**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Fourteenth session**

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**9 to 14 December 2019**

**Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies**

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| **Summary**  Following three years of reflection on the topic of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, at its thirteenth session the Committee requested that an expert meeting be organized ‘to conceptualize and transform the knowledge and experience acquired into methodological guidance […]’. This document presents the results of that meeting, held at UNESCO Headquarters on 21 and 22 May 2019, and suggests ways forward based on a proposed set of operational principles and modalities. It also reports on activities carried out by the Secretariat on the topic since the last Committee session.  **Decision required:** paragraph 24 |

#### Background

1. UNESCO has been increasingly called upon to provide assistance to Member States affected by the rising number of emergencies, including conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards (‘natural disasters’)[[1]](#footnote-1). Under the 2003 Convention, the Committee undertook a reflection, over three cycles, on the role of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies:

* While examining the topic for the first time at its eleventh session in 2016, the Committee underscored the dual nature of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies – both as being under threat and as a powerful tool for recovery and resilience – and requested that the Secretariat gather more knowledge and experience on the topic ([document ITH/16/11.COM/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM-15-EN.docx); [Decision 11.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/15)).
* At its twelfth session in 2017, the Committee examined the results of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in situations of conflict and natural disaster. It pointed to a future direction that privileges community-based needs identifications and asked the Secretariat to enhance awareness raising and capacity building on the topic and to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations entities ([document ITH/17/12.COM/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-15-EN.docx); [Decision 12.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/15)).
* Building on this work, at its thirteenth session in 2018 the Committee felt that the time had come to define operational modalities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies. To this end, the Committee requested that the Secretariat ‘organize an individual expert meeting during the course of 2019 to conceptualize and transform the knowledge and experience acquired into methodological guidance for States Parties, or for any other relevant national or international stakeholders’ ([document ITH/18/13.COM/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-11-EN.docx); [Decision 13.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/11)).

1. This document reports on the results of that expert meeting and presents a set of operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies for consideration by the Committee. It also reports on other activities carried out by the Secretariat since the last Committee session relating to operational activities, inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building and awareness raising. The document concludes by suggesting some ways forward to operationalize the proposed principles and modalities in a wide range of emergency contexts.

