Unit 55

Hand-out 5:

Strategic choices in ICH policy making: discussion framework[[1]](#footnote-1)

There are no strict guidelines for policy development under the Convention, only broad principles. ICH policy needs to be tailored to the situation in each State. This involves making strategic choices about approaches and priorities, based on the specific context and needs of each State. This document raises some questions regarding these choices, and can be used either to guide discussion in a workshop session or as a questionnaire.

**What best describes the approaches underlying cultural policy making in your State?**

* One nation, one culture, so one cultural policy. Recent immigrants are expected to assimilate to the ‘national’ culture (or equivalent in a federal system).
* Everyone shares in ‘national’ culture (which may in fact be based on the principles of governance in the State), but people can also have a separate group identity. These different cultures and identities can be accommodated under the same national (or federal) cultural policy.
* It is up to each region/state/province to regulate their own cultural affairs.
* There is no cultural policy. Culture is something that the State does not regulate.

**What best describes the approach to public consultation in the State in policy making?**

The State makes policy for the public

The public are consulted on policy

The public participate in making policy

Who makes policy in the State? Is it the Executive branch (such as the ministries) or the Legislative branch of government (such as parliament)?

Give examples of ways in which the public participates in policy-making, if at all, in the State.

**What elements of ICH do communities in your State consider important? Give examples**

* Oral expressions
* Performing arts
* Social practices, rituals, festive events
* Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
* [Knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00057)

**What are the major factors that threaten (or may threaten) the viability of ICH in your State?**

* Loss of interest within communities to continue the practice
* Lack of employment or income generation opportunities from ICH practice
* Current marginalisation of communities and groups concerned (economic, social, cultural)
* Historical marginalisation of communities and groups concerned (economic, social, cultural)
* Environmental factors
* Other, please specify

**What is the most important arena for awareness raising about ICH, given the situation in your State?**

* The international community
* The State
* Local communities
* All of the above

**What are the main benefits of ICH safeguarding, given the situation in your State?**

* Recognition of cultural diversity/creativity nationally and internationally
* Social cohesion and identity for communities concerned
* Fostering a national culture based on ICH
* Economic development of the State
* Economic development of specific communities
* Sustainable development of communities more generally
* Identification of ICH for the protection of intellectual property rights
* Other, please specify

**What existing laws and policies might affect ICH safeguarding in your State?**

* International or regional agreements and laws, please specify
* Constitutional and/or human rights provisions in the State, please specify
* Governance arrangements and provisions for minority groups in the State, please specify
* Policies and laws in the culture sector, please specify
* Policies and laws outside the culture sector, please specify
* Other, please specify

**Who, other than the communities and groups concerned, currently has institutional responsibilities regarding ICH safeguarding in your State?**

* State agencies, please specify
* NGOs or civil society organisations, please specify
* Research institutions or other centres of expertise, please specify
* Other, please specify

**What other relevant issues should be considered regarding policy-making for ICH safeguarding in your State?**

**How will ICH-related policies promote the involvement of communities, groups and individuals concerned in ICH management?**

* Community representation required in civil consultative bodies at the national (federal), provincial (county, state) or local level
* Community representation required in ICH Committees or other ICH-specific bodies
* Community representation and proof of community consent required in ICH work of NGOs or civil society organisations
* Community representation and proof of community consent required in ICH work of research institutions or other centres of expertise
* Free, prior and informed consent required for activities for safeguarding ICH
* Other, please specify

**Which of the following ICH policy approaches (tick all that apply) might help to address the challenges for ICH safeguarding in your State? How will they do this?**

* ICH policies that give special emphasis to specific domains of ICH or specific communities or groups (explain why)
* ICH policies that give special emphasis to ICH whose viability is impaired or threatened
* ICH policies that give special emphasis to encouraging or supporting bearers of ICH knowledge and skills
* ICH policies that apply equally to all ICH domains or elements
* Other, please specify

**Which of the following approaches (tick all that apply) could be used to include ICH-related provisions in different kinds of policies?**

* All ICH-related provisions integrated into general culture or heritage policies (covering tangible heritage, cultural industries etc.)
* The formulation of separate policies and institutional arrangements for ICH (distinct from general culture or heritage policies)
* ICH also specifically mentioned in other policies (culture policies, heritage policies, language policies, etc.)
* ICH also specifically mentioned in other policies outside the culture sector (constitution, education policies, health policies, etc.)
* Other, please specify

1. . Note: this document may need to be adapted depending on the context. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)