**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Eighth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**8 to 10 September 2020**

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Report of the Secretariat on its activities  
(January 2018 to December 2019)**

**The Living Heritage Entity’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

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| **Note**  This addendum provides an overview of the Living Heritage Entity’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from early 2020 until the date of publication of this document. It describes the actions taken by the Entity within the context of the Culture Sector’s and the UNESCO-wide response to the pandemic.  **Decision required:** paragraph 9 |

1. In early 2020, the world was met with an unexpected global public health crisis. In the months since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone’s lives – from the way we learn or work to the way we interact and spend time together – including disruptions to the practice and transmission of living heritage. This addendum document is intended to provide an overview of the Living Heritage Entity’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic within the context of the Culture Sector’s and the UNESCO-wide response to the pandemic.
2. **Adjustments to the implementation of the Convention**
3. The operations of the Secretariat for the implementation of the Convention have been and still remain significantly impacted. Some of the challenges encountered and remedial actions taken are described below. It should be noted that the adaptations, and rescheduling of events brought with them a significant increase in the workload of the Secretariat. This involved increasing technological support and adapting training materials and meeting content to online formats. Also most of the capacity building events were scheduled to be cost shared with host states, who quite naturally cancelled their planned cost sharing when events were no longer held in their country. This means that overall the adaptations due to the crisis did not result in any cost savings. Moreover, as will be discussed below, the budget from the fund that would have covered the first six months, had to be stretched for an extra three months. Nevertheless, the Secretariat actions demonstrated that it is possible to adapt modalities and working methods, if planned carefully, and that new ways of working can point to new and interesting opportunities for carrying out activities under the Convention.

**a. Eighth session of the General Assembly:** Originally scheduled to take place from 9 to 11 June 2020, the eighth session of the General Assembly was first rescheduled to take place from 25 to 27 August. It was then postponed for a second time to take place from 8 to 10 September 2020. Each time, the new dates were announced through a circular letter to the States Parties (circular letters of 26 March 2020: CLT/LHE/20/145 and of 19 June 2020: CLT/LHE/20/176) and on the website of the 2003 Convention. Consequently, the statutory dates related to the election of the Committee members also had to be adjusted (circular letter of 7 April 2020, CLT/LHE/20/149 and of 19 June 2020, CLT/LHE/20/176). Logistically, the Organization put in place specific physical distancing and sanitary measures for the session, in conformity with the guidelines of the host country as well as those of UNESCO. These measures were also communicated to the participants prior to the meeting (circular letters of 21 August 2020: CLT/LHE/20/184 and of 28 August 2020: CLT/LHE/20/39).

**b. Utilization of the ICH Fund:** Following the rescheduling of the eighth session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat was obliged to re-programme part of the budget under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the Convention approved for the first semester of 2020 in order to maintain its operations. In consultation with UNESCO’s central services, it was decided that the validity of the approved budget would be extended for the first six months of 2020 until the General Assembly could be convened. This extension has affected neither the overall amount of the budget approved for this period nor the overall biennial plan and percentages proposed (for more information, see document [LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx)).

**c. Fifteenth session of the Committee:** At its fourteenth session, the Committee decided to hold its fifteenth session in Kingston, Jamaica, from 30 November to 5 December 2020 ([Decision 14.COM 20](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/20)). On 4 May 2020, the Secretariat received a letter from the national authorities of Jamaica stating that they would not be able to host the session due to the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the Bureau undertook an electronic consultation from 27 July to 7 August 2020 and decided to hold the fifteenth session of the Committee in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters, from 14 to 19 December 2020 ([Decision15.COM 1.BUR 1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=58498)). The chairperson of the session remains H.E. Ms Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport of Jamaica.

The Secretariat organized an online informal meeting of the Bureau on 24 July 2020 in order to provide updates on the calendar of statutory meetings for 2020 and other aspects of the implementation of the Convention that had been affected by the pandemic.

Apart from the electronic consultation and the informal consultation meeting, the Bureau meetings of the fifteenth session of the Committee planned to take place during the first half of the year had to be postponed. This is mainly because of the above-mentioned cash flow related issues of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The main agenda items of the meeting related to the approval of new International Assistance requests and the Secretariat considered it imprudent to have them approved by the Bureau without the budget being made available by the eighth session of the General Assembly. A second meeting of the Bureau on 11 September 2020 will take the form of a meeting *in presentia* to examine six International Assistance requests. A third meeting of the Bureau is then planned to take place on 30 October 2020 to adopt the timetable for the fifteenth session of the Committee and examine several International Assistance requests.

**d. International Assistance**: At the beginning of the pandemic, there were twenty-seven ongoing International Assistance projects (US$3.31 million in total; 52 per cent of which are in Africa). Responding to the request from beneficiary States, six projects were extended. Despite various challenges, another six projects were concluded since the start of the pandemic until the time of writing this document. Furthermore, six new International Assistance requests were received during the period that the Secretariat was under lockdown; these will be brought to the attention of forthcoming meetings of the Bureau together with the other requests that had been received previously.

