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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

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

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

**Thirteenth session  
Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius  
26 November to 1 December 2018**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2018**

**Summary**

At its twelfth session, the Committee established a consultative body responsible for the evaluation in 2018 of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List and to the Representative List, proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and requests for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 ([Decision 12.COM 18](#)). This document constitutes the report of the Evaluation Body, which includes an overview of the 2018 cycle (Part A), observations and recommendations on working methods and a number of cross-cutting issues (Part B), an overview of recurring issues (Part C) and a draft decision for the Committee's consideration (Part D).

**Decision required:** paragraph 68

1. In conformity with paragraph 27 of the 2018 Operational Directives, the evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and requests for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 is accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, as well as Rule 20 of its Rules of Procedure, known as the 'Evaluation Body'.
2. By its [Decision 12.COM 18](#), the Committee established the present body at its twelfth session (Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 4 to 9 December 2017). The Evaluation Body is composed of six experts qualified in various fields of intangible cultural heritage representative of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations. As indicated in [Decision 9.COM 11](#), a system of rotation among the seats was established, according to which the Committee reappointed nine continuing members and elected three new members – Mr Saeed Al Busaidi (Oman), the Erigaie Foundation and the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (CHF) – at its twelfth session. They were elected by the Committee taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and their qualifications in various domains of intangible cultural heritage. The twelve members, together with the country they represent in the case of experts, are:

**Expert representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee**

- EG I: Ms Amélia Maria de Melo Frazão Moreira (Portugal)
- EG II: Mr Saša Srećković (Serbia)
- EG III: Ms Sonia Montecino Aguirre (Chile)
- EG IV: Ms Hien Thi Nguyen (Viet Nam)
- EG V(a): Mr John Moogi Omare (Kenya)
- EG V(b): Mr Saeed Al Busaidi (Oman)

**Accredited non-governmental organizations**

- EG I: Norsk Håndverksinstitutt / Norwegian Crafts Institute
- EG II: Czech Ethnological Society
- EG III: Erigaie Foundation
- EG IV: Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (CHF)
- EG V(a): The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU)
- EG V(b): Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions

3. Following the submission of a report on its work to the thirteenth session of the Committee, the present Evaluation Body shall cease to exist. A new Evaluation Body will be established at the thirteenth session of the Committee, following the requirements described in [Decision 9.COM 11](#).
4. The report of the Evaluation Body consists of five working documents, as follows:
  - i. The present document ITH/18/13.COM/10 constitutes the general report of the Evaluation Body with an overview of all the 2018 files (Part A), general observations and recommendations on working methods and a number of cross-cutting issues (Part B), an overview of recurring issues in the 2018 cycle (Part C) and a draft decision for the Committee's consideration (Part D);
  - ii. Document [ITH/18/13.COM/10.a](#) concerns nominations for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List. It includes an assessment of the conformity of the nominations with the inscription criteria as provided in Chapter I.1 of the Operational Directives, including an assessment of the viability of the element and of the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan and the risks of it disappearing, as provided in paragraph 29 of the

Operational Directives. The document also includes recommendations to the Committee to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List or to refer the nominations to the submitting State(s) for additional information;

- iii. Document [ITH/18/13.COM/10.b](#) concerns nominations for inscription on the Representative List. It includes an assessment of the conformity of nominations with the inscription criteria, as provided in Chapter I.2 of the Operational Directives, as well as recommendations to the Committee to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated elements on the Representative List or to refer the nominations to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
  - iv. Document [ITH/18/13.COM/10.c](#) concerns proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. It includes an assessment of the conformity of the proposals with the selection criteria, as provided in Chapter I.3 of the Operational Directives, as well as recommendations to the Committee to select or not to select the proposals or to refer the proposals to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
  - v. Document [ITH/18/13.COM/10.d](#) concerns a request for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000. It includes an assessment of the conformity of the request with the selection criteria, as provided in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives, as well as a recommendation to the Committee to approve or not to approve the request or to refer the request to the submitting State for additional information.
5. The nominations, proposals and requests evaluated by the Evaluation Body are available on the website of the Convention at: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2018-under-process-00913>.

#### A. Overview of the 2018 cycle

6. The deadline for the submission of files for the 2018 cycle was 31 March 2017 (paragraph 54 of the Operational Directives). The Operational Directives provide that 'The Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles' (paragraph 33). At its eleventh session in Addis Ababa (2016), the Committee determined that in the course of the 2018 cycle a total of fifty files could be treated for the Urgent Safeguarding List, Representative List, Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 ([Decision 11.COM 12](#)).
7. Following the abovementioned [Decision 11.COM 12](#) to have at least one file per submitting State processed over the two-year period 2017-2018 and applying the priorities set out in paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives, the Evaluation Body was informed that the Secretariat had treated a total of fifty files as follows:

By level of priority:

Reference	Type of file	Number
Decision 11.COM 12	Files from States that did not have a file treated for the 2017 cycle	25
Paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives – priority (i)	Files submitted by States having no elements inscribed, no good safeguarding practices selected or no requests for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 approved	3
	Nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List	4
Paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives – priority (ii)	Multinational files	6

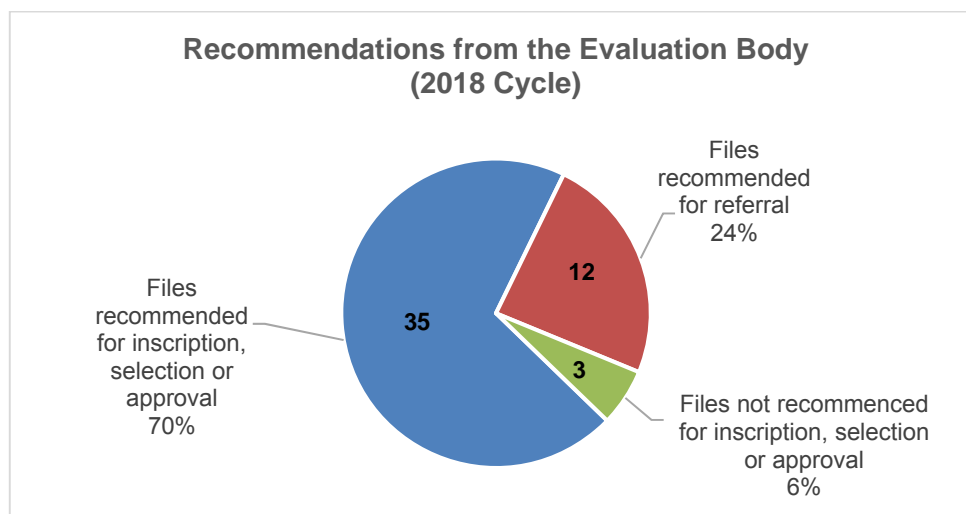
Paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives – priority (iii)	Files from States having up to three elements inscribed, good safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US\$100,000 approved	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>