#### Results of the expert meeting

1. The above-mentioned expert meeting took place on 21 and 22 May 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters. The meeting, supported by a generous contribution from the Government of the People’s Republic of China, brought together twenty-one experts (fourteen men and seven women) from the six UNESCO electoral groups. The experts were selected based on their specific expertise and/or experience in the field of intangible cultural heritage and emergencies, including conflicts and natural disasters. In preparation for the meeting, the Secretariat prepared a working document ([document LHE/19/EXP/2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-EXP-2-EN.docx)) on defining methodological guidance for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies. The working document provided the basis for discussions organized around four sessions. Further details on the discussions that took place during the expert meeting are presented in the meeting report ([document LHE/19/EXP/5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/46083-EN.pdf)).
2. The experts reached agreement on a set of **operational principles and modalities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies (see Annex). Emergencies in this context were understood to include both armed conflict and natural disasters, in line with the terminology used in the Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict(hereafter, the ‘UNESCO Strategy’) and its Addendum. Recognizing that there are important differences between these two forms of emergencies, the participants were asked to seek broad safeguarding principles and methodologies that might apply to as many emergency situations as possible by focusing on areas of overlapping concern that are important for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The aim was not to define an exhaustive list of actions to be undertaken, but to reach agreement on underpinning principles and modalities for interventions related to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies that can be adapted to diverse contexts.
3. In line with previous Committee discussions, the experts emphasized that the document should reflect the dual nature of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies. On the one hand, emergencies can directly affect and threaten the transmission and viability of intangible cultural heritage. On the other hand, there are countless examples that show how communities can draw on their intangible cultural heritage as a powerful tool for resilience, reconciliation and recovery. The operational principles and modalities thus not only concern the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage at risk, but also address how to harness intangible cultural heritage to support preparedness, response and recovery processes.
4. The experts agreed that it was important for the operational principles and modalities to correspond to existing modalities in the humanitarian and emergency management fields. For this reason, the proposed modalities are structured around the three main phases of an emergency cycle, as is consistent with the UNESCO Strategy, which recognizes ‘three stages of any emergency cycle, namely preparedness, immediate response during conflict and mid- to longer-term recovery/reconstruction.’ The experts stressed that intangible cultural heritage has a role to play at each stage of these phases, while acknowledging that each phase can vary in duration and may overlap with other phases.
5. Intangible cultural heritage only exists in its enactment by the communities who practise and transmit it. The experts stressed that safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is therefore indivisible from the protection of the lives and wellbeing of its bearers. It is important to remain cognizant of the sensitivity of the issue involved in emergencies when lives are often at risk and care should be exercised when talking about generic measures, which should always be adapted to local circumstances and conditions. As the bearers and primary safeguarding actors, the communities concerned are the ones that identify how their intangible cultural heritage is affected by an emergency and how they might draw on their intangible cultural heritage as a resource for addressing the multiple challenges they face. It is an absolute necessity to obtain their agreement and consent prior to any operational action on the ground.
6. Building on previous work by the Secretariat, the operational principles and modalities underscore the usefulness of community-based needs identifications and approaches. Community-based needs identifications can serve as a starting point when reviewing the impact of a crisis on specific traditions and practices and for understanding how their safeguarding can help communities surmount them. Such an approach is instrumental for developing context-specific safeguarding actions that respond to concrete needs on the ground. This approach gives a voice to the community and reflects a human-centred approach to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, in line with the 2003 Convention and its Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.
7. The experts underscored the need to strengthen cooperation with traditional partners and to establish new forms of cooperation with actors beyond the field of culture, such as the humanitarian and security sectors. The operational principles and modalities thus address a wide range of national and international stakeholders from different professional fields involved in emergency management, including disaster preparedness and relief specialists, humanitarian actors, non-governmental organizations and armed forces. Existing frameworks through which these stakeholders plan and implement their programmes and projects are generally quite removed from the norms of the 2003 Convention. Tailored capacity building and awareness raising is thus needed to specifically address these actors and enhance their understanding of the operational principles and modalities. In this sense, interagency coordination and advocacy remains critical to generate awareness of the operational principles and modalities among a larger network of actors.

#### Considerations

1. Any effort to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in emergencies should be in line with the relevant frameworks, instruments and standards at the international level. Article 2 of the Convention obliges States Parties to align their safeguarding efforts with existing international human rights instruments. Particular mention should be made of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017), the first resolution to focus exclusively on cultural heritage and its role in the maintenance of peace and security. Although the Resolution does not specifically address intangible cultural heritage, it is concerned with a set of values that communities confer on their heritage and, as such, is particularly relevant for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies.
2. While international law has tended to pay specific attention to the protection of tangible heritage during armed conflict, such as the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, in emergencies, tangible and intangible heritage are often inextricably linked. Article 2 of the 2003 Convention acknowledges that some places, spaces and artefacts are linked to the expression or practice of intangible cultural heritage, or are repositories of records, archives and so on related to intangible cultural heritage. In line with the UNESCO Strategy, which seeks to build synergies in the implementation of the relevant culture conventions, the operational principles and modalities will further enhance the protection of cultural heritage, in all its forms, by fostering cooperation and collaboration across the fields of heritage safeguarding.
3. Moreover, core human rights treaties and international law concerning refugees and principles pertaining to internally displaced persons are relevant with regard to the obligation of State Parties to safeguard intangible cultural heritage present in their territories. The UNESCO Strategy makes specific reference to the deprivation of cultural rights experienced by the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons. Whether as a result of conflicts, natural disasters or the effects of climate change, displacement often results in the loss of cultural references and can deprive people of the possibility to enact their practices and expressions, thus denying them the enjoyment of their cultural rights. The disruption or suppression of the practice and transmission of intangible cultural heritage during emergencies may have serious, and broad, consequences for communities, including depriving a community of its sense of continuity and identity as well as of a primary source of livelihood.

