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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Eighth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**8 – 10 September 2020**

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| **Resolutions** |

RESOLUTION 8.GA 2

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-2-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure,
3. Elects H.E. Mr Amara Camara (Guinea) as Chairperson of the General Assembly;
4. Elects Mr Wael Abdel Wahab (Egypt) as Rapporteur of the General Assembly;
5. Elects the Netherlands, Armenia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Palestine as Vice-Chairpersons of the General Assembly.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 3

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/3 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-3_Rev.-EN.docx),
2. Adopts the agenda of its eighth session (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 8 to 10 September 2020) as follows:

**Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Distribution of seats in the Committee per electoral group
5. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
6. Report of the Secretariat on its activities (January 2018 to December 2019)
7. Use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
8. Contribution to the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5)
9. Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies
10. Revision of the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention
11. Update on the reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention
12. Update on the reflection on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention
13. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee
14. Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
15. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of UNESCO
16. Other business
17. Closure

RESOLUTION 8.GA 4

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-4-EN.docx),

2. Recalling Article 6 of the Convention,

3. Further recalling Rule 13 of its Rules of Procedure, as well as [Resolution 3.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/r%C3%A9solutions/3.GA/12?dec=resolutions&ref_decision=3.GA),

4. Decides that for the purpose of the election at its eighth session, the 24 seats of the Committee shall be distributed among electoral groups as follows: Group I, three seats; Group II, three seats; Group III, four seats; Group IV, five seats; Group V(a), six seats; Group V(b), three seats.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 5

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-5-EN.docx) and its Annex,
2. Recalling Article 30 of the Convention,
3. Welcomes Kiribati, Singapore and Solomon Islands, which ratified the Convention during the reporting period and expresses satisfaction with the high rate of ratification across the regions;
4. Takes note of the report by the Committee to the General Assembly on its activities between January 2018 and December 2019, as annexed to this document, and thanks the Committee for its productive work;
5. Commends the Committee for the progress made in improving the governance of the Convention, notably through the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism that a) aims to improve the low submission rate of reports, b) has been aligned to the overall results framework and c) will follow a regional cycle of reporting, and as such expresses its hope that the reformed mechanism will serve as a useful tool for monitoring the achievements and impacts of the Convention at various levels in all regions;
6. Further commends the Committee for the continued importance it places on capacity building for the implementation of the Convention through the global capacity-building programme, and notes with satisfaction the initiatives related to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education;
7. Emphasizes the significant role that intangible cultural heritage safeguarding can play in supporting peace building and cooperation, notably concerning the decision of the Committee on the joint inscription of an element ([Decision 13.COM 10.b.41](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10.b.41));
8. Stresses the importance of the reflection launched by the Committee on the nature and purposes of the listing mechanisms under the Convention, including the follow-up on inscribed elements as part of this broader reflection and welcomes initial steps taken to improve the inscription process through the upstream dialogue process;
9. Acknowledges the unanimous decision of the Committee to remove an element from one of the Lists of the Convention in keeping with the founding principles of UNESCO and the principles of the Convention of dignity, equality and mutual respect among peoples ([Decision 14.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/12));
10. Appreciates the reflection that the Committee has undertaken on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies as well as another on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention;
11. Requests that the Director-General bring this report to the attention of the General Conference of UNESCO, in conformity with Article 30, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 6

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-6+Add.-EN.docx),
2. Commends the Secretariat for the continued and timely support provided for the sound governance of the Convention through the efficient organization of statutory meetings and management of its various mechanisms and notes with satisfaction the initial roll-out of the periodic reporting reform;
3. Further commends the Secretariat for supporting the first steps on the reflection on the listing mechanisms through the follow-up of inscribed elements, and the implementation of the upstream dialogue process;
4. Appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to better operationalize the International Assistance mechanism, which resulted in an improved expenditure of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
5. Expresses satisfaction with the global capacity-building programme, noting the important role of key partners such as category 2 centres in the sustainability of the programme and welcomes strong progress made on the intersectoral work on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education;
6. Takes note of the progress made in selected thematic areas such as on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies as well as on intangible cultural heritage and urban contexts, and encourages the Secretariat to continue to develop other thematic initiatives;
7. Further appreciates the targeted communications and outreach initiatives, which increased the visibility of and awareness about the Convention, and innovative online projects, notably ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’, that engaged new audiences with intangible cultural heritage;
8. Welcomes the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the survey and dedicated web platform as well as the online capacity building on periodic reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this regard and communicate widely on the survey results;
9. Requests the Secretariat to report on its activities for the period between January 2020 and December 2021 for examination by the General Assembly at its ninth session.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 6 Add.

