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Diversity of
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

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INFORMATION DOCUMENT

At its 39th session (2017), UNESCO's General Conference invited the Executive Board, the Director-General, and the governing bodies of UNESCO to implement the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance, as outlined in [Document 39 C/70 \(Resolution 39 C/87\)](#), in particular Recommendation 74: "All IIBs should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the mid-term strategy C/4 and the draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO". This Document contains information pertaining to this ongoing consultation process.

1. This Document provides information on the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (Document 41 C/5) and of the Programme and Budget for 2020-2025 (Document 41 C/5), as well as on the ongoing consultation process, including with the governing bodies of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”).
2. This consultation follows the decision of UNESCO’s General Conference that invited the Executive Board, the Director-General and the governing bodies of UNESCO to implement the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Methods of Work of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO (hereinafter “the Working Group”), as outlined in [Document 39 C/70](#) ([Resolution 39 C/87](#)), in particular Recommendation 74.
3. Recommendation 74 calls for consultation with all of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental bodies so that they may be able to propose formal contributions to the C/4 and C/5 Documents. The governing bodies of the Convention were consulted and informed on three occasions on this subject as part of the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group (see Document DCE/20/13.IGC/INF.3).
4. In order to implement Recommendation 74 in particular, an additional mechanism to link the work of the Convention with Documents C/4 (Medium-Term Strategy) and C/5 (Programme and Budget) has been established. Indeed, the Secretariat takes into consideration the debates of the governing bodies on these issues when preparing these documents and the report of the Secretariat on its activities (see Document DCE/20/13.IGC/4). In addition, an item on the agenda of the thirteenth session of the Committee has been included so that the Committee may have discussions on the preparation of the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5 (see Document DEC/20/13.IGC/1REV).
5. The inclusion of this item on the agenda is intended to enable Committee members and Parties to participate in the preparation of the future Medium-Term Strategy and the future Programme and Budget. It is also part of the broader framework of the Strategic Transformation initiated by the Director-General within the Organization, taking into consideration the relevant time constraints. The timetable of work for this process is set out in Annex I of this Document.
6. To recall, a first discussion between the Culture Sector and the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on the future Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (Document 41 C/4) was held in July 2019. The dialogue continued at the 40th session of the General Conference, in the framework of the Culture Commission, in November 2019 (see the report of the Culture Commission 40 C/94 and the summary in Annex II). It emerged from Member States’ discussions on the C/4 Document that protecting cultural diversity and cultural heritage in all its forms should be central to the next Medium-Term Strategy, including in the event of conflicts, as should the protection of fundamental rights, the freedom of expression, in particular artistic freedom, and the right of participation in and access to culture. Also, new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and their impact on culture and access to culture in the digital age were recognized as important lines of action for the next Medium-Term Strategy.
7. With respect to the next Programme and Budget (Document C/5), Member States stressed the need to strengthen human and institutional capacities and to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the standard-setting instruments of the Culture Sector. They also highlighted the importance of producing data and statistics in order to be able to measure the real impact of culture on development. In addition, they recalled the essential function of tools for analysing global trends in key areas of culture, such as the Convention’s Global Report series. Lastly, the Member States underlined the importance of reviving the field of arts education, which fosters the development of innovation and creativity, and of making the most of UNESCO’s networks and partners, including Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs and civil society organizations.

8. Committee members and Parties are now given the opportunity to contribute to the preparation of the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5 Documents and to discuss the priorities they have identified, in accordance with Recommendation 74. In this context, Committee members and Parties could share the future they envisage for the implementation of the Convention between now and 2025 (Document C/5) and 2029 (Document C/4). In order to feed the discussions of the Committee and the Parties, on the basis of the initial elements that emerged from past discussions, in particular those of the CLT Commission at the 40th General Conference, the discussions could, for example, consider the following questions to guide their reflection:

41 C/4:

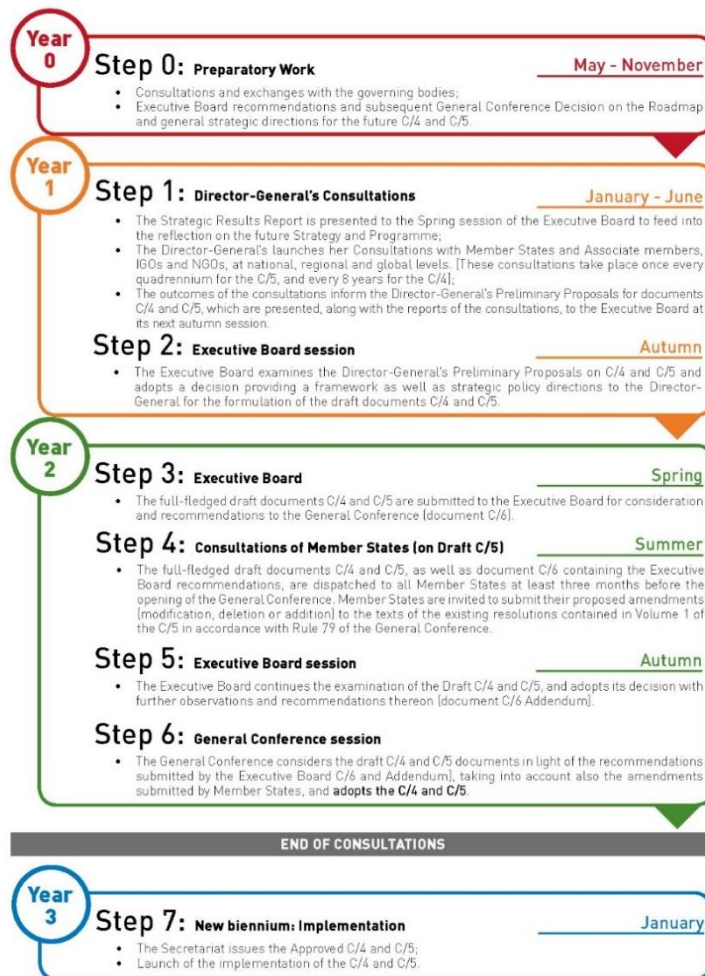
- What will be the main global challenges and opportunities in implementing the Convention over the next 10-15 years?
- UNESCO's current strategy (37 C/4) has identified two global priorities, Africa and gender equality. From the perspective of the implementation of the Convention, should UNESCO continue with these two priorities during the period 2022-2029?
- Should UNESCO define another "global priority" for its work during the 2022-2029 period?

