

Summary

Parties shall provide a one page summary of the content in their reports, identifying the main achievements and challenges as well as, where appropriate, an outlook for the future.

The summary is transmitted to the Committee and Conference of Parties in accordance with Articles 22.4 (b) and 23.6 (c) of the Convention.

1. General information

- (a) Name of Party NIGERIA
- (b) Date of ratification 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2005
- (c) Ratification process (e.g. parliamentary process) FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA
- (d) Total contribution to the IFCD (to date)
- (e) Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND NATIONAL ORIENTATION
- (f) Officially designated point of contact FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND NATIONAL ORIENTATION
- (g) Date report was prepared 24TH APRIL, 2012
- (h) Name of designated official(s) signing the report MR GEORGE NKANTA UFOT
MR A. B. AJIBOLA
MRS M. L. IDU-LAH
- (i) Description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report and name of representative(s) of participating civil society organisation(s) CONSTANT AND PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AS WELL AS NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY AGENCIES

2. Measures

Parties shall provide information on policies and measures adopted to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territory (at the national, regional or local levels) and at the international level (including trans-regional or trans-national levels).

Information to be presented in this Section of the report is to be organised according to the following themes: i) cultural policies and measures; ii) international cooperation; iii) the integration of culture in sustainable development policies; iv) protecting cultural expressions under threat.

Key questions: Parties shall respond, to the extent possible, to the following questions¹ for each theme:

- (a) What are the main objective(s) of the policy or measure? When was it introduced?
- (b) How has it been implemented, which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation and what resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

¹ Questions proposed by the Committee at its third ordinary session in December 2009

2 MEASURES

2.1 CULTURAL POLICIES & MEASURES

One of the aims of the Cultural Policy for Nigeria which was launched in 1988 is to promote creativity, ensure the continuity of traditional skills and their progressive updating to serve modern developmental needs and Nigeria's contribution to world growth of culture and ideas.

The cultural preservation is to be aided by research and documentation. This is done with the establishment of administrative structures and the provision of funds for its implementation. Nigeria has 7 cultural parastatals, each with its statutory responsibilities which are among other things aimed at promoting and preserving the diversity of cultural expressions. They are involