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

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

**Sixth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room II**

**30 May to 1 June 2016**

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| **Resolutions** |

RESOLUTION 6.GA 2

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/2,
2. Recalling Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure,
3. Elects H.E. Mr José Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros (Peru) Chairperson of the General Assembly;
4. Elects Mr Mustapha Nami (Morocco) Rapporteur of the General Assembly;
5. Elects Germany, Poland, Nepal, Senegal and Kuwait Vice-Chairpersons of the General Assembly.

RESOLUTION 6.GA 3

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/3,
2. Adopts the agenda of its sixth session (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 30 May to 1 June 2016) 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
7. Revision of the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention
8. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee
9. Use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
10. Election of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
11. Other business:
* Follow-up to the audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities
1. Closure

RESOLUTION 6.GA 4

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/4,

2. Recalling Article 6 of the Convention,

3. Further recalling Rule 13 of its Rules of Procedure, as well as Resolution 3.GA 12,

4. Decides that for the purpose of the election at its sixth 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 6.GA 5

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/5,
2. Recalling Article 30 of the Convention,
3. Welcomes the seven States – Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Kuwait, Marshall Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis – that have ratified the Convention since the fifth session of the General Assembly and expresses satisfaction with the continued steady pace of ratification;
4. Takes note of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly on its activities between June 2014 and June 2016 and thanks the Committee for its effective work;
5. Commends the Committee for progress made on various statutory aspects of the implementation of Convention as well as for its priority attention given to capacity building for the implementation of the Convention at the national level;
6. Acknowledges with satisfaction the continued interest shown by States Parties in the Convention’s mechanisms for international cooperation, and encourages the Committee to continue raising awareness on the importance of intangible cultural heritage and to disseminate best safeguarding practices;
7. Requests the Director-General to bring this report to the attention of the General Conference of UNESCO, in conformity with Article 30.2 of the Convention;
8. Further requests the Committee to report on its activities for the period between January 2016 and December 2017 for examination by the General Assembly at its seventh session, and to use a biennium calendar year for future reports thereafter;
9. Requests the Director-General, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, to write a letter to States non party to the Convention to encourage them to ratify.

RESOLUTION 6.GA 6

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/6,
2. Welcomes the new structure of the report of the Secretariat by performance indicators as well as the inclusion of the annexes of the report detailing follow-up actions carried out in response to the Internal Oversight Service’s audits and evaluations;
3. Commends the Secretariat for ensuring the effective implementation of the decisions of the Committee and of the General Assembly as well as the efficient organization of statutory meetings and appreciates a number of improvements made in the working methods of the Secretariat such as the provision of technical assistance, summaries and in-depth studies of periodic reports, the timely treatment of nominations as well as a fully renovated website that facilitates access to existing information;
4. Expresses satisfaction on the expanded reach and continued effectiveness of the global capacity-building programme and also appreciates the regular review, adaptation and enrichment of its content and format to respond effectively to major implementation challenges at the national level;
5. Thanks the States Parties that have generously provided extrabudgetary support to make the global capacity-building strategy possible and to support the other statutory functions of the Secretariat and invites States Parties to offer further support, particularly in the form of contributions to the sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat in order to allow it to address ongoing demands for the continued effective implementation of the Convention;
6. Acknowledges that the Secretariat has made good progress in response to the recommendations of the IOS evaluation and audit as well as to its corresponding decisions, and wishes that such efforts be continued as planned;
7. Takes note with interest that an expert meeting will be organised in the second half of 2016 in order to lay the foundation upon which an overall results framework of the Convention could be constructed and thanks the People’s Republic of China for its generous offer of a voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support the organization of such meeting;
8. Further appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to coordinate the growing network of category 2 centres and stimulate their ability to contribute effectively to UNESCO’s strategic objectives in the field of intangible cultural heritage, and encourages the Secretariat to strengthen the cooperation with UNESCO Chairs in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
9. Requests the Secretariat to report on its activities for the period between January 2016 and December 2017 for examination by the General Assembly at its seventh session, and to use this biennial format for future reports thereafter.

RESOLUTION 6.GA 7

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/7,
2. Approves the revision of the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention as amended;
3. Invites the Secretariat to consult with the Secretariats of the other cultural conventions as to enhance synergies and harmony, including issues related to sustainable development, and to report to it on this matter at its seventh session.

**ANNEX**

**I. International Assistance requests examined by the Bureau of the Committee**

27. On an experimental basis, 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, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and of international assistance requests greater than US$100,000 shall be accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’. The Evaluation Body will make recommendations to the Committee for its decision. The Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage.

33. 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. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000.

34. The Committee shall endeavour to examine to the extent possible at least one file per submitting State, within the limit of this overall ceiling, giving priority to:

* 1. files from States having no elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved, and nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
	2. multi-national files; and
	3. files from States with the fewest elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved, in comparison with other submitting States during the same cycle.

In case they submit several files during the same cycle, submitting States shall indicate the order of priority in which they wish their files to be examined and are invited to give priority to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

35. After examination, the Committee decides:

* whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
* whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as a best safeguarding practice, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
* or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than US$100,000 shall be approved, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information.

47. International assistance requests up to US$100,000 (except requests for preparatory assistance) and emergency requests regardless of the amount can be submitted at any time.

49. Requests up to US$100,000, including preparatory assistance, are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee.

50. Emergency requests, regardless of the amount are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. For the purpose of determining whether a request for international assistance constitutes an emergency request eligible to receive priority consideration by the Bureau, an emergency shall be considered to exist when a State Party finds itself unable to overcome on its own any circumstance due to calamity, natural disaster, armed conflict, serious epidemic or any other natural or human event that has severe consequences for the intangible cultural heritage as well as communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are the bearers of that heritage.

51. Requests greater than US$100,000 are evaluated by the Evaluation Body described in paragraph 27 above, and examined and approved by the Committee.

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| Phase 1: | Preparati Preparation and submission |
| 31 MarchYear 0 | Deadline for preparatory assistance requests for the elaboration of nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the objectives of the Convention (Article 18). |
| 31 MarchYear 1 | Deadline by which nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals for programmes, projects and activities and international assistance requests greater than US$100,000 must be received by the Secretariat. Files received after this date will be examined in the next cycle. The Secretariat posts on the website of the Convention, in their original language, files as received. |
| 30 JuneYear 1 | Deadline by which the Secretariat will have processed the files, including registration and acknowledgement of receipt. If a file is found incomplete, the State Party is invited to complete the file. |
| 30 SeptemberYear 1 | Deadline by which missing information required to complete the files, if any, shall be submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat. Files that remain incomplete are returned to the States Parties that may complete them for a subsequent cycle. As files revised by submitting States reach the Secretariat following its requests for additional information, they are posted online and replace the original files received. Their translations into English or French are also posted online as they become available. |

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**II. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development**

**Chapter VI SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

1. With a view to effectively implementing the Convention, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to recognize the importance and strengthen the role of intangible cultural heritage as a driver and guarantee of sustainable development, as well as fully integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into their development plans, policies and programmes at all levels. While recognizing the interdependence between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, States Parties shall strive to maintain a balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development (the economic, social and environmental), as well as their interdependence with peace and security, in their safeguarding efforts and shall to this end facilitate cooperation with relevant experts, cultural brokers and mediators through a participatory approach. States Parties shall acknowledge the dynamic nature of intangible cultural heritage in both urban and rural contexts and shall direct their safeguarding efforts solely on such intangible cultural heritage that is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.
2. Insofar as their development plans, policies and programmes involve intangible cultural heritage or may potentially affect its viability, States Parties shall endeavour to:
	1. ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and involve them actively in elaboration and implementation of such plans, policies and programmes;
	2. ensure that those communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries, both in moral and in material terms, of any such plans, policies and programmes;
	3. ensure that such plans, policies and programmes respect ethical considerations and do not negatively affect the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned or de-contextualize or denaturalize that heritage;
	4. facilitate cooperation with sustainable development experts and cultural brokers for the appropriate integration of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into plans, policies and programmes, both within and outside the cultural sector.
3. States Parties shall endeavour to take full cognizance of the potential and actual impacts of all development plans and programmes on intangible cultural heritage, particularly in the context of environmental, social, economic and cultural impact assessment processes.
4. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a strategic resource to enable sustainable development. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of issues linked to protection of various rights of the communities, groups and individuals, connected to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in particular through the application of intellectual property rights, privacy rights and any other appropriate forms of legal protection, to ensure that the rights of the communities, groups and individuals that create, bear and transmit their intangible cultural heritage are duly protected when raising awareness about their heritage or engaging in commercial activities.
5. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that their safeguarding plans and programmes are fully inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups, in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention.
6. States Parties are encouraged to foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities or groups themselves and by non-governmental organizations, aimed at understanding the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development and its importance as a resource for dealing with development problems and at demonstrating its value with clear evidence, including appropriate indicators if possible.
7. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that inscriptions of intangible cultural heritage on the Convention’s lists as provided in Articles 16 and 17 of the Convention and the selection of best safeguarding practices as provided in Article 18 of the Convention are used to advance the Convention’s goals of safeguarding and sustainable development and are not misused to the detriment of the intangible cultural heritage and communities, groups or individuals concerned, in particular for short-term economic gain.

**VI.1 Inclusive social development**

1. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that inclusive social development comprehends issues such as sustainable food security, quality health care, quality education for all, gender equality and access to safe water and sanitation, and that these goals should be underpinned by inclusive governance and the freedom for people to choose their own value systems.

**VI.1.1 Food security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral, food-gathering, food preparation and food preservation knowledge and practices, including their related rituals and beliefs, that contribute to food security and adequate nutrition and that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities or groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those knowledge and practices, demonstrating their efficacy, identifying and promoting their contributions to maintaining agro-biodiversity, providing food security and strengthening their resilience to climate change;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including codes or other tools of ethics, to promote and/or regulate access to farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral and food gathering, food preparation and food preservation knowledge and practices, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, as well as equitable sharing of the benefits they generate, and ensure the transmission of such knowledge and practices;
	3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to recognize and respect the customary rights of communities and groups to those land, sea and forest ecosystems necessary for their farming, fishing, pastoral and food-gathering knowledge and practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.1.2 Health care**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those health practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and that contribute to their well-being, including their related knowledge, genetic resources, practices, expressions, rituals and beliefs, and to harness their potential to contribute to achieving quality health care for all. To that end, they are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of health care practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, demonstrating their functions and efficacy and identifying their contributions to meeting health care needs;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in consultation with knowledge holders, healers and practitioners, to promote access to healing knowledge and raw materials, participation in healing practices, and transmission of such knowledge and practices that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of them;
	3. enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of health care practices and systems.

**VI.1.3 Quality education**

1. Within their respective educational systems and policies, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in society, emphasizing its particular role in transmitting values and life skills and contributing to sustainable development, in particular through specific educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned and through non-formal means of transmitting knowledge. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. ensure that educational systems promote respect for one’s self, one’s community or group, mutual respect for others and do not in any way alienate people from their intangible cultural heritage, characterize their communities or groups as not participating in contemporary life or harm in any way their image;
		2. ensure that intangible cultural heritage is integrated as fully as possible into the content of educational programmes of all relevant disciplines, both as a contribution in its own right and as a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects at the curricular, cross-curricular and extra-curricular levels;
		3. recognize the importance, along with innovative safeguarding methods, of modes and methods of transmitting intangible cultural heritage that are themselves recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, and seek to harness their potential within formal and non-formal education systems;
	2. enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of educational practices and systems;
	3. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of pedagogical methods that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and assessing their efficacy and suitability for integration into other educational contexts;
	4. promote education for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.1.4 Gender equality**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to foster the contributions of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination while recognizing that communities and groups pass on their values, norms and expectations related to gender through intangible cultural heritage and it is, therefore, a privileged context in which group and community members’ gender identities are shaped. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. take advantage of the potential of intangible cultural heritage and of its safeguarding to create common spaces for dialogue on how best to achieve gender equality, taking into account the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders;
	2. promote the important role that intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding can play in building mutual respect among communities and groups whose members may not share the same conceptions of gender;
	3. assist communities and groups in examining expressions of their intangible cultural heritage with regard to their impact and potential contribution to enhancing gender equality and to take the results of this examination into account in decisions to safeguard, practice, transmit and promote at the international level these expressions;
	4. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of gender roles within particular expressions of intangible cultural heritage;
	5. ensure gender equality in the planning, management and implementation of safeguarding measures, at all levels and in all contexts, in order to take full advantage of the diverse perspectives of all members of society.

**VI.1.5 Access to clean and safe water and sustainable water use**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the viability of water management systems that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and that promote equitable access to safe drinking water and sustainable water use, notably in agriculture and other subsistence activities. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those water management systems that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and identifying their contributions to meeting environmental and water-related development needs, as well as how to strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to identify, enhance and promote such systems in order to respond to water needs and climate change challenges at the local, national and international levels.

**VI.2 Inclusive economic development**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge that the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage contributes to inclusive economic development, and to recognize in this context that sustainable development depends upon stable, equitable and inclusive economic growth based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption and requires reduction of poverty and inequalities, productive and decent employment as well as ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, renewable and modern energy for all and improving progressively resource efficiency in consumption and production.
2. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of intangible cultural heritage as a powerful force for inclusive and equitable economic development, encompassing a diversity of productive activities with both monetary and non-monetary value, and contributing in particular to strengthening local economies. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to respect the nature of that heritage and the specific circumstances of the communities, groups or individuals concerned, particularly their choice of collective or individual management of their heritage while providing them with the necessary conditions for the practice of their creative expressions and promoting fair trade and ethical economic relations.

**VI.2.1 Income generation and sustainable livelihoods**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its role in supplementing other forms of income;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. promote opportunities for communities, groups and individuals to generate income and sustain their livelihood so that the sustainable practice, transmission and safeguarding of their intangible cultural heritage can be ensured;
		2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of income generated as a result of their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to generate income for others.

**VI.2.2 Productive employment and decent work**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for productive employment and decent work for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its adaptability to family and household circumstances and relation to other forms of employment;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including tax incentives, to:
		1. promote productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals in the practice and transmission of their intangible cultural heritage while extending social security protection and benefits to them;
		2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of work opportunities involving their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to create employment for others.

**VI.2.3 Impact of tourism on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and vice versa**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that any activities related to tourism, whether undertaken by the States or by public or private bodies, demonstrate all due respect to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories and to the rights, aspirations and wishes of the communities, groups and individuals concerned therewith. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. assess, both in general and in specific terms, the potential of intangible cultural heritage for sustainable tourism and the impact of tourism on the intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development of the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to anticipating potential impact before activities are initiated;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. ensure that communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of any tourism associated with their own intangible cultural heritage while promoting their lead role in managing such tourism;
		2. ensure that the viability, social functions and cultural meanings of that heritage are in no way diminished or threatened by such tourism;
		3. guide the interventions of those involved in the tourism industry and the behaviour of those who participate in it as tourists.

**VI.3 Environmental sustainability**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge the contribution of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to environmental sustainability and to recognize that environmental sustainability requires sustainably managed natural resources and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, which in turn could gain from improved scientific understanding and knowledge-sharing about climate change, natural hazards, the environmental and natural resource limits and that strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations in the face of climate change and natural disasters is essential.

**VI.3.1 Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for, sharing of and enhancement of the knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage and that contribute to environmental sustainability recognizing their capacity to evolve, harnessing their potential role in the protection of biodiversity and in the sustainable management of natural resources. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of knowledge about nature and the universe and as essential actors in sustaining the environment;
	2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding systems of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable resource use, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, and demonstrating their effectiveness while promoting international cooperation for the identification and sharing of good practices;
	3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning nature and the universe while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
		2. conserve and protect those natural spaces whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**VI.3.2 Environmental impacts in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize the potential and actual environmental impacts of intangible cultural heritage practices and safeguarding activities, with particular attention to the possible consequences of their intensification. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding such impacts;
	2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to encourage environmentally friendly practices and to mitigate any possible harmful impacts.

**VI.3.3 Community-based resilience to natural disasters and climate change**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of knowledge and practices concerning geoscience, particularly the climate, and harness their potential to contribute to the reduction of risk, recovery from natural disasters, particularly through the strengthening of social cohesion and mitigation of climate change impacts. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about geoscience, particularly the climate;
	2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding and demonstrating the effectiveness of knowledge of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery, climate adaptation and climate change mitigation, that are recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, while enhancing the capacities of communities, groups and individuals to face challenges related to climate change that existing knowledge may not address;
	3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. promote access to and transmission of knowledge concerning the earth and the climate, that is recognized by communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their intangible cultural heritage, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
		2. fully integrate communities, groups and individuals who are bearers of such knowledge into systems and programmes of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**VI.4 Intangible cultural heritage and peace**

1. States Parties are encouraged to acknowledge the contribution of safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development) and free from fear and violence. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.
2. States Parties should endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance those practices, representations and expressions of intangible cultural heritage that have peace-making and peace-building at their core, bring communities, groups and individuals together and ensure exchange, dialogue and understanding among them. States Parties shall further endeavour to fully realize the contribution that safeguarding activities make to the construction of peace.