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/6 Add.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-6+Add.-EN.docx),
2. Takes note of the adjustments made by the Secretariat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciates the promptness and usefulness of this response despite numerous challenges;
3. Acknowledges that the observations made through the survey and dedicated web platform, as well as the other actions undertaken by the Secretariat, offer a pertinent example of the relevance of the Convention in the face of global challenges, and demonstrate that living heritage has the capacity to respond and adapt to such challenges;
4. Encourages the Secretariat to apply the lessons learned from this response, including those related to capacity building, in its future activities to support the work of the governing bodies of the Convention and national safeguarding efforts.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 7

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined documents [LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx) with its Annexes and [LHE/20/8.GA/INF.7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-INF.7-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Article 7(c) of the Convention and paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling 200 EX/Decision 19 and 201 EX/Decision 24, as well as the Appropriation Resolution for 2020–2021 adopted by the General Conference at its fortieth session,

**Status and trends of the Fund**

1. Welcomes the recent positive trends in the implementation of the Fund, commends the Secretariat for its efforts to intensify the operationalization of the International Assistance mechanisms, takes note that a dedicated team has been established with three new extra-budgetary fixed-term posts and looks forward to observing the improved monitoring of the impact of projects supported by the Fund;
2. Takes note of the measures taken by the Secretariat, with no impact to the overall biennial Plan, to ensure the continuity of its activities following the postponement of the eighth session of the General Assembly;
3. Further takes note of the donors that have provided voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund since its last session, namely the People’s Republic of China, Finland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as the in-kind support from the People’s Republic of China, Japan and Singapore;
4. Thanks all the contributors that have supported the Convention and its Secretariat, since its last session, through different forms of support, financial or in-kind, such as voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, Funds-in-Trust, or loaned personnel, and encourages other States to consider the possibility of supporting the Convention through the modality of their choice;

**Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund**

1. Approves the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 as well as for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022 in the Annex I to this Resolution;
2. Understands that, at the time of its ninth session in 2022, it may readjust the budget plan from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022; if the General Assembly is unable to meet prior to 30 June 2022, the Secretariat is authorized to continue operations until such a time that the General Assembly is able to meet;
3. Also takes note of the authorization granted by the Committee to the Secretariat, when utilizing the funds allocated under budget line 3 of the Plan, to make transfers between activities included under budget line 3 up to a cumulative amount equivalent to 5 per cent of the initial total allocation proposed to the General Assembly for this purpose;
4. Authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any voluntary supplementary contributions that might be received during these periods, as described in Article 27 of the Convention, in accordance with the percentages laid out in the Plan;
5. Further authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any contributions that it might accept, during these periods, for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee prior to the receipt of the funds, as described in Article 25.5 of the Convention;
6. Also authorizes the Secretariat to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, up to an equivalent of 30 per cent of their initial total allocation, and requests that the Secretariat inform the Committee and the General Assembly in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers;

**Sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat**

1. Underlines the need to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat on a lasting basis in order that it may better respond to the wishes and needs of States Parties, recognizes that funds in the amount of approximately US$950,000 per year are needed for this purpose and invites States Parties to provide voluntary supplementary contributions to the sub-fund in the corresponding amount per year;

**Management Cost Rate**

1. Endorses the continued application of a Management Cost rate of 0 per cent for all assessed contributions to the special account of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and apply a Management Cost rate of 7 per cent for all other contributions;

**Financial Regulations**

1. Further approves the revisions to the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as described in Annex II of the present Resolution in order to align them with UNESCO’s Standard Financial Regulations.

