Expert meeting on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and   
sustainable development at the national level

Istanbul, Turkey, 29 September to 1 October 2014

**Draft Operational Directives on  
‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage  
and sustainable development at the national level’**

**General provisions**

1. States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to realize the importance and maximize the role of intangible cultural heritage as a guarantee of sustainable development. States Parties shall endeavour on the one hand to integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage fully into their development plans, policies and programmes and on the other hand to keep the principles and goals of sustainable development at the forefront of their safeguarding plans, policies and programmes.
2. Insofar as their development plans, policies and programmes involve intangible cultural heritage or may potentially affect its viability, States Parties shall endeavour to:
   1. ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and involve them actively in such plans, policies and programmes;
   2. ensure that those communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries, both in moral and in material terms, of any such plans, policies and programmes;
   3. ensure that such plans, policies and programmes do not:
      1. mark the communities, groups or individuals concerned as not participating in contemporary life, or harm in any way their image;
      2. contribute to justifying any form of political, social, ethnic, religious, linguistic or gender-based discrimination;
      3. de-contextualize or denaturalize the intangible cultural heritage manifestations or expressions concerned;
      4. facilitate the misappropriation or abuse of the knowledge and skills of the communities, groups or individuals concerned;
      5. lead to over-commercialization or to unsustainable tourism that may put at risk the intangible cultural heritage concerned.
3. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a strategic resource to enable sustainable development. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in particular through the application of intellectual property rights, privacy rights and any other appropriate form of legal protection, to:
   1. promote creativity, innovation and utilization of intangible cultural heritage while ensuring that the bearers of such heritage benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from the use or adaptation of that heritage;
   2. ensure that the rights of the communities, groups and individuals that create, bear and transmit their intangible cultural heritage are duly protected from misappropriation.
4. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that inscriptions on the Convention’s lists and selection as a best safeguarding practice are used to advance long-term sustainable development objectives rather than short-term economic interests, to the detriment of the intangible cultural heritage and communities, groups or individuals concerned.

**Core dimension 1: Inclusive social development**

**Food security**

1. State Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional farming, fishing, pastoral and food-gathering knowledge and practices, including their related rituals and beliefs, that contribute to food security and adequate nutrition. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding the diversity of those knowledge and practices, demonstrating their efficacy, identifying their contributions to providing food security and strengthening their resilience to climate change;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to promote access to traditional farming, fishing, pastoral and food gathering knowledge and practices, as well as equitable sharing of the benefits they generate, and ensure the transmission of such knowledge and practices;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to recognize and respect the customary tenure rights of communities and groups to those land, sea and forest ecosystems necessary for their farming, fishing, pastoral and food-gathering knowledge and practices.

**Health care**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional health systems that contribute to well-being, including their related knowledge, practices, expressions, rituals and beliefs, and to harness their potential to contribute to achieving quality health care for all. To that end, they are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding the diversity of traditional health care systems, demonstrating their functions and efficacy, and identifying their contributions to meeting health care needs;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in consultation with knowledge holders, healers and practitioners, to promote access to traditional healing knowledge, participation in healing practices, and transmission of such knowledge and practices, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of them.

**Access to clean water and sustainable water use**

1. State Parties shall endeavour to ensure the viability of traditional water management systems that promote equitable access to safe drinking water and sustainable water use, notably in agriculture. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding the diversity of those traditional water management systems and identifying their contributions to meeting environmental and water-related development needs, as well as how to strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to identify, enhance and promote such systems in order to respond to water needs and climate change challenges at the local, national and international levels.

**Quality education for all**

1. Within their respective educational systems and policies, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to ensure recognition of, respect for, and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in society, in particular through specific educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned and through non-formal means of transmitting knowledge. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. ensure that educational systems promote respect for one’s self and one’s community and mutual respect for others, and do not in any way alienate young people from their intangible cultural heritage, characterize their communities as not participating in contemporary life, or harm in any way their image;
      2. ensure that intangible cultural heritage is integrated as fully as possible as the content of educational programmes and curricula in all relevant disciplines, both as a contribution in its own right and as a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects;
      3. recognize the importance of traditional modes and methods of transmitting intangible cultural heritage and seek to harness their potential within formal and non-formal education systems;
   2. promote education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**Social cohesion**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize and promote the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to social cohesion, overcoming all forms of discrimination and strengthening the social fabric of communities and groups in an inclusive way. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to give particular attention to those practices, expressions and knowledge that help communities to transcend differences of gender, colour, class and locality and to those that are broadly inclusive of all sectors and strata of society including persons with disabilities, people of different ages and members of indigenous and minority groups.