**VI.4.1 Social cohesion and equity**

1. States Parties should endeavour to recognize and promote the contribution of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to social cohesion, overcoming all forms of discrimination and strengthening the social fabric of communities and groups in an inclusive way. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to give particular attention to those practices, expressions and knowledge that help communities, groups and individuals to transcend and address differences of gender, colour, ethnicity, origin, class and locality and to those that are broadly inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of marginalized groups.

**VI.4.2 Preventing and resolving disputes**

1. States Parties should endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that intangible cultural heritage can make towards the prevention of disputes and peaceful conflict resolution. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at demonstrating expressions, practices and representations of intangible cultural heritage as contributors to dispute prevention and peaceful conflict resolution;
	2. promote the adoption of legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
		1. support such expressions, practices and representations;
		2. integrate them into public programmes and policies;
		3. reduce their vulnerability during and in the aftermath of conflicts;
		4. consider them as complements to other legal and administrative mechanisms of dispute prevention and peaceful conflict resolution.

**VI.4.3 Restoring peace and security**

1. States Parties should endeavour to take full advantage of the potential role of intangible cultural heritage in the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities and groups themselves, aimed at understanding how intangible cultural heritage can contribute to restoring peace, reconciling parties, re-establishing safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals;
	2. promote legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to integrate such intangible cultural heritage into public programmes and policies aimed at the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals.

**VI.4.4 Achieving lasting peace**

1. States Parties should endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups and individuals makes to the construction of lasting peace. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
	1. ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities, and members of vulnerable groups in their safeguarding efforts;
	2. take full advantage of the contribution of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to democratic governance and human rights by ensuring the widest possible participation of communities, groups and individuals;
	3. promote the peace-building potential of safeguarding efforts that involve intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity.

**III. Periodic reporting**

151. Each State Party to the Convention periodically submits to the Committee reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken for the implementation of the Convention. States Parties are encouraged to complement the data gathered on the implementation of the Convention with information provided by relevant non-governmental organizations.

152. The State Party submits its periodic report to the Committee by 15 December of the sixth year following the year in which it deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, and every sixth year thereafter. Form ICH-10 is used for such reports, available at [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form.

153. The State Party reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken for implementation of the Convention at the national level, including:

(a) drawing up of inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, as described in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention;

(b) other safeguarding measures as referred to in Articles 11 and 13 of the Convention, including:

i. adopting a general policy aimed at promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society and integrating its safeguarding into planning programmes;

ii. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;

iii. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

154. The State Party reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken at the national level to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as described in Article 13 of the Convention, including:

(a) designating or establishing one or more competent bodies for safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage;

(b) strengthening institutions for training in intangible cultural heritage management and transmission of this heritage;

(c) establishing documentation institutions for intangible cultural heritage and, to the extent possible, facilitating access to them.

155. The State Party reports on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken at the national level to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 of the Convention:

(a) educational, awareness-raising and information programmes;

(b) educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;

(c) capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;

(d) non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;

(e) education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory.

157. The State Party reports on the current status of all elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The State Party shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups, and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of such reports, which shall address, for each element concerned:

(a) the element’s social and cultural functions;

(b) an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces, if any;

(c) its contribution to the goals of the List;

(d) the efforts to promote or reinforce the element, particularly the implementation of any measures that might have been necessary as a consequence of its inscription;

(e) the participation of communities, groups and individuals as well as relevant non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the element and their continued commitment to its further safeguarding.

160. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee reports on the status of elements of intangible cultural heritage present in its territory that have been inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding at its request or, in cases of extreme urgency, after consultation with it. The State Party shall endeavour to involve as broadly as possible the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of such reports.

161. Such reports shall normally be submitted to the Committee by 15 December of the fourth year following the year in which the element was inscribed, and every fourth year thereafter. Form ICH-11 is used for such reports, available at [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form. At the time of inscription the Committee may on a case-by-case basis establish a specific timetable for reporting that will take precedence over the normal four-year cycle.