8. Fourteen States (Armenia, Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bulgaria, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam) that submitted files for the 2018 cycle could not see their files treated within the ceiling of fifty files in the 2018 cycle. Their files will be examined with priority in the 2019 cycle, following the principle of at least one file per submitting State during the two-year cycle ([Decision 11.COM 12](#)).
9. The Secretariat processed each of the fifty files and contacted the submitting States in June 2017 about any further information required for the files to be considered as technically complete. Following this completeness check by the Secretariat, all fifty files were considered as technically complete.
10. A total of fifty files were completed by the submitting States in time for their evaluation by the Evaluation Body, including six multinational files, one file concerning an inscription on an extended basis, five files referred in a previous cycle and three files not inscribed in a previous cycle. The files are as follows:

Urgent Safeguarding List	7
Representative List	40
Register of Good Safeguarding Practices	2
International Assistance	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

11. The Evaluation Body met for the first time at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 6 and 7 March 2018, with the presence of its twelve members. After consultation, the Body elected Mr John Moogi Omare (Kenya) to serve as its Chairperson, Mr Eivind Falk (Norwegian Crafts Institute) to serve as its Vice-Chairperson, and Ms Eva Kuminková (Czech Ethnological Society) to serve as its Rapporteur.
12. As it had done for preceding cycles, the Secretariat established a password-protected, dedicated website through which members could consult the documents of the meetings as well as the files to be evaluated, together with any accompanying documentation. An email distribution list facilitated communication among members of the Evaluation Body. Every member of the Body evaluated each file online and prepared an individual report on it explaining whether and how it responded to the applicable criteria.
13. The Evaluation Body met from 18 to 22 June 2018 to debate and reach a consensus on its recommendations on each criterion for each file as well as on cross-cutting issues. On this basis, the Rapporteur prepared draft decisions for each file, as well as general observations and recommendations by the Body. The Evaluation Body met again from 26 to 28 September 2018 to validate the draft decisions for each file and adopt its reports. The resulting draft decisions presented in the five respective reports thus represent the consensus of the Evaluation Body.

14. Out of the fifty files examined by the Evaluation Body in this cycle, a total of thirty-five files are recommended for inscription, selection or approval, twelve files are recommended for referral and three files are not recommended for inscription, selection or approval, as follows:



In comparison with previous cycles, the number of files recommended for inscription, selection or approval is increasing (67% in the 2017 cycle, 48% on average between 2011 and 2016).

15. Out of the fifteen files that were not recommended for inscription, selection or approval, one is a proposal to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and one is a request for International Assistance. Among the thirteen other files, 69 per cent were referred or not recommended for inscription on multiple criteria, as follows:

	<b>Urgent Safeguarding List</b>	<b>Representative List</b>
<b>Number of files referred or not recommended for inscription on only one criterion</b>	2 (criterion U.3 in both cases)	2 (criteria R.2 and R.3)
<b>Number of files referred or not recommended for inscription on multiple criteria</b>	-	9

16. Among the thirteen files referred or not recommended for inscription on the Lists of the Convention, the justifications for the recommendations of the Evaluation Body are as follows:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Number of files in which the criterion was referred or considered as not met</b>
U.1/R.1	2
U.2	-
R.2	10
U.3	2
R.3	6
U.4/R.4	7
U.5/R.5	6

## **B. General observations and recommendations**

17. This part of the report explains the working methods of the Evaluation Body and points out any general issues encountered by its members during their work. Although most of these issues are recurrent, members of the Body discussed them with the utmost care and dealt with them specifically on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Working methods***

18. **Neutrality of the Evaluation Body members.** To maintain neutrality and equity and as has been the custom, a member of the Evaluation Body did not evaluate a file submitted by the country of his or her nationality or the country where the NGO which he or she represents is located. This member did not take part in the discussion about the file and in the drafting of the recommendation. This applied to six files during this cycle.
19. **Maintaining consistency throughout the files.** Evaluation Body members often recalled the recommendations and experience of previous Bodies, as well as past decisions of the Committee. Although each cycle is different, there are a number of cross-cutting issues which have been encountered every year, despite aide-mémoires published by the Secretariat and annually released recommendations of the Evaluation Body. The Evaluation Body felt that alongside its previous recommendations, its approach to evaluating files needed to reflect the discussions of the Committee and the recent developments in the interpretation of the Convention, which keeps evolving as more and more experience is gained with its implementation. Apart from that, the Body strived to be consistent throughout the files and to treat them all equally, while taking into account their individual circumstances, and to be consistent in its overall recommendations to the States Parties.
20. **Evaluation of the content of the files.** The Evaluation Body strictly adhered to the principle of exclusively evaluating the information and facts contained in the files, and not making any assumptions about information that the State Party had not explicitly articulated. Therefore, when the information needed to assess whether or not the file met a certain criterion was lacking, the Body recommended the referral option. Members of the Body also refrained from taking advantage of their external knowledge of elements. Most importantly, the Body evaluated the contents of the file only, rather than the element as such, and avoided making any value judgments.
21. **Position on previously referred files.** When treating files referred in previous cycles, the Body encountered two types of cases which raised concerns: firstly, when the letters of consent submitted were the same as initially provided when the nomination was first put forward and had therefore not been updated after the referral of the initial file; and secondly, when some recommendations of the Committee had still not been applied. In both cases, members of the Body concluded that resubmitted files should be treated in the same way as newly submitted files.
22. **Use of the referral option.** The Evaluation Body noted that referring a file often causes disappointment on the part of the State Party, particularly among the communities concerned. However, it reiterated that thanks to this referral option, the State Party has the chance to revisit the file and improve its quality, so as to fully reflect the principles of the Convention and serve the purposes of the Lists or the Register. That is why the Evaluation Body strived to be as specific as possible in its recommendations and explain very clearly what information was missing. Each file is published and serves as a showcase of intangible cultural heritage. If the file is poorly written or important information is missing, this does not cast good light on the work of the States Parties, the Evaluation Body and the Committee.
23. **Dual option in draft decisions.** In 2017, the Evaluation Body used a 'dual system of draft decisions with two options' on an exceptional basis for criterion U.5/R.5 while waiting for the nomination forms using a revised format for section 5 to be introduced from the 2018 cycle. This was applied in cases where a nomination would be recommended for a referral only because of the lack of factual information related to the inclusion of the element in an inventory. At the time, the Evaluation Body regretted that one piece of missing factual information would

