Unit 49

Hand-out 9:

An ICH SAfeguarding policy

This fictitious policy instrument is *the National Plan for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* of Firoozestan, a country that has been a Party to the 2003 Convention since 2004. It revised its cultural heritage legislation in 2005 and, subsequently, developed this national safeguarding plan for ICH. The plan has a fifteen-year horizon, with an evaluation conducted every five years. The second five-yearly evaluation is now under way and certain important revisions are being considered to bring this policy document more in line with current thinking about implementing the 2003 Convention.

You are a member of an interdisciplinary National ICH Committee composed of members of the State Administration, representatives of the regional governments, external experts and representatives of NGOs and community associations which was created to coordinate and monitor the actions undertaken under the Plan and is now tasked with revising this ICH policy document.

One of the newly identified priorities for revising the National Plan is the need to mainstream gender into ICH safeguarding policies and programmes and this is the question currently being debated in the Commission, taking into account the on-going work of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention in this area.

Below, the existing National Plan is presented in brief. You are asked to propose areas in which revisions may be introduced that will better reflect the gender dynamics of ICH and within cultural communities, while bearing in mind the twin objectives of gender equality and sustainable development.

***Note for participants*:**

Central objectives of a gender-aware safeguarding strategy include the following:

* Create a better awareness of gender issues among government agencies and experts
* Create a better awareness of gender issues within communities
* Maximise the potential of ICH to develop the wider social, cultural and economic value of the skills and know-how of marginalized groups
* Develop community-based initiatives, including capacity-building within communities that take account appropriately and effectively of the gender dimension
* Ensure that safeguarding measures respect gender equality
* Avoid the potential for damaging the ICH and/or fragile gender balances within the community

#### NATIONAL PLAN FOR SAFEGUARDING THE ICH OF FIROOZESTAN

***Main objectives of the National Plan***:

* Establish an agreed conceptual framework for safeguarding ICH.
* Develop projects on the identification, documentation, dissemination and promotion of ICH elements.
* Raise public awareness of ICH and achieve institutional recognition of it within the framework of cultural policies.
* Facilitate the sharing of information and coordination among government administrations.
* Create a common methodological framework for the actions of all public administrations, private entities and society in general should be addressed.
* Create an effective mechanism for the participation of ICH bearer communities in the design and implementation of safeguarding plans and projects developed under this policy.

***Main programmes of the National Plan:***

* Research and documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage
* Conservation of the tangible heritage associated with ICH elements
* Training, transfer, promotion and dissemination of the ICH

***Tools for safeguarding ICH under the National Plan:***

* Registers or preliminary inventories of ICH
* Catalogues of ICH based on the results of research and documentation studies undertaken
* Methodology for setting objectives, strategies and proposed actions
* A strategy for conducting a risk analysis for ICH elements
* Research studies targeting specific concrete safeguarding programmes or actions
* Safeguarding plans tailored for specific elements

***The detailed policy areas in which you want to consider how to develop the gender-responsiveness of this policy document include the following***:

* Identification/inventorying
* Research/documentation
* Transmission of ICH
* Promotion of ICH and awareness-raising (at all levels)
* Education and training
* Working with communities on the design and implementation of safeguarding actions
* Monitoring and evaluating safeguarding plans
* Incorporating ICH safeguarding into broader cultural policies
* Incorporating ICH into other policy areas (rural and urban development planning, the environment, trade, agriculture, etc.)