#### Recent activities by the Secretariat

1. In addition to the expert meeting, the Secretariat continued its work during the reporting period to build experience and understanding on the role of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies through operational activities, inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building and awareness raising. The activities listed below demonstrate the diversity of ways in which intangible cultural heritage is affected and drawn on by communities to help restore their sense of identity, belonging and dignity in situations of conflict and natural disaster.

*Intangible cultural heritage and conflicts*

1. In conflict and post-conflict contexts, projects supported under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund have shown how intangible cultural heritage can help strengthen community resilience and be used as a means to achieve lasting peace, dialogue and social reconstruction. An emergency International Assistance project in Colombia, which drew on the community’s living heritage to promote new forms of coexistence among former combatants, came to a close this year. The project used an innovative community-based approach to safeguard living heritage and foster symbolic reparation and cultural healing among communities affected by armed conflict. In Niger, a project aimed at preventing violent extremism through the promotion of shared intangible cultural heritage among different communities has also been advancing.
2. The European Union-funded project ‘Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace’ has continued to support activities relating to intangible cultural heritage and, in particular, how it can be mobilized by forcibly displaced communities to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience. A two-day meeting was organized in Beirut, Lebanon, from 24 to 26 June 2019 in collaboration with UNESCO’s Unit for Emergency Preparedness and Response and the UNESCO Office in Beirut. The meeting brought together representatives from various United Nations agencies, as well as representatives from humanitarian non-governmental organizations, to discuss developing and piloting a methodology to map the cultural resources of displaced communities in Lebanon. A draft methodology was developed, in collaboration with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), building on the community-based needs identification approach proposed by the Secretariat in previous years.
3. The Culture Sector’s Heritage Emergency Fund supported several activities in 2019 relating to emergency preparedness and response efforts for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in situations of armed conflict. In Mali, a mission to the World Heritage property of the Bandiagara Cliffs assessed the impact of inter-communal violence in the area on the viability and transmission of the community’s intangible cultural heritage. In Sudan, the replacement of office equipment looted in the context of civil unrest, and the installation of security measures at the Institute of Afro-Asiatic studies and Folklore Department of the University of Khartoum, helped strengthen archival records, including substantial ethnographic material relating to intangible cultural heritage.

*Intangible cultural heritage and natural disasters*

1. Capacity-building materials are in the final stage of development to foster understanding of the links between disaster risk reduction and inventories of intangible cultural heritage. The materials seek to provide basic knowledge on the impact of natural disasters on the practice, enactment, transmission and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the role that intangible cultural heritage can play in the mitigation of disaster impacts. Through case studies and guided practical exercises, the materials provide the knowledge needed to integrate an understanding of disaster contexts and disaster risk reduction strategies into community-based inventorying and safeguarding exercises. In addition, the guidance note on inventorying intangible cultural heritage has been updated to provide insights on the links between disaster risk management and the inventorying of intangible cultural heritage.[[2]](#footnote-2)
2. The Culture Sector’s Heritage Emergency Fund supported several activities in 2019 relating to emergency preparedness and response efforts for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in situations of disasters (India, Indonesia, Iran, Mozambique and Vanuatu). Some of these activities were undertaken in the framework of Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA), notably in Iran following flash flooding and in Mozambique after Tropical Cyclone Idai. The PDNA process allowed for the identification and documentation of damages and losses to intangible cultural heritage, which in turn can be used to launch a community-based needs assessment at a later stage. In India and Indonesia, the replacement of damaged assets and equipment necessary for the enactment and transmission of intangible cultural heritage, such as musical instruments and a new loom, helped to ensure its future safeguarding.