undermine an entire, otherwise well-drafted file. This year, for the first time, the Body evaluated nomination files benefitting from the new ICH-01 and ICH-02 nomination forms, in which section 5 has been broken down into several sub-sections. It noted substantial improvements in the way submitting States provided information compared with previous cycles. However, some files still lacked some mandatory information, particularly concerning periodicity and the modality of the updating of inventories. If most of the information required concerning the inclusion of the element in an inventory and an inventory extract was provided, the Body evaluated criterion U.5/R.5 positively despite the fact that information regarding the periodicity and/or modality of the updating of inventories was missing. Whenever it applied this approach, in the draft decision the Body suggested that the Committee request that the State Party clearly provide the information concerned in its periodic report on the implementation of the Convention at the national level in accordance with Article 12.2 of the Convention. As a result of this approach, no nomination was recommended for a referral on the basis of criterion U.5/R.5 alone in this cycle. This is why the Evaluation Body did not consider it to be necessary in this cycle to use a 'dual system of draft decisions with two options'.

24. **Challenges with R.2.** In this cycle, the Evaluation Body noted again that some States Parties found it particularly challenging to answer the questions under criterion R.2. While under all other criteria they are asked to justify the inscription of the element from the community perspective in specific terms, in R.2 an external and abstracted point of view is expected. This results in frequent misunderstandings of the purpose of this criterion, as most nomination files tend to address the impact of the inscription on the element itself under criterion R.2.
25. **Significance of R.2.** The Body takes note that in the next cycle the revised Form ICH-02 with a revised section 2 will be used for the first time, and looks forward to reflecting on the results of these revisions. In this respect, the Body wishes to underline the importance of this criterion which relates to the purpose of the Representative List, and welcomes the decision of the Committee (paragraph 14 of [Decision 12.COM 11](#)), at its twelfth session, to reflect on the nature of the Lists and the relevance of the criteria in the context of the debates on the transfer of an element from one List to another.
26. **Shared heritage.** The Evaluation Body took note of the Committee's recommendation to indicate 'based on the information provided in the nomination file, in paragraph 1 of its draft decisions the sharing of certain elements that are found on the territory of more than one State Party' (paragraph 12 of [Decision 12.COM 11](#)). While acknowledging that such information could prove useful to highlight the shared nature of living heritage across borders, the Body was also confronted with the issue of having information included in decisions of the Committee without the consent of other States Parties and communities concerned. In addition, it feared that mentioning the practice of an element in another country without mentioning the specific context in which this element is practised and transmitted in that country could be problematic with regard to the notion of intangible cultural heritage in the Convention. As a result, the Body decided to focus its recommendations on the element as practised in the submitting State(s), while leaving the possibility of integrating into decisions a specific mention of the shared nature of practices when the Committee deems it necessary.
27. **Good examples.** The Evaluation Body is pleased to recommend some of the nominations in this cycle as good examples:

**(i) Register of Good Safeguarding Practices**

*'Land-of-Legends programme, for promoting and revitalizing the art of storytelling in Kronoberg Region (South-Sweden)'*, proposed by Sweden, offers a very clear, well-structured presentation of a successful community-based project which has already served as a model in many other regions in the country and abroad.



**(ii) Representative List – multinational files:**

*‘Blaudruck/Modrotisk/Kékfestés/Modrotlač, resist block printing and indigo dyeing in Europe’*, nominated by Austria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, was considered as a good example of cooperation among communities, where inscription is not seen as the ultimate goal but rather as an important step in safeguarding the element.

*‘Art of dry stone walling, knowledge and techniques’*, nominated by Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland, features commendable collaborative work among communities in different countries; the preparation of the nomination file contributed to the joint identification of the cultural and social meanings of the element.

**(iii) Representative List – national files:**

*‘Lum medicinal bathing of Sowa Rigpa, knowledge and practices concerning life, health and illness prevention and treatment among the Tibetan people in China’*, nominated by China, demonstrates the great potential of living heritage to raise awareness about knowledge concerning nature and the universe and could be commended for the solid community involvement.

*‘Raiho-shin, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes’*, nominated by Japan, is a well-prepared file, which provides a coherent safeguarding plan with a clear timeframe and a description of the stakeholders concerned.

*‘Nativity scene (szopka) tradition in Krakow’*, nominated by Poland, is a clearly-structured file which places practitioners at the centre of the nomination and safeguarding process.

**(iv) Other good examples for specific aspects**

*‘Chidaoba, wrestling in Georgia’*, nominated by Georgia for the Representative List, could be commended for the particular attention paid to gender roles.

*‘Suri Jagek (observing the sun), traditional meteorological and astronomical practice based on the observation of the sun, moon and stars in reference to the local topography’*, nominated by Pakistan for the Urgent Safeguarding List, presents a very clear description of the threats to the viability of the element.

**(v) Good examples of videos**

In the 2018 cycle, the videos presenting *‘Raiho-shin, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes’* (Japan) and *‘Nativity scene (szopka) tradition in Krakow’* (Poland) can be highlighted as good examples, capturing all the key aspects of the elements.

**General comments**

28. **Titles of elements.** The Evaluation Body noted that several titles of elements nominated during this cycle could imply claims of ownerships and encountered the case of a nomination whose title appeared to only reflect the element as practised by men while the file also covered the element as practised by women. In the latter case, the confusion was cleared up by the State Party and the communities concerned through communication with the Secretariat. The Body therefore requested that the Secretariat encourage States Parties concerned to modify the titles of their elements to ensure that they adequately reflected the content of the file and/or to avoid claims of ownership in a spirit of mutual respect and international cooperation. In six of the eight cases concerned, the submitting States agreed to a modification of the title of their file. States Parties are reminded to keep these principles in mind when proposing files in the future. The Body reiterated the importance of avoiding unnecessary reference in the titles of elements to specific countries or adjectives of nationality that may inadvertently provoke sentiments contrary to the Convention’s principle of international cooperation. For instance, it is generally advisable to identify elements as being practised ‘in’ a country rather than being ‘of’ a country.



