INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

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INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This document was prepared by the General Rapporteur of the second edition of the Civil Society Forum. It presents in Annex a summary of the four workshops that were held during the Forum (Paris, 4 June 2020). The authors are responsible for the choice and presentation of the facts contained in this document and for the opinions expressed therein. These do not necessarily reflect those of the Secretariat or UNESCO and do not commit the Organization in any way.

1. This document contains in Annex the summary of the discussions that were held during the second Civil Society Forum, which took place in Paris on June 4, 2020. It was compiled by the Forum's General Rapporteur, with the help of the four workshop Rapporteurs.

2. To recall, the Civil Society Forum is a biennial event whose main purpose is to provide a platform for civil society organizations to agree on concrete areas of action to be recommended to the governing bodies of the Convention.

ANNEX

Report on the 2nd Civil Society Forum

The 2nd Civil Society Forum was held on 4 June at UNESCO Headquarters. Like the first Forum organized in June 2017, this second edition was marked by a great diversity of civil society actors who participated: representatives of local or national organizations, regional or global networks, culture professionals who are active in various sectors - cinema, dance, broadcasting, theatre, music etc.

The participants wish to express their gratitude to UNESCO and any other organization that has allowed them to participate, meet colleagues and discuss important topics. All agreed on the need for stable funding to enable such participation.

The objectives of the 2019 Forum were:
- To enable representatives of CSOs to examine their current concerns and discuss issues related to the implementation of the Convention;
- To make proposals to the Conference of the Parties on issues or problems that CSOs consider to be priorities and that they would like to see reflected in the work of the Convention's governing bodies.

Four workshops were organized:
1. 1 How to improve the diversity of cultural expressions in the media in the digital age?
2. How to strengthen the Convention international cooperation and assistance mechanisms in partnership with CSOs?
3. How can UNESCO Chairs and CSOs collaborate to contribute to the development of public policies for culture and sustainable development?
4. How to overcome barriers to the mobility of artists and cultural professionals?

This overall report[1] is based on individual reports drafted by rapporteurs from each workshop. From a methodological point of view, it is important to emphasize that the discussion points and recommendations reported hereinafter were formulated by the CSOs present at the Forum and must therefore be considered as emerging from this specific context, in complementarity to reports by Civil Society Organisations on their activities[2].

The first workshop focused on the question: How to improve the diversity of cultural expressions in the media in the digital age?

Challenges include the arrival on the national markets of companies, often multinationals, that are exempted from complying with the existing regulations to which local radio and TV broadcasters must comply, such as quota or the funding of local cultural contents.

In the field of publishing, participants made the following recommendations, among others:

- support actors towards professionalisation in the digital age
- establish a public book/digital book policy in African countries
- put in place market regulation systems to counter the predation of local markets by foreign publishers

In the field of music, a major challenge lies in the imbalance in contractual relations with the arrival of online sharing platforms, which result in a significant drop in revenues of creators and performers.

Participants emphasized:

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[1] The report is based on contributions from Oana Barsan, Ananya Bhattacharya, Ouafa Belgacem, Cornelia Dümcke, Silja Fischer, Joshua Nyapimbi and Valeria Marcolin (in their capacity as representatives of their respective CSOs and as members of the Civil Society Global Coordination Steering Committee) as well as from Maurizio Delfin (Solar). It was presented orally on 5 June 2019 to the Conference of Parties by overall rapporteur Silja Fischer.

[2] Document DCE/19/7.CP/INF.11.

- the need to apply copyright/IP laws to online services that play an active role in the provision of copyrighted works (GAFA).
- the need to ensure that these online services are not allowed to abuse "safe harbor" rules to the detriment of rights-holders
- In addition to copyright enforcement, existing legislation must be adapted primarily through innovative and effective mechanisms to redress contractual imbalances.

European Union legislation, namely the new Copyright Directive and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, have been considered by participants as the best practices that currently exist.

In the field of cinema, participants focused on a better regulation for the dissemination of the African cinema, notably by the enhancement of the local production, e.g. by providing more accessible frequencies and through greater resistance to foreign channels.

In all areas of the cultural sector, UNESCO's responsibility is engaged when it comes to identifying measures to be taken at the international level because States cannot regulate world problems. Access to data is a crucial issue in this context.

Participants urged Parties to take responsibility for encouraging content diversity in the digital age and to ensure a complete cultural exemption of cultural goods in any international negotiations on electronic commerce at the WTO.

Participants also discussed the need to build women's capacity in the culture sector and their access to leadership positions. The networking of initiatives was considered essential.

Another recommendation concerns the portrayal of sexual identities in the media and the need to develop a new discourse and pedagogy, especially for the younger generation.

Cultural policies must also address the development of demand, with programmes on image education, arts education, etc. at stake.

Workshop 2 addressed the question how to strengthen the Convention's international cooperation and assistance mechanisms in partnership with CSOs.

