



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergencies (UNESCO Headquarters, 21-22 May 2019)

Session 1 : UNESCO Frameworks



- **Strategy for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in Emergency Situations** (adopted in 2015 by the General Conference of UNESCO);
- Addendum to 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 concerning **emergencies associated with disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards** (adopted in 2017 by the General Conference of UNESCO);
- Relevant **provisions of the 2003 Convention** and of its **Operational Directives**;
- The **Ethical Principles** for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

- ❑ Adopted unanimously by the 195 Member States of UNESCO
- ❑ Provides the framework of action for the protection and safeguarding of culture in emergencies, including intangible cultural heritage
- ❑ Calls for cooperation and collaboration across the fields of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and a variety of sectors intervening in emergencies

- ❖ Article 11 of the 2003 Convention: States Parties have the obligation to take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage **present in their territory**, including in situation of emergency.
- ❖ Article 15: States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible **participation of communities**.
- ❖ Article 22.2 and para 50 of the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention: **definition of emergency to request emergency International Assistance**: *‘when a State Party cannot overcome on its own an insurmountable circumstance due to a calamity, a natural or environmental disaster, an armed conflict, a serious epidemic or any other natural or human event which has catastrophic consequences for the intangible cultural heritage as well as communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are the bearers of this heritage’.*

- ❖ Article 17.3 and para 32 of the Operational Directives: **expedit process for inscription in case of extreme urgency** : *‘in case of extreme urgency, and in conformity with Criterion U.6, the Bureau of the Committee may invite the State(s) Party(ies) concerned to submit a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding on an accelerated schedule. [...] Cases of extreme urgency may be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the Committee by the State(s) Party(ies) on whose territory(ies) the element is located, by any other State Party, by the community concerned, or by an advisory organization. [...]’*. **Not yet been used.**
- ❖ Chapter VI of the Operational Directives adopted in 2015: safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, which including in the context of natural disasters and climate change (Chapter VI.3 on **environmental sustainability**) and in conflict-related situations (Chapter VI.4 on **peace security**)

- ❑ Adopted in 2015
- ❑ Fifth point of the principles: ‘access of communities, groups and individuals to the instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural and natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage should be ensured, **including in situations of armed conflict.** [...]’

Thank you

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