162. The State Party shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall reports on the current status of the element, including:

(a) its social and cultural functions;

(b) an assessment of its viability and the current risks it faces;

(c) the impacts of the efforts to safeguard the element, particularly the implementation of the safeguarding plan that was submitted at the time of nomination;

(d) the participation of communities, groups and individuals as well as relevant non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the element and their continued commitment to its further safeguarding.

166. The Secretariat transmits to the Committee an overview of all reports received four weeks prior to its session. The overview and the reports are also made available on-line for consultation.

169. Such reports shall be submitted to the Committee by States non party by 15 December 2014, and every sixth year thereafter. Form ICH-10 is used for such reports, available at [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) or on request from the Secretariat. The reports shall include only the information requested in the form.

**IV. Referral option**

30. The Evaluation Body shall submit to the Committee an evaluation report that includes a recommendation:

* to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
* to select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity, or to refer the proposal to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or
* to approve or not to approve the International Assistance request, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information.

35. After examination, the Committee decides:

* whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
* whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as a best safeguarding practice, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information;
* or whether or not an International Assistance request greater than US$100,000 shall be approved, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information.

36. Nominations, proposals or requests that the Committee decides not to inscribe, select, or approve, or to refer to the submitting State(s) for additional information, may be resubmitted to the Committee for examination during a following cycle, after having been updated and supplemented.

37. A decision by the Committee to refer a nomination, proposal or request to the submitting State(s) for additional information does not imply or guarantee that the element will be inscribed, the proposal selected or the request approved in the future. Any subsequent resubmission must fully demonstrate that the criteria for inscription, selection or approval are satisfied.

**V. Schedule of non-governmental organizations accreditation**

98. Requests for accreditation shall be prepared by using the Form ICH-09 (available at [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich) or on request from the Secretariat) and shall include all the information requested and only that information. Requests shall be received by the Secretariat by 30 April of odd-numbered years for examination by the Committee at its ordinary session in that same year.

RESOLUTION 6.GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/8,
2. Recalling Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91-99 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling Decisions 9.COM 14 and 10.COM 16,
4. Accredits the 24 NGOs listed in the Annex to this Resolution to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee;
5. Encourages NGOs that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for accreditation at the earliest opportunity, especially those from countries and regions that have less representation and participation;
6. Invites the NGOs accredited in 2012 to submit to the Secretariat their quadrennial report in 2017 so that the Committee at its twelfth session can review the contribution and commitment of each advisory organization;
7. Decides to inscribe an item on the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly with a report from the non-governmental organizations forum and its meetings.

**ANNEX**

| **Name of organization** | **Country of headquarters** | **Request number** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Aşiq Şəmşir Mədəniyyət Ocaği İctimai Birliyi / Ashiq Shamshir Cultural Center Public Union | Azerbaijan | [NGO-90327](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90327-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Asociación Cultural e Pedagóxica ‘Ponte ... nas Ondas’ /Cultural and Educational Association ‘Ponte ... nas Ondas’ | Spain | [NGO-90355](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90355-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Associació d’Estudis Fallers (ADEF) / Fallas studies association  | Spain | [NGO-90350](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90350-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| L’Association canadienne d’ethnologie et de folklore /The Folklore Studies Association of Canada | Canada | [NGO-90360](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90360-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| جمعية خريجي المعهد الوطني لعلوم الأثار والتراث / Association des lauréats de l’Institut national des sciences de l’archéologie et du patrimoine – ALINSAP | Morocco | [NGO-90345](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90345-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Association mauritanienne pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel – AMS – PCI  | Mauritania | [NGO-90347](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90347-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland, Bundesverband für Kultur, Natur und Heimat e.V / Federal Organisation of the Local Heritage Organisations in Germany | Germany | [NGO-90353](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90353-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Centre Albert Marinus | Belgium | [NGO-90330](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90330-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| 무형문화연구소 / The Center for Intangible Culture Studies – CICS | Republic of Korea | [NGO-90336](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90336-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Ensemble artistique et culturel TOWARA – EAC | Benin | [NGO-90346](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90346-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Forbundet KYSTEN / The Norwegian Coastal Federation | Norway | [NGO-90349](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90349-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Heritage Crafts Association | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | [NGO-90323](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90323-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Institut Occitan d’Aquitaine | France | [NGO-90319](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90319-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| International Association of Paremiology – IAP / Associação Internacional de Paremiologia | Portugal | [NGO-90322](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90322-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
|  الجمعية الموريتانية للمأثورات الشعبية / Association mauritanienne pour les traditions populaires (AMTP) | Mauritania | [NGO-90343](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90343-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Maison de la Métallurgie et de l’Industrie de Liège – MMIL | Belgium | [NGO-90324](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90324-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Norsk Folkemuseum, Norsk etnologisk gransking (NF/NEG) /Norwegian Ethnological Research | Norway | [NGO-90281](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90281-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Patrimoine du Musée International du Carnaval et du Masque | Belgium | [NGO-90329](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90329-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Public Fund Aigine Cultural Research Center – Aigine CRC | Kyrgyzstan | [NGO-90335](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90335-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| श्रेए हनुमान व्यायाम प्रसरक मन्दल् / Shree Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal | India | [NGO-90321](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90321-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Société française d’Ethnoscénologie (SOFETH) | France | [NGO-90314](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90314-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Starpnozaru mākslas grupa SERDE / Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE | Latvia | [NGO-90356](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90356-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Tribal Cultural Society | India | [NGO-90361](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90361-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |
| Европейска Асоциация на Фолклорните Фестивали /European Association of Folklore Festivals | Bulgaria | [NGO-90338](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/NGO-90338-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf) |