**e. 2021 Nominations**: The beginning of the lockdown period in France coincided with the deadline (31 March 2020) for the submission of nominations for inscriptions on the Lists of the Convention. Knowing that many submitting States were being impacted by the health crisis and were not able to finalize their nomination files as they had wished, the Secretariat decided to exercise leniency in treating nominations under the 2021 cycle. Through the circular letter of 17 March 2020 (CLT/LHE/20/142; also communicated as a news item issued on 17 March 2020), submitting States were asked to electronically submit nominations by the deadline, even if incomplete, using the forms for the cycle. States were then given until 30 September 2020 to complete the submission or to revise the file. In parallel, the Secretariat also performed a technical completeness check to identify missing information in accordance with paragraph 54 of the Operational Directives. As an exceptional measure to cope with the workload, the communication on the technical completeness was sent to submitting States in batches, allowing three months from the issuance of the letter to complete the file. The list of nominations under process for the 2021 process can be consulted on the webpage of the 2003 Convention.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**f. Work of the 2020 Evaluation Body**: The working methods of the Evaluation Body for 2020 also had to be adapted. While the first meeting in February could take place *in presentia* as planned (although two members had to participate remotely due to the health crisis), the second meeting in June was changed to an online meeting, with the overall number of hours of the meeting reduced by half (three hours per day for five days instead of six hours per day for five days). In order to facilitate consultations among the members before and during the meeting, the Secretariat enhanced the online interface through the password-protected part of the 2003 Convention website. These adjustments allowed the Evaluation Body to consult each other’s evaluation texts up to sixteen days before the meeting and complete the evaluation of all fifty-two files within the time of the meeting. The third meeting in September, which will be convened after the present session of the General Assembly, will also be held online.

**g. Dialogue process for the 2020 cycle**: In December 2019, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve, through the revision of the Operational Directives, the introduction of a dialogue process between the Evaluation Body and submitting States from the 2020 cycle onwards. This process is initiated by the Evaluation Body when it considers that a short question and answer process could influence its overall recommendation for a file. Given the rescheduling of the eighth session of the General Assembly from June to September 2020, the present session of the General Assembly had not yet examined the proposed amendments establishing the dialogue process at the time of the second meeting of the Evaluation Body.

In order to allow sufficient time for the submitting States concerned to provide the requested information and for the Evaluation Body to assess the answers provided by States in time for the fifteenth session of the Committee, the dialogue process was launched on an anticipatory basis, following the timeline provided in the draft Operational Directives endorsed by the Committee at its fourteenth session in 2019. It was understood that, should the General Assembly adopt these amendments prior to the Evaluation Body’s third and final meeting, the Evaluation Body would take into account the answers provided by States Parties when drafting its final recommendations. However, should the amendments to the Operational Directives not be approved in time, the Evaluation Body would formulate a recommendation based on the file as originally submitted.

**h. Periodic reporting**: Following the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism, Latin America and the Caribbean will be the first region to submit periodic reports under the new system. In this regard, a number of States Parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean region have requested an extension of the submission deadline, which is 15 December 2020 according to the Operational Directives of the Convention (paragraphs 152 and 161). Given the exceptional circumstances, the Secretariat proposed that the States submit an intention to report by 15 December 2020, using the online Form ICH-10 whenever possible, and that they complete the report by 12 March 2021 (circular letter of 27 August 2020: CLT/LHE/20/193). This solution mirrors the methodology used for the submission of the 2021 nominations, as described above, and satisfies both the provisions of the Operational Directives and the needs of reporting States.

**i. Reflection on the listing mechanisms:** The global reflection initiated by the twelfth session of the Committee on the listing mechanisms of the Convention has also been impacted by the health crisis. The category VI meeting of experts originally planned for March 2020 as a three-day meeting *in presentia* has been adjusted; a two-step process consisting of an electronic consultation and online breakout groups in addition to an online plenary meeting is to replace the meeting *in presentia*. It must be noted that this alternative modality should not impede the overall timetable for the reflection adopted by the fourteenth session of the Committee. The present session of the General Assembly will discuss this in more detail under item 11 (see [document LHE/20/8.GA/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-11-EN.docx)).

**j. Capacity-building approach:** The capacity-building approach for periodic reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean, which the Secretariat had developed upon the request of the Committee at its fourteenth session ([Decision 14.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/8)), had to be substantially redesigned for an online format. While by March 2020 the Secretariat had finished developing training materials in English and Spanish for a workshop *in presentia* and had obtained generous offers from States Parties to host regional training workshops for national focal points for periodic reporting and facilitators from the region, these had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Instead, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL), adapted the three-day workshop *in presentia* for national focal points into a six-week online course, combining weekly webinars, videos, reading materials and online forum sessions. The course aimed to provide the skills and knowledge required for completing the periodic reporting process under the 2003 Convention. It covered themes such as results-based reporting, data generation, participatory methodology and hands-on exercises on filling out the new version of the online form for periodic reporting, which has been aligned with the 2003 Convention’s Overall results framework. Focal points from thirty-two States Parties as well as senior facilitators and UNESCO Culture officers from the region participated in this successful online training, which showed the potential of online modalities to expand and reinvent the capacity-building programme as a new strategy with longer-term benefits.

As to the European cycle of periodic reporting in 2021, a training-of-trainers workshop for members of the European chapter of the facilitators network, which was foreseen to be held in October 2020, had to be postponed. It is now being adapted for an online training format to be delivered in January 2021.

The implementation of capacity-building projects and activities at country levels have also been impacted by the ongoing health crisis, including those financed by earmarked contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and through Fund-in-Trust modalities. Implementation has either been delayed or training and advisory activities were conducted online. The Secretariat has maintained close dialogue with the donors to seek approval when administrative adjustments where necessary.

**k.** **Living heritage and education**: The COVID-19 restrictions also affected the development and organization of a training-of-trainers workshop on living heritage and education, which was planned to be held in June 2020 and had to be postponed. It is now being developed as a three-week online workshop to be delivered towards the beginning of 2021 in close collaboration with the Education Sector. This work is a contribution to attaining Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education and in particular Target 4.7 on learning to appreciate cultural diversity and the role of culture in development. The Secretariat also had to postpone the side event on living heritage and education originally planned to take place during the present session of the General Assembly to launch the global clearing house for knowledge sharing and collaboration in the field of living heritage and education. It is now being planned to take place prior to or during the fifteenth session of the Committee.