ANNEX I

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| **Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund** | | |  |  |
| For the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, as well as for the period 1 January to 30 June 2022, the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund may be used for the following purposes: | | % of the total amount proposed 2020–2021[[1]](#footnote-1) | Indicative amounts 2020–2021 | | Indicative amounts Jan–June 2022 |
| 1. | International Assistance, comprising the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the preparation of inventories and support for other safeguarding programmes, projects and activities; | 51.96% | $4,073,861 | | $1,018,465 |
| 1.1 | Enhancing human resources to improve the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms through three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (one P3, one P2 and one G5); | 10.79% | $845,977 | | $211,494 |
| 2. | Preparatory assistance for International Assistance requests, as well as for nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List and for proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices; | 2.00% | $156,808 | | $39,202 |
| 3. | Other functions of the Committee, as described in Article 7 of the Convention, aimed at promoting the objectives of the Convention and encouraging and monitoring its implementation, in particular by strengthening capacities to effectively safeguard intangible cultural heritage, raising awareness of the importance of such heritage, providing guidance on good safeguarding practices and updating and publishing the Lists and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices: | 20.00% | $1,568,076 | | $392,019 |
|  | ***ER 1:*** *Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services;* | *5.4%*  *(27% of line 3)* | *$423,380* | | *$105,845* |
|  | ***ER 2:*** *Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme;* | *6.6%*  *(33% of line 3)* | *$517,465* | | *$129,366* |
|  | ***ER 3:*** *Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported;* | *2.6%*  *(13% of line 3)* | *$203,850* | | *$50,962* |
|  | ***ER 4:*** *Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach;* | *5.4%*  *(27% of line 3)* | *$423,381* | | *$105,846* |
| 4. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and subsidiary bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Members of the Committee; | 2.63% | $206,202 | | $51,550 |
| 5. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee and its consultative bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Parties to the Convention but not Members of the Committee; | 3.31% | $259,516 | | $64,879 |
| 6. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and consultative bodies of public or private bodies, private persons, notably members of communities and groups, that have been invited by the Committee to advise it on specific matters, as well as experts in intangible cultural heritage representing accredited NGOs from developing countries; | 3.31% | $259,516 | | $64,879 |
| 7. | The costs of advisory services to be provided at the request of the Committee, including support to developing States whose representatives have been appointed to the Evaluation Body. | 6.00% | $470,423 | | $117,606 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100.00%** | **$7,840,379** | | **$1,960,095** |
| Funds that have not been committed at the end of the period of this Plan are carried over to the next financial period and shall be allocated in accordance with the Plan approved by the General Assembly at that time. | | | | | |
| For the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022, one-fourth of the amount established for the twenty-four months of the financial period 2020–2021 shall be allocated on a provisional basis, except for the Reserve Fund, whose amount was set by the Committee at US$1 million (Decision 10.COM 8). | | | | | |

**ANNEX II**

**Revised Financial Regulations of the Special Account for**

**the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in line with the Model Financial Regulations for Special Account related to Conventions endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board**

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| **Article 1** | **Creation of a Special Account** |
| 1.1 | Article 25 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Convention’) establishes a Fund called the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Fund’). |
| 1.2 | In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention and Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Special Account’). |
| 1.3 | The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account. |
| **Article 2** | **Financial period** |
| 2.1 | The financial period for budget estimates shall be two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even-numbered year. |
| 2.2 | The financial period for accounting shall be an annual calendar year. |
| **Article 3** | **Purpose** |
|  | In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, the purpose of this Special Account shall be to receive contributions from the sources indicated in Article 5.1 below and to make payments therefrom, to assist in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the terms of the Convention and the present Regulations. |
| **Article 4** | **Governance** |
| 4.1 | The General Assembly of the States Parties (hereinafter referred to as the ‘General Assembly’) has authority over the appropriation of the resources under this Special Account. |
| 4.2 | In accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Committee’) shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund, in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention. |
| 4.3 | The Director-General shall manage and administer the funds of the Special Account in accordance with the text of the Convention, the Operational Directives, the decisions approved by the General Assembly and the Committee, and the present Financial Regulations. |
| 4.4 | The Director-General shall, every two years, submit to the General Assembly and the Committee narrative and financial reports as indicated under Article 10 below. |
| **Article 5** | **Income** |
| 5.1 | In accordance with Article 25.3 of the Convention, the income of the Special Account shall consist of:   1. contributions made by States Parties; 2. funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO; 3. contributions, gifts or bequests, which may be made by: 4. other States; 5. organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other international organizations; 6. public or private bodies or individuals; 7. any interest due on the resources of the Special Account; 8. funds raised through collections, and receipts from events organized for the benefit of the Special Account; 9. any other resources authorized by the Committee. |
| 5.2 | As stipulated in Article 26.1 of the Convention, the contributions of States Parties which have not made the declaration referred to in Article 26.2 of the Convention shall be made according to the uniform percentage determined by the General Assembly. |
| **Article 6** | **Expenditure** |
| 6.1 | The use of the resources of the Special Account shall be approved by the General Assembly on a biennial basis. |
| 6.2 | The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it and management costs applicable. |
| 6.3 | Expenditure shall be made within the limits of funds available. |
| **Article 7** | **Reserve Fund** |
|  | Within the Special Account there shall be established a reserve fund to meet requests for assistance in cases of extreme urgency, as foreseen in Article 17.3 and 22.2 of the Convention. The amount of the reserve shall be determined by the Committee. |
| **Article 8** | **Accounts** |
| 8.1 | Subsidiary Accounts may be established by the General Assembly and the Committee. |
| 8.2 | The Chief Financial Officer of UNESCO shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary. |
| 8.3 | Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period. |
| 8.4 | The accounts of the Special Account shall be part of the consolidated financial statements presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO. |
| 8.5 | Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account. |
| **Article 9** | **Investments** |
| 9.1 | The Director-General may make short-term or long-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account. |
| 9.2 | Revenue from these investments shall be credited to the Special Account in line with UNESCO’s Financial Rules. |
| **Article 10** | **Reporting** |
| 10.1 | A biennial financial report showing the income and expenditure under the Special Account shall be prepared and submitted to the Committee and the General Assembly. |
| 10.2 | A biennial narrative report shall be submitted to the Committee and the General Assembly. |
| **Article 11** | **Closure of the Special Account** |
| 11.1 | The Director-General shall consult the General Assembly at such time as he/she deems that the operation of the Special Account is no longer necessary. Such consultation shall cover the decision on the use of any unspent balance. |
| 11.2 | The decision of the General Assembly shall be transmitted to the Executive Board prior to the effective closure of the Special Account. |
| **Article 12** | **General provisions** |
| 12.1 | Any amendment to these Financial Regulations shall be approved by the General Assembly. The Executive Board shall be informed accordingly of any such amendments. |
| 12.2 | Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO. |