RESOLUTION 6.GA 9

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents ITH/16/6.GA/9, ITH/16/6.GA/INF.9.1 and ITH/16/6.GA/INF.9.2,
2. Recalling Article 7(c) of the Convention and paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Operational Directives,
3. Approves the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 as well as for the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018 in Annex to this Resolution, it being understood that at the time of its seventh session in June 2018, it may readjust the budget plan from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018;
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. Takes note that the Committee set the amount of the Reserve Fund at US$1 million;
7. Further takes note of the donors having provided voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund since its last session, namely Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, China, Georgia, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the United Arab Emirates as well as the Association for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Italy) and the Norwegian Centre for Traditional Music (Norway);
8. Thanks all the contributors that have supported the Convention and its Secretariat, since its last session, making use of different forms of support, financial or in-kind, such as earmarked supplementary voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund or 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.

**ANNEX**

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| **Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund** |
| For the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017, as well as for the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018, the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund may be used for the following purposes: | % of the total amount |
| 1. | International assistance, comprising the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, the preparation of inventories, and the support for other safeguarding programmes, projects and activities; | 59.00% |
| 2. | Preparatory Assistance for nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List as well as for the proposals for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and international assistance requests; | 5.50% |
| 3. | Other functions of the Committee as described in Article 7 and in the Operational Directives; | 20.00% |
| 4. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and its subsidiary bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States Members of the Committee; | 2.25% |
| 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; | 2.75% |
| 6. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and its subsidiary and consultative bodies of public or private bodies, private persons, notably members of communities and groups, that have been invited by the Committee to be consulted on specific matters as well as of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing accredited NGOs from developing countries; | 4.50% |
| 7. | Cost of advisory services provided at the request of the Committee, including support to developing States whose representatives have been appointed to the Evaluation Body; | 6.00% |
| 8. | Reserve Fund to meet requests for assistance in cases of extreme urgency. | N/A |
| **TOTAL** | **100.00%** |
| 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 of 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018, one-fourth of the amount established for the twenty-four-months of the financial period 2016-2017 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](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/8)). |

**RESOLUTION 6.GA 10**

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/6.GA/10,

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 6.GA 4,

4. Elects the following 12 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: Austria and Cyprus

Group II: Armenia

Group III: Colombia, Cuba and Guatemala

Group IV: Philippines

Group V(a): Mauritius, Senegal and Zambia

Group V(b): Lebanon and Palestine.

RESOLUTION 6.GA 11

The General Assembly,

1. Noting the disparity of the rules of procedure of the different organs of the UNESCO cultural conventions,
2. Aiming at the improvement of coherence in the procedures of the above-mentioned organs in order to bring closer the conduct of business in these organs,
3. Invites States Parties to communicate to the Secretariat by 30 November 2016 proposals for the modification of its Rules of Procedure and requests the Secretariat to prepare a working document reflecting the proposals received and to present it at the seventh session of the General Assembly.