#### Conclusions and ways forward

1. The operational principles and modalities presented herewith were developed in response to the need to:

* provide guidance on how to mitigate risk and prevent damage to intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, and strengthen its incorporation into humanitarian action, security strategies and peacebuilding processes;
* sensitize States Parties and other relevant stakeholders to the dynamic nature of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, and how it can be harnessed as a tool for resilience, recovery and reconciliation; and
* provide a theoretical and methodological foundation for implementing a range of practical projects that will contribute to the ongoing mobilization and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies.

1. Based on the results of the expert meeting and the activities undertaken by the Secretariat on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, the experts recommended that the operational principles and modalities be endorsed by the Committee to support the implementation of the 2003 Convention across a wide range of emergency contexts and that they be transmitted to the eighth session of the General Assembly in June 2020 for consideration.
2. The development of the operational principles and modalities marks a shift towards a new phase on the topic of intangible cultural heritage and emergencies. For both conflicts and natural disasters, future interventions may take the form of operational activities, inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building and awareness raising. The operational principles and modalities are not intended as an exhaustive list, but as general principles that can serve as a foundation from which more specific modalities can be devised. In their operationalization, it will of course be important to take into account the specific needs of communities on the ground, given that intangible cultural heritage safeguarding must always be considered in its broader socio-cultural context.
3. The activities conducted by the Secretariat to date have demonstrated how intangible cultural heritage can play a role at all stages of an emergency cycle; however, more real-life cases are needed, particularly in the preparedness stage to ensure that inventories of intangible cultural heritage and safeguarding plans for specific elements contain information on their vulnerability to potential emergencies. Greater understanding, grounded in research and documentation, of the threats to the transmission and practice of intangible cultural heritage over the longer term will also be important going forward.
4. In the field of natural disasters, there is considerable scope for a more sustained engagement between intangible cultural heritage and disaster management and risk reduction practices. Knowledge on the impact of natural disasters on elements of intangible cultural heritage itself remains limited, reflecting a lack of adequate data clearly focused on intangible cultural heritage. As for conflict situations, particular attention should be paid to the issues faced by refugees and internally displaced people. In this regard, it would be important to develop an integrated management approach for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in collaboration with humanitarian organizations. Needless to say, sustainable financial support will be needed to put the operational principles and modalities into practice through concrete projects and activities. In this regard, it is encouraging to note that two States Parties have manifested their written intention in October/November 2019 to provide financial support to the Secretariat’s capacity-building initiatives on the topic: Switzerland proposes to help develop activities focusing on natural disasters, while Azerbaijan intends to support activities dedicated to safeguarding living heritage in situations of conflict, including forced displacement. Given the high demand and complexity of the subject, the Secretariat calls for further supplementary voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support the ongoing safeguarding and mobilization of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies.
5. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.COM 13

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/19/14.COM/13 Rev. and its annex,
2. Recalling Article 11 of the Convention, Chapters VI.3 and VI.4 of the Operational Directives, the fifth point of the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, along with Resolutions 38C/48 and 39C/35 of the General Conference on the Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict, its Action Plan and its Addendum concerning emergencies associated with disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017),
3. Further recalling Decisions [11.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/15), [12.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/15) and [13.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/11),
4. Expresses its full support to individuals, groups and communities in situations of emergency and acknowledges their extraordinary courage and bravery in exploring creative ways of maintaining the practice and transmission of their living heritage despite the challenging contexts they face;
5. Reaffirms the dual role that safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies can play, both to mitigate threats to the intangible cultural heritage itself and as a powerful tool to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies;
6. Welcomes the results of the expert meeting on intangible cultural heritage and emergencies that was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 21 and 22 May 2019, thanks the experts for their efforts and contributions and further thanks the People’s Republic of China for its generous contribution to this end;
7. Endorses the operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies annexed to this decision, and requests that the Secretariat present it for examination by the General Assembly at its eighth session in June 2020;
8. Encourages States Parties, and any other relevant national or international stakeholders, to initiate steps to implement and adapt the operational principles and modalities to their specific contexts;
9. Requests that the Secretariat continue its efforts to develop a capacity-building approach to operationalize the proposed principles and modalities and build awareness of their importance among actors in the field of heritage safeguarding as well as other fields related to emergency management;
10. Invites contributions from States Parties to implement a range of practical projects, which will contribute to the ongoing safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, in the sense of the operational principles and modalities;
11. Thanks Azerbaijan and Switzerland for their expressed intention to support capacity-building activities on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies and requests the Secretariat to ensure proper planning and implementation once these contributions are received;
12. Further encourages States to consider the possibility of financially supporting future work on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies through the modality of their choice.