**l. Online tools:** At the beginning of the lockdown period, the Secretariat made the educational and knowledge management tools in the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding available in open access format in order to facilitate the use and diffusion on-line. These tools range from capacity building for trainers to data visualization, an online toolbox on sustainable development and references for researchers:

1. **Contribution to the Culture Sector’s and UNESCO-wide effort**
2. Across the organization, UNESCO mobilized to promote global solidary through education, culture, science, communication and information. In the Culture Sector, a task force was formed to contribute to the UNESCO-wide response to COVID-19. Recognizing that culture can be a source of resilience during the pandemic, while at the same time being under crisis, the Culture Sector task force developed an action plan focusing on four key pillars:
   1. Communication, advocacy and awareness raising;
   2. Impact assessment of the cultural sector and support for public policies;
   3. Support for artists, culture professionals and communities;
   4. Capacity building and resources to safeguard cultural heritage.
3. The Living Heritage Entity, in line with the Convention’s emphasis on community participation, contributed to the implementation of these pillars of the Culture Sector action plan, and as such with reference to the ResiliArt initiative. Despite the challenging circumstances of the lockdown period in France, in April 2020 the Secretariat was able to launch the [survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq5PHbM5-kuwswIpVrERlPFwScS5u59LsaYAqLW4SGRUNzFHQjBNMUQ0RDNKSE5DSTc4TFIxOUJBQy4u) ‘Living heritage experiences in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic’, targeting practitioners and communities. The aim was to look at the impact of the crisis on living heritage and its role in helping communities during the pandemic. The survey responded to UNESCO’s clearing house function, by providing a platform for people to speak about their experiences, bringing community voices to the forefront.
4. Given that the pandemic is ongoing, the survey remains open and so far responses have been obtained from close to ninety countries; they are from non-governmental organizations, bearers and practitioners of living heritage, universities and researchers, national authorities and museums.[[2]](#footnote-2) Out of some 300 responses received, 197 submissions figure on a dedicated [web platform](https://ich.unesco.org/en/living-heritage-experiences-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-01123) to share and exchange experiences of living heritage in the context of the pandemic as well as to promote dialogue among communities.[[3]](#footnote-3) The results of the survey have been disseminated through a [video](https://www.facebook.com/unesco/videos/242180553795626/) on social media, examples on the [UNESCO COVID-19 Response website](https://en.unesco.org/news/share-your-livingheritage-experience), a ’Spotlight on living heritage’ in the [Culture & COVID: Impact & Response Tracker](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/issue_4_en_culture_covid-19_tracker-8.pdf) (Issue 4, 6 May 2020) and an article in the forthcoming issue of the *World Heritage* magazine (no. 95).
5. The responses to the survey highlight how the pandemic has disrupted the contexts and channels necessary for expressing, safeguarding and transmitting living heritage. For example, some relate to the cancellation or postponement of events, the loss of livelihoods and restricted access to associated spaces and places. For instance, in Cremona, Italy, violinmakers were prevented from entering their laboratories and workshops which, in turn, impeded their ability to continue their practice. Other responses concern experiences where living heritage was recognized as offering social support or spiritual comfort, or as a form of alternative income, traditional mutual aid, and so on. People in Palestine used jokes and satirical short stories, including language connected to COVID-19, to engage with the current situation and describe society and its response to the pandemic. More information can be obtained from a summary analysis of the survey, ‘Living Heritage and the COVID-19 pandemic: snapshot of the UNESCO online survey’.
6. As a way forward, and following the high level of interest in the survey, the Living Heritage Entity is organizing a special online debate on ‘Living heritage experiences and the COVID-19 pandemic’ at the present session of the General Assembly.[[4]](#footnote-4) Speakers who contributed to the survey will be invited to this dialogue session to share some of their inspiring experiences. The session is intended to foster a spirit of exchange and dialogue across generations, communities and cultures.
7. Throughout this destabilizing period, living heritage has served as a source of resilience, solidarity, inspiration and hope, helping communities around the world to cope with the crisis. The Living Heritage Entity’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the capacity of living heritage to evolve and adapt in response to change and offers a poignant example of the relevance of the Convention in the face of global challenges. In this regard, the response is in line with the ongoing reflections by the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention on [intangible cultural heritage in emergencies](https://ich.unesco.org/en/emergency-situations-01117), which the General Assembly will discuss in more detail under item 9 (see [document LHE/20/8.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-9-EN.docx)).
8. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.GA 6 Add.

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document LHE/20/8.GA/6 Add.,
2. Takes note of the adjustments made by the Secretariat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciates the promptness and usefulness of this response despite numerous challenges.
3. Acknowledges that the observations made through the survey and dedicated web platform, as well as the other actions undertaken by the Secretariat, offer a pertinent example of the relevance of the Convention in the face of global challenges, and demonstrate that living heritage has the capacity to respond and adapt to such challenges.
4. Encourages the Secretariat to apply the lessons learned from this response, including those related to capacity-building, in its future activities to support the work of the governing bodies of the Convention and national safeguarding efforts

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| **Summary**  This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019.  **Decision required:** paragraph 26 |