**Gender equality**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to foster the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination, while recognizing that communities pass on their values, norms and expectations related to gender through intangible cultural heritage and it is therefore a privileged context in which community members’ gender identities are shaped. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to strengthen the important role that intangible cultural heritage can play in building mutual respect among communities and groups whose members may not share the same conceptions of gender, and providing common spaces for dialogue on how best to achieve gender equality.

**Core dimension 2: Environmental sustainability**

**Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and to harness their potential to contribute to environmental sustainability, to the protection of biodiversity and to the sustainable management of natural resources. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about nature and the universe and as essential actors in sustaining the environment;
   2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding traditional systems of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable resource use;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning nature and the universe, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
      2. conserve and protect from external degradation those natural spaces whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

**Community-based resilience to natural disasters and climate change**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of knowledge and practices concerning geoscience and particularly the climate, and to harness their potential to contribute to the reduction of risk, to the recovery from natural disasters and to the mitigation of climate change impacts. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about geoscience and particularly the climate;
   2. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding traditional systems of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery, climate adaptation and climate change mitigation;
   3. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning earth and the climate, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
      2. integrate communities, groups and individuals who are bearers of such knowledge fully into systems and programmes of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**Core dimension 3: Inclusive economic development**

1. States Parties are encouraged to recall that traditional craftsmanship, performing arts and other forms of intangible cultural heritage may either constitute primary employment or provide supplementary income, or both, according to the nature of that heritage and the circumstances of the communities, groups or individuals concerned.
2. States Parties shall endeavour by all appropriate means to ensure that employment or income-generating activities, whether undertaken by the States or by public or private bodies, will not:
   1. mark the communities, groups or individuals concerned as not participating in contemporary life, or harm in any way their image;
   2. contribute to justifying any form of political, social, ethnic, religious, linguistic or gender-based discrimination;
   3. de-contextualize or denaturalize the intangible cultural heritage manifestations or expressions concerned;
   4. facilitate the misappropriation or abuse of the knowledge and skills of the communities, groups or individuals concerned;
   5. lead to over-commercialization or to unsustainable tourism that may put at risk the intangible cultural heritage concerned.

**Productive employment and decent work**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at identifying and assessing the opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for productive employment and decent work for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to the non-monetary value of such employment, its adaptability to family and household circumstances, and its relation to other forms of employment;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals in the practice and transmission of their intangible cultural heritage;
      2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of work opportunities involving their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to create employment for others.

**Generating income and sustaining livelihoods, including through tourism**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at identifying and assessing the opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for generating income and sustaining livelihoods for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its role in supplementing other forms of income;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. promote opportunities for communities, groups and individuals to generate income and sustain their livelihood through the practice and transmission of their intangible cultural heritage;
      2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of income generated as a result of their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to generate income for others.
2. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that any activities related to tourism, whether undertaken by the States or by public or private bodies, demonstrate all due respect to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory and to the aspirations and wishes of the communities, groups and individuals concerned therewith. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at assessing, both in general and in specific terms, the impacts of tourism on the intangible cultural heritage and on the sustainable development of the communities, groups and individuals concerned;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. develop and implement standards of conduct and codes of ethics to guide the interventions of those involved in the tourism industry and the behaviour of those who participate in it as tourists;
      2. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of any tourism associated with their own intangible cultural heritage and that the viability, social functions and cultural meanings of that heritage are in no way diminished or threatened by such tourism.

**Core dimension 4: Peace and security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance those practices, representations and expressions of intangible cultural heritage that have peace-making and peace-building at their core, that bring people together and that ensure exchange, dialogue and understanding among them.

**Preventing or resolving disputes**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that intangible cultural heritage can make to the prevention of disputes and to their amicable resolution. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at identifying those expressions, practices and representations of intangible cultural heritage that contribute to dispute prevention and resolution;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
      1. strengthen such expressions, practices and representations;
      2. integrate them into public programmes and policies;
      3. utilize them as fully as possible as complements to other legal and administrative mechanisms of dispute prevention and resolution.

**Restoring peace and security**

1. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of the potential role of intangible cultural heritage in the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties and re-establishment of safety and security. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
   1. foster scientific studies and research methodologies aimed at understanding how intangible cultural heritage can contribute to restoring peace, reconciling parties and re-establishing safety and security;
   2. adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to integrate such intangible cultural heritage into public programmes and policies aimed at the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties and re-establishment of safety and security.