



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

STRATEGY AND LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES OF THE CENTRE

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1

INTRODUCTION

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

Titled "Objectives and Functions", Article 6 of the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, proposes a collection of 4 objectives and 9 functions for the mentioned centre. Article 6 of the Law, titled the same, approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, stipulates the same as the objectives and functions of the Centre.

The present document comprises the strategy and long-term programmes of the Centre, extracted from the content of the abovementioned Agreement and its related Law, especially Article 6 thereof.

ARTICLE 2

STRATEGY

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

The Strategy of the "Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" shall be the materialization of the Objectives stipulated for it, through the agreement signed between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Cf. Article 1 above). The mentioned strategy has been summarized as the following paragraphs:

2.1. To promote the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its implementation in West and Central Asia;

2.2. To strengthen capacities and cooperation in West and Central Asia for identifying, inventorying, documenting, and studying Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;

2.3. To further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing, and evaluating safeguarding measures for Intangible Cultural Heritage present in West and Central Asia;

2.4. To reinforce capacities in West and Central Asian States Members to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international levels, in particular concerning shared Intangible Cultural Heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States concerned.

ARTICLE 3

LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

To materialize the Strategy pictured above, the Centre shall undertake the following as its Long-term Programmes:

- 3.1. To create and keep up to date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, educational, and information institutions, community organizations, and individual experts involved in the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperate through the Centre;
- 3.2. To gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage present in their territory;
- 3.3. To gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;
- 3.4. To organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the viability of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing access to this heritage;
- 3.5. To organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the mentioned Convention;
- 3.6. While maintaining a network of representatives of Cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of Intangible Cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the 2003 Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11, and 15 of the mentioned Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible Cultural Heritage;
- 3.7. To organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention, and for drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared Intangible Cultural Heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;

3.8. To cooperate and exchange information with other Category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage;

3.9. To inform the Intergovernmental Committee, and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention, about relevant activities in West and Central Asia, and to assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

ARTICLE 4

MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMMES

The approval of the medium-term programmes was suspended to be redrafted for the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council in May 2013 (November 7th, 2012)