29. **Linguistic quality of the files.** As in previous cycles, some nominations showed poor linguistic quality with many typographical errors and inconsistencies. Considering that the quality of writing does affect the understanding of the element by the Evaluation Body and since nomination files are made public and serve to promote the Convention, it is important that States Parties ensure clear and coherent written expression in the files. The Evaluation Body again faced difficulties with files that were poorly translated and therefore wishes to draw attention to the importance of ensuring that texts are translated correctly and comprehensibly to avoid misinterpretation.
30. **Use of inappropriate language.** Each year, States Parties are reminded to avoid the use of expressions implying the immutability, excellence or uniqueness of elements of intangible cultural heritage. Those most frequently employed include expressions like ‘authenticity’, ‘unique’, ‘original’ or ‘extraordinary’. In some cases, files base their argumentation on a claim that the element originates in the submitting State, while in other cases, files appear to introduce a ‘hierarchy between elements’. In this regard, the Evaluation Body wishes to underline that such concepts are contrary to the definition of intangible cultural heritage (Article 2.1), as the Convention emphasizes its living, dynamic nature and does not establish any externally imposed hierarchy of elements, all expressions being valued equally.
31. **Use of acronyms.** To remain within the word limit, submitting States often use acronyms. When acronyms appear for the first time, it is important to always explain what they mean and not to expect that the reader will be familiar with them. Whenever possible, it is preferable to avoid using acronyms altogether.
32. **Coherence of information within the file.** The information provided under different criteria must not be contradictory, as was the case in several files. For instance, some nominations to the Representative List claimed that the element was fully viable and widely practised by all strata of the population, while a few paragraphs later the element was described as being threatened by a lack of interest.
33. **‘Serial nominations’.** Recalling the 2012 meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the right scale or scope of an element, States Parties are encouraged to be as inclusive as possible. When very similar elements practised by different communities are nominated in a single file, the submitting States should always bear in mind that each practice is different and needs to be safeguarded according to its own context and situation.
34. **Multinational nominations.** The Evaluation Body was pleased to examine six multinational nominations in the 2018 cycle. At the same time, it felt that the potential for multinational files is still largely untapped and therefore wishes to encourage States Parties to do their utmost in considering the submission of multinational nominations in a spirit of international cooperation among States and communities. In relation to multinational nominations, the Evaluation Body discussed several points:
  - (i) **Collaboration and coordination.** Preparing a joint nomination always requires a lot of coordination and harmonizing the different priorities and individual needs of each country. Sometimes, these efforts are very successful and demonstrate the principles of international cooperation and the promotion of mutual understanding among nations. However, sometimes collaboration between the submitting States seems rather formal and does not reflect upstream joint efforts. That is why States Parties are encouraged to clearly explain their collaborative processes under criterion U.4/R.4 in particular.
  - (ii) **Different levels of preparedness.** States Parties should strive to present balanced files, with an equal share of information from each country and a balance between individual and joint safeguarding measures. Deficiencies in one country’s contribution can hinder the entire nomination and cause disappointment among all the other countries and communities.
  - (iii) **Top-down approach in the preparation of multinational nominations.** Multinational nominations are often driven by a top-down approach. This is understandable in the context of the difficult collaborative process. Nevertheless, the involvement of

communities in the nomination process, particularly in the planning and implementation of the safeguarding measures, cannot be neglected. On the contrary, it must be treated with even greater care and attention.

35. **Safeguarding an entire system versus one specific aspect.** Elements of intangible cultural heritage are often interwoven in much wider, more complex systems. Safeguarding plans should respect this complexity and look at all the linkages and the complete context, otherwise they may not be efficient and functional. This applies especially to elements nominated for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List. In several cases this year, an element was presented as part of a wider system, however the safeguarding plan only reflected this in a very limited way, raising serious doubts about the adequacy of such an approach and the efficacy of proposed safeguarding measures.
36. **Videos.** The Body wishes to underline the importance of the mandatory videos, as they allow the evaluators and the public to become better acquainted with the element and to understand aspects of it that cannot be easily described in words. While some videos capture the element in its variability, highlighting its social and cultural functions and introducing its community of practitioners, others focus on a single aspect of the element, present it in a very limited way or do not mention its social and cultural value as intangible cultural heritage at all. Sometimes, the videos even contradict the contents of the file by capturing the element in its formal or stylized form, while simultaneously affirming its spontaneity and informal transmission in the text of the nomination.
  - (i) **Content.** States Parties should strive to show how the element provides the communities of practitioners with a sense of identity, what its social and cultural functions are and how the variability of its forms is manifested. Videos relating to nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List should not fail to emphasize and demonstrate the need for urgent safeguarding.
  - (ii) **Video format of consent (U.4/R.4).** Video consent is a legitimate form of endorsement and should be applied whenever the community prefers it or in any case when written consent is difficult to obtain. Such video consent is welcomed and often more meaningful than uniform declarations or signature sheets.
37. **Boundary between spontaneous and organized aspects of a practice.** Many types of intangible cultural heritage are practised in spontaneous as well as staged forms. When this is the case, the file should clearly state it and describe the different layers of the practice. The safeguarding plan should also reflect this distinction appropriately.
38. **Gender.** Most nominations, proposals and requests under all four mechanisms of the Convention continue to lack proper explanations about gender roles and the involvement of men and women in the practice of elements as well as in the nomination and safeguarding processes, although several criteria require them. The Evaluation Body wishes to reiterate that the Convention does not expect equal involvement, as some elements are more or even exclusively male- or female-oriented. The aim of the gender-sensitive approach is to see how different genders experience intangible cultural heritage, what their roles are and whether they have equal access when it comes to its safeguarding. The Body highlighted the nomination of 'Chidaoba, wrestling in Georgia' and the multinational nomination of the 'Art of dry stone walling, knowledge and techniques' as good examples with regard to gender issues.
39. **Issues linked to the commercialization of intangible cultural heritage.** During the evaluation process, several serious issues linked to the promotion of intangible cultural heritage in relation to its inscription on the Representative List arose.
  - (i) **Tourism.** The Evaluation Body expressed concerns when the promotion of tourism and commercialization were considered as key objectives of the safeguarding plans. Viewing the inscription of an element as a tool for attracting more tourists or for creating a leisure park demonstrates a lack of understanding of the principles of the Convention and of the objective of its Lists, in particular that of the Representative List. Although sustainable tourism can be an important source of income for custodians and can also serve other

purposes of the Convention, it should be treated with the utmost care as it can gravely affect the heritage at stake by contributing to its serious decontextualization, including its standardization or over-commercialization. If negative impacts following an inscription are foreseen, a monitoring mechanism should be designed that will allow the community to take appropriate measures when excessive numbers of tourists start negatively influencing the practice and safeguarding of their heritage. Such mechanisms have been proposed in files submitted by Kazakhstan, Mexico, Poland, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. For instance, the file 'Traditional spring festive rites of the Kazakh horse breeders', submitted by Kazakhstan, proposes precautionary measures aimed at redirecting the attention of tourists from the actual practice to a thematic festival, thereby protecting the intimacy and familial and ceremonial nature of the practice.

- (ii) **Over-commercialization.** Some elements, particularly knowledge and skills associated with traditional crafts, can have a strong commercial aspect, which is generally not unusual or necessarily undesirable. When the commercialization of crafts provides their practitioners with a permanent source of income, their sustainability is firmly secured. However, nominations should not concentrate primarily on the commercial aspects of elements. Rather, they should highlight their social and cultural roles and features. Similarly, safeguarding measures focused on finding new markets, notably when they are driven by non-cultural organizations, should not overshadow the safeguarding of cultural aspects of such elements. Another problematic issue in this sense is the primary role ascribed to supporting professions (entrepreneurs, musical industry professionals and so on). The Body agreed that nominations should focus on custodians as the primary owners and practitioners of their living heritage, while duly acknowledging the roles of other important stakeholders.
- (iii) **Excellence label.** In a few cases related to knowledge and skills associated with traditional crafts, submitting States expected that the inscription of an element on the Representative List or its selection as a good safeguarding practice would lead to it obtaining a UNESCO excellence label, which would help them promote their products. The Evaluation Body wishes to remind submitting States that an inscription does not entail confirming legal ownership of a product and related know-how and that the concept of excellence is itself irrelevant to the objectives of the Lists of the Convention. States Parties are also reminded that the use of the emblem of the Convention is governed by the Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Chapter IV.2) and the Directives concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO. According to these orientations, the inscription of an element on one of the Lists of the Convention does not automatically authorize States and communities to use the emblem of the Convention.
- (iv) **Link with creative industries.** Particularly in relation to knowledge and skills associated with traditional crafts, files sometimes wrongly concentrate on the economic significance of an element rather than on its cultural meaning and functions. While this approach might be consistent with other standard-setting instruments of UNESCO in the field of culture, States are reminded that the 2003 Convention has its own specific purposes and criteria.
- (v) **Link between bearers and one specific institution.** Knowledge and skills associated with traditional crafts that were once widely practised may now be limited to a single factory or institution which maintains traditional know-how and technologies and associates most custodians. When nominating such elements, States Parties should clearly explain who the practitioners are and why the production is restricted to a single entity. Otherwise, it may give the impression of a monopoly, excluding anyone from the outside from participating in the practice in contradiction with Article 2 of the Convention.

40. **Links between tangible and intangible heritage.** The Evaluation Body was pleased to examine several nominations which highlighted the links between intangible cultural heritage and its tangible environment and which decided to safeguard living traditions complementarily with the protection of World Heritage sites associated with them. However, States Parties are reminded that the goals of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and of the 2003 Convention are different – albeit complementary – and that safeguarding efforts should take these differences in the approach and methods of each Convention into consideration.
41. **Environmental sustainability.** The Evaluation Body particularly appreciated nominations of elements which promote environmental sustainability and relate to knowledge and skills concerning nature and the universe. However, it also wishes to express its concerns regarding cases where the effects of the promotion of elements could cause additional environmental damage, for example through an increase in tourists participating in their practice. That is why the unintended consequences of the inscription should be monitored and preventive measures should be taken to ensure environmental sustainability and the protection of the natural surroundings of an element.
42. **Intangible cultural heritage and sports.** Considering the recent trend with an increasing number of nominations related to sports, the Evaluation Body discussed the boundary between traditional sports and games and their professional forms. When describing sports in their files, States Parties often focus on explaining their rules and system of organization instead of concentrating on their value as cultural practices and the community roles. Concerns were raised as to whether sports and games are in conformity with Article 2 of the Convention and with the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (Principles 1 and 6). The Body concluded that sports and games can be expressions of intangible cultural heritage when they are community-based practices with a clear cultural meaning and are constantly recreated and transmitted across generations and when the file focuses on their practice within a local community in a non-professional environment. The professionalization of traditional sports could undermine their status as intangible cultural heritage.

***Issues related to the Urgent Safeguarding List and the Representative List***

43. **Linkages between criteria.** Nomination files should contain a coherent and complementary set of information. However, sometimes different information is provided under different criteria, which can even be contradictory. In particular, this concerns:
  - (i) **Criteria U.1/R.1, U.3/R.3 and U.4/R.4.** The communities identified under criterion U.1/R.1, those involved in the development of safeguarding measures under criterion U.3/R.3 and those that provide consent under criterion U.4/R.4 must be consistent.
  - (ii) **Criteria U.3/R.3 and U.4/R.4.** Different aspects of community participation are supposed to be demonstrated under these two criteria. States Parties should bear in mind that both are equally important, should be described with care and should be consistent.
44. **Identification of domains under criteria U.1 and R.1.** The Evaluation Body realized that without any proper explanation, files often indicate more domains of intangible cultural heritage in Section E of Form ICH-01 and Section 1 of Form ICH-02 than are actually covered by the element as described in the rest of the file. This approach is confusing and can easily lead to the assumption that vital information is missing in the file. States Parties are invited to mark only those domains that are relevant and duly address each of them in the text.
45. **Description of well-known elements.** The file should be written in such a way that even someone who has no prior knowledge of the element would understand its nature. For instance, when a nominated element is considered as well-known, the submitting State sometimes does not deem it necessary to clearly describe it, resulting in a lack of information concerning the nature of the element itself. Another problem concerns the use of terms and historical data which may be well-recognized in the nominating country, but with which the evaluators, not to mention the general international public, will most probably not be familiar.

