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

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

**Tenth session**

**Windhoek, Namibia**

**30 November to 4 December 2015**

**Item 14.c of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Draft amendments to the Operational Directives
on the schedule of non-governmental organizations accreditation**

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| **Summary**At its ninth session, the Committee decided that it would henceforth examine requests for accreditation from non-governmental organizations at its ordinary sessions in odd-numbered years. It further invited the Secretariat to submit draft amendments to the Operational Directives to reflect this schedule (Decision 9.COM 14). This document proposes amendments to the Operational Directives to that effect. **Decision required:** paragraph 4 |

1. The Operational Directives lay out in Chapter III.2.2 (paragraphs 91-99) the criteria and procedures for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (‘NGOs’) to provide advisory services to the Committee, as provided in Article 9 of the Convention. Paragraph 98 provides that requests for accreditation ‘shall be received by the Secretariat at least four months before an ordinary session of the Committee’. The Committee’s recommendations are submitted to the General Assembly, which meets in June of even-numbered years, and the Assembly then decides whether to accredit NGOs recommended to it.
2. In 2014, the Secretariat was unable to complete the treatment of 31 requests for accreditation submitted before 28 July, 2014 and was not in a position to present its recommendations to the ninth session of the Committee. Those requests are to be examined at the present session (Document ITH/15/10.COM 15), together with the requests for accreditation received in 2015.
3. Taking note of the ever-increasing agenda of the Committee and of the necessity to prioritize the workload of the Secretariat of the Convention to align it with available resources, the Committee decided that it shall henceforth examine requests for accreditation from NGOs at its ordinary sessions in odd-numbered years, and recommended that the General Assembly amend the Operational Directives to reflect this schedule of biennial examination (Decision 9.COM 14). It further invited the Secretariat to submit draft Operational Directives to that effect for its examination at its tenth session. The Annex to the present document presents such amendments.
4. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 10.COM 14.c

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/15/10.COM/14.c,
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention and Chapter III.2.2 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling Decision 9.COM 14,
4. Recommends to the General Assembly to approve the amendments to paragraph 98 of the Operational Directives, as annexed to this decision.

**ANNEX**

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|  | **Current text of the Operational Directives** |  | **Proposed amendments** |
| **III** | **Participation in the implementation of the Convention** | **III** | No change. |
| **III.2** | **Non-governmental organizations and the Convention** | **III.2** | No change. |
| III.2.2 | Participation of accredited non-governmental organizations | III.2.2 | No change. |
| 98. | Requests for accreditation shall be prepared by using the Form ICH-09 (available at **www.unesco.org/culture/ich** or on request from the Secretariat) and shall include all the information requested and only that information. Requests shall be received by the Secretariat at least four months before an ordinary session of the Committee. | 98. | Requests for accreditation shall be prepared by using the Form ICH-09 (available at **www.unesco.org/culture/ich** or on request from the Secretariat) and shall include all the information requested and only that information. Requests shall be received by the Secretariat ~~at least four months before an ordinary session of the Committee~~ **by 30 April** **of odd-numbered years for examination by the Committee at its ordinary session in that same year** |