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 2019

for examination in 2019

*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**
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| **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.* |
| FIAT-IFTA -Fédération Internationale des Associations de Thanatologues - International Federation of Thanatologists Associations  |
| A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.* |
| FIAT-IFTA -Fédération Internationale des Associations de Thanatologues - International Federation of Thanatologists Associations  |
| A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)* |
| NG0-90253  |
| **A.2. Address of the organization** |
| *Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email 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 the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.* |
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| Organization: | FIAT-IFTA -Fédération Internationale des Associations de Thanatologues - International Federation of Thanatologists Associations  |
| Address: | Oude Enghweg 14, 1217 JC HILVERSUM - The NETHERLANDS |
| Telephone number: | 31 35 73 70 829 |
| Email address: | info@thanos.org  |
| Website: | www.thanos.org  |
| Other relevant information: |   |

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| **A.3. Contact person for correspondence** |
| *Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.* |
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| Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): | Mr. |
| Family name: | Knap |
| Given name: | Gerard |
| Institution/position: | Executive Secretary |
| Address: | Oude Enghweg 14, 1217 JC HILVERSUM The NETHELANDS |
| Telephone number: | 31 35 73 70 829 |
| Email address: | info@thanos.org |
| Other relevant information: |   |

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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 between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. 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 intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (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* |
| FIAT-IFTA is an international organization, active in more than a 80 countries Consequently, this report combines insights related to particular states, as well as the reports received from the National Members and their Committees and from the Members of the International Association of Funeral Museums (IAFM). This report equally takes into account activities of our Associate Members.FIAT-IFTA members contribute to the work of national ICH committees in nine State Parties to the Convention.In P.R. of China a National Committee for Funeral Heritage has been founded. In Poland the Municipal Cemetery has founded the Polish Funeral Heritage Committee. In Bolivia FIAT-IFTA operates through National Member ALPAR to set up an inventory of Funeral Traditions of ethnic minorities. In Japan, ZENSOREN - All Jpan Funeral Directors Cooperation a National Member of FIAT-IFTA has in place a working committee to describe funeral traditions. In the Netherlands the Association Terebinth is in cooperation with FIAT-IFTA creating a National Committee to safeguard funeral heritage. Several other National Members of FIAT-IFTA are drafting papers to be submitted to the governments, like Ireland and Austria.  |
| **B.2.** *Describe your organization’s cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| All 47 FIAT-IFTA National Members are committed to divulgate knowledge of funeral heritage through educational institutions of the funeral museums gathered in the main funeral museums: AUSTRIA -Bestattungsmuseum Wien; P.R. of CHINA - Shanghai Humanism Memorial Museum; GERMANY - Zentralinstitut und Museum für Sepulkralkultur; HUNGARY - The Kegyeleti Museum: Piety Museum; IRELAND - Glasnevin Cemetery Museum; MEXICO - Museo de la Muerte; SWITZERLAND - Sammlung Friedhof am Hörnli. |
| **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* |
| Until this year FIAT-IFTA has not been involved. Headquarters of FIAT-IFTA are based in The Netherlands. The Dutch Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage is the expertise center to cooperate with the State Party in drafting the State's Periodic Report. In Germany the National Member of FIAT-IFTA: BDB - BundesVerband Deutscher Bestatter is actively involved through the Kuratorium Deutsche Bestattungskultur in governmental and local policies regarding the safeguarding of the tangible and intangible funeral heritage. FIAT-IFTA is setting up a system to coordinate the various national activities in this field. |
| **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 Good Safeguarding Practices.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The nature of the umbrella organization of FIAT-IFTA is unique. FIAT-IFTA unites and coordinates the National Associations. They represent the funeral profession in the most extensive way possible and they safeguard the customs and traditions of the funeral profession. With the National Members we are now building a inventory of elements that are eligible for nominations to the USL. In the Netherlands the Foundation Therebinth is actively involved with FIAT-IFTA to describe the tradition of the funeral crepe drums in National Commeration events. In Hungary the National Association OTEI is preparing publications of the tradition carving wooden cemetery poles in certain regions of Hungary.The Latin American Association ALPAR is working with Bolivian funeral homes to investigate of the tradition of the mast'aku food offering for the deceased persons.ZENSOREN The All Japan Funeral Directos Cooperation ois as NationalMember of FIAT-IFTA involved in preserving the funeral rite of the 49 mourning period.  |
| **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* |
| On Madagascar the secular tradition of Famadihana is a sacred ritual to unearthen the dead. FIAT-IFTA has initiated to study and investigate prior publications and studies on this deeply rooted belief on the island of Madagascar. Famidihana, or 'the turning of the bones', is a sacred ritual practiced by some ethnic groups in Madagascar. In this case it is not an easy task to identify the composition of the community and to contact the representatives. FIAT-IFTA relies on the funeral experts to develop and implement a safeguarding plan. |
| **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 ICH 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 ICH 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* |
|  An second example: In cooperation with the FIAT-IFTA National Member in Indonesia FIAT-IFTA has started he identification of the animistic beliefs of the Toraja, an indigenous community on the island of Celebes, in eastern Indonesia: an ancient ritual as a way of maintaining "the social interaction between the living and the dead." This demands an extensive cooperation with the inhabiants of Toraja origine in the island of Celebes.The FIAT-IFTA Funeral Heritage ( Working) Committees of the different member countires unite funeral experts in order to prepare articles and publications for the bi-annual Funeral Heritage Reports.These reports lead to further studies to identify and to make inventories. |
| **B.7.** *Describe your organization’s involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*1. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
2. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
3. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
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 ICH.*