1. **Introduction**
2. This document reports on the work of the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from January 2018 to December 2019. The period for the report corresponds with UNESCO’s other main statutory reporting processes, namely the Director-General’s reports to the Executive Board on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (EX/4). It is based largely on the content of the reports of the Secretariat to the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee[[5]](#footnote-5) with the addition of information from the last six months of 2019 (June to December).
3. The report provides a strategic, comprehensive assessment of the Secretariat’s achievements, progress, challenges and ways forward that should be read alongside the financial statement regarding the Convention’s Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ([LHE/20/8.GA/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7-EN.docx)). Its narrative is structured around three main axes: (i) governance of the 2003 Convention, (ii) operational actions related mainly to capacity building and intangible cultural heritage and education, and (iii) communications and outreach. More details, including key figures, can be found in the annex, which provides a results-based assessment of the Secretariat’s work according to the performance indicators of Expected Result 6, Major Programme IV within the [39 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261648) results framework.
4. As part of the reorganization of the Culture Sector in November 2018, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section was renamed the ‘Living Heritage Entity’. Around the same time, and following the creation of three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts by the seventh session of the General Assembly, the Entity was restructured into two units and two teams: the Programme Management Unit (including the Statutory Support Team) and the Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit as well as the new Safeguarding, Implementation and Monitoring Team (to process International Assistance requests and the monitoring of the projects). In addition, Knowledge Management Services[[6]](#footnote-6) supports the work of the Entity transversally, manages the website of the Convention and develops innovative online tools. Regional responsibilities are distributed across the Entity with ‘regional officers’ responsible for the different electoral groups of UNESCO. During the reporting period, the Secretariat also benefitted from secondments from China (2014 to 2018), Japan (March 2015 to April 2018) and Singapore (August 2018 to August 2019). Moreover, China, Finland, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Montenegro, and Sweden have contributed to the sub-fund in support of human resources.
5. **Governance of the Convention**

**Statutory support**

1. Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat ensured administrative, logistical and substantive support for the **statutory meetings and mechanisms**, which act as the backbone of the 2003 Convention. This support led to the organization of 20 statutory meetings including the General Assembly, the Committee, the Bureau of the Committee as well as other types of meeting such as information and exchange sessions, a consultation meeting and an expert meeting. In addition to administering the nomination process for the 2019 and 2020 cycles,[[7]](#footnote-7) the Secretariat substantially supported the thirteenth session of the Committee in its unprecedented decision to inscribe ‘Traditional Korean wrestling (Ssirum/Ssireum)’ on the Representative List as a joint nomination by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. The case of the Aalst Carnival (Belgium), which was examined by the fourteenth session of the Committee at the request of its Bureau, was also supported significantly by the Secretariat in laying the groundwork for the Committee’s landmark decision to remove that element from the Representative List in line with paragraph 40 of the Operational Directives. At the same time, the periodic reporting mechanism and accreditation or renewal requests from non-governmental organizations also benefitted from the service of the Secretariat. Despite overlapping deadlines and limited human resources, the Secretariat met all statutory deadlines as defined in the Convention and its Operational Directives.
2. A major achievement during the two-year period was the adoption of the overall results framework at the seventh session of the General Assembly in June 2018 and the corresponding **reform of the periodic reporting mechanism**.[[8]](#footnote-8) The reformed mechanism allows States to report on results and impacts rather than on activities. It also gives States flexibility in deciding on their targets so that they can effectively monitor the implementation of the Convention. As part of the reform, the Secretariat developed an online version of Form ICH-10 that incorporates indicators from the overall results framework. Furthermore, it produced [twenty-six guidance notes](https://ich.unesco.org/en/overall-results-framework-00984) and developed a capacity-building approach to assist the reporting States. Under this reformed mechanism, reporting follows a six-year regional cycle; the first cycle is taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020.[[9]](#footnote-9)
3. An increasing number of States Parties have received support through the **International Assistance mechanisms**. During the reporting period (39 C/5) expenditures linked to International Assistance have, for the first time, surpassed US$ 2.8 million. This represents a twofold increase compared to the previous two years (38 C/5).[[10]](#footnote-10) One reason for this increase is the Secretariat’s intensified efforts to support submitting States in finalizing their requests (i.e., additional information letters, technical assistance) and in treating and assessing requests once they have been received. These efforts have improved the quality and the number of requests submitted to the Bureau and subsequently, the Bureau has approved a high percentage of requests (twenty-eight out of forty requests were approved). Consequently, there has been a significant increase in workload, and the General Assembly’s decision to create three fixed-term extra-budgetary posts to further operationalize the mechanism was timely.[[11]](#footnote-11) Recruitment of these posts was finalized in November 2019.
4. **Knowledge management** services assist all stakeholders of the Convention including the Secretariat in being more efficient, accurate and pioneering in their work through continual improvements to processes and data management. One such improvement is a single sign-on bridge on the website of the Convention which facilitates the work of multiple stakeholders. Another key innovation has been a new online reporting interface that supports periodic reporting (Form ICH-10), capacity building workshops and accredited NGO renewal. Furthermore, the Secretariat indexed inscribed elements, safeguarding projects and accredited NGOs. Website users can now search and download related datasets by content-related criteria. Finally, the website of the Convention continues to reach new audiences with an Arabic version that was launched in May 2018.

**Reflection on existing actors and mechanisms of the Convention**

1. Over the past ten years, the three listing mechanisms of the Convention have raised many complex issues and questions for reflection. In response, the Committee has initiated a **global reflection on the nature and purposes of the listing mechanisms** that will continueuntil at least 2022.[[12]](#footnote-12) In this context, the Secretariat alerted the thirteenth session of the Committee to the need to reflect on the follow-up of inscribed elements in the absence of a mechanism to deal with the increasing amount of correspondence received about the changing situations of inscribed elements. In addition, the Secretariat will organize a preliminary expert meeting,[[13]](#footnote-13) thanks to the voluntary supplementary contribution of Japan (see [document LHE/20/8.GA/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-11-EN.docx)). Thus far, the Secretariat has also supported the first steps towards making the inscription process better respond to the needs of States Parties through the upstream dialogue process in the 2019 cycle. Furthermore, as part of the reflection and in response to requests from the Committee,[[14]](#footnote-14) the Secretariat undertook a consultation survey on lighter ways of sharing safeguarding practices. The majority of survey respondents suggested that they would like to see new ways of sharing safeguarding practices that include lighter filtering and validation through UNESCO.[[15]](#footnote-15)
2. **Non-governmental organizations** (NGOs) have the potential to play an important role under the Convention, yet, at present, only 6 out of 176 accredited NGOs can perform an advisory function to the Committee through the Evaluation Body. Following requests from the Committee,[[16]](#footnote-16) the Secretariat initiated a consultation process to identify the *inter alia* advisory functions that accredited NGOs could provide the governing bodies of the Convention. Following an electronic consultation in September–October 2018, sixty-six NGOs and forty States participated in a consultation meeting in April 2019. The reflection focused on identifying and defining advisory functions that the Committee wishes accredited NGOs to fulfil and on the relevance of accreditation. The General Assembly will discuss the outcomes of this consultation in more detail under item 12 (see [document LHE/20/8.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-12-EN.docx)).
3. **Operational Activities**

**Capacity building**

1. Demand remains high for the capacity-building programme. With ninety-five benefiting countries during the reporting period, including thirty-four in Africa and eighteen Small Island Developing States, the programme continues to extend its reach. Project reports and external evaluations of multi-year projects in Asia and the Pacific (2017) and in Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean Islands (2019) show that countries have strengthened their institutional frameworks, created dedicated departments, teams, and consultative mechanisms, and embraced community-based approaches for inventorying intangible cultural heritage. To support its activities, the programme reinforced its global facilitators’ network together with category 2 centres through seven training of trainers’ workshops for 103 facilitators from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Arab States, including 55 new members. Moreover, an interregional working group was formed to help coordinate and develop the network; the group promoted network visibility through a [side event](https://ich.unesco.org/en/events/the-global-facilitators-network-how-can-it-support-countries-to-implement-the-convention-00704) at the thirteenth session of the Committee.
2. The capacity-building programme is continuously evolving to maintain a strategic advantage through new approaches, modalities, thematic content and partnerships. In this regard, a capacity-building approach and [training materials](https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building%20materials#unit-60-periodic-reporting-participatory-methodologiesbr) were conceived to assist countries with the reformed periodic reporting mechanism. During the reporting period, the Secretariat also explored new virtual capacity-building modalities. One such initiative, an [online toolbox](https://ich.unesco.org/en/sustainable-development-toolbox-00987), collates more than thirty examples on the links between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development. This online tool can be used during capacity-building workshops or for the public at large to understand the relationship between intangible cultural heritage and the sustainable development goals. A webinar for facilitators on **‘**gender equality policy and intangible cultural heritage’ provided an opportunity to test online learning modalities. Finally, the programme took steps towards forging new partnerships through strengthened networking with more than sixty universities and processing twenty-six proposals for the establishment and renewal of UNESCO Chairs.

**Intangible cultural heritage and education**

1. Since 2017, when the Committee adopted a second funding priority for 2018-2021,[[17]](#footnote-17) the Secretariat’s work on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ has benefited from strong collaboration with the Education Sector at Headquarters and with Field Offices. Both Sectors see clear strategic advantages of promoting a broader approach to safeguarding that has the potential to reach communities while helping States meet their commitments under Sustainable Development Goal 4. In October 2019, the Secretariat held an intersectoral meeting, which brought together over fifty Culture and Education colleagues from all UNESCO regions, reviewed progress made thus far and defined areas for future strategic work on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in education for the 40 C/5. In November 2019, the first contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for this priority was received from the Netherlands for a project in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. As of December 2019, fifteen Field Offices had spearheaded related initiatives at the national and regional levels. In total, there were forty-one benefiting countries, including twenty-two in Africa and eight Small Island Developing States. Field Offices developed teacher training materials and conducted pilot projects. For example, an International Assistance project in Senegal created a network of education institutions to develop teacher training materials, a multi-country project in Southern Africa funded by the Education Sector integrated living heritage in capacity building for teachers and an extra-budgetary UNESCO/EU [project](https://ich.unesco.org/en/engaging-youth-for-an-inclusive-and-sustainable-europe-01051) on ‘2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Engaging Youth for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future’ was implemented. Three regions (Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) generated knowledge about existing experiences through surveys. At the global level, the Secretariat made use of new technologies to build awareness of key stakeholders through a [webinar](https://ich.unesco.org/en/events/webinar-on-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-education-for-sustainable-development-00835) on intangible cultural heritage and education for sustainable development with the Education Sector as well as a [virtual conference](https://ich.unesco.org/en/events/virtual-conference-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-00683) on intangible cultural heritage and technical and vocational education and training with UNESCO-UNEVOC. Furthermore, to facilitate knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation, the Secretariat developed content for a clearinghouse on living heritage and education which will be made available through the website of the Convention.

**Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies**

1. Three years of reflections by the Committee on the role of communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage in emergencies have come to fruition through the development of ‘operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’.[[18]](#footnote-18) The Secretariat supported this work by organizing an [expert meeting](https://ich.unesco.org/en/events/expert-meeting-on-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-emergencies-00718) on 21 and 22 May 2019, with financial support from China. Following the meeting, the Secretariat also updated the ‘[guidance note](https://ich.unesco.org/en/guidance-note-on-inventorying-00966) on inventorying intangible cultural heritage’ to integrate awareness of disaster risk reduction. To further raise awareness on living heritage and emergencies, the Secretariat strengthened its cooperation with UNHCR, UNDP and UN-Habitat. The General Assembly will discuss this topic in more detail under item 9 (see [document LHE/20/8.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-9-EN.docx)).

**Intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts**

1. The projected growth of the world’s population living in urban areas presents new challenges for the continued transmission and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In response, the Secretariat has been implementing one initiative under an extra-budgetary [project](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/community-based-inventorying-of-intangible-heritage-in-urban-areas-00423) since May 2018, which is funded by Yong Xin Hua Yun Cultural Industry Investment (private donor, China), aiming to conduct pilot community-based inventorying exercises in cities. Through these exercises, the ‘Intangible Heritage and Creativity for Sustainable Cities’ project is identifying key issues related to safeguarding in urban contexts, developing inventorying methodologies for urban contexts and formulating possible recommendations for policymakers and practitioners. By December 2019, the first phase of pilot cities, George Town (Malaysia), Harare (Zimbabwe) and Kingston (Jamaica) had all completed implementation. The project launched a second phase in September 2019 with Ayacucho (Peru) and Tbilisi (Georgia).
2. **Communications and outreach**

**Communications materials and events**

1. Strategic communication has the potential to enhance awareness about intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, to increase the visibility of the Convention and to reach diverse stakeholders. With this in mind, the Secretariat began implementing pilot communications initiatives by targeting key themes and audiences. The Secretariat seized the opportunity of the 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages to engage new audiences on the topic of living heritage and indigenous peoples. The year started with a panel discussion at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (22 April 2019, New York). In parallel, the Secretariat produced a podcast with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a brochure on ‘[Living heritage and indigenous peoples](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/Brochure-indigenous-people-201904-EN.pdf)’. Finally, the Secretariat curated an immersive [sound exhibition](https://ich.unesco.org/en/sounds-of-living-heritage-a-journey-through-indigenous-languages-2019-01106) on ‘Sounds of living heritage: A journey through indigenous languages’ at the fourteenth session of the Committee.
2. As a complement to its operational activities, the Secretariat also produced brochures on ‘[Living heritage and capacity building](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/45455-EN.pdf)’ and ‘[Living heritage and education’](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/46212-EN.pdf). The theme of living heritage and education was further expanded on through side events at the seventh session of the General Assembly and the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee. Another series of communication initiatives specifically targeted youth: audiovisual stories about a group of young people were distributed via social media, the website of the Convention and an exhibit at the seventh session of the General Assembly. Press conferences at key statutory meetings and a press kit produced annually for the Committee aimed to address members of the media whereas web and social media initiatives reached the broader public, including through Twitter and Facebook Live.
3. Embracing technological innovations can provide new ways of consolidating and sharing information and can reach diverse audiences. This is why the Secretariat created two original online tools during the reporting period. In 2018, during the thirteenth session of the Committee, the Secretariat launched the project [Dive into intangible cultural heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive&display=constellation), with support from the Netherlands. It provides a new way of visualizing the multi-faceted and holistic nature of intangible cultural heritage, exploring how different elements connect through domains, threats and natural environments (biomes). It reached almost one million page views over the first semester of 2019. A second tool, the [online research bibliography](https://ich.unesco.org/en/research-references-on-2003-convention-implementation-00945), provides an interactive platform of scholarly references related to the Convention and its implementation. With the help of a team of reviewers, this tool continues to add references.
4. **Key Challenges and ways forward**
5. In only two years, the governing bodies of the Convention, supported by the Secretariat, advanced many important areas in the life of the Convention. In particular, the reformed periodic reporting mechanism offers important new ways of monitoring the implementation of the Convention at community, local, country and international levels, including States Parties’ international commitments for the Sustainable Development Goals. The information that States Parties collect will provide a better understanding of the Convention’s significant achievements and global impact. As for the International Assistance mechanism, now that it is better operationalized, the newly recruited team can focus on ensuring continued high implementation, initiating ongoing monitoring and gathering lessons learned.
6. Building on progress made with periodic reporting and International Assistance, a focus for the next couple of years will be on the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, supported by Japan. It is critical that reforms to the process acknowledge and take into consideration the broader safeguarding intentions of submitting States and communities irrespective of their administrative capabilities. In the end, the goal of the reflection process should be to help communities to better safeguard their living heritage.
7. While demands for the capacity-building programme are still high, and continue to exceed the delivery capacity, the programme has experienced a decline in funding. In response, the Secretariat commissioned a feasibility study on possible future partnerships for sustaining the programme. The study underlined the considerable potential for a stronger role for category 2 centres in regionalizing the programme, partnerships with other heritage institutions in integrating capacity building into their actions and capacity-building mechanisms at the national level. Building on recent experiences with webinars and online tools, another avenue the programme could explore is opportunities related to online capacity building.
8. The way forward for the second funding priority on intangible cultural heritage and education also requires reflection. Initial success has seen strong buy-in from both education and culture stakeholders and pilot initiatives launched in all regions; however, at the same time, two years into the priority there have been limited voluntary contributions. The Secretariat plans to refocus its efforts by leveraging UNESCO’s inter-sectoral strengths and targeting areas where intangible cultural heritage naturally converges with the Education Sector, such as global citizenship education and education for sustainable development.
9. Interest continues to build in new thematic areas. After three years of reflection by the Committee, work on emergencies (conflicts and natural disasters) will shift to operational activities, inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building and awareness raising, thanks to contributions from Switzerland and Azerbaijan. New capacity-building materials are also forthcoming in this area. Other new thematic areas are emerging, which may require the attention of the Committee in the near future. These include the links between intangible cultural heritage and tourism, urban contexts, museums and more. Thematic working groups have formed at the Culture Sector level that are exploring new areas, such as biodiversity and climate change, while increasing opportunities for intersectoral work. The Secretariat is strengthening its work on education in one such thematic group, which brings together colleagues from different parts of the Sector to work on culture and arts education, heritage education and more.
10. The reporting period saw initial efforts on the part of the Secretariat to raise awareness of the Convention through outreach and communications activities. Moving forward, the Secretariat will continue to produce materials, tools and events, deliberately targeting untapped audiences such as youth and indigenous peoples, notably online and through social media. Naturally, it is hoped that such efforts will lead to an increase in funds being raised. Recognizing the increasingly central role that technology plays in our daily lives and its potential to provide innovative solutions for safeguarding, the Secretariat will continue to develop digital tools, notably by expanding the Dive into intangible cultural heritage project to look at the contributions of living heritage to the Sustainable Development Goals.
11. At the time of writing this report, the COVID-19 pandemic was changing the ways communities practiced and safeguarded their living heritage. In response, the Secretariat launched a [survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq5PHbM5-kuwswIpVrERlPFwScS5u59LsaYAqLW4SGRUNzFHQjBNMUQ0RDNKSE5DSTc4TFIxOUJBQy4u), which is still ongoing, to exchange and document experiences of living heritage during the pandemic and has set up a [web platform](https://ich.unesco.org/en/living-heritage-experiences-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-01123) to share and exchange on the survey results. With more than 200 responses from 68 countries shared on the web platform so far, the survey demonstrates the diversity of ways that intangible cultural heritage is being affected. At the same time, many of the answers received show how living heritage can be a source of resilience in difficult circumstances, as people draw inspiration, strength and solidarity from practising their living heritage. Going forward, an analysis of the survey will draw lessons learned that will be shared through dedicated communications materials and events. An additional response from the Secretariat to the pandemic was to adapt the capacity-building training on periodic reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean to an online modality, which successfully ran over a six-week period in May/June 2020.
12. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.GA 6

