**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 17 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Accreditation of new non-governmental organizations   
and review of accredited non-governmental organizations**

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| **Summary**  This document presents the requests of new non‑governmental organizations to be accredited to provide advisory services to the Committee, as well as the outcome of the review process on maintaining relations with the fifty-nine non-governmental organizations accredited by the fourth session of the General Assembly in 2012.  **Decision required:** paragraph 24 |

1. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations
2. The Operational Directives in Chapter III.2.2 (paragraphs 91-99) lay out the criteria and procedures for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide advisory services to the Committee, in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. To date, the General Assembly has accredited 202 such organizations (97 by [Resolution 3.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/7), 59 by [Resolution 4.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/4.GA/6), 22 by [Resolution 5.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/5.GA/6) and 24 by [Resolution 6.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/8)). At its tenth session, the Committee decided to maintain relationships with fifty-nine out of the ninety-seven NGOs accredited by the third session of the Committee in 2010. At the same session, the Committee decided to terminate relationships with thirty-eight NGOs ([Decision 10.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/16)). As a result, there are currently 164 NGOs accredited to provide advisory services to the Committee.
3. Among the 164 currently accredited organizations, the geographical representation is as follows: Group I: 87; Group II: 13; Group III: 11; Group IV: 26; Group V(a): 20; and Group V(b): 6, as also illustrated below:
4. Following the revisions adopted by the sixth session of the General Assembly in 2016, the Operational Directives (paragraph 98) provide that requests for accreditation shall be received by the Secretariat by 30 April in odd-numbered years, for examination by the Committee at its ordinary session in that same year. The Committee then submits its recommendations to the General Assembly for decision, in conformity with Article 9 of the Convention. As at 30 April 2017, there were fifty new accreditation requests for possible examination by the present session of the Committee. Their geographical distribution is as follows: Group I: 31; Group II: 8; Group III: 2; Group IV: 2; Group V(a): 5, and Group V(b): 2. After requesting additional information from three entities, the Secretariat proceeded to examine those requests that were completed by 3 September 2017. The [website of the Convention](https://ich.unesco.org/en/17-accreditation-of-ngos-00956) makes available all of the requests that were completed by that time in the language in which they were submitted, namely the standard Form ICH-09 filled in by each organization, together with the pertinent supplementary documents regarding items 8.a, 8.b and 8.c of that form.
5. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat submits to the Committee its recommendation that the following twenty-nine NGOs appear to satisfy the criteria for accreditation set out in paragraph 91 of the said Directives:

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Amagugu International Heritage Centre | Zimbabwe | NGO-90383 |
| Association Île du Monde | France | NGO-90388 |
| Association of Folk Artists | Poland | NGO-90372 |
| Centre de valorisation du patrimoine vivant | Canada | NGO-90394 |
| Centre des musiques traditionnelles Rhône-Alpes (CMTRA) - CMTRA | France | NGO-90387 |
| Centre d’interprétation de la culture traditionnelle Marius-Bardeau | Canada | NGO-90414 |
| Colles Castelleres Coordinating Body in Catalonia (Federation) | Spain | NGO-90366 |
| Ethnographic Society of Slovakia | Slovakia | NGO-90369 |
| European Federation for Architectural Heritage Skills | Belgium | NGO-90370 |
| Folk Music Institute | Finland | NGO-90407 |
| Georgian Arts and Culture Center | Georgia | NGO-90390 |
| German Confederation of Skilled Crafts | Germany | NGO-90413 |
| Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage | Turkey | NGO-90400 |
| International Council of Museums ICOM - ICOM | France | NGO-90376 |
| International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS | France | NGO-90412 |
| International Society for Ethnology and Folklore | Netherlands | NGO-90385 |
| Istanbul Camlıca Classic Art Center | Turkey | NGO-90410 |
| Mali Cultural Heritage Agency | Mali | NGO-90409 |
| Many Hands International | Australia | NGO-90379 |
| Norwegian Institute of bunad and folk costume | Norway | NGO-90384 |
| Public Association Kuhhoi Pomir (Pamir mountains) | Tajikistan | NGO-90403 |
| Routes Nomades | France | NGO-90371 |
| Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage | United States of America | NGO-90391 |
| Sozopol Foundation | Bulgaria | NGO-90389 |
| Teje Teje | Colombia | NGO-90368 |
| THAAP | Pakistan | NGO-90367 |
| The Norwegian Society of Rural Women | Norway | NGO-90395 |
| The Serfenta Association | Poland | NGO-90373 |
| Traditional Art Association | Turkey | NGO-90408 |

1. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat submits to the Committee its recommendation that, based upon the information they have provided, the following twenty NGOs do not appear to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 91 of the said Directives:

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Academy of the Fair Courtesy | Italy | NGO-90398 |
| African Civil Society on the Information Society - ACSIS | Senegal | NGO-90399 |
| Agence pour la promotion de l’art et des cultures - A.P.A.C | France | NGO-90406 |
| Ain al-Funoun Cultural Association | Syrian Arab Republic | NGO-90392 |
| Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain | United States of America | NGO-90401 |
| Apprentissages sans frontières | Switzerland | NGO-90402 |
| Artesanogroup Foundation | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | NGO-90404 |
| Association for Natural Medicine in Europe e.V. (ANME e.V.) - ANME | Germany | NGO-90397 |
| Camp Violon Trad Québec | Canada | NGO-90381 |
| Centre d’études linguistiques et historiques par tradition orale (CELHTO) | Niger | NGO-90374 |
| ÉCONOMUSÉE Network Society | Canada | NGO-90382 |
| Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec - FPAQ | Canada | NGO-90411 |
| Finnish Crafts Organization | Finland | NGO-90396 |
| Gaza Trust | Zimbabwe | NGO-90380 |
| Global Foundation for Democracy and Development | United States of America | NGO-90405 |
| Institut Hospitalier de Leprologie pour l’Amérique Latine, les Caraïbes & l’Afrique - Itinéraires Culturels Européens et Patrimoine | France | NGO-90415 |
| NGO Bulgarian Holidays | Bulgaria | NGO-90375 |
| Pacific Traditions Society (PTS) | United States of America | NGO-90378 |
| Syrian Youth Council | Syrian Arab Republic | NGO-90393 |
| The Foundation Hilmar Alexandersen | Norway | NGO-90386 |

1. In addition, the following one entity that submitted a request for accreditation prior to 30 April 2017 did not respond to the Secretariat’s request for additional information. The Secretariat considers this request to be suspended. However, this entity may present a new request for accreditation to the Committee at a subsequent session:

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| **Name of Organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Association of citizens for scientific research and promotion of culture HAEMUS Skopje | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | NGO-90377 |

1. The Committee is invited to review the above recommendations with regard to accrediting NGOs in conformity with paragraph 91 of the Operational Directives.
2. Review of accredited NGOs
3. Paragraph 94 of the Operational Directives stipulates that every four years following accreditation of an NGO, the Committee reviews the contribution and the commitment of the advisory organization and its relations with it, taking into account the perspective of the NGO concerned.
4. This time the Committee is requested to review the contribution and commitment of 59 NGOs accredited by the General Assembly at its fourth session in 2012 ([Resolution 4.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/4.GA/6)). A total of 44 reports were submitted to the Secretariat by 15 January 2017 using the review form established by the Secretariat (which was presented at the Committee at its eighth session in Baku and amended subsequently to reflect the Committee’s debates during that session).
5. The report form aimed to collect perspectives from each NGO on its contribution to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and implementation of the Convention at the national level and international level which includes (i) contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (as described in Chapter III of the Convention), (ii) bilateral, sub-regional and international cooperation, (iii) participation in the work of the Committee, (iv) capacities of the organization for evaluation of nominations, proposals and requests (as described in paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives) and (v) cooperation with UNESCO.
6. The report form was sent by email and post in October 2016 and the NGOs concerned were asked to return the form to the Secretariat by 15 February 2017. The reminders for submission were sent in January 2017 by email to concerned organizations and the deadline was also highlighted through the news item published in January 2017 on the website of the Convention. The review process was carried out by the Secretariat from March to July 2017 in order to prepare the recommendation to the Committee.
7. After the above-mentioned review process, 42 NGOs have been considered by the Secretariat as having sufficiently demonstrated their contribution and commitment to the work of the Committee since their accreditation. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat submits to the Committee its recommendation that the accreditation of the following 42 NGOs be maintained:

