

**Report on the implementation of UNESCO Recommendation concerning the  
Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage  
(Based on the UNESCO Recommendation 2015)**

**General information**

**Country:** Islamic Republic of Iran

**Organization responsible for reporting:** National Committee of the Memory of the World  
(Iranian National Commission)

**Officials who have been appointed to formally prepare the report:**

Natural and Legal Members of the National Committee of the Memory of the World ( National Library and Archives of Iran; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Library and Document Center of Iran Parliament; Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization of Iran; Central Library of Tehran University; Documentary Heritage Research Center; National Commission for UNESCO )

**Consultation process for preparing the report:** after sending a letter by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, as headed by the National Committee of the Memory of the World, natural and legal and members of the National Committee of the Memory of the World held a meeting in the Secretariat of the Committee, at the National Library and Archives Organization. Considering the presence of all the entities in charge of documentary heritage in the National Committee, members of the Committee after reviewing the letter and questionnaire decided that the Committee should prepare the report. Committee members selected 7 persons from among themselves to prepare the final report. After organizing several meetings and receiving information from various entities, the group prepared the initial draft of the report. The report was presented to the director of the National Committee of the Memory of the World and was discussed in the plenary session of the Committee. Finally, the report was adopted by the Committee to be submitted to the Secretariat of the Memory of the World Program.

## **Report on the special items of the recommendations**

### **Overall support**

#### **1. Have the ministries and related institutions been informed about the recommendation?**

Yes. Considering the presence of all relevant institutions in the National Committee of the Memory of the World, *2015 Recommendation* was presented to the committee by the National Commission for UNESCO. Furthermore, in the regional meeting (Asia - Pacific ) of the directors of the National Committees of the Memory of the World , held in September 2017- at the National Library and Archives Organization of Iran in three languages, Farsi, English and French, *2015 Recommendation* was given to the participants. Furthermore, *UNESCO 2017 Comprehensive instruction*, adopted by the Memory of the World Program Review Group, has been given to all the relevant institutions and centers.

#### **2. Are the recommendations translated into the national language? (If possible).**

Recommendations are translated by the National Commission for UNESCO and the National Committee of the Memory of the World and are presented to the members of the committee. Also, parts of the recommendations that are important for the relevant organizations are translated inter-organizationally.

#### **3. Has your country provided a protective, collaborative, empowering environment for all its partners?**

Yes. In our country, many organizations became members of the National Committee of the Memory of the World and have close cooperation with each other.

#### **4. How does your country apply the best international standards and best practices?**

Some entities such as the National Committee of the Memory of the World organize expert workshops and inform the institutions and organizations of the different international standards and procedures. Many efforts are made to help the experts familiar with the relevant knowledge apply the standard practices of librarianship, spread of information, conservation and restoration.

**5. What is the consultative mechanism of government in relation to the shareholders of the documentary heritage (national and private institutions of the National Memory, expert associations and relevant NGOs)?**

8 organizations and institution and 7 natural persons who are scholars and experts in the field of documentary heritage have become members of the Memory of the World National Committee. These organizations and individuals cooperate with many expert associations and non-governmental organizations and institutions related to documentary heritage, and this process is a means of interaction and consultation.

**6. What steps does your country take to protect the Memory institutions in establishing policies and standards through research and the steps are in line (guidance) with international norms?**

In Memory of the World National Committee, many efforts are made to support the institutions of World Memory. In this committee, there are 4 working groups on education, restoration, preservation and monitoring that are working with the presence of specialists in each field. The four groups will develop the relevant guidelines to support the development of archives and inscribed works.

**7 - What kinds of capacity building measures and policies have been adopted in relation to this sector? Has any research and training been conducted for the experts of documentary heritage in your country? How often is this performed?**

- In this regard, the Secretariat of the National Committee of the Memory of the World held the regional meeting (Asia - Pacific ) of the directors of the National Committees of the Memory of the World in September 2017 to raise awareness regarding the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage, including digital heritage in Iran.
- Representatives of the Committee actively participated at the Regional Meeting of the Memory of the World Program (2017, MOCAP)
- Members of the Memory of the World National Committee , such as the National Library and Archives Organizations, University of Tehran, Foreign Ministry, Parliament, Documentary Heritage Research Center and other centers hold expert meetings and training courses to improve the knowledge of preservation of, and access to documentary Heritage.

- During the last year, Memory of the World National Committee held five workshops, focusing on the objectives of the Memory of the World program in different regions (provinces of Fars, Hamedan, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Sistan and Baluchestan). Experts from various organizations of the neighboring provinces participated at the said workshops. The committee is going to organize four training workshops outside the capital and two workshops in Tehran - the capital - in the next few months.

## **Terms and Conditions**

### **8. What are the laws of your country in relation to the following items?**

#### **▪ Definition of the authority, independence, and governance structure of national memory institutions?**

In our country, the national memory institutions - such as the libraries and archives collection, as well as Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, which keeps the audio-visual material of the national memory and Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization that keeps a large amounts of documentary heritage- carry out their duties according to the laws;. Each of the said organizations holds a unique place in sovereign system and has specific duties.

In 1910, according to the law, government was assigned with the duty to preserve national documents through building public libraries, scientific and historical collections, historical and scientific and industrial museums.