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document LHE/20/8.GA/6,
2. Commends the Secretariat for the continued and timely support provided for the sound governance of the Convention through the efficient organization of statutory meetings and management of its various mechanisms and notes with satisfaction the initial roll-out of the periodic reporting reform;
3. Further commends the Secretariat for supporting the first steps on the reflection on the listing mechanisms through the follow-up of inscribed elements, and the implementation of the upstream dialogue process;
4. Appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to better operationalize the International Assistance mechanism, which resulted in an improved expenditure of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
5. Expresses satisfaction with the global capacity-building programme, noting the important role of key partners such as category 2 centres in the sustainability of the programme and welcomes strong progress made on the intersectoral work on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education;
6. Takes note of the progress made in selected thematic areas such as on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies as well as on intangible cultural heritage and urban contexts, and encourages the Secretariat to continue to develop other thematic initiatives;
7. Further appreciates the targeted communications and outreach initiatives, which increased the visibility of and awareness about the Convention, and innovative online projects, notably ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’, that engaged new audiences with intangible cultural heritage;
8. Welcomes the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the survey and dedicated web platform as well as the online capacity-building on periodic reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this regard and communicate widely on the survey results;
9. Requests the Secretariat to report on its activities for the period between January 2020 and December 2021 for examination by the General Assembly at its ninth session.

**Annex**

**Assessment by performance indicator**

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Sound governance exercised through the adoption and implementation of strategic resolutions/decisions of the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention.** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Strengthened ability to provide strategic guidance to States Parties for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including through examination of submitted periodic reports * Working methods of the governing bodies improved * Level of funding to the implementation of decisions adopted by the governing bodies * Level of contribution of non-governmental organizations, with recognized competence in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to the Convention’s governance | * Partially | * Yes | * Overall results framework established through intergovernmental consultation processes and Operational Directives revised to improve the periodic reporting mechanism * Calendar established for the first regional cycle of periodic reporting to begin in 2020 * Online reporting form and 26 guidance notes on the indicators developed together with a capacity-building approach to accompany States in their reporting * 3 fixed-term posts approved and recruitment finalized to operationalize the International Assistance mechanism * 57 nomination files submitted from 57 States Parties for the 2018 cycle; 55 nomination files from 64 States were submitted for the 2019 cycle; and 60 files from 63 States were submitted for the 2020 cycle[[19]](#footnote-19) * 20 statutory meetings organized[[20]](#footnote-20) * 32 reports examined on the implementation of the Convention and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List submitted by States Parties for the 2018 cycle, in addition to 16 reports examined on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List in 2018 and 4 reports in 2019 * The fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage recommended amendments to the Operational Directives to operationalize the ‘upstream dialogue’ in the evaluation process * 99 accredited non-governmental organizations (10 based in Africa) involved in a two-year reflection process on the advisory role of non-governmental organizations * 62 accreditation requests processed for non-governmental organizations and 67 reports reviewed for renewal of accreditation * 26 proposals processed for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO chairs |

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of supported Member States utilizing strengthened human and institutional resources for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Strengthened or newly established institutional frameworks for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage * Community-based approaches adopted or strengthened for inventorying intangible cultural heritage or developing safeguarding plans, including those reflecting a gender-sensitive approach | * 70, of which 30 in Africa and 5 SIDS (Small Island Developing States) | * 55 of which 25 in Africa and 10 SIDS | * 95 Member States supported, including 34 in Africa and 18 SIDS. Of these, 51 adopted a gender-sensitive approach, while 19 were gender-responsive * 33 Member States supported through multi-year capacity-building projects of which 18 in Africa * 7 regional training of trainers workshops[[21]](#footnote-21) organized in cooperation with C2Cs,[[22]](#footnote-22) training 103 network members (61% women) including 55 new members (54% women) * More than 60 universities engaged in networking activities, including 2 networking meetings, 2 surveys and a side event at 13.COM. |

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 3** | **Number of supported Member States which have integrated intangible cultural heritage into their plans, policies and programmes, in particular as a contribution towards the achievement of SDGs in a gender-responsive manner** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Convention-related reports address plans, policies and programmes aimed at integrating the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage with a gender-sensitive approach, including in emergency contexts, and provide evidence towards the attainment of SDG targets * Partnerships established, within and outside the culture sector, with a view to strengthening the role of intangible cultural heritage as an enabler and guarantee of sustainable development and supporting national plans to achieve the SDGs * Initiatives designed and implemented, resulting in the incorporation of intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education (SDG 4.7) | * 15, of which 5 in Africa and 2 SIDS | * 25 of which 8 in Africa and 5 SIDS | * 41 Member States supported in the field of intangible cultural heritage and education, including 22 in Africa and 8 SIDS. Of these, 21 adopted a gender-sensitive approach, while 6 were gender-responsive * 15 Field Offices initiated activities that incorporated intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education * Partnerships established to support projects in the fields of intangible cultural heritage and cities as well as education |

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 4** | **Number of States Parties which have effectively implemented International Assistance, including from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, complementing their national safeguarding efforts** |

| **Assessed according to the following** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund used by States Parties to effectively complement their national safeguarding efforts * Preparatory/technical assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund used by States Parties to elaborate International Assistance requests to effectively complement their national safeguarding efforts | * 15, of which 10 in Africa and 1 SIDS | * 15 of which 10 in Africa and 2 SIDS | * 9 States Parties completed the implementation of an International Assistance project, of which 7 in Africa and 2 in SIDS * 37 International Assistance requests for up to US$100,000 treated and submitted to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention, of which 25 were approved, including 13 for Africa and 2 SIDS * 2 requests received technical assistance, including 1 from Africa |

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 5** | **Number of initiatives undertaken by supported Member States which have enhanced knowledge and understanding of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and of the 2003 Convention** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Evidence of programmes, projects or initiatives for the safeguarding of heritage reflecting the principles and objectives of the 2003 Convention with proven effectiveness to contribute to the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned * Communication and/or awareness-raising initiatives developed in line with the Convention's communications and outreach strategy * Level of engagement of all actors (governmental and non-governmental) concerned with the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in related initiatives | * 4 | * 15 of which 5 in Africa and 2 SIDS | * 15 initiatives undertaken by supported Member States, of which 5 in Africa and 1 SIDS * Outreach and communications plan for the 2003 Convention under implementation * Communication and outreach initiatives organized during 7.GA, 13.COM and 14.COM, in addition a side event during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues * Project launched on 'Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage' |

1. . <https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2021-under-process-01119> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . As the survey is ongoing, the figures presented in this document reflect the data available as of 10 August 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Africa (8 experiences); Arab States (9 experiences); Asia and the Pacific (43 experiences); Europe and North America (82 experiences); Latin America and the Caribbean (65 experiences). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . The debate will be held online from 13:30 to 14:50 on 9 September and broadcast on the UNESCO YouTube Channel in English, French and Spanish. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . Documents [ITH/18/13.COM/5 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-5_Rev.-EN.docx)(1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018) and [LHE/19/14.COM/5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-5.b-EN.docx) (1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . Since March 2020 the Knowledge Management Service also leads work on communications and outreach. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . The support to the nomination process involved checking the technical completeness of nomination files (2019 and 2020 cycles); providing administrative support for the Evaluation Body (2018 and 2019 cycles) and facilitating the provisional dialogue process (2019 cycle). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. . Decision [12.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/10); Resolution [7.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/9); Resolution [7.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/10) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. . Decision [13.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/8) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. . See document [LHE/20/8.GA/INF.7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-15.COM-INF.7-EN.docx) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. . Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/8) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. . Decision [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. . Originally scheduled in March 2020 but the meeting was rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. . Decision [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1); Decision [10.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/10), paragraph 10 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. . The report is available at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lighter-ways-of-sharing-ich-safeguarding-practices-00999> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. . Decision [12.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/17); [Decision 13.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/13) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. . Decision [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. . Decision [11.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/15); Decision [12.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/15); and Decision [13.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/11) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. . Out of the submitted nomination files for each year, the Secretariat organized six meetings of the Evaluation Body to evaluate 50 nomination files for the 2018 cycle as well as 52 files for the 2019 cycle. The Secretariat also administered technical completeness for a set of 52 nomination files for the 2020 cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. . **Meetings in 2018**:

    3 meetings of the 13.COM Bureau;

    Information and exchange meeting on the overall results framework for the 2003 Convention, 20 April 2018;

    7th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, UNESCO HQ, 4–6 June 2018;

    3 meetings of the Evaluation Body for the 2018 cycle; and

    13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius, 26 November – 1 December 2018.

    **Meetings in 2019:**

    4 meetings of the 14.COM Bureau;

    3 meetings of the Evaluation Body for the 2019 cycle;

    Information and Exchange Session on the provisional upstream dialogue for nominations to be examined in 2019, March 2019;

    Consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations under the 2003 Convention, 18 April 2019;

    Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergencies, 21–22 May 2019; and

    14th session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Bogotá, Colombia, 9–14 December 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. . Almaty (18–22 June 2018), Hangzhou (2–6 July 2018), Sofia (17–20 September 2018), Tashkent (8–12 April 2019), Algiers (9–13 July 2019), Plovdiv (1–3 October 2019) and Oujda (4 to 8 November 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. . International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia‑Pacific Region (CRIHAP); Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa; and Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)