41 C/5

- What should be the thematic priorities for the implementation of the Convention over the next four years? For instance, the defence of fundamental freedoms and access to culture, the development of the creative economy, innovation and the digital economy, etc.
 - To which objectives for sustainable development can the Convention contribute in the coming years?
 - What would be the opportunities for intersectoral cooperation with other sectors? For example in the field of arts education, digital education, defence of fundamental freedoms, including artistic freedom.
9. A synthesis of the Committee members and Parties's discussions will be transmitted to the Assistant Director-General for Culture and will inform the Sector's contribution to the Director-General's preliminary proposals on the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5 Documents.

Annex I

Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy and Draft Programme and Budget Specific timetable and milestones



Annex II

Extract from the Culture Commission's Report (Document 40 C/94)

Annex - Summary of the debates of the Culture Commission on items

3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and

3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5)

1. A total of 22 Member States and one observer participated in the debate.

Item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4)

2. All the Member States that took the floor during the debate highlighted the critical role of culture and diversity for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), citing in particular their potential to combat poverty, exclusion and inequality, to ease tension and to combat social polarization. They recalled the intrinsic importance of culture and the values that it conveyed, on the one hand, and, on the other, its crosscutting role as a driver of economic, social and environmental development and a factor for peace and stability.
3. Most speakers stated that the protection of cultural diversity and cultural heritage in all its forms should remain a core priority of the next Medium-Term Strategy, including in times of conflict. In that regard, they stressed the need for it to prominently feature 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, adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session. Moreover, many who participated in the debate called on UNESCO to prioritize the fight against climate change and the mitigation of its impact on cultural heritage.
4. Many Member States called on UNESCO to make the protection of fundamental rights, freedom of expression, including artistic freedom, the right of participation in and access to culture a priority area of the next Medium-Term Strategy, by fully implementing the human rights-based approach, monitoring respect for human rights at the global and national levels and strengthening existing tools on the matter.
5. The digital revolution, the emergence of new technologies and artificial intelligence, and their impact on culture, access to heritage and creativity were identified as key issues to be addressed in the next Medium-Term Strategy, particularly to ensure an inclusive approach, holding requisite discussions at the global level. The potential of the creative economy, creation and innovation to reduce inequalities and combat poverty was also highlighted.
6. Member States reiterated their commitment to the two global priorities Africa and gender equality. Regarding the latter, several speakers called for an ambitious approach and action that would lead to profound transformations, particularly through public policies. The importance of youth was recalled. It could be considered an additional global priority. Finally, UNESCO was invited to intensify its action in favour of indigenous peoples.
7. During the debate, all speakers recalled that cultural conventions, as international standard-setting instruments, should remain the backbone of UNESCO's action in the field of culture. In that regard, the role of national legislation and the public policies it inspired was recalled, including in helping States to achieve the SDGs through a culture-based approach.

8. Finally, the Forum of Ministers of Culture and its specificity as a space for ministerial dialogue and reflection were welcomed by several States, which called for the Forum to be repeated.

Item 3.2 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022 2025 (41 C/5)

9. The equal importance of the conventions was recalled during the debate. Several speakers called for the strengthening of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP), as well as for action to protect and return cultural property. Many delegations expressed their full support for the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

10. Human and institutional capacity building and the provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the conventions were identified as key priorities for the next draft programme and budget document.

11. Several speakers recalled the need to produce essential statistics and data to measure the impact of culture on development and thus inspire and guide the elaboration of public policies. In that regard, one Member State called for closer cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

12. The important role of tools for analysing global trends in key areas of culture was recalled, for instance, world reports on sustainable urban development in response to urbanization, or on the cultural policies developed under the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

13. The complementarity of culture and education was highlighted with regard to sustainable development. In that regard, several Member States invited UNESCO, in cooperation with the Education Sector, to reclaim its role in arts education, as it fostered innovation and creativity, which were key to the achievement of several SDGs.

14. The importance of cooperation with the Science Sector was also emphasized, particularly for the management of multiple designation sites.

15. Finally, UNESCO was invited to take advantage of and strengthen its networks of partners including, in particular, category 2 centres, the Creative Cities Network, networks of experts and civil society, and to invest fully in communication and partnerships.