46. **Community participation in safeguarding under criteria U.3 and R.3.** The Evaluation Body highlighted the importance of community-based safeguarding and the principal role that communities should have in the preparation and implementation of safeguarding plans. In several cases, the Body regretted seeing top-down safeguarding measures, where the practitioners merely became passive beneficiaries of their results, instead of being the driving forces behind them.
47. **‘Protecting authenticity’ under criteria U.3 and R.3.** As mentioned in paragraph 30, highlighting the ‘authenticity’ of an element is in contradiction with a fundamental principle of the Convention – the dynamic nature of intangible cultural heritage (Article 2.1). When preparing safeguarding plans and measures, States Parties should refrain from taking measures which would freeze the element by trying to conserve it in an unchanged form.
48. **Community participation under criteria U.4 and R.4.** The Evaluation Body often encountered situations in which community participation was declared but not demonstrated in the file. Despite long lists of workshops and meetings between stakeholders, the Body was not able to identify the nature of these meetings and what kinds of roles the custodians actually played in the nomination process. The Body reiterates that there is a major difference between running the nomination process as an ethnographic project with community members as informants, and placing the communities at the center of it. Several files raised doubts concerning the level of awareness among the communities of practitioners about the very purpose of the nomination, the meaning of the inscription, and particularly the purpose of their free, prior and informed consent.
49. **Level of community participation in large-scale and multinational nominations.** In some files, the level of community participation was considered as insufficient. However, the Evaluation Body acknowledged that in cases of large-scale elements with a national or even multinational scope, it is not always possible to achieve it in the same way as with elements which are limited to local communities. In the particular case of multinational nominations, differences between countries were admitted, but the Body sometimes noted a lack of balance.
50. **Expressions of consent.** Many different issues arose in relation to the consent letters, their forms and content. The Evaluation Body wishes to remind States Parties that the communities of practitioners are the most important stakeholders and their views and needs must be taken into consideration during every stage of the nomination process. An element can be nominated to the Lists of the Convention exclusively upon their explicit agreement. The following paragraphs constitute an overview of the most frequent issues related to free, prior and informed consent:
  - (i) **Consent from minors.** The Evaluation Body welcomed the efforts of submitting States in providing a wide range of evidence to demonstrate the free, prior and informed consent of communities, including from youth and children. In the 2018 cycle, the Body examined several forms of consent emanating from children and hence requested the position of UNESCO’s Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA) on the involvement of children under the Convention, particularly in the context of the inscription of elements on the Lists. Based on LA’s position and recalling [Decision 8.COM 8](#) (paragraph 16), the Body encourages States to adopt the ‘forms of attestation most suited to the situation of the communities concerned’ and, in the case of consent from minors, encourages States to provide information on the context in which such consent was gathered.
  - (ii) **Quality of translation.** In several cases, there was a discrepancy between the content of consent letters provided in native languages and their English or French translations. Some translations referred to the World Heritage Convention, and some mentioned other Lists under the 2003 Convention than the one to which the nomination actually related. Some of the translations used terms such as the ‘World Heritage List’, ‘World Heritage File’ or ‘World Human Heritage’. The Evaluation Body reminds States Parties that they are responsible for the accuracy and quality of their translations, and that they must make sure that the terminology they use is correct; otherwise confusion arises and consent letters referring to different UNESCO Conventions may not be considered as valid since

there is uncertainty concerning the informed nature of the consent given by these community members.

- (iii) **Number of community consents and their representativeness.** Although no specific number of consent letters or other expressions is prescribed, criteria U.4 and R.4 – as well as criterion P.5 for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices – require that ‘the element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent’. Following this guidance, the Body closely studied the content of the consent letters and evaluated their representativeness in relation to the communities, groups and individuals concerned. It noted that, in some cases, representative individuals or groups were selected to provide their consent on behalf of others, but regretted that these persons or entities were not identified and the file did not explain their role or capacity to speak on their behalf. Sometimes, their relation to the element was not clear. Documenting the consent of traditional leaders or representative associations of practitioners is legitimate. However, the file should always explain why they were selected and whether they are authorized to speak in the name of the entire community. The Body came to the conclusion that the number of consent letters is not always as important as their information value, representativeness and the very process of acquiring them. Expressions of consent should always correspond with the communities, groups and individuals identified in Section C of Form ICH-01 and Form ICH-02 and Section G of Form ICH-03.
- (iv) **Forms of community consent.** The Evaluation Body welcomed diverse expressions of community consent, including audiovisual materials. Simultaneously, it regretted examining a number of standardized letters, petitions and signature sheets, which in some cases could not be considered as expressions of informed consent because they did not demonstrate that the signatories were fully aware of what they were signing. In several cases, the identification of the purpose of the consent was missing completely. States Parties are invited to collect diverse and personalized consent letters.
  - a. **Confusion between the Lists.** The Evaluation Body noted frequent confusion between different Lists and mechanisms of the Convention. While accepting references to the ‘UNESCO list’ and the declaration of an element as ‘intangible heritage of humanity’ for example, it did not take into consideration consent letters that referred to the ‘World Heritage List’, as this refers to a different Convention. In addition, some nominations tend to constantly refer to an ‘inscription at UNESCO’, which is inaccurate. States Parties are thus strongly recommended to refrain from using inappropriate wording which may create confusion within communities. The Body discovered that the use of the wrong terminology is often caused by incorrect translations; ensuring quality in this regard is the responsibility of each submitting State. States are also responsible for raising awareness among communities about the Convention and about the impacts of a potential inscription.
  - b. **Consent letters dated after the nomination deadline.** In one case, the letters of consent were dated later than the nomination deadline, which implies that they were obtained only after the States Parties had received an additional information request from the Secretariat. Recalling [Decision 9.COM 10](#), the Body decided not to consider such letters during its evaluation.

51. **Requirements for inventories under criteria U.5 and R.5.** In the 2018 cycle, inventories were presented in a diversity of formats. While some of them could be considered as being drawn up ‘in a manner geared to [each State’s] own situation’ in the sense of Article 12.1 of the Convention, others took the forms of books, lists of resources, sample books and so on. The Evaluation Body confirms that there are no hard and fast rules as to how to structure an inventory. However, inventories always need to include certain information to meet the requirements of Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention. The Secretariat drew the Body’s

attention to the ‘Guidance Note on Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage’,<sup>1</sup> which is available on the website of the Convention and should be used as an aid in the process of designing and developing inventories at the national and local levels. Fundamental information which cannot be omitted includes: the name of an element and its description; the identification of the communities, groups or individual practitioners associated with it; its geographical scope; its current social and cultural functions; and its viability and modes of transmission. When this information was reflected in the inventory extract and confirmed by the text of the nomination, the Evaluation Body concluded that the element had been inventoried in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. In opposing cases, the Body had to conclude that criterion U.5 or R.5 was not met.

