June 2009, the Conference of Parties requested the Committee to submit to it for approval at its third session draft operational guidelines concerning Article 10 of the Convention (Resolution 2.CP 7). During its third ordinary session, the Committee noted this item on the provisional agenda of its fourth ordinary session (Annex to Decision 3.IGC 9). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined preliminary draft operational guidelines on Article 10. After a debate on the preliminary draft that took into consideration written amendment proposals from members of the Committee, it adopted the draft operational guidelines as amended (Decision 4.IGC 9).

Exchange, analysis and dissemination of information – Article 19

9. At its second session in June 2009, the Conference of Parties requested the Committee to submit to it for approval at its third session draft operational guidelines concerning Article 19 of the Convention (Resolution 2.CP 7). During its third ordinary session, the Committee requested that the Secretariat, on the basis of the discussion at its third ordinary session, continue its work on this issue and submit to it for consideration at its fourth ordinary session preliminary draft operational guidelines on Article 19 of the Convention, comprising the modalities of their implementation and their financing. This preliminary draft also delineated the role of the Secretariat in the implementation of Article 19 (Decision 3.IGC 8). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined preliminary draft operational guidelines on Article 19. After an in-depth discussion, the Committee adopted the draft operational guidelines as amended, which takes into consideration written proposals for amendment prepared by members of the Committee (Decision 4.IGC 8).

Measures to ensure the visibility and promotion of the Convention

10. At its second ordinary session (December 2008), the Committee decided to place on the agenda of its second extraordinary session an item concerning the examination of measures to increase the visibility and promotion of the Convention (Decision 2.IGC 9). At its third ordinary session, further to Resolution 2.CP 7 adopted by the Conference of Parties at its second session in June 2009, the Committee, after a first debate during its second extraordinary session in March 2009, examined a preliminary draft of operational guidelines on measures to ensure the visibility and promotion of the Convention. It adopted draft operational guidelines on this matter in its third ordinary session and decided to submit it to the Conference of Parties for approval (Decision 3.IGC 6).

11. At its third ordinary session, the Committee decided, in principle, to create an emblem in order to support its activities and those of the Parties in promoting the principles and objectives of the Convention. As a result, the Committee invited the Secretariat to provide the Committee at its fourth ordinary session a feasibility study and cost analysis for the creation of an emblem for the Convention, including different options, such as the option of open competition based on wide publicity, as well as a preliminary draft operational guidelines governing the use of the emblem of the Convention (Decision 3.IGC 6). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined the feasibility study prepared by the Secretariat and recognized the importance of having an emblem symbolizing the Convention to ensure its visibility and promotion. The Committee decided to put this item on the agenda of its next session (Decision 4.IGC 5).

Other Matters

Strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention

12. At its second extraordinary session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit to it a strategy to encourage ratification, especially in under-represented regions and subregions (Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7). The Conference of Parties, during its second session, invited the Parties to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to achieving broader ratification of the Convention (Resolution 2.CP 7). At its third ordinary session, the Committee welcomed the strategy encouraging ratifications and requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its fourth ordinary session a document reporting on progress of ratifications of the Convention, as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2009-2010 (Decision 3.IGC 4). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined and took note of the report prepared by the Secretariat on the progress of ratifications. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue implementing the strategy in 2011 and 2012. It also requested the Secretariat to organize an information session before the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, and to invite 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. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its sixth ordinary session a document reporting on the progress of ratifications (Decision 4.IGC 4).

Pertinence and feasibility of appointing public persons to promote the Convention

13. At its second extraordinary session, the Committee recommended to the Conference of Parties that it consider nominating public personalities to promote the visibility of the Convention (Decision 2.EXT.IGC.7). During its second session, the Conference of Parties invited the Committee to examine the pertinence and the feasibility of the nomination of one or several public personalities charged with the promotion of the Convention, taking into account the objectives, the mandate, the modalities and the costs of such a setup, inviting the Committee to report on that matter to the third Conference of Parties (Resolution 2.CP 7). At its third ordinary session, the Committee noted this item on the provisional agenda of its fourth ordinary session (Annex to Decision 3.IGC 9). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined the pertinence and feasibility of appointing public persons to promote the Convention. The Committee decided that each Party is entitled to choose the mechanism which it deems appropriate to promote the objectives of the Convention (Decision 4.IGC 6).

Implementation of the Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and fundraising strategy

14. At its third ordinary session, the Committee adopted the provisional timetable for the pilot phase of the Fund and the criteria for determining the eligibility of candidates for the panel of experts. The Committee also decided to appoint, for a two-year period as from its third ordinary session, a panel of six experts to draw up recommendations with a view for the Committee's examination of requests for the funding of programmes/projects by the IFCD. In addition, the Committee appointed, for a two-year period as from the third ordinary session, six alternate experts should those nominated to the panel not be able to fulfil their mandate. It was proposed that a coordinator be chosen from among the panel members and that if a disagreement would arise between two evaluators of a project, the coordinator would give the final recommendation. Furthermore, the Committee adopted the budget for the year 2010 and decided that 70% of the amount available in the Fund as of 1 July 2010 will be allocated as the budget for the pilot phase (2010-2012). It also decided that the budget of this pilot phase will be governed by the following guidelines: 60% at least for the financing of programmes/projects, 20% at most for preparatory assistance and a 2% reserve for the financing, if necessary, of programmes/projects regarding special situations, such as those foreseen in articles 8 and 17 of the Convention. Finally, the Committee decided to revise at its fourth ordinary session, if necessary, the budget of the pilot phase in light of the contributions to the Fund and the number of requests for assistance (Decision 3.IGC 5). The first projects to be funded by the IFCD were approved by the Committee at its fourth ordinary session. At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined the list of 32 projects recommended by the Panel of Experts and took note that the total budget of the recommended projects exceeded the budget available for 2010-2011. So it therefore decided to dedicate 70% of funds available on 30 November 2010 for the 2nd year of the pilot phase (2011) and that 82% would be allocated to funding recommended programmes/projects. The Committee also adopted the budget for 2011. The Committee also decided that 31 projects would be funded by the Fund, but up to a maximum of \$100,000. It also decided to issue an appeal for project applications in 2011. The Committee took note of the experience of the first call for projects to integrate them in the findings of the global evaluation that is to take place six months before the end of the pilot phase in accordance to paragraph 5 of the Guidelines and decided to apply additional criteria for the next call for projects, which will be evaluated at the end of the pilot phase.

15. During its second session, the Conference of Parties mandated the Committee to devise a fundraising strategy for the IFCD and in this framework to continue its reflection on the elaboration and utilization of innovative financial mechanisms and to report to it on the outcome of its work at its third session (Resolution 2.CP 7). At its third ordinary session, the Committee noted the implementation of the IFCD and fundraising strategy on its provisional agenda for its fourth ordinary session, where it continued to debate this question (Annex to Decision 3.IGC 9). At its fourth ordinary session, the Committee examined the document presented by the Secretariat, recognized the progress accomplished and requested Parties to inform the Secretariat, mainly through a questionnaire that the Secretariat will send to Parties, of fundraising mechanisms - notably the innovative ones - implemented. The Committee also decided to request the Director-General to allocate in the framework of the next C/5 increased resources for the operation and the implementation of the Convention (Decision 4.IGC 10B).

Implementation and follow-up of the Convention: current state

16. During its third ordinary session, the Committee decided to put on the provisional agenda of its fourth ordinary session an item on the implementation and follow-up of the Convention to determine the current state of this issue (Decision 3.IGC 9). At this fourth session, the Committee took note of this current state and decided to bring it to the attention of the next Conference of Parties and requested the Secretariat to prepare an information document to that end that takes into account the Committee's observations (Decision 4.IGC 13).

Information Session

17. During the third ordinary session of the Committee, the representative of the Director-General mentioned that an information session on indicators and data collection is planned prior to the Committee's fourth ordinary session at the end of November 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The purpose of the session was to engage the Committee members in a first exchange with experts involved in the design of the new UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics and representatives of the working group on methodologies to measure the diversity of cultural expressions, and to respond to questions or comments from participants. Presentations first highlighted the need and scarcity of data in the field of culture, in particular at the international level. They also underlined the importance of establishing a framework for the collection of data and the necessity to clearly define the objective pursued in this process. Finally, they stressed the need for all Parties to use the same cultural statistics framework, specifically dealing with cultural expressions as defined in the Convention.

Communication

18. UNESCO's Section of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions regularly updates a website relating to the Convention: www.unesco.org/culture/en/diversity/convention. All working documents, decisions and resolutions adopted by the organs of the Convention, detailed summary records of the sessions of the statutory organs, as well as the Convention's information kit translated in all six official languages of UNESCO are available online. The communication strategy is supported by the Spanish government with extra-budgetary resources.