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Amis du Patrimoine de Madagascar (APM) - APM | Madagascar | NGO-90195 |
| Association pour la sauvegarde des masques (ASAMA) - ASAMA | Burkina Faso | NGO-90209 |
| Azerbaijani Carpetmakers’ Union | Azerbaijan | NGO-90266 |
| Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA) - CRIA | Portugal | NGO-90164 |
| China Folklore Society (CFS) - CFS | China | NGO-90089 |
| Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant | Canada | NGO-90243 |
| Cultural Association ‘Bagpipe Club’ | Italy | NGO-90222 |
| Cultural Musical Ethnic Association Totarella - The Pollino Bagpipes | Italy | NGO-90227 |
| Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage | Netherlands | NGO-90233 |
| Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions (EFST) | Egypt | NGO-90182 |
| Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) - FACE | Belgium | NGO-90160 |
| Foundation of Cultural Researches - KAV | Turkey | NGO-90142 |
| Grande Aura | Madagascar | NGO-90132 |
| Groupe audois de recherche et d’animation ethnographique - Ethnopôle GARAE - GARAE | France | NGO-90254 |
| Gulu Theatre Artists - GUTA - GUTA | Uganda | NGO-90206 |
| Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador - HFNL | Canada | NGO-90202 |
| Indigenous Cultural Society | India | NGO-90178 |
| Institution SOAMANORO lieu sacré Manongarivo | Madagascar | NGO-90147 |
| Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network (ICCN) - ICCN | Republic of Korea | NGO-90228 |
| International Council of Organizations for Folklore Festivals and Folk Art - CIOFF | France | NGO-90129 |
| Italian Network of Pro Loco Associations - UNPLI | Italy | NGO-90211 |
| Kanuri Development Association | Nigeria | NGO-90171 |
| Maasai Cultural Heritage - M.C.H | Kenya | NGO-90183 |
| Maison du patrimoine oral de Bourgogne | France | NGO-90272 |
| MID - Macedonian Research Society | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | NGO-90218 |
| Museums Galleries Scotland - MGS | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | NGO-90257 |
| MusicaEuropa Association | Italy | NGO-90208 |
| National Archaeological-Anthropological Memory Management Foundation | Curaçao | NGO-90229 |
| NGO Man and The Environment - MATE | Madagascar | NGO-90246 |
| Oral Tradition Association (OTA) - ATL | Indonesia | NGO-90223 |
| Polish Ethnological Society - PTL | Poland | NGO-90188 |
| Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton (Cultural Workshop) | Cyprus | NGO-90265 |
| SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe) - SAVE Foundation | Switzerland / Germany | NGO-90123 |
| Syria Trust for Development | Syrian Arab Republic | NGO-90251 |
| tapis plein NGO - Expert Center for intangible cultural heritage and geritage participation | Belgium | NGO-90186 |
| The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda - CCFU | Uganda | NGO-90274 |
| The Cultural Heritage Association of Vietnam | Viet Nam | NGO-90212 |
| The Domain Bokrijk | Belgium | NGO-90203 |
| Tooro Youth Platform for Action | Uganda | NGO-90198 |
| V. Papantoniou Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation - PFF | Greece | NGO-90107 |
| West Africa Coalition for Indigenous Peoples’ Rights (WACIPR) - WACIPR | Nigeria | NGO-90217 |
| World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) - WFCMS | China | NGO-90239 |

1. Based on the aforementioned review process, two NGOs have been considered by the Secretariat as not having sufficiently demonstrated their contribution and commitment to the work of the Committee since their accreditation. These entities submitted reports only providing limited information or explanation on their activities. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat submits to the Committee its recommendation that the accreditation of the following two NGOs be terminated:

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Association suisse des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d’Arts Traditionnels CIOFF | Switzerland | NGO-90197 |
| La Maison de Sagesse | France | NGO-90255 |

1. Of the 59 NGOs 15 NGOs have not returned their quadrennial report. The Secretariat submits to the Committee its recommendation that the accreditation of the following 15 NGOs be terminated:

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| Association C.O.R.D.A.E./La Talvera “Centre Occitan de Recherche, de Documentation et d’Animation Ethnographiques” | France | NGO-90136 |
| Association of Vietnamese Folklorists (AVF) - AVF | Viet Nam | NGO-90125 |
| Associazione Culturale Carpino Folk Festival | Italy | NGO-90221 |
| Associazione Culturale Multietnica Europea | Italy | NGO-90204 |
| Bhasha Research and Publication Centre | India | NGO-90236 |
| Centre régional de culture ethnologique et technique de Basse-Normandie - CRéCET | France | NGO-90201 |
| Cultural Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation - CIBC | Kenya | NGO-90273 |
| Fédération des amis des luttes et sports athlétiques et d’adresse de Bretagne - FALSAB | France | NGO-90247 |
| Fernando Ortiz Foundation | Cuba | NGO-90199 |
| HERIMED Onlus | Italy | NGO-90225 |
| Maison du fleuve Rhône | France | NGO-90245 |
| Musiqı Dünyasi Ictimai Birliyi | Azerbaijan | NGO-90264 |
| National Association for Indigenous Affairs | Brazil | NGO-90271 |
| National Council of Traditional Healers and Herbalists Associations - NACOTHA | Uganda | NGO-90241 |
| Pacari Network - Medicinal Plants of the Cerrado | Brazil | NGO-90270 |

1. The Committee is invited to review the above recommendations with regard to maintaining or terminating accreditation of NGOs in conformity with paragraph 95 of the Operational Directives.
2. **Observations on the participation of accredited NGOs**
3. Having dealt with five cycles of accreditation and two cycles of reviewing the accreditation status of NGOs, the Committee has accumulated considerable experience with the participation of such organizations in the implementation of the Convention. Bringing together 164 NGOs under the umbrella of the 2003 Convention is an achievement in itself, providing multiple possibilities for the Committee to benefit from their advisory capacities in the sense of Article 9 of the Convention. It is opportune to take stock of such experiences related to the accreditation of NGOs at a time when the Committee is engaging in important reflections on the overall impact of the Convention and its future directions.
4. ***Inter alia* advisory functions**: Paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives stipulates that ‘[a]ccredited non-governmental organizations who […] shall have advisory functions to the Committee, may be invited by the Committee to provide it, *inter alia*, with reports of evaluation’ of nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List, the Register of Good Practices, requests for International Assistance and the effects of safeguarding plans for elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. In reality, however, their actual participation in the work of the Committee has so far been limited to the work of the Evaluation Body, in the sense of paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives, involving only six members each, elected from each of the Electoral Groups of UNESCO. In other words, the Committee has not yet elaborated on what other advisory functions – mentioned as *inter alia* – it wishes to request of the accredited NGOs. This in turn means that, for the majority of the accredited NGOs, they have not been concretely involved with the work of the Committee, notwithstanding their enthusiasm to contribute to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
5. **Diverse roles for accredited NGOs**: Based on the accreditation and renewal processes, there seem to be at least two types of accredited NGOs. On the one hand, there are a certain number of NGOs that are willing and able to participate in the evaluation or monitoring of various mechanisms of the Convention. On the other hand, there are a number of organizations whose primary focus and expertise relate to the operational safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in various contexts, without necessary wishing or having the competence to participate in the statutory work of the Committee, such as evaluation and monitoring. The current accreditation system does not fully tap into the potential of the latter type of NGOs, even though they could play a significant role in advocating for the 2003 Convention at different levels. In the long run, it may be in the interests of the Committee to envisage different types of accreditations, depending on the nature of the contributions that NGOs could be asked to make.
6. **Accreditation and renewal criteria**: The current mechanism, especially the criteria used, for evaluating the accreditation and renewal of NGOs would need to be revised if the Convention were to grow further and to involve partners with diverse profiles, as discussed above. A weakness in the current system partly relates to the asymmetry seen in the criteria; while accreditation requests are evaluated against administrative and legal status of the organizations together with the description of their activities, renewals are conditional on the contribution of the NGOs to the statutory activities of the Committee and the activities carried out at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional or international levels. In other words, the basis for examining renewals of accredited NGOs is not the same as that used for their accreditation. The criteria would have to be revised aligned with the *inter alia* functions that the Committee wishes to give to the NGOs so that the NGOs’ accreditation and renewal could be evaluated against the revised criteria.
7. **ICH NGO-Forum**: The accredited NGOs are invited to participate into a consortium called the ICH NGO-Forum,[[1]](#footnote-1) which was established in 2010 to provide a platform for NGOs accredited under the 2003 Convention. In terms of its structure, an important milestone was reached in 2016 with the appointment of an interim steering committee of six persons, each representing the Electoral Groups of UNESCO, who lead the activities of the Forum in their respective regions. The ICH NGO-Forum has also started to undertake thematic activities, with a focus, for example, on sustainable development and intangible cultural heritage or on the ethical conduct of NGOs, which are closely aligned with the development of the Convention. Their activities are reported during the Convention’s Intergovernmental Committee meeting and, in recent years, its members have met for plenary sessions on the margins of the Committee meeting. While the ICH NGO-Forum faces a number of challenges, notably in terms of its own financial and operational sustainability, the consortium might present assets for the implementation of the Convention through its various activities at the local, regional and international levels. The ICH NGO-Form could be encouraged to play a more active role should the Committee clarify what *inter alia* functions it wishes to give it, as mentioned above.
8. **Geographical imbalance**: The imbalance in terms of the geographical representation of the accredited NGOs has been a persistent problem, with a heavy representation of organizations from Western Europe on the one hand and only six accreditations from the Arab regions on the other. In other regions, large numbers of NGOs are known to be active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, but the actual number of submissions for accreditation requests has been moderate. There has already been a case in which it was difficult to find an adequate number of NGO candidates from certain regions for the Evaluation Body. In addition to the General Assembly’s encouragement, at its sixth session, for such qualified NGOs to request accreditation, especially from countries and regions that have less representation and participation ([Resolution 6.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/8)), it is important to explore practical methods to redress such disparity.
9. **The workload of the Secretariat**: For both the accreditation and the renewal mechanisms, the Secretariat collectively reviews each file against the criteria set out in the Operational Directives, helps the organizations to provide any missing information, if necessary, prepares recommendations to the Committee and transmits the decisions of the Committee to the organizations. The volume of work has become considerable since 2015, when the Committee started to review the contributions and commitments of the advisory organizations to decide whether to maintain relationships with them; sixty-nine (out of ninety-seven NGOs reviewed) and forty-four (out of fifty-nine NGOs reviewed) such files were processed in 2015 and 2017, respectively, in addition to the accreditation requests.
10. **Need for reflection**: The issues at hand are numerous and the Committee needs to carefully consider in what ways it wishes to develop its relationships with the accredited NGOs, taking into account the current situation and the challenges outlined above. It is becoming clear that the Committee needs to give more thoughts on what advisory functions it wishes to receive from the accredited NGOs (as expressed as *inter alia* functions as mentioned above) and how this could be achieved. This will in turn give directions to other issues such as the accreditation and renewal criteria, the organization of the ICH NGO-Forum, and more generally, NGOs’ contributions to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The overall purpose of such reflection may be to move towards a system that is flexible enough to allow the Committee to benefit from the diverse sets of expertise and services of NGOs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, since this is key for linking the Convention to communities and grass-roots organizations and at the same time for ensuring that the Convention can continue to evolve in line with the experiences of the international community at large.
11. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 17