- (i) **Name of an inventory.** Most inventories examined by the Evaluation Body in the 2018 cycle were duly named. However, several of them did not bear names. States Parties should provide accurate and complete information and if an inventory does not have a name, this should be clearly stated.
- (ii) **Correlation between inventory and nomination file.** The Operational Directives do not require the use of identical names or scopes for elements in the nomination file and in an inventory. However, sometimes different titles generate confusion and raise doubts as to whether they refer to the same element. This can be the result of translation, but sometimes the submitting State decides to select only part of a more complex element for an international nomination. In any case, while reiterating that it is perfectly acceptable for the title of the nomination and the name of the element included in an inventory to not exactly correspond, the State Party needs to make sure that there is no ambiguity and that all aspects of the element nominated to the Representative List or Urgent Safeguarding List are duly covered and can be easily and clearly identified in the inventory concerned.
- (iii) **Inventory updating.** Many nominations failed to explain the periodicity and modality of updating inventory entries. The Body discussed what the optimal timeframe for periodic updating was, and whether it is reasonable to update inventories only when new information becomes available. The Body decided to assess this aspect according to the character of each element in question – a different periodicity of updating can be expected in the case of a craft performed on a continuous basis than for a ceremony which takes place once every few decades. Another issue was the modality of updating. Many countries failed to explain their updating routines and limited their explanations to the fact that updating takes place regularly. These conclusions show that breaking up nomination Form ICH-01 and Form ICH-02 under criteria U.5 and R.5 helped, but the evaluation process would benefit from another revision of the nomination forms, to ensure that each required piece of information is highlighted separately. The Body therefore recommended that the Secretariat further break down Section 5(vi) of nomination Form ICH-01 and Form ICH-02 to include a question on the periodicity of updating of the inventory concerned, and another on the modality of updating of the inventory. Furthermore, the issue of supplying all the requested information needs to be addressed by the Committee, to remind States Parties that updating inventories is an important provision under Article 12 of the Convention.
- (iv) **Importance of community participation in the inventorying process.** The Evaluation Body wishes to remind States Parties that inventories are supposed to be drawn up and updated with the active participation of the communities, groups and individuals concerned to fulfil the requirements of Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention.
- (v) **Other issues.** Submitting States often overlooked certain detailed pieces of information required under criteria U.5 and R.5 and failed to provide the original name of an inventory, the reference number of the element and so on.

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1. [https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/Guidance\\_note\\_on\\_inventorying\\_EN.pdf](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/Guidance_note_on_inventorying_EN.pdf)



***Specific comments related to the Urgent Safeguarding List***

52. **General remarks.** The Evaluation Body reiterated the importance of the Urgent Safeguarding List and regretted that only seven nominations had been put forward. All States Parties are therefore encouraged to prioritize nominations to this List.
53. **Identification of threats in a wider context (Criteria U.2 and U.3).** The Evaluation Body highlights the importance of considering the entire situation and context which led to the need for urgent safeguarding. The reason is that the roots of the problem often go beyond the perspective of intangible culture and relate to deeper issues such as changes in the land tenure system, climate change or the disappearance of specific categories of practitioners. The safeguarding plan needs to take these issues into consideration because a change which occurs on the surface without addressing the heart of the problem is unlikely to bring lasting results.
54. **Communities and external partners (Criterion U.3).** Another condition for achieving lasting results was seen in the coordination between community efforts and the endeavors of external organizations. It is absolutely necessary for safeguarding measures to be proposed in partnership with the communities and for their implementation to be community-driven.
55. **Safeguarding plan and sustainability (Criterion U.3).** The Evaluation Body wishes to point out that a detailed four-year safeguarding plan is indeed required under criterion U.3 and appreciates the efforts undertaken by submitting States in that respect. However, it wishes to draw their attention to the fact that it is critical for files to consider how sustainability will be achieved after the planned period of implementation of the safeguarding plan.
56. **Revision of Form ICH-01.** To assist States Parties in the presentation of nomination files, the Body concurred that it would be beneficial for Form ICH-01 to be broken down in a similar way to Form ICH-02, particularly in Sections 1 and 3. This would need to include a separate and specific reference to the budget regarding safeguarding plans.

***Specific comments related to the Representative List***

57. **Identification and presentation of safeguarding measures (Criterion R.3).** Although the required level of detail concerning safeguarding measures in nominations to the Representative List is lower than for the Urgent Safeguarding List, their presentation should be more specific than a mere wish list. It should formulate concrete commitments and the attribution of responsibilities.
58. **Type of safeguarding efforts (Criterion R.3).** The Body would like to point out that particular care should be taken in the identification of past and current efforts to safeguard the element under Section 3.a of Form ICH-02. For instance, files often claim that an element has been revitalized although it has been fully viable and no specific revitalization effort seems to have been put in place.
59. **Sustainability of safeguarding measures and benefit for communities.** The Evaluation Body once again noted that the communities concerned should be at the heart of any safeguarding effort. It voiced a concern about the relation between external funding, particularly in the form of loans for practitioners, and the sustainability of an element. Although external funding can be beneficial for revitalizing certain aspects of intangible cultural heritage, and sometimes it is even essential for the successful organization of large cultural events, communities should be aware that they can easily become dependent on external financial resources, with the risk of gradually becoming alienated from their heritage.

***Specific comments related to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices***

60. **General remarks.** The Evaluation Body reiterated the importance of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and regretted that only two proposals had been put forward. All States Parties are therefore encouraged to share their good practices.

