



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Diversity of  
Cultural Expressions

# 13 IGC

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

Thirteenth Session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
11 - 14 February 2020

**Item 10 of the provisional agenda:** Presentation of the conclusions of the second Civil Society Forum

The second Civil Society Forum was held on 4 June 2019, prior to the seventh session of the Conference of Parties. This document presents the main conclusions of the Forum.

Decision required: paragraph 7

1. To recall, Article 11 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) recognizes the fundamental role of civil society and provides that Parties shall encourage its active participation in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Convention. The operational guidelines attached to this article provide considerable opportunities for civil society organizations (hereinafter “CSOs”) to participate in the work of the governing bodies of the Convention at the international level.
2. The Convention’s governing bodies constantly seek to better involve CSOs in its implementation. In 2015, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) took an important decision to this effect ([Decision 9.IGC 9](#)). The implementation of the decision, which began in 2016, includes the organization of a working meeting between the Committee’s Bureau and representatives of CSOs prior to the opening of the Committee; the inclusion of an item concerning civil society on the agenda of Committee’s statutory meetings; and the organization of a biennial Civil Society Forum (hereinafter referred to as “the Forum”).
3. The second edition of the Forum was held on 4 June 2019, prior to the seventh session of the Conference of Parties, and was attended by more than 70 representatives of 60 CSOs, in addition to governmental and non-governmental observers. The event was marked by the great diversity of its participants, who came from all regions of the world and from a wide variety of sectors such as publishing, music, film, and theatre.
4. Following a consultation process with CSOs, four themes highlighting the main opportunities and challenges faced by civil society were identified to structure the Forum’s discussions. On the basis of these themes, four workshops were organized:
  - How to improve the diversity of cultural expressions in the media in the digital age? Examples of good practices.
  - How to strengthen the Convention's international cooperation and assistance mechanisms in partnership with CSOs?
  - How can UNESCO Chairs and CSOs collaborate to contribute to the development of public policies for culture and sustainable development?
  - How to overcome barriers to the mobility of artists and cultural professionals?
5. The workshops generated rich discussions and highlighted several common challenges, including the need to improve knowledge sharing among various actors in order to optimize each action and the need to strengthen regulatory frameworks, particularly in the digital environment. The sustainability of CSOs, which often face important funding challenges, was a cross-cutting discussion topic in all four workshops.
6. At this session, the Committee is invited to examine the conclusions of the second edition of the Forum, which are presented in Information Document DCE/20/13.IGC/INF.6 and which will also be presented orally by the Forum’s Rapporteur. Moreover, the Committee is invited to examine ways that would enable Parties to support the sustainability of CSOs’ activities and the participation of their representatives in the Convention’s statutory meetings, and to establish mechanisms that create an enabling environment for the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention.

7. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

**DRAFT DECISION 13.IGC 10**

*The Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document DCE/20/13.IGC/10 and Information Document DCE/20/13.IGC/INF.6;*
2. *Recalling its Decisions 1.IGC 5c, 1.EXT.IGC 5, 5.IGC 4, 8.IGC 7a, 9.IGC 9, 10.IGC 6 and 11.IGC 6 as well as the Resolutions of the Conference of Parties 2.CP 7, 4.CP 13, 6.CP 12 and 7.CP 14 concerning civil society;*
3. *Recognizing the great diversity of civil society actors in the world and the variety of challenges they face;*
4. *Takes note of the conclusions of the second edition of the Civil Society Forum and the concerns highlighted therein;*
5. *Encourages Parties to provide financial and logistical resources to support the sustainability of civil society organizations' activities and the participation of their representatives in the Convention's statutory meetings, and invites them to establish mechanisms that create an enabling environment for the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention;*
6. *Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to encourage the networking of the Convention's stakeholders, in particular civil society organizations, UNESCO Chairs, and Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, in order to strengthen their capacities through knowledge sharing, expertise transfer, and the pooling of resources.*