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM/17, the requests for accreditation, as well as the quadrennial reports submitted by organizations accredited by the General Assembly at its fourth session in 2012;
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention, Chapter III.2.2 of the Operational Directives and [Decision 9.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/14);
3. Further recalling [Resolution 6.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/8), [Decision 8.COM 14.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/14.b) as well as document [ITH/13/8.COM/14.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-13-8.COM-14.b-EN.doc),
4. Considers that those 29 organizations listed in paragraph 4 of this document satisfy the criteria set out in the Operational Directives and recommends to the General Assembly that they be accredited to provide advisory services to the Committee;
5. Further considers that those 42 organizations listed in paragraph 12 of this document satisfy the criteria set out in the Operational Directives and decides to maintain their accreditation to provide advisory services to the Committee;
6. Also decides that the accreditation of those 17 organizations, listed in paragraphs 13 and 14 of this document, is terminated given that their contribution and commitment to the work of the Committee are deemed insufficient with reference to paragraphs 94 and 95 of the Operational Directives or given that they have not submitted a quadrennial report allowing the Committee to appreciate their contribution and commitment to its work;
7. Acknowledges the need to take stock of the current situation and challenges as regards the participation of NGOs to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee;
8. Invites the Secretariat to reflect, in consultation with accredited NGOs, on the possible ways in which the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention could be further enhanced and how this would be reflected in the accreditation and renewal mechanisms of NGOs, as well as to report the results of such reflection to the Committee for examination at its thirteen session.
9. Encourages non-governmental organizations from under-represented Electoral Groups that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for accreditation at the earliest opportunity so as to improve the geographical distribution of accredited NGOs and invites States Parties from those Electoral Groups to make this call widely known among NGOs operating within their territories.

1. . See the website of the ICH NGO-Forum: <http://www.ichngoforum.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)