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| 1.FIAT-IFTA Funeral Exchange Program aims to educate and to create awareness of Funeral Cultural Heritage, Funeral Traditions and Customs of member countries. It must be understood that FIAT-IFTA has the unique position of aiming at two goals: raising awareness among the funeral professionals and setting up inofrmation programs for the generl public. 2. One on these programs is the European Cemeteries Tour in coordination with the organization of Significant Cemeties. In USA National Member NFDA cohosts the New Orleans Cemtery Tour to promote the knowledge and preservation of the classic New Orleans cemetery parade and funeral music. In Germany the Bundesverband Deutscher Bestatter has founded: Kuratoriums Deutsche Bestattungskultur e.V. is specialized in capacity building and cooperation with local communities.3.With the group of Cemeteries in Stettin ( Poland) Fiat-IFTA is developping research on the famous marine past of the city and funeral traditions related to seamen and the sea. The Chinse Funeral Heritage Working Committee has extablished an inventory of the funeral customs of the province of Shaanxi.  |
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| **C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation** |
| *Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, 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 ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
3. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

*Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Sharing of information and documentation with the National Members of 47 countires and regions is executed by FIAT-IFTA through the publication of the FIAT-IFTA Funeral Heritage reports 2012, 2014, 2016 featuring articles on : - Barriletes ( Kite) of Guatemala symbolising the departure from life to death; - In Bolivia the traditional feast of the adoration of human skulls, “Las Ñatitas”; - The profession of local artists to make carved grave markers, called "kopjafa" in Hungary; - Walking in processions with or without music at Funerals in many countries.Establishment of the FIAT-IFTA Funeral Heritage Expert Committee mainly to make inventories of the expertise in the existing Funeral Museums and in the private collections of Funeal homes in the UK and in the USA.  |
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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 so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee’s work.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| FIAT-IFTA has attended the 5th session of the General Assembly and the 12th session of the Committee 2017 in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. Twice FAIT-IFTA members have taken part in the discussions of the ICH-NGO Forum in Paris. |
| **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 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.**Not to exceed 100 words* |
| No. In case FIAT-IFTA Members are eligible for those positions, we are highly interested to bring in our expertise in evaluating documents and proposals relating to our specific field of interest to the ICH Evalluation Body and the Consulative Body.  |
| **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* |
| In the past four years FIAT-IFTA has installed two Committees to advise the Board in its policy- making concerning the International Funeral Cultural Heritage. The work of these Committees wil be evaluated and will result in advisory services to the Committee and to the national delegations of the FIAT-IFTA National members. As International NGO it is a vaste task to align all the activities delployed by our National members. FIAT-IFTA has registered for the consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations within the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on 18 April 2019 and intends to present advisory services to the Committee on Funeral Heritage.  |
| **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate 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 have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The working language of FIAT-IFTA is the English language. The 6 Officers and staff members are native speakers or have good command of the Englsih language.  |
| **E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The activities of the FIAT-IFTA Members and the Funeral Heritage Steering Committee are the study, documentation and preservation of traditional funeral practices in all its aspects: religious pratices, funeral music and dance, food and craftmanship of the profession and its expressions across the domains of oral traditions,performing arts ( in Spain), and social practices, rituals, and festive events. The domain of traditional craftsmanship is addressed particularly in Hungary, The Netherlands and in African cultures. |
| **E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The FIAT-IFTA Funeral Heritage Steering Committee and the Funeral Expert Advisory Committee are setting up procedures to evaluate and analyse proposals or applications. |
| **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* |
| The FIAT-IFTA Funeral Heritage Steering Committee has collected an inventory of data and synthetic texts in English, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese language on funeral traditions prepared by the National Members of the various countries.  |
| **E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| FIAT-IFTA is an international NGO with experience in organizing world conferences and symposia since 1970. Interaction of national and international interest is an essential part of the FIAT-IFTA Federation. The purpose of the heritage activities of FIAT-IFTA ICTM is not only to broaden the knowledge of the universal human experience of burial and funerals but also to understand what is the common, universal experience of all times. |
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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 funding from the Participation Program).**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Through the ICH NGO Forum, through the intended participation in the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Program and through other UNESCO bodies, FIAT-IFTA aims to carry out coordinated activities with UNESCO in order to preserve and safeguard the world funeral heritage traditions, customs and rituals.  |
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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.* |
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| Name: | ICH NGO Forum and Gerard Knap |
| Title: | FIAT-IFTA Executive Secretary |
| Date: |   |
| Signature: |   |

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