Report by a Non-Governmental Organization Accredited to Act in an Advisory Capacity to the Committee on its Contribution to the Implementation of the Convention

Deadline 15 February 2017

for examination in 2017

*File may be downloaded at:*

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*Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

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| 1. **Identification of the organization** |
| **A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report** |
| A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.* |
| 中国民俗学会 |
| A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.* |
| China Folklore Society (CFS) |
| A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated on all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)* |
| NGO-90089 |
| **A.2. Address of the organization** |
| *Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone, e-mail address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Organization: | China Folklore Society (CFS) | | Address: | The Dongyue Taoist Temple / Beijing Folklore Museum  141 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Beijing 100020, China | | Telephone number: | +86-10-65513620 | | E-mail address: | CFS4ICH@163.com or chinafolklore@163.com | | Website: | http://www.chinafolklore.org/ or http://www.chinesefolklore.org.cn/ | | Other relevant information: |  | |
| **A.3. Contact person for correspondence** |
| *Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): | Ms. | | Family name: | BAMO | | Given name: | Qubumo | | Institution/position: | Vice President | | Address: | Room 1112, No.5 Jianguomennei Dajie, Beijing 100732, China | | Telephone number: | +86-10-85195629 (on Tues.) | | E-mail address: | bmqbm@qq.com | | Other relevant information: | Ph.D & Senior Research Fellow in Folkloristics | |
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| **B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)**[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| *Distinguish completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, so indicate. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.* |
| **B.1.** *Describe your organization’s participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding ICH (Article 13 and OD 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The China Folklore Society (CFS) possesses a consultative status to the governments at all levels.During the past 12 years, a number of senior experts from the China Folklore Society (CFS), as deputy directors or board members on the National Expert Committee for Safeguarding ICH, have been commissioned to provide consultation services in developing ICH-related policies, regulations and legislation, playing a visible role in key projects and programmes at national and local levels.  2003-04: A 5-Expert Group, established by the Ministry of Culture for the drafting and formulation of The Interim Measures for Evaluation of National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, of which 4 members came from the CFS.  2004-08: Two surveys on Chinese traditional festivals and national legal holidays, contributing to the Decision of the State Council on Amending the Regulation on Public Holidays for National Annual Festivals and Memorial Days.  2004-16: Participating in the legislation on safeguarding ICH in China, including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Intangible Cultural Heritage and a dozen safeguarding ICH regulations at the province or autonomous region level; the conducting of legal interpretations for the public became a routine activity.  2007-14: Selecting and monitoring 18 Pilot Areas for National Eco-Cultural Reserves across 16 provinces and autonomous regions.  Since 2008: Making assessments for locating 100 Pilot Bases for Safeguarding Traditional Craftsmanship by Means of Continuity-in-Productivity.  Since 2009: Advising the establishment of ICH training centers and transmission bases nationwide.  2008-16: Assisting in preparing nomination files to the Lists and Register of the Convention.  —Obstacles or difficulties:  1) Some agencies and actors have not fully understood the Convention and therefore cannot fulfill their commitments well; 2) the lack of experts on sustainable development who can offer support for the safeguarding ICH. |
| **B.2.** *Describe your organization’s cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training and documentation of intangible cultural heritage (OD 154).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Serving as a consultant organization at the national level, the CFS along with its senior experts and active members have been in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and its three major competent bodies for the safeguarding of ICH in China through the following ways:  With the Department of ICH: formulating safeguarding measures, developing projects, programmes and activities; making assessment on allocating funds; and advising the design of mentoring indicators for the implantation of the 2003 Convention and Law of the People’s Republic of China on Intangible Cultural Heritage, as requested.  With Bureau for External Cultural Relations: providing pre-meeting analysis of documents and on-site advisory services for the China delegation’s participating sessions and assemblies of the Committee; assisting in the [re]translating, revising, and compiling of the basic texts of the Convention, including follow-up methods for the updated versions of all of the forms and ODs.  With the China National Center for the Safeguarding of ICH: conducting training workshops, delivering lectures nationwide, and evaluating nomination files for both National List and UNESCO Lists.  CFS and its ICH experts also maintain close collaborations with national memory institutions, taking the Development Center for Ethnic and Folk Literature and Art (under auspices of the Ministry of Culture) as a case:  1984-2009: the national project for the Collection of Chinese Folk Stories, Collection of Chinese Folk Ballads, Collection of Chinese Folk Proverbs, namely Three Collection of Folk Literature;  Since 2011: Book Series of China National Chronicles of Traditional Festivals;  Since 2014: Documentary Series of 100 Living Epic Traditions in China. |