RESOLUTION 8.GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-8-EN.docx),
2. Recalling the [39 C/Resolution 87](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260889) of UNESCO’s General Conference (2017), which invites the Executive Board, the Director-General, and the governing bodies of UNESCO to implement the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance, in particular Recommendation 74, as well as [Decision 14.COM 19](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/19),
3. Thanks the States Parties that have participated in the electronic consultation for the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029 (41 C/4) and draft Programme and Budget 2022–2025 (41 C/5) and appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat for rolling out the consultation in a timely manner and for conducting the analysis of the results;
4. Takes note of the outcomes of the consultation and welcomes the strategic views, programmatic orientations and concrete recommendations gained through this analysis, which could guide the future work of the 2003 Convention;
5. Stresses the importance of further strengthening linkages, collaboration and synergies with other UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture, in particular in the area of capacity building and awareness raising;
6. Invites the Secretariat of UNESCO to consider the possibility of convening a brainstorming meeting, either in presentia or online, with national focal points of all UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture, if extrabudgetary funding is available;
7. Requests the Secretariat to report back on the implementation of this Resolution to the next session of the General Assembly.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 9

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-9-EN.docx) 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 [38 C/Resolution 48](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243325) and [39 C/Resolution 35](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260889) 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), and all relevant rules of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, both as treaty and customary law,
3. Expresses its concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is adversely affecting the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage worldwide;
4. Further expresses its solidarity and full support to individuals, groups and communities during the COVID-19 crisis and 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. Also expresses its solidarity with Lebanon and its people, following the tragic explosions in Beirut, August 2020, recognizing the vibrant cultural life of the city and encourages all efforts to support the recovery process in the sense of the operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies;
6. 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, including the effects of climate change;
7. Appreciates the in-depth reflection carried out by the Committee on the role of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, as well as the accompanying work undertaken by the Secretariat to collect case studies, conduct pilot activities and develop a capacity-building approach for building a suitable methodological framework on the topic;
8. Thanks the People’s Republic of China for their generous contribution to the expert meeting on intangible cultural heritage and emergencies held at UNESCO Headquarters in May 2019;
9. Approves the operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, as annexed to this Resolution;
10. 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 and to implement a range of practical projects, which will contribute to the ongoing safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, including in the context of the COVID-19 response and recovery;
11. Requests that the Secretariat continue its efforts in monitoring the effects of COVID-19 on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and collect lessons learned focused on how to best operationalize the principles and modalities in times of pandemics, and report to the Committee and the ninth session of the General Assembly;
12. Further requests that the Secretariat continue its efforts to develop a capacity-building approach to operationalize the principles and modalities and build awareness of their importance among relevant stakeholders, as well as to explore linkages and cooperation with other Conventions and programmes in the field of culture, along with UN organizations and international bodies in related areas;
13. Also requests the Secretariat to bring the operational principles and modalities to the attention of other intergovernmental bodies charged with the implementation of these Conventions, in particular the bodies of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols;
14. Further encourages States Parties 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)[[2]](#footnote-2) 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),[[3]](#footnote-3) 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[[4]](#footnote-4) 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 risk reduction and 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 risk reduction and emergency preparedness.
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).

RESOLUTION 8.GA 10

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-10-EN.docx) and its Annex,
2. Acknowledges the positive experience that the ‘provisional upstream dialogue’ process of the 2019 cycle brought to the evaluation and inscription process and endorses the proposal to include an additional intermediary dialogue process in the nomination cycle;
3. Approves the amendments to the Operational Directives as annexed to this Resolution.

**ANNEX**

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| 55. | Phase 2: | Evaluation |
|  | December Year 1 to May Year 2 | Individual evaluation of the files by the Evaluation Body members. |
|  | June Year 2 | Meeting at which the Evaluation Body collectively finalizes its evaluation of the files and decides which files will be included in the dialogue process. Only the evaluation of those files included in the dialogue process will still be pending until the final meeting of the Evaluation Body.  The dialogue process is initiated when the Evaluation Body considers that a short question and answer process with the submitting State(s), conducted in writing through the Secretariat, could influence the result of its evaluation. |
|  | Two weeks after the June meeting  Year 2 | Deadline by which the Evaluation Body shall transmit, through the Secretariat, its questions to the States Parties concerned by the dialogue process, in one of the two working languages of the Convention. |
|  |  | States Parties shall respond to the requests of the Evaluation Body, through the Secretariat, within four weeks following the receipt of the letter, in the two working languages of the Convention. |
|  | Latest by September Year 2 | Meeting at which the Evaluation Body finalizes its evaluation of the files concerned by the dialogue process and its report on the evaluation of all files. |
|  | Four weeks prior to the session of the Committee | The Secretariat transmits the evaluation reports to the members of the Committee and makes them available online for consultation. |

RESOLUTION 8.GA 11

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-11-EN.docx) with its Annex, as well as document [LHE/19/14.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-14-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Decisions [13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6), [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10) and [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14),
3. Reaffirms the need for a global reflection on the listing and follow-up mechanisms of the 2003 Convention;
4. Further reaffirms the need for further increasing efforts in order to reach geographically more representative, balanced and culturally diversified lists;
5. Renews its gratitude to the Government of Japan for its contribution to support the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention;
6. Takes note of the alternative modality for conducting the category VI preliminary experts’ meeting and the intention to update the fifteenth session of the Committee on these changes;
7. Further takes note of [Decision 13.COM.15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/15) of the Committee to determine the number of files that can be treated in the course of the 2020 and 2021 cycles by 50 files per cycle and welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to increase this number to 60 for the 2021 cycle;
8. Recommends to the Committee, in line with the reflection process on the listing mechanisms, to consider the possibility of increasing this number to include all files submitted by States Parties for the 2022-2023 cycles;
9. Also takes note of the revised provisional timeline for the reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, as contained in the Annex to this Resolution, including the open-ended intergovernmental working group scheduled for June 2021;
10. Requests the Secretariat to take full advantage of online consultations enabling more experts to participate in order to collect as widely as possible comments and suggestions;
11. Recalls paragraph 11 of [Decision 14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14) which emphasizes that a revision of the Operational Directives is necessary in order to establish clear and specific procedures and criteria for the removal of an element from a list and the transfer of an element from one list to another;
12. Further requests that the Secretariat report to the sixteenth session of the Committee on the progress achieved in the reflection process, in particular on the results of the aforementioned working group.

