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SECOND SESSION OF THE FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF  
EXPERTS ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

*PARIS, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, 24 FEBRUARY-1st MARCH 2003*

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE PREPARATION OF THE  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

1973	Preliminary discussions at UNESCO on the preparation of a normative instrument
1982	Adoption of the Model Provisions for National Laws on the Protection of Expressions of Folklore Against Illicit Exploitation and Other Prejudicial Actions (UNESCO-WIPO)
November 1989	Adoption of the Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session
1995-1999	Organization of eight regional seminars on the implementation of the 1989 Recommendation
June 1999	International Conference "A Global Assessment of the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore, Washington D.C": recognition that the term "folklore" is inappropriate and recommendation for a more appropriate terminology and definition

November 1999	Adoption by the General Conference at its 30th Session of a resolution (Res. 25 B. 2 (a) (iii)) inviting the Director-General to undertake a preliminary study on the advisability of regulating internationally, through a new standard-setting instrument, the protection of traditional culture and folklore
2000-2001	Preparation of the preliminary study
March 2001	International Round Table on 'Intangible Cultural Heritage: Working Definitions' Turin, (Italy): adoption of a plan of action including a definition of 'intangible cultural heritage'
May 2001	(i) Submission to the Executive Board at its 161st Session of a report on the preliminary study on the advisability of regulating internationally, through a new standard-setting instrument, the protection of traditional culture and folklore (161 EX/15); and (ii) Adoption by the Executive Board of a decision (161 EX/Dec. 3.4.4): (a) inviting the Director-General to submit a report to the General Conference together with the observations of the Executive Board; and (b) recommending the General Conference to take a decision to continue action aimed at advancing the preparation of a new international standard-setting instrument for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage
August 2001	Transmission of the above mentioned report, together with the observations made by the Executive Board, to Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO, through a circular letter (CL/3597)
November 2001	(i) Submission to the 31 <sup>st</sup> session of the General Conference of the document 31 C/43 'Preparation of a new international standard-setting instrument for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage' (ii) Adoption of a resolution (31 C/30) deciding that 'the question should be regulated by means of an international convention'; and inviting the Director-General 'to submit to the General Conference at its 32nd session a report on the situation calling for standard-setting and on the possible scope of such standard-setting, together with a preliminary draft international convention'
January 2002	International Meeting of Experts 'Intangible Cultural Heritage: Priority Domains for an International Convention', Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
March 2002	First meeting of the select drafting group on the first draft of an international convention on the intangible cultural heritage, Paris
May 2002	(i) Submission of a progress report on the preparation of an international convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage to the 164th session of the Executive Board (164 EX/19) (ii) Adoption of a decision (164 EX/Dec.3.5.2) inviting the Director-General 'to convene one or more category II intergovernmental meetings of experts...'

- June 2002 Second meeting of the select drafting group on the first draft of an international convention on the intangible cultural heritage, Paris
- June 2002 International Meeting of Experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage - Establishment of a glossary, Paris
- July 2002 Sending to Member States by the Director-General of the preliminary report on the situation calling for standard-setting and on the possible scope of such standard-setting, together with a first preliminary draft of an international convention (CL/3629)
- September 2002 IIIrd Round Table of Ministers of Culture 'Intangible Cultural Heritage - a Mirror of Cultural Diversity', Istanbul (Turkey)
- September 2002 Intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, Paris
- February-March 2003 Second session of the first intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, Paris