**ANNEX**

**Operational principles and modalities for  
safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies**

Cultural heritage throughout the world is increasingly affected by emergency situations, including conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards (‘natural disasters’). These situations include threats to the transmission and viability of intangible cultural heritage, which provide a foundation for the identity and well-being of communities, groups and individuals [hereafter ‘communities’]. The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage has a dual role to play in the context of emergencies: on the one hand, intangible cultural heritage can be directly threatened by emergencies, and on the other hand, it can effectively help communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Emergencies present a complex field of operation due to the variety in nature and scale of armed conflicts and natural disasters and the range of stakeholders involved. The following operational principles and modalities offer guidance to States Parties and other relevant national or international stakeholders on how best to ensure that intangible cultural heritage is most effectively engaged and safeguarded in the context of various types of emergencies.

The operational principles and modalities below are in line with the [Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000235186)[[3]](#footnote-3) and its [Addendum concerning emergencies associated with disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000259805?posInSet=2&queryId=df3a8b4d-303b-4a77-a734-dbb85f794eb7)[[4]](#footnote-4), as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017). They should also be considered in tandem with the relevant provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Operational Directives, notably [Chapter VI[[5]](#footnote-5) on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ICH-Operational_Directives-7.GA-PDF-EN.pdf), as well as the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Principles**

The following principles shall underpin all interventions aimed at safeguarding and/or engaging intangible cultural heritage in emergencies:

1. Intangible cultural heritage exists only in its enactment by the communities who practise and transmit it, and is inseparable from their social, cultural and economic life. Its safeguarding is therefore indivisible from the protection of the lives and well-being of its bearers.
2. Communities whose intangible cultural heritage may be affected by an emergency include people in the natural disaster or armed conflict area, displaced persons and their host communities, as well as other people and groups connected with this intangible cultural heritage.
3. In all phases of emergency, the communities shall play a primary role in identifying their intangible cultural heritage. This requires the direct inclusion of the communities in identifying how their intangible cultural heritage might have been affected by the emergency and what measures are needed to safeguard it, as well as how they might draw on it as a resource for enhancing their resilience, facilitating recovery and re-establishing trust and peaceful coexistence within and between communities.
4. With reference to Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in their territory. This provision applies in all contexts, including when intangible cultural heritage is affected by an emergency. In so doing, States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of communities in safeguarding actions, including refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants present in their territories.
5. National and international stakeholders involved in emergency management – including disaster preparedness and relief specialists, humanitarian actors, non-governmental organizations and armed forces – have an important role to play in safeguarding affected intangible cultural heritage and supporting concerned communities to draw on this heritage in preparing for and responding to emergencies.
6. Intangible cultural heritage is dynamic and adaptive in nature, constantly being recreated by communities in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, including emergencies. In all situations, efforts to safeguard or engage intangible cultural heritage should take into account and respect this dynamic and adaptive nature.

**Modalities**

The following modalities integrate the above principles and identify actions appropriate to the three main phases in an emergency management cycle of preparedness, response and recovery, acknowledging that each phase can vary in duration and may overlap with other phases. Local circumstances and conditions will determine which of these actions would be most relevant and appropriate to a particular intangible cultural heritage element or situation.