**ANNEX**

**Timeline for the reflection on listing mechanisms under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

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| November 2020 | Launch of the online survey |
| **14 to 19 December 2020** | **Fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee** |
| January 2021 | Deadline for experts to complete the survey |
| February 2021 | First online plenary meeting of experts and creation of breakout groups |
| February/March 2021 | Analysis of the survey results through online breakout group meetings |
| March 2021 | Second online plenary meeting of experts (Day 1): Presentations of recommendations by breakout groups |
| March 2021 | Second online plenary meeting of experts (Day 2): Harmonization of recommendations and conclusions |
| May 2021 | Online publication of the working documents for the open-ended intergovernmental working group |
| June 2021 | Meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental working group |
| **November/December 2021** | **Sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee** |

RESOLUTION 8.GA 12

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-12-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention and chapter III.2 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling Decisions [12.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/13), [12.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/17), [13.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/13), [13.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/16), [14.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/15), and [14.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/16), as well as Resolutions [7.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/6) and [7.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/11),
4. Commends the Secretariat, accredited non-governmental organizations, the ICH NGO Forum, the informal ad hoc open-ended working group and States Parties for carrying out the reflection on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention;
5. Acknowledges the important role and untapped potential of accredited non-governmental organizations and the ICH NGO Forum in providing support for the implementation of the Convention;
6. Welcomes the specific item ‘Report of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum’ to be inscribed, on an experimental basis, on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Committee;
7. Takes note of the outcomes of the reflection process and requests that the Secretariat implement, as appropriate, the relevant decisions of the Committee in consultation and collaboration with the ICH NGO Forum.

RESOLUTION 8.GA 13

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-13-EN.docx) and its Annex,
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91–99 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling [Decision 14.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/14.COM/17?dec=decisions&ref_decision=14.COM),
4. Accredits the thirty-six NGOs listed in the Annex to this Resolution to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee;
5. Encourages NGOs from under-represented Electoral Groups that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for accreditation at the earliest opportunity so as to improve the geographical distribution of accredited NGOs and invites States Parties from those Electoral Groups to ensure broad dissemination of this call among NGOs operating within their territories;
6. Invites States Parties to reflect on the question of accreditation of NGOs from States non party with view of a discussion on this matter at its next session;
7. Further invites the NGOs accredited in 2012 and 2016 to submit to the Secretariat their quadrennial report for the deadline of 15 February 2021 so that the Committee can review at its sixteenth session the contribution and commitment of each advisory organization.

**ANNEX**

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| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| ABAIM | Mauritius | [NGO-90443](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45486.pdf) |
| Association Culturelle Passate | Burkina Faso | [NGO-90450](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45490-FR.pdf) |
| Association House of Batana | Croatia | [NGO-90457](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45491-EN.pdf) |
| Association Mamelomaso (MM) | Madagascar | [NGO-90419](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42674-FR.pdf) |
| Association Recherche Histoire et Patrimoine de l’Oriental Marocain (ARHPOM) | Morocco | [NGO-90470](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45495.pdf) |
| Bavarian association for cultural heritage | Germany | [NGO-90438](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45499.pdf) |
| Bonairean Historical Cultural Foundation FUHIKUBO | Netherlands  (Bonaire) | [NGO-90466](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45510.pdf) |
| Carrefour mondial de l’accordéon | Canada | [NGO-90439](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45512-FR.pdf) |
| Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, Osogbo | Nigeria | [NGO-90423](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45513-EN.pdf) |
| Crafts of Chile Foundation | Chile | [NGO-90458](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45514.pdf) |
| Cultural and Community Organization NAKS | Suriname | [NGO-90444](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45515-EN.pdf) |
| Culture – Développement (CUL.DEV) | Togo | [NGO-90454](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45516-FR.pdf) |
| Development Centre ‘Democracy through culture’ | Ukraine | [NGO-90421](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42681.pdf) |
| Ethnographic Centre of the Campane Islands | Italy | [NGO-90462](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45518.pdf) |
| Finnish Crafts Organization Taito | Finland | [NGO-90436](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45519.pdf) |
| Foundation Museum Tula | Curaçao | [NGO-90460](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45520.pdf) |
| ‘Hazarashen’ Armenian Centre for Ethnological Studies | Armenia | [NGO-90431](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/43083.pdf) |
| Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance Inc. | Canada | [NGO-90437](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45521-EN.pdf) |
| Institut Tshakapesh | Canada | [NGO-90474](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45522-FR.pdf) |
| Les Forges de Montréal | Canada | [NGO-90472](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45523-FR.pdf) |
| Maison de la Culture Yiddish – Bibliothèque MEDEM | France | [NGO-90451](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45524-FR.pdf) |
| Norwegian Ship Preservation Association | Norway | [NGO-90448](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45525.pdf) |
| Nubian Heritage Society | Egypt | [NGO-90446](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45571.pdf) |
| Pacific Traditions Society | United States of America | [NGO-90425](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42711-EN.pdf) |
| Persian Garden Institute for Living Heritage (PGILH) | Islamic Republic of Iran | [NGO-90433](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/43093.pdf) |
| Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation (PIOP) | Greece | [NGO-90287](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/48726-EN.pdf) |
| Portuguese Folklore Federation | Portugal | [NGO-90447](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45527.pdf) |
| Public Fund ‘Rural Development Fund’ (RDF) | Kyrgyzstan | [NGO-90441](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45528.pdf) |
| Rupayan Sansthan (Rajasthan Institute of Folklore) | India | [NGO-90459](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45529.pdf) |
| Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS) | Saudi Arabia | [NGO-90473](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45530.pdf) |
| Sadhona – Center for Advancement of Southasian Culture | Bangladesh | [NGO-90420](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42676.pdf) |
| The Association for Cultural Equity | United States of America | [NGO-90455](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45531-EN.pdf) |
| The Eel Coast Cultural Heritage NGO | Sweden | [NGO-90428](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42719-EN.pdf) |
| Uly Taghzym Public Fund | Kazakhstan | [NGO-90434](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45532.pdf) |
| World Crafts Council AISBL | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | [NGO-90435](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45533-EN.pdf) |
| World Ethnosport Society | Latvia | [NGO-90478](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45534-EN.pdf) |

