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Paris, le 1^{er} juin 2016

NOTE VERBALE

La Délégation permanente de La République Arabe Syrienne auprès de l'UNESCO présente ses compliments à l'UNESCO/Secrétariat de la Convention 2005 sur la Protection et la Promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles/Section Diversité des Expressions Culturelles/Madame Danielle Cliche/Chef de Section, et en référence aux courriers N° CLT/CRE/DCE/16/1245, en date du 23 février 2016 et CLT/CRE/DCE/15/L-8931 du 31 octobre 2015, a l'honneur de lui faire parvenir, ci-joint, **le rapport périodique quadriennal** du Ministère de la Culture/Direction des Relations culturelles en La République Arabe Syrienne, en anglais, concernant la mise en œuvre de la Convention de 2005 : « *The Ministry of Culture Activities in the framework of the 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Report* ».

La Délégation permanente de La République Arabe Syrienne auprès de l'UNESCO saisit cette occasion pour adresser à l'UNESCO/Secrétariat de la Convention 2005 sur la Protection et la Promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles/Section Diversité des Expressions Culturelles/Madame Danielle Cliche/Chef de Section, les assurances de sa haute considération.

**La Délégation permanente de La République
Arabe Syrienne auprès de l'UNESCO**



P.J. 1 Rapport en anglais

**Madame Danielle Cliche
Secrétaire, Convention 2005 sur la Protection et la Promotion
De la diversité des expressions culturelles
Chef de Section
Section Diversité des Expressions Culturelles
UNESCO**

Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Culture
Cultural Relationship Directorate
Ref: *201/SAR/C*
Date: *7/6/2016*

**The Ministry of Culture Activities
in the framework of the 2005 convention on Protection and
Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
Report**

1-Objectives and Guiding Principles:

In approach to article /1/ about the Objective

The Ministry of Culture worked on the objectives of the convention for protect and promote all forms of cultural expressions and created conditions for cultural expressions to flourish and to interact mutually and with the civil societies as well as promoted cultural communication in deferent kinds and encouraged dialogue between cultures .This activities manifested through cultural cooperation agreements with brotherly Arabs and friendly foreign countries and through holding cultural activities in various cultural sectors (Fine Art- Music- Theater- Cinema and book...).

2 - In the framework of article /2/ The Guiding Principles:

*** On the Principle of Respect for Human Rights:**

Principles of freedom of expression, freedom of information and communication Ministry of Culture holds activities as following

- International Day of Peace: The statement "Peace for Tadmor" was circulated to all governmental agencies.
- International day for Protecting the diversity of the cultural expressions .Conference was held in this occasion in collaboration with all governmental and nongovernmental agencies and with the concerned local community. The Conference was accompanied with the concerned local community's activities.

About the ability to choose cultural expressions:

- Working with (Ayn Al-Funon) House to protect creative arts.



- (Nubooa) play
- (Silk Road) International concert represents all the countries that was going the Silk Road through.
- St. Ephrem activity.
- (Sipho) activity, reminiscent of massacres suffered by Syriac.

*** On the Principle of sovereignty:**

- Seeking for form national committee for Syrian Cultural Heritage.
- Workshop entitled " Towards drafting the Law of Intangible Cultural Heritage".

*** On the Principle of equal dignity of and respect for all cultures:**

- Inventory the Syrian Intangible elements through the same community in all regions of Syria.

*** On the Principle of international solidarity and cooperation:**

- To establish and promote the means of expressions of countries including ingrained and emerged cultural industries locally, nationally and internationally: Training course were held about protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage on 2003 convention in the period 2-9/2/2015 at the aim of training on the convention and inventories in collaboration with UNESCO regional office in Beirut.

*** On the Principle of the complementarity of economic and cultural aspects of development: Culture is an essential engine to develop individuals and peoples and they have the right to participate in it through:**

- Supporting Syrian program for crafts.
- Participation in developing scientific content for exploratory adventure, Exploration Center (Wardat Massar).
- Sphinx Project for children which promote the belonging to the Syrian Identity.



***On the Principle of Sustainable Development:**

The protection, promotion and maintenance of cultural diversity are an essential requirement for sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations:

- version book " Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage".
- working on Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage website.
- (Ayn Al-Beda) festival for heritage.
- Syrian Icon formulation project.

*** On the principle of Equitable Access:** The community initiatives have been embraced and supported financially and logistically with all parties through the Forum of Cultural Associations.

*** On the principle of Openness and Balance:**

Openness to other cultures through:

- Training on 2003 convention for protection the Cultural Heritage.
- Working on nomination Damascus city on the creative countries network 2017.

3- Definitions:

- In the framework of article /4/ (Definitions):

* About the definition of cultural diversity and its expression, Ministry of Culture holds activities as following:

- Performances represent the diverse components of Syrian Society(Arabic- Assyrian - Kurdish - Syriac - Armenian- Islamic-Christian).
- Publishing books that promote human values.