From the exchange among participants the following set of principles, values and concerns emerged, among others:
- The importance to consider a fair and equitable eco-system approach to international cooperation and assistance mechanisms which includes, next to civil society, those actors that provide technical and financial support services in order to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders.
- The need for a clear picture of 'what is being supported by whom' so that the Convention's support mechanisms are designed to complement other existing mechanisms, thereby optimising and maximising resources as well as creating synergies.
- A space for expression and reflection is key for civil society and needs to be secured, including the conditions for bridging local and global actions
- Civil society is a process not an actor as it includes a diverse range of actors
- CSO coordination and involvement within the governing bodies of the Convention should be designed and implemented through active participation, not only consultation processes. Indeed, participation is about having the opportunity to influence decisions and follow up on those decisions, in particular in activities regarding directly civil society.
- Create a more participatory dynamic within the civil society community in the drafting process of the chapter on civil society of the Global Report "Re|Shaping Cultural Policies"
- Optimize the positive existing mechanism for civil society observers (e.g. allowing them to take the floor before decisions are taken) to secure that civil society inputs can be effectively taken into consideration by Parties
- Secure increased Parties' contributions to the IFCD and/or revise the guidelines of the IFCD, also based on civil society inputs calling for the support of more projects as well as of civil society coordination mechanisms to improve its input to the governing bodies of the convention (those coordination mechanisms include mobility opportunities)
- Provide full independence of civil society with regard to who is speaking on behalf of civil society and civil society coordination through a self-regulatory system
- Create an openly accessible database of organisations that are notably involved in QPR processes to reinforce a global community of civil society organisations that are

> "Convention sensitive" and thus easier to mobilise in the long run at local and global level for providing input to the work of the governing bodies and the Secretariat
> - Strengthen the place and role of civil society in technical assistance mechanisms
> - Create more space for participation and consultation at national level in the preparation of the CSOs report and QPR
> - Provide for civil society to lead on the design of the format and objectives of the Civil Society Forum in close cooperation with the Secretariat and its logistic facilitation
> - Provide for the possibility for civil society to nominate its representatives to support and advise, on matters related to civil society, both the Secretariat and Parties through transparent and accountable systems decided by civil society itself (securing independence of the sector and separation of roles among stakeholders)
> - Strengthen and/or create open spaces (such as side events) for informal exchanges and dialogue between civil society and Parties in order to brainstorm together on opportunities, challenges and solutions. Two concrete proposals emerged during the discussion: to organise open sessions during next IGCs, on the establishment of a mobility fund within the Convention and on civil society sustainability

In Workshop 3, participants discussed how UNESCO Chairs and CSOs can collaborate to contribute to the development of public policies for culture and sustainable development

Among the recommendations that emerged from these discussions, are the following:

The UNESCO CHAIR model should be further supported, in the interest of their impact on implementation of the 2005 Convention, taking into account their "Multiplyer Effect" on different levels.

The information exchange and cooperation between the ‚system' of UNESCO chairs' and CSO should be reinforced, for the purpose of better harnessing potentials. This could be done through information sharing on websites, internships for CSO in UNESCO Chairs, taking into account the great diversity of fields of action.

The definition and understanding of CSO in different world regions should be better clarified.

The nexus between sustainability of the sector, CSO and Chairs should be explored, in this context, reference was made to the 2019 CSO Report which recommends that „The challenge of ‚sustainability' for the sector could be integrated as a key point in the work of the IGC in partnership with CSO and UNESCO chairs."

Representatives of UNESCO Chairs expressed the wish for research to be made more accessible and visible for potential stakeholders. UNESCO chairs report on their activities every four years. However, more communication is needed on what these UNESCO Chairs can really provide – also for CSO.

Workshop 4 explored how to overcome barriers to the mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

Participants stated from the outset that the movement of artists and cultural professionals is a necessary pre-condition for the diversity of cultural expressions.

Participants expressed great concern over the implementation of Article 16 on the preferential treatment for artists and cultural professionals from the South to travel to developed countries.

In this regard, simplified and rationalized procedures and processes are much needed, not only for artists moving from South to North, but also within the South itself, where problems with artist mobility have also been identified.

In the current context, where countries decide to outsource visa processing to visa processing centers, it becomes key to address this particular actor, providing information, training and raising awareness on the preferential treatment of artists from the South.

A concrete proposal is for the UNESCO Secretariat to prepare an "Information Kit" for Embassies, consular institutions and visa processing centers, providing clear information on Article 16 and its implications.

It is important to note that participants had rich exchanges on a number of best South-South collaboration practices and international cooperation experiences that benefit the mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

Finally, participants recognized that mobility of artists and cultural professionals goes beyond visa and funding issues and includes the situation of cultural infrastructure across all regions, even the regulations that affect the movement of music instruments across borders and of course the need for measures to protect artists within an economic system that jeopardizes their economic livelihood.