**Preparedness**

1. Raise the awareness and build the capacities of relevant stakeholders regarding the dual nature of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies and the present principles and modalities.
2. Provide resources and support for the capacity of communities to engage in all aspects of emergency preparedness in consultation with other stakeholders, especially in regions and countries prone to emergencies.
3. Integrate into inventories of intangible cultural heritage, as provided for in the 2003 Convention, information on the vulnerability of elements to potential emergencies. This should include the mitigation capacity of these elements, as well as details of the concerned locations and communities to facilitate identification and access during emergency response.
4. Include emergency preparedness in the safeguarding plans of specific elements. This can include preventive measures to address their potential vulnerability during an emergency, preparatory measures to enhance and engage their mitigation capacity, and a methodology to evaluate the situation of the element during the emergency response phase.
5. Incorporate relevant intangible cultural heritage in local, national, sub-regional and regional emergency preparedness plans.
6. Establish links between bodies safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and those in charge of emergency preparedness.

**Response**

1. Identify, locate and reach out to communities whose intangible cultural heritage is known or likely to have been affected by the emergency, as early as possible.
2. Prioritize resourcing and supporting the capacity of concerned communities to identify and address, through a community-based approach, their immediate safeguarding needs and to draw upon their intangible cultural heritage in mitigating the immediate effects of the emergency (community-based needs identification). In some contexts, it will only be possible to implement this set of actions during the recovery phase.
3. Share information within and between affected States Parties and other stakeholders, particularly humanitarian actors, relevant non-governmental organizations and/or armed forces, to determine the nature and extent of the disruption to intangible cultural heritage and the scope for engaging it in mitigation. This is also to ensure that relief operations take full account of the existing intangible cultural heritage and contribute to its safeguarding.
4. Whenever a post-disaster or post-conflict needs assessment is undertaken, notably in the framework of multiparty international crisis response mechanisms, ensure that intangible cultural heritage is incorporated. Involve communities in the assessment of the effects of the natural disaster and/or armed conflict on their intangible cultural heritage as well as of related economic damage and losses, and human development impacts.

**Recovery**

1. Carry out the community-based needs identification if this could not be performed earlier.
2. Based on the outcomes of the needs identification process, provide resources and support for communities to develop and undertake safeguarding measures or plans to enhance the mitigation capacity of their intangible cultural heritage. This engagement should be sustained throughout the recovery phase and into the following preparedness phase, as well as in the transition from dependence on humanitarian assistance towards development.
3. Engage intangible cultural heritage in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation between and within communities, including between displaced populations and host communities.

**Note**: Resources and financial support shall be sought under the various emergency-related funds, including the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (emergency International Assistance). The listing mechanisms under the 2003 Convention may provide an opportunity for promoting and enhancing the visibility of elements that contribute to preparing for, responding to and recovering from the effects of natural disasters and/or armed conflicts (the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, as well as the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices), and/or to draw the attention of the international community to elements particularly threatened by a natural disaster and/or armed conflict (for the possibility of the accelerated procedure for a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, see criterion U.6 under Chapter I.1 of the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention).

1. . At its 38th session, the UNESCO General Conference adopted [38 C/Resolution 48](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002433/243325e.pdf), concerning a Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. Recognizing that many activities conducted in response to armed conflict are also relevant to crisis situations associated with natural disasters, and that natural disasters and armed conflict often interact and reinforce each other, at its 39th session the UNESCO General Conference adopted an Addendum to its Strategy, concerning emergencies associated with natural disasters. Taken together, they provide UNESCO’s operational definition of emergencies as encompassing armed conflict and disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . See [Guidance Note on Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/guidance-note-on-inventorying-00966) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000235186> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000259805> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ICH-Operational\_Directives-7.GA-PDF-EN.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)