* About the definition of cultural expressions :cultural expressions are those result from the creativity of individuals, groups and societies. Ministry of culture revives the anniversary of the creative people who gave their creativities to humanity in the field of art through national celebrations as centenary anniversary of the birth of the musician Farid al-Atrash and the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the musician sami Al- Ashowa, this activities have been



included in the activities of UNESCO 2015(anniversary celebrations 2015).

* About Protection: many measures aimed at the preservation and enhancement of diversity of cultural expressions were adopted through safeguarding the Syrian Popular Folklore as following:

- First, second and third Days of Syrian Heritage about handicrafts and artistic exhibitions inspired by Syrian heritage and folk costume of various spectrums of the Syrian society.
- Nominate Damascus city as a creative city in the field of traditional crafts and folkloric arts through creative cities UNESCO network.

4- Rights and Obligations of Parties:

In the framework of article /7/ paragraph /a/ paying due attention to the special circumstances and needs of women as well as various social groups. Ministry of Culture is seeking to highlight and promote the role of women in all fields and holds activities as following:

- 1- Seminar on the role of the woman during the crisis and in cases of emergency.
- 2- organizing dialogic awareness sessions for mothers and women in general and training them on the daily life, social, professional and artistic skills.
- 3- literacy courses in the field of social cohesion involved the creative community events especially women because of her active role in enhancing the social conditions.

In the framework of item /1/ about protect cultural expressions from extinction under serious threat or otherwise in need of urgent safeguarding. Ministry of Culture protecting cultural expression as the following:

- Reviving some Musical Instrument which are in the process of extinction as (Tambour - Buzoq).
- Reviving some old handicrafts which are in the process of extinction, renewing and teaching it to the new generation to ensure passing it to the future generation and that is through the



auspicious of the Ministry to the hives project to rotatc used fabrics and reviving traditional crafts like making Toys arid old Rugs.
- Protecting and reviving the Intangible Cultural Heritage components in Syria (Folk Tale – Shadow Toys: Karakoz and Ewaz).

5- In the framework of article /6/: Rights of Partics at the National Level paragraph /2 / item /g/ about the measures aimed at nurturing and supporting artists and other involved in the creation of cultural expressions the Ministry of Culture held activities as the following:

- Buzoq Forum at Opera House.
- Sculpture Forum at Al-Sheekh Bader.
- In the framework of national interesting of Intellectual property Rights. The national legislation included the regulations procedures that protect the intellectual property(Artistic, Theatrical , musical and literary texts) and the translated manuscripts. Preserving Intellectual Property Rights has been taken into consideration , protecting it from plagiarism as well as obtaining the acceptance of the original author and the right of the translator at translating the manuscripts according to the governing laws.

6- In the framework of article /10/Education and Public Awareness: item /a/ encourage and promote understanding of the importance of the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions through educational and awarencss programs. Ministry of culture holds activities as following:

- 1- Heritage Cultural Festivals are held in collaboration with Culture Managements in the Provinces.
- 2- Monthly educational seminars about the component of the Popular Heritage.
- 3- Educational sessions level (1-2) and digital literacy courses in coordination and cooperation with NGOs and institutions of the civil society.
- 4- Books and Magazines are produced by the Syrian General Authority for Book, dealing with educating the public, have become acccssible to everyone (Children- Juvenile - Young-



Intellectuals) at discounted prices in order to facilitate handling and utilization.

- note: we shall provide comprehensive study about importance and feasibility of establishing institute to teach traditional crafts by senior teachers in order to train young people, define them with its importance and to preserve and ensure its sustainability.

Item /b/ cooperation with other Parties –International Organizations in achieving the purpose of this article:

Cooperation with UNICEF to sustain life skills program and to provide psychological assistance for children and juveniles through " Namaa" program and juveniles participation.

7-In the framework of article /11/ Participation of Civil Society, Ministry of Culture holds activities as following:

- 1-The first (Zagal) Festival in collaboration with the crafts men Union, (Zagal) Poets Association and with civil associations interested in Musical and Sing Heritage.
- 2- World Day of Music Festival in collaboration with Syrian Cultural Association for Cultural Development and (Initiative of Sons of Syria The Mother) Association.
- 3-Youth Encouraging Festival to produce short films with the General Organization of Cinema.
- 4- Training the children within shelters on handcrafts and painting in cooperation with volunteers from local NGOs.
- 5- Due to the importance of book. Syrian General Authority for Book publishes versions of books, distributes it through Syrian Publishing Houses and Union of the Syrian Publishers and holds many internal exhibitions in the cultural centers and in universities for free and for promotional prices.
- 6- Art Exhibitions with collaboration of Union of Fine Artists and private exhibitions in the fields (carving- drawing – graphic- photography)
- 7-Holding forums for sculpture with individuals and artistic civic associations.