RESOLUTION 8.GA 14

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-14-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Articles 5, 6 and 26.5 of the Convention and Rules 13, 14 and 15 of its Rules of Procedure,
3. Further recalling [Resolution 8.GA 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/4),
4. Elects the following twelve States Parties to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for a term of four years from the date of election:

Group I: Sweden and Switzerland

Group II: Czechia

Group III: Brazil, Panama and Peru

Group IV: Republic of Korea

Group V(a): Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire and Rwanda

Group V(b): Morocco and Saudi Arabia

RESOLUTION 8.GA 15

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document [LHE/20/8.GA/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-15-EN.docx),
2. Recalling documents [LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx)., [LHE/20/8.GA/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-8-EN.docx), [LHE/19/14.COM/19](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-19-EN.docx), [ITH/18/13.COM/17](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-17-EN.docx), [ITH/17/12.COM/16](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-16-EN.docx), [ITH/18/7.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-13-EN.docx) and [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx), Decisions [14.COM 19](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/19), [13.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/17), [12.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/16) and Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12), [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13) and [6.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/11),
3. Further recalling [39 C/Resolution 87](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/39c-res87-governance-eng.pdf) and [38 C/Resolution 101](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/GBS/38GC/pdf/101_Resolution.pdf),
4. Encourages the Culture Sector to continue its efforts, wherever appropriate, to harmonize the Rules of Procedure of the governing bodies of the UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture in conformity with [Resolution 7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13);
5. Considers that sufficient progress has been made with the follow-up to the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO that require the attention of the General Assembly and requests that the Secretariat continue reporting as and when necessary on further progress regarding the status of recommendations;
6. Invites the Secretariat to submit a new draft consolidated version of the Rules of Procedure at its next session, taking into consideration the need to harmonize the terminology and the technical provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention, with the respective Rules of Procedure of the other UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture.

**DECLARATION ON BEIRUT BY THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

1. Following the tragic explosions that occurred in Beirut in August of this year, the eighth session of the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (8-10 September 2020, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters) expresses our deepest solidarity with Lebanon, its people and especially with bearers of cultural traditions, individuals and institutions who are today at the forefront of the cultural reconstruction of Beirut.
2. We recognize the enormous wealth of Beirut’s intangible cultural heritage, which makes this city a vibrant cultural centre where the diversity of knowledge, traditions, crafts, gastronomy, artisan techniques, traditional architectural and artistic expressions enrich all of humanity.
3. We fully support the ‘Li-Beirut’ initiative in the framework of the 2003 Convention in order for it to receive attention from its mechanisms and programs, especially those aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergency situations.
4. With the solidarity and cooperation convened by our Convention and all of us, Beirut will be proof of how the strength of living heritage is an unlimited source of resilience that contributes to rebuilding our societies.

1. . Percentages are applied to the balance of the Fund as of 31 December 2019. This balance does not include the Reserve Fund (US$1,000,000). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000235186> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000259805> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . <https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ICH-Operational_Directives-7.GA-PDF-EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)