Unit 13

The Intangible Heritage Convention and the   
World Heritage Convention

lesson plan

Duration:

1 hour 30 minutes

Objective(s):

Develop a shared understanding of the common features of and differences between the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Description:

This unit compares the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It covers their origins and reviews the main features of the two Conventions. Each section highlights the key points they have in common, the differences between them and the ways that they complement each other.

Proposed sequence:

* Origins of the two Conventions
* The texts of the two Conventions: similarities and differences
* Definitions of heritage in the two Conventions
* Inventory-making under the two Conventions
* Lists of the two Conventions
* Organs of the two Conventions
* Advisory organizations under the two Conventions

Supporting documents:

* Participant’s text Unit 13
* Participant’s text Unit 3. Relevant entries include: ‘1989 Recommendation’, ‘Authenticity’, ‘Cultural space’, ‘General Assembly’, ‘Intergovernmental Committee’ and ‘Masterpieces’.
* Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage[[3]](#footnote-3)

Notes and suggestions

For the topic of comparing the Intangible Heritage Convention and the World Heritage Convention, facilitators are invited to use the Participant’s text of Unit 13, which contains the basic knowledge required to understand the commonalities and differences of the two Conventions. You could either read the text with the participants or prepare a PowerPoint presentation tailored to the workshop participants. Facilitators may wish to identify some examples for inscriptions or inventories and put them up on the screen to illustrate some of the points made in the text.

The unit builds on an initial comparison proposed in Unit 2 where the Intangible Heritage Convention is introduced. It is particularly useful if the workshop participants have a professional background in the field of tangible cultural heritage.

If sufficient time is available, facilitators could add an exercise using the texts of the two Conventions to identify the common features, the ways they complement each other and the differences between them.

1. . Frequently referred to as the ‘Intangible Heritage Convention’, the ‘2003 Convention’ and, for the purpose of this unit, simply the ‘Convention’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Frequently referred to as the ‘World Heritage Convention’ or the ‘1972 Convention’. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . UNESCO. *Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* (referred to in this unit as Basic Texts). Paris, UNESCO. Available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00503>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)