| **B.3.** *Describe your organization’s involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State’s Periodic Report (OD 152).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Since the end of 2015, CFS has been entrusted by the Ministry of Culture with providing consultation services in preparing China’s Periodic Report on the Status of 7 elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List (submitted in May 2016) and 30 elements on the Representative List (to be submitted).  In preparing these reports, a new mechanism of collaboration between the competent bodies, communities, and CFS has been formed. Fully supported by Ministry of Culture, a working group comprised of 6 CFS ICH experts has been designated to work with representatives from the concerned communities, groups, coordinators from local governments, and multi-actors.  There are several stages in drafting a report on an inscribed element: 1) delivered training lectures at orientation workshops respectively organized in January and April 2016 in Beijing—to help the representatives coming from communities, groups, and individuals concerned to better understand the requirements of the periodic report; 2) provided methods and guidelines in data collecting and one-to-one advisory services in the first draft of the report—CFS4ICH experts and local coordinators are involved in gathering first-hand data and through whom the first draft is elaborated; 3) Conducted further modification and English translation of the report, including the cross-checking of documents within the working group and receiving feedback and the final consent made by the communities, groups or individuals involved.  The aforementioned working mechanism in practice contributes to a better representation of 37 reports for reflecting the implementation of the Convention, the current situation and the transmission of the elements, the effectiveness of the safeguarding measures, as well as the challenges that potentially influence these elements. |
| **B.4** *Describe your organization’s participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Best Safeguarding Practices.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Since 2008, senior folklorists and ICH experts from the CFS have participated in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List and Representative List through providing consultation and advisory services both to the communities concerned and to the National Center for Safeguarding ICH in China, for instance, Manas (2009), Gesar epic tradition (2009), Hezhen Yimakan storytelling (2011), Chinese Zhusuan, knowledge and practices of mathematical calculation through the abacus (2013) amongst other inscribed elements, besides some pending files (including 3 proposals for the Register of Best Practices). As one of representative groups, the CFS along with 10 communities and China Agricultural Museum prepared the nomination file of the Twenty-Four Solar Terms, knowledge in China of time and practices developed through observation of the sun’s annual motion (2016).  In January 2017, the CFS ICH working team was invited by the Department of the ICH of the Ministry of Culture to organize a training workshop for 120 representatives coming from 33 communities and cultural administrative organs to help them in preparing nomination files for future cycles. |
| **B.5.** *Describe your organization’s participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain in particular how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| With regard to the inventory-building of intangible cultural heritage in the past 12 years, CFS senior scholars as members of a leading group established by the Ministry of Culture have worked with multi-actors in compiling a standard-setting working handbook for the census first, and then for the on-the-site training of census personnel, paving the way for the nationwide investigation and inventory of intangible cultural heritage resources, a series of tasks that have been completed thus far in the following ways:  2005-09: Instructing the First Nationwide General Investigation of ICH, which constitutes a renewal of the implementation of the National Project for the Protection of Folk and Ethnic Cultures launched in 2004.  Since 2006: Aiding the establishment of the Four-level Inventory System of China’s ICH (1372 elements have been included on the national list).  Since 2006: Identifying Representatives of Traditional Bearers and Practitioners of National ICH Elements (1986 individuals have been included on the list).  Since 2014: Participating in the evaluation of 2555 Traditional Chinese Villages, focusing on dimension of transmitting ICH elements in local contexts.  2010-14: Participating in the Digitizing China Oral Literature Heritage Project, sponsored by the Chinese Folk Literature and Art Association.  In 2014, evaluating the Professional Standard for Digitizing Intangible Cultural Heritage elaborated by the National Standardization Technical Committee for Cultural and Artistic Resources.  During all of the aforementioned activities, CFS experts played a visible role in carrying out community-based inventory-building through situated field study, ethnographic interviews, and participatory observation that was the outcome of a long-term fieldwork connection with local and ethnic minority communities, in particular with traditional bearers and practitioners. |
| **B.6.** *Describe your organization’s participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*   1. *promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society;* 2. *fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;* 3. *facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*   *Explain in particular how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The Society seeks to play its full role in promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage with the wide involvement of communities and multi-actors. Its Secretariat, in conjunction with its 7 Professional Committees, 7 Field Study Bases, and 8 Research Centers, as well as with the active experts and members, has carried out a series of awareness-raising activities for the public by means of delivering keynote presentations at open lectures and seminars, by accepting media interviews, by cooperating in TV feature programmes, and the like.  With a view to effective safeguarding of the ICH, CFS and its members have been active in related areas of safeguarding ICH, primarily through providing expertise in folkloristics and specialized methods for conducting documentation and case studies, undertaking key projects, publishing monographs and paper collections, assisting annual ICH reports, as well as organizing thematic panels and round-table discussions in every session of the CFS Annual Meeting; not to mention, the society has organized or co-sponsored various symposia and multiform events regarding current transversal issues in safeguarding ICH.  Since 2003, CFS has focused on developing ICH columns on its website (CFN) and its online Folklore Forum, and to disseminating information through other ways built in its subsites, such as Weibo, WeChat, and Apps, while respecting customary practices. By the end of 2016, CFN has posted 1086 thematic articles and 3178 related articles on ICH which received 3.8 million pageviews. Since 2015, the CFS has been constructing the CFS Platform for ICH Ontology-Based Knowledge Management towards improving accessibility, usability and functionalities of the Convention. |
| **B.7.** *Describe your organization’s involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 and ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*   1. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular at young people;* 2. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;* 3. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;* 4. *non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;* 5. *education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.*   *Explain in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| CFS has taken the following steps to ensure greater recognition and respect for ICH in general: 1) a wider cooperation with communities, groups and individuals that create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage; 2) a more extensive target-study on theories and methodologies for ICH in general and in specific cases amongst the Society and its young members; and 3) a more institutionalized mechanism with multiform practices for strengthening capacity-building in expertise and competence towards fulfilling the Society’s commission at local and national levels; 4) a more consistent approach across the Society to develop a code of ethics for the safeguarding of ICH within the Society; 5) a more constructive discussion about critical issues arising from traditional modes of transmitting ICH while mobilizing formal and non-formal educational programmes. To name a few cases of the CFS's secondary institutions (cf. E.2):  The Fieldwork Base for China Educational Practices in Folklore, located in Bailu Village, Ganxian County, Jiangxi Province, has received more than 300 students and 200 scholars since 2012; moreover, the Base has helped the local government in construction of the Bailu Village Historical House with a view to carrying out education in safeguarding cultural space.  The Committee on Agricultural Folklore, based in Beijing, has dedicated to helping rural communities in transmitting ICH concerning Agriculture: in August 2013, the Committee promoted tea planting, harvesting, processing skills in Jasmine-tea areas of Fuzhou suburb in combination with documenting local ICH elements such as tea-picking balladry, tea-picking opera, tea-picking dance, and thus contributed to an integrated safeguarding plan based on a wide participation of communities and tea farmers. |
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| **C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation** |
| *Report on activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:*   1. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);* 2. *participating in regional cooperation activities including for example those of category 2 centres for intangible cultural heritage established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);* 3. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at sub-regional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*   *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| CFS has extended its long-standing efforts for developing international cooperation. It has stable professional relationships with renowned folklorists, academics, and institutions in Japan, South Korea, Viet Nam, India, Malaysia, USA, Germany, Finland, Hungry, Russia, Estonia, and other countries.  In recent years, the Society, with an intention to strengthen regional and international cooperation in ICH domains, has engaged in stable partnerships with the Folklore Society of Japan and the American Folklore Society. For instance, the China-US Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage Project has been carried out in both countries since 2011, featuring 6 sessions of thematic ICH forums focusing respectively on (1) Comparative Policies (2) Case Studies (3) Productive Safeguarding, and (4) Fieldwork, Documentation, Preservation, and Access (5) Bridging Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Ethnographic Museums and Heritage Sites, and (6) The Sino-American Cooperation in Ethnological Museum Practices, plus one session of Summer School devoted to on-the-spot investigation and advanced training on ICH in Inner Mongolia, China. For more information at www.chinafolklore.org/web/index.php?ChannelID=266 or www.afsnet.org/?page=FICH2.  Since 2012, Gejin Chao and Bingzhong Gao have been working as the Governing Board Members with the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the Auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP) in Beijing. Between 2015 and 2016, CRIHAP financially supported CFS experts to conduct thematic research projects on the safeguarding of ICH in China and beyond. During the past three years, Lihui Yang, Deming An, and Qubumo Bamo attended conferences organized by the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) in Jeonju, Korea. |
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| **D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |
| **D.1** *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If yes, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee’s work.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Since 2006, as expert members in the China Delegation, CFS Board Members have successively attended Sessions (1.COM/ 1.EXT.COM/ 2.COM/ 3.EXT.COM/ 5.COM/ 6.COM/ 7.COM/ 8.COM/ 9.COM/ 10.COM/ 11.COM) and Assemblies (from 1.GA to 6.GA), providing on-site consulting services to the delegation.  Since 2014, as registered NGO observers, the CFS formally dispatched its delegation to attend the 9.COM, 10.COM, and 11.COM, as well as 6GA.  CFS has benefited effectively from the opportunities created by the Convention, which in turn not only provides the Society with working methodologies of the Committee, good practices of State Parties, and information-sharing experiences generated from the four mechanism of international cooperation, but also deepens CFS experts’ understanding of the goals of the Committee.  In responding to NGOs’ role in safeguarding ICH, in particular making an extended contribution to the work of the Committee, CFS senior experts published thematic research papers in core journals with a stress on interpretation of the Convention, bringing forth a number of important decisions of the Committee to Chinese readers, covering a range of ICH discourses, Convention knowledge, core roles of communities, gender equality, the use of animals, as well as ethical concerns. Furthermore, no sooner than Gejin Chao’s paper “UNESCO’s Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Interpretative Reading and Commentary Review” was published in the Journal of Inner Mongolia University, 2016(6), the Workshop on Professional Responsibilities and Code of Ethics for Folkloristics, sponsored by CFS and Institute of Ethnic Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, was held in Beijing on 10 December 2016. |
| **D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012-2014)? If yes, please indicate the period.*  *Not to exceed 100 words* |
| On 27 November 2014, during the ninth session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Paris, China Folklore Society (CFS) as an accredited non-governmental organization from Electoral Group IV, was appointed by the Committee as member of the newly established ‘Evaluation Body’ with a term of 3 years, from 2015 to 2017 (Decision 9.COM 11). |
| **D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*  *Not to exceed 500 words* |
| Engaging in a participatory approach has been critical for the CFS to deepen the understanding of the Convention while contributing expertise in responding to global issues in the field of safeguarding ICH on following opportunities created by the Convention:  Since 2006, CFS Board Members have attended a number of working meetings and expert meetings organized by the Secretariat or State Parties. For instance, Gejin Chao attended the Expert Meeting on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development at the National Level (29-09-2014/01-10-2014, Istanbul, Turkey).  Since 2007, three CFS Experts have provided advisory services by means of being part of the China Delegation attending Sessions and Assemblies (cf. D.1) of the Committee.  Since 2007, CFS experts have participated in all the sessions of Chengdu International Forum on ICH. In 2013, Prof. Chao Gejin, the President of the CFS, was invited to be the moderator at Round-table 4: Safeguarding experiences in the States Parties at Chengdu International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the 2003 Convention.  In January 2011, CFS’s three experts, Qubumo Bamo, Lihui Yang, and Gang Zhu as ad hoc observers were involved in the entire process of the first workshop devoted to 'training of trainers’ in Beijing; in November 2016, CFS’s young scholar Yulan participated in CRIHAP’s Training of Chinese Trainers’ Workshop on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention held in Shanghai.  In October 2016, Deming An and Qubumo Bamo, both of whom are vice Presidents of the CFS, contributed two keynote presentations at the 1st China–Central and Eastern European Countries Expert-Level Forum on Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (International Cultural Centre, Kraków, Poland, October 11-14); the Second Session of the same Expert-Level Forum will take place in Shanghai in 2018, and will take place every two years in collaboration with 16 eastern European countries and China.  The CFS directly provides advisory services to the Committee through the Evaluation Body:  Between 2015 and 2016, for committing the CFS to serve the goals of the Committee acting impartially in the interests of all the States Parties, the CFS4ICH working team undertook evaluation tasks, keeping every nominations, proposals, and requests under scrutiny; and as the designated expert of the Society, Dr. Gang Zhu has actively participated in all working meetings of the Evaluation Body organized by the Secretariat. CFS will continue to completing the evaluation work in 2017 cycle.  As for future plans, the CFS would like to fulfil its obligations in the implementation of the Convention by means of advisory services to the Committee in one way or another. CFS4ICH plans to produce improved, or more localized, Chinese translations from basic texts, forms, and good nomination files, and tool kits as well as other publications under the Convention, so as to foster a better language quality for spreading to the Chinese world the goals that the Committee adheres to, since Chinese is one of six UNESCO official languages. |
| **E. Capacities of your organization for evaluation of nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):** |
| **E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff demonstrate a very good command of English or French? If yes, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The main second languages among CFS members are English, French, German, Japanese, and Russian; while many scholars, coming from Mongolian, Kirgiz, Kazak, and other ethnic minorities, who have a very good command of their mother tongue and thus play an active role in regional cooperation. Moreover, there are hundreds of members who went abroad for further study as a visiting scholar or who obtained their M.A. or Ph.D. degrees as international students in different countries.  CFS considers capacity-building as a priority, since it is firm in its belief that effective implementation depends on a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Convention and its concepts, measures and mechanisms. With the accreditation by the Committee in 2012, the Society has taken a great deal of effort to enhance its own organizational capacity building, paying more and more attention to locating professional talents who have a good command of the Committee’s working languages and a reliable competence for evaluating and analysing documents in an international context.  As a member of the Evaluation Body, the CFS has selected 9 distinguished experts to work as a core team: 4 from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 3 from Beijing Normal University, 1 from Liaoning University, 1 from Ocean University of China. During the past two years of evaluation work, this working team in the name of the CFS4ICH has demonstrated a strong command of English and relevant competencies through its high-quality evaluation reports, which has been further confirmed by the positive feedback it received from the Secretariat and other body members. |
| **E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| CFS has 2282 registered members nationwide, whose professional backgrounds range from folkloristics to other relevant disciplines. The Secretariat, in conjunction with its 22 secondary institutions (7 Professional Committees, 7 Field Study Bases, and 8 Research Centers), reinforced by the active experts and members, has carried out a series of activities across domains of ICH in China and beyond.  7 Professional Committees: Committee on Folklore Museum; Committee on Agricultural Folklore; Committee on the Preservation, Research and Development of Urban Folklore; Committee on Tea Culture and Art Studies; Committee on Folklore and Education; Committee on Architectural Folklore; Committee on Food and Culinary Culture.  7 Field Study Bases: Fanzhuang Folklore Research Base; Educational Base for China Harmony Culture; Field Study Base for China Dragon Boat Festival Culture; Field Study Base for China Chi You Culture; Field Study Base for China Xiwangmu Culture; Fieldwork Base for China Educational Practices in Folklore; Fieldwork Base for China Kunlun Culture.  8 Research Centers: Center for Studies in the Legend of the Cowherd and the Weaving Maid; Center for Studies in the Legend of the Qian Wang; Center for Studies in China Folklore of Ethnic Minority Groups; Center for Studies in China Folk Cultural Industry; Center for Studies in China Local Folklore and Culture; Center for Studies in China Incense Culture; Center for Chinese Zodiac Culture; and Development and Research Center for Cultural Nostalgia in China.  Therefore, not only are the CFS members’ academic interests highly diversified, but also its institutional set-up covers the full spectrum of ICH under the Convention. To name a few cases for making sense:  The Committee on the Preservation, Research and Development of Urban Folklore, established in Shanghai City, has participated in the identifying of ICH elements on the National List, such as Liang-Zhu Legend, Longhua Temple Fair, Black Mud Hengjing Textile Craft, Sanlin Dragon Dance and the like, while assisting local communities to develop more than 50 action plans for safeguarding their ICH.  The Committee on Food and Culinary Culture, located in Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province, has set up a working team comprised of 35 cooking masters, food experts, and food critics from different areas, which devoting to safeguarding food and culinary ICH while promoting traditional health-preserving knowledge and practices. |
| **E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Prior to the election as the member of Evaluation Body, the Prof. Gejin Chao was appointed by the Bureau of Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage to examine one nomination file submitted for inscribing on the Urgent Safeguarding List (ITH/09/4.COM/CONF.209/14, 2009). In 2010, Prof. Qubumo Bamo was committed by the Ministry of Culture to co-evaluation of a request for international assistance when China was a member of Bureau of the Committee.  In the 2015 cycle, the CFS4ICH reviewed and evaluated a total of 45 files, out of which 8 were multinational nominations. Among these files, there are 8 nominations submitted for the inclusion of Urgent Safeguarding List, 35 files for Representative List, and 2 requests for International Assistance. The 2015 cycle was the first time that the current single body replaced the two previous Consultative Body and the Subsidiary Body, which turned out to be helpful in ensuring the coherency and consistency of recommendations due to the application of the same standards in the evaluation. The CFS4ICH suggested to the Evaluation Body that not only the consistency of evaluation within and across files is important, but that the consistency with previous decisions of the Committee and the consistency within multinational nominations should be prioritized. Other issues that need to be pointed out are the involvement of children and the use of the animal. These two issues gave rise to considerable controversies and discussions, rather than once-and-for-all solutions to the future cases.  During the 2016 cycle, the CFS4ICH evaluated a total of 50 files: 5 nominations submitted for the inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List, 37 files for the Representative List, 7 proposals for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and 1 request for International Assistance. As observed from the practice of this cycle, we found that the currents members’ understanding toward the linkages between criteria is different from the previous ones: in the case of inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List, if the threats to an element are not well-defined (U.2), it proves difficult to evaluate the adequacy of safeguarding plans (U.3). Similarly, if an element is poorly defined under criterion R.1, the Body considered that this could have an impact on meeting criterion R.2, while limited evidence of community involvement under criterion R.4 has an impact on the evaluation of criterion R.1. Submitting States are therefore reminded to pay attention to the need for coherence in their files. |
| **E.4.** *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| N/A, in the context of drafting synthetic texts in English or French for evaluation of nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96), since the tasks were allocated to Rapporteur elected in each cycle. |
| **E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to extrapolate from local experience to apply it within an international context? Please describe such experience.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The Society organized dozens of international symposia, seminars, and lectures regarding current ICH key issues, in which renowned folklorists and academics participated. In particular, the CFS achieved its goal of forming an interdisciplinary discourse of knowledge-sharing through case studies and field experiences by inviting specialists worldwide.  The CFS members took part in international discourses at the ICH NGO Forum, for example: 1) ICH NGO Forum 2014 Symposium, contributing a keynote speech (Lihui Yang, Gang Zhu), “The Role and Contribution of China Folklore Society in Safeguarding ICH of China”; 2) ICH NGO Forum 2015 Symposium, contributing a keynote speech (Mu Peng, Li Kang), “Local Knowledge, Cultural Translation, and Codes of Ethics: A Case Study of the Issue of Animal Use in Intangible Cultural Heritage.”  In the past two years, as a member of the Evaluation Body, the CFS4ICH working team made its organizational contribution to the goals of the Committee, while Dr. Gang Zhu, as designated expert, cooperated with the other members through debating crucial issues for a collective consensus and through discussion of the annual evaluation report in its details during working meetings, and thus brought CFS expertise and local experiences to the Body’s work.  Through the above-mentioned practices, CFS experts deepened their understanding and grasp of the relevant guidelines, rules, mechanisms, and workflows built into the Convention and its Operational Directives. In particular, the Society has established an institutionalized working model through multilateral cooperation that enables the interoperability between local practice and international experience. |
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| **F. Cooperation with UNESCO** |
| *Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as e.g. funding from the Participation Program).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| In 2006, with the invitation of the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO, Prof. Gejin Chao and Prof. Qubumo Bamo joined the UNESCO project to create The Manual on Oral Traditions and Expressions, and respectively finished two boxes on “Mongolian Epic Tradition” and “Verbal Duelling for Honour in Nuosu Mountain Villages.”  In 2008, the CFS Board Members Gejin Chao, Bingzhong Gao, and Qubumo Bamo, each recommended by the Ministry of Culture and submitted by China, were included on the Provisional List of NGOs, Non-profit Making Institutions and Experts (ITH/08/3.COM/CONF.203/INF.4).  The CFS members endeavour to develop regional dialogue and international discourses. Prof. Gejing Chao, the current President, also acts as President of Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) which has a close cooperation with UNESCO. During the past two years, at the initiatives of the CFS and the American Folklore Society (AFS), and reinforced by the Folklore Society of Japan and folklore societies from other countries concerned, the International Association of Folklore Studies has been taking shape to become a member of CIPSH. We believe the new Association will also benefit greatly from the practical performance of participating in the implementation of the Convention in international cooperation of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. |
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| **G. Signature** |
| *The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Name: | Qubumo Bamo | | Title: | Vice President of the CFS | | Date: | February 15, 2017 | | Signature: |  | | |

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1. . In case your organization operates in several States, please clearly indicate which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)