61. **Festivals as good safeguarding practices.** The Body discussed the question of whether a festival whose organization requires a top-down approach and heavy external funding can be seen as a good practice from the community perspective. The Body thought that its capacity to serve as a good example depends on many circumstances, first and foremost the safeguarding measures involved. If the methodology focuses almost entirely on presentation and raising the visibility of intangible cultural heritage, it is very likely to lead to the decontextualization and folklorization of such heritage, rather than foster its intergenerational transmission.
62. **Criterion P.1.** The Body experienced difficulties in identifying communities behind a large-scale, government-organized cultural event. It remarked that a good practice must not be limited to promoting and raising the visibility of intangible cultural heritage; above all, it should address the issues of transmission, education and enhanced practice.
63. **Criterion P.2.** Inviting other countries to join a cultural event and present and share their cultural heritage is not the same as promoting international coordination in the sense of the Convention. The substance of such coordination lies in joint safeguarding activities aimed at revitalizing or strengthening the viability of the intangible cultural heritage at stake.
64. **Criterion P.4.** The success of a programme or project can be seen and measured from different perspectives. The large scale of a project and its success in terms of visitor numbers do not necessarily enhance the viability of the cultural heritage concerned. On the contrary, they can end up threatening its spontaneity and natural transmission.
65. **Criterion P.8.** Although the self-assessment of a programme or project is welcomed and expected, an external monitoring system could be utilized to obtain objective feedback in order to constantly improve the methodology.

### C. Overview of recurring issues in the 2018 cycle

66. **Positive aspects.** Based on its evaluation of the fifty files in the present cycle, the Evaluation Body wishes to highlight several positive aspects that have already been mentioned in previous decisions and working documents of the Committee, as follows:

Issues	Most recent reference decisions or documents of the Committee
Benefits of the referral option	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 7)
Importance of multinational nominations and the need to further encourage nominations of shared intangible cultural heritage	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 10)
Synergies between the 2003 Convention and the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 17)
Contribution of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development	<a href="#">Decision 11.COM 10</a> (paragraph 21)
Continuing trend of nominations relating to sports and related safeguarding efforts on practices enacted by a local community in a non-professional environment	<a href="#">Document ITH/17/12.COM/11</a> (paragraph 32)

67. **Recurring challenges.** The Evaluation Body would also like to point out that it identified a number of challenges faced by submitting States, to which previous decisions and working documents of the Committee have already referred on several occasions:

Issues	Most recent reference decisions or documents of the Committee
Use of inappropriate expressions or vocabulary that are not in line with the Convention in nomination files and titles of elements	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 6)
Lack of coherence between information provided under different criteria for inscription in submitted files	<a href="#">Decision 11.COM 10</a> (paragraph 14)
Lack of attention to gender considerations and to the diversity of gender roles in enacting and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage	<a href="#">Decision 8.COM 8</a> (paragraph 8)
Possible negative impacts of commercialization and increased tourism	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 13)
Confusion between inscriptions on the Lists and the establishment of a system of ownership	<a href="#">Decision 12.COM 11</a> (paragraph 9)
Concerns linked to a top-down and centralized approach in the elaboration of safeguarding plans and the preparation of nominations	<a href="#">Decision 11.COM 10</a> (paragraph 19)
Concerns about the professionalization of traditional sports undermining their status as intangible cultural heritage	<a href="#">Document ITH/17/12.COM/11</a> (paragraph 32)
Importance of audiovisual materials to demonstrate consent from communities and illustrate the social and cultural values of an element without contradicting the rest of the file	<a href="#">Decision 8.COM 8</a> (paragraph 16) <a href="#">Document ITH/17/12.COM/11</a> (paragraph 26)

#### D. Draft Decision

68. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

#### DRAFT DECISION 13.COM 10

The Committee,

1. Recalling Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined documents ITH/18/13.COM/10, ITH/18/13.COM/10.a, ITH/18/13.COM/10.b, ITH/18/13.COM/10.c and ITH/18/13.COM/10.d, as well as the files submitted by the respective States Parties,
3. Expresses its satisfaction with the work of the Evaluation Body, thanks its members for the quality of the present report and appreciates the assistance of the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the Evaluation Body;
4. Takes note of the continuing trend to prioritize nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at the expense of the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, and encourages States Parties to give special attention to these two mechanisms of the Convention;

5. Congratulates in particular those submitting States having presented nominations for the first time;
6. Appreciates the observations made by the Evaluation Body concerning its work for the 2018 cycle, notes that many of the issues raised in its previous decisions persist in the 2018 cycle, as summarized in paragraphs 66 and 67 of Document ITH/18/13.COM/10, and invites States Parties to the Convention to address these issues when submitting future nominations;
7. Further takes note of the progress made thanks to the use of Form ICH-01 and Form ICH-02 containing a revised Section 5, which led to a very limited number of nominations being referred on criteria U.5 and R.5, and welcomes the link made between nominations to the Lists of the Convention and the periodic reporting mechanism;

#### **General issues**

8. Cautions States Parties about the risk of planning and implementing safeguarding plans that narrowly target specific aspects of a practice without taking into consideration the broader context in which intangible cultural heritage, in particular that is in need of urgent safeguarding, is practised, as these measures may not address the root threats to the continued transmission of the element and may therefore not safeguard living heritage in a sustainable manner;
9. Notes that several nomination files refer to other UNESCO programmes, such as the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions or the Creative Cities Network and reminds States Parties that while these instruments and programmes all contribute to the mandate of UNESCO and synergies between them should be encouraged, they all rely on different purposes and criteria from the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

#### **Specific issues related to criteria of the Lists**

10. Recalls Decisions [12.COM 11](#) and [12.COM 14](#) and welcomes in this regard, the generous voluntary supplementary contribution of the Government of Japan to the Intangible Cultural Fund to organize a preliminary meeting of experts and support the convening of an open-ended intergovernmental working group; these two meetings would be called to reflect on, *inter alia*, the nature and purposes of the Lists and the Register established under the Convention and on the relevance of the various criteria for each of these mechanisms, in particular criterion R.2 in relation to the nature and purpose of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
11. Further recalls Decisions [9.COM 10](#) and [10.COM 10](#) concerning criteria U.4 and R.4 and reminds States Parties of the need to ascertain the representativeness of the individuals, groups and entities that provide consent on behalf of the communities and to ensure that the evidence of consent refers specifically to the nomination of the element and does not use inappropriate concepts contradicting the provisions of the Convention;
12. Also recalls [Decision 10.COM 10](#) concerning criteria U.5 and R.5, reminds States Parties that drawing up inventories of intangible cultural heritage that are developed and regularly updated with the participation of communities is one of the core obligations of the Convention and encourages States Parties to make use of the 'Guidance Note on Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage' developed by the Secretariat to assist their efforts in this regard.