#### **▪ Ensure the capacity of memory institutions in implementing the activities related to the preservation and maintenance of documents in the collections unimpededly.**

In our country, much attention has been paid to the maintenance of and access to documentary heritage. A good example is Vaqfname-ye Rab'-e Rashidi (1300).

In 1940, according to the law adopted in Parliament, the government was obliged to provide a list of all the national documentary heritage for inscription and preservation.

All libraries and archives now also have their own rules and if needed, the organization can support their activities and provide the necessary facilities to improve the conditions. The works inscribed by Iran on the list of the Memory of the world are kept in the same centers.

#### **▪ Increasing and facilitating inclusive and maximum access by empowering Memory institutions**

In 2009, The Law of Information Release and Free Access was adopted in Parliament. In this regard, the centers working in the field of documentary heritage have tried to improve the conditions of access and provide faster service to users inside and outside of Iran through applying existing capacities and up-to-date service tools, such as specialized software. There are also some databases for libraries and institutions, and almost all the library resources have been catalogued or are in the process of cataloging.

▪ **Is there any support for the Memory institutions that provide access to resources not protected by copyright.**

Iran has been a member World Intellectual Property Organization since 2001. Accordingly, all institutions and centers of the National Committee of the World Memory of the World are attempting to protect intellectual property rights and prohibit the publication of sources whose copyright status is unclear until its status is clear.

• **Ensure the provision of legal documents in memory institutions**

Provision activities are within the framework of the laws and the related centers don't provide the resources that their legal status is unclear.

**9. Has the government's net budget for national memory institutions (in recent years) been increased or decreased? How much?**

With regard to inflation in our society, annual budget of the National Memory institutions has continuously increased, but this year, because of the sanctions on the country, the overall budget allocated to various institutions including memory institutions has significantly increased.

**10. What kind of long-term investments has been made in analog and digital documentation?**

In general, one of the most important preservation programmes of the organizations, libraries and the centers maintaining documentary heritage is digitization of documents and resources, such as books, articles and journals. Some of the centers have all of their works in digital form and some have not finished the process of digitization.

**11. What incentives have been considered by memory institutions for the development of open source software and access to proprietary codes?**

Many years ago, specific software for libraries and documentation centers was set up in almost all documentary heritage centers and it is currently used.

**12. Have all the memory institutions published the policies of development, access to and preservation of the collection? Are there any policies, mechanisms of collecting and selection criteria of documentary heritage in your country? What policies have been developed recently?**

For all the items of question 12, measures are being taken. (Actions will be explained soon).

**13. Which documentary film is in imminent danger (if any)? What steps have been taken? Have the relevant organs paid attention to it?**

It is under review.

**14. What are some methods to protect documentary heritage against danger?**

- Measures taken in this area initially focus on identifying documentary heritage at risk. After that, depending on the type and form of documentary heritage, required actions, such as preparing scans and digital images, restoration and pest-killing, are carried out.

**15. What practical support are provided for private, local and individual documentary heritage? Is it visible at national level?**

In this regard, at first, private collectors are identified and then they are invited to sell or donate their resources to competent authorities for preservation and protection. Also, public awareness efforts are made to inform the collectors about the need to protect and preserve their resources and to convince them to share their resources.

**16. What specific steps have been taken to improve compatibility with the best practice, coordination and sharing of resources in the memory institutions?**

So far, no specific action has been taken to improve compatibility and sharing of resources among memory institutions. However, the libraries are divided into two groups: one group includes about 3,500 libraries managed by the Public Libraries Foundation which has its own

methods of coordination and sharing. Another group of the large libraries of the country has a memorandum of understanding and share their resources.

**17. What educational projects have been developed so far?**

So far, several training workshops on different goals of the Memory of the World Program have been held for experts and specialists of documentary heritage in various parts of the country. (Educational projects will be explained).

**18. How national memory institutions interfere in expert associations and international networks?**

There is active cooperation among the national memory institutions, expert associations and international networks, but so far, there has been no interference.

**19. Are there any partnerships including public and private partnerships that allow sharing of the costs, facilities and services?**

Yes, in many cases, there are partnerships between the public and private institutions at different levels of access, preservation and restoration which lead to sharing of the costs, facilities and services.

**Memory of the World Programme**

**20. Do you have a National Committee of the Memory of the World in your country? If not, are there any plans for its establishment?**

The National Committee of the Memory of the World has been established since 2006 at the National Library and Archives Organizations of Iran.

**21. What works have been recently nominated (Internationally, regionally and Nationally) for registration on the Memory of the World?**

- International registration:
  - ✓ *Selection of the documents of the world leaders during the Qajar period* (19th century), from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - ✓ *One Thousand and One Nights: The Golestan Palace Museum's Version*
- Regional Registration :
  - ✓ *Mahbub ul-qulub*

- National Registration :
  - ✓ Radio collection of *Knowledge Boundaries* (managed by Mohit Tabataba'i )
  - ✓ *Persian-Gulf* Documentary (Director: Ard Attar-Pour)
  - ✓ *Hezar Dastan* TV serials (Director: Ali Hatami )
  - ✓ Documentary film on *Iranian Architecture* (directed by Hamid Soheili Mozaffar )
  - ✓ Collection of *Carpet Patterns*, Ressam Arabzadeh

**22. Do you have any memories of global activities in your country that increase access to documentary heritage? Please list examples.**