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# Diversity of Cultural Expressions

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## CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

First session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI  
18–20 June 2007

**Item 5A of the provisional agenda: Distribution among electoral groups of the seats of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

### SUMMARY

Article 23 of the Convention establishes an Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions composed of representatives of the States Parties to the Convention, elected by the Conference of Parties. This document contains a proposal on the distribution of seats on the Committee among the electoral groups.

**Decision required:** paragraph 10

1. In accordance with Article 23.1 of the Convention, the Conference of Parties shall elect an Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, hereinafter referred to as "The Committee".

2. According to Article 23.4 of the Convention, the number of members of the Intergovernmental Committee shall be increased to 24 once the number of Parties to the Convention reaches 50. As the threshold of 50 has been reached, the Conference of Parties is required to elect a Committee composed of 24 members.

3. As of 20 June 2007, the Convention is in force in respect of the following 56 States Parties:

	<b>States</b>	<b>Date of deposit of instrument</b>		<b>States</b>	<b>Date of deposit of instrument</b>
1	Canada	28/11/2005	29	Slovenia	18/12/2006
2	Mauritius	29/03/2006	30	Estonia	18/12/2006
3	Mexico	05/07/2006	31	Slovakia	18/12/2006
4	Romania	20/07/2006	32	Luxembourg	18/12/2006
5	Monaco	31/07/2006	33	Lithuania	18/12/2006
6	Bolivia	04/08/2006	34	Malta	18/12/2006
7	Djibouti	09/08/2006	35	Bulgaria	18/12/2006
8	Croatia	31/08/2006	36	Cyprus	19/12/2006
9	Togo	05/09/2006	37	South Africa	21/12/2006
10	Belarus	06/09/2006	38	Ireland	22/12/2006
11	Madagascar	11/09/2006	39	Greece	03/01/2007
12	Burkina Faso	15/09/2006	40	Brazil	16/01/2007
13	Republic of Moldova	05/10/2006	41	Norway	17/01/2007
14	Peru	16/10/2006	42	Uruguay	18/01/2007
15	Guatemala	25/10/2006	43	Panama	22/01/2007
16	Senegal	07/11/2006	44	China	30/01/2007
17	Ecuador	08/11/2006	45	Saint Lucia	01/02/2007
18	Mali	09/11/2006	46	Iceland	01/02/2007
19	Albania	17/11/2006	47	Andorra	06/02/2007
20	Cameroon	22/11/2006	48	Tunisia	15/02/2007
21	Namibia	29/11/2006	49	Jordan	16/02/2007
22	India	15/12/2006	50	Italy	19/02/2007
23	Finland	18/12/2006	51	Armenia	27/02/2007
24	Austria	18/12/2006	52	Germany	12/03/2007
25	France	18/12/2006	53	Chile	13/03/2007
26	Spain	18/12/2006	54	Niger	14/03/2007
27	Sweden	18/12/2006	55	Portugal	16/03/2007
28	Denmark	18/12/2006	56	Oman	16/03/2007

4. Article 23.5 of the Convention provides that the election of members of the Committee shall be based on the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation. Rule 14 of the provisional Rules of Procedure therefore provides for the introduction of a voting procedure that takes into account the composition of UNESCO's electoral groups, as decided by the General Conference at its last session and based on the method used by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In line with the practice of the UNESCO General Conference, Group V is composed of two subgroups, one for the African States and the other for the Arab States. The voting procedure will be based on the pro rata principle which consists in dividing the number of Parties in each electoral group by the number of Parties to the Convention and multiplying the result by the number of seats available.

5. In accordance with Rule 14 of the provisional Rules of Procedure, for the purposes of the election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee at the first ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, the proportional distribution of the 24 seats is the following:

**Distribution of the 24 seats among the 56 States Parties over the six electoral groups**

<b>Group</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V(a)</b>	<b>V(b)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	Canada	Romania	Mexico	India	Mauritius	Tunisia	
2	Monaco	Croatia	Bolivia	China	Djibouti	Jordan	
3	Finland	Belarus	Peru		Togo	Oman	
4	Austria	Republic of Moldova	Guatemala		Madagascar		
5	France	Albania	Ecuador		Burkina Faso		
6	Spain	Slovenia	Brazil		Senegal		
7	Sweden	Estonia	Uruguay		Mali		
8	Denmark	Slovakia	Panama		Cameroon		
9	Luxembourg	Lithuania	Saint Lucia		Namibia		
10	Malta	Bulgaria	Chile		South Africa		
11	Cyprus	Armenia			Niger		
12	Ireland						
13	Greece						
14	Norway						
15	Iceland						
16	Andorra						
17	Italy						
18	Germany						
19	Portugal						
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>
(%)	(33.92)	(19.64)	(17.85)	(3.57)	(19.64)	(5.35)	(100)
Seats	24 x 0.3392 = 8.14	24 x 0.1964 = 4.71	24 x 0.1785 = 4.29	24 x 0.0357 = 0.86	24 x 0.1964 = 4.71	24 x 0.0535 = 1.29	<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

6. With respect to the distribution of seats within the Committee, it is nevertheless proposed that the Conference of Parties consider the allocation of a minimum of three seats per electoral group, similar to the arrangement adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

7. In the light of the regional grouping of the 56 States Parties, an initial calculation would result in the allocation of one to eight seats to each electoral group (see table above). The principle requiring that no electoral group may have fewer than three seats would make it necessary to allocate four additional seats: two to Group IV and two to Group V(b).

8. The Conference of Parties will therefore be required to decide on the allocation of two additional seats to Group IV and two additional seats to Group V(b). In accordance with the current practice within the United Nations system, the Conference could initially seek a solution through formal and/or informal consultations among the States Parties in order to determine whether electoral groups would be willing to volunteer to relinquish one or more seats, two of which would be transferred to Group IV and two to Group V(b). Should such consultations prove fruitless, the Conference of Parties could decide to draw lots among the regional groups that have more than three seats.

9. As of 20 June 2007, fewer than three States Parties are in Group IV. Consequently, the third seat that must be allocated to this Group may need to be transferred, temporarily and until the next election, to one of the other electoral groups, according to a procedure to be established or by drawing lots.

10. The Conference of Parties may wish to adopt the following resolution.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 1.CP 5A**

*The Conference of Parties,*

1. *Having examined document CE/07/1.CP/CONF/209/5A,*
2. *Decides that, for the purposes of the election of the members of the Committee at the present session, the seats on the Committee will be distributed among the electoral groups pro rata to the number of States Parties in each group in accordance with Rule 14 of the provisional Rules of Procedure, it being understood that a minimum of three seats will be allocated to each of the six electoral groups;*
3. *Also decides that, for the purposes of the election of the members of the Committee at the present session, the 24 seats will be distributed among the electoral groups as follows: Group I (...); Group II (...); Group III (...); Group IV (...); Group V(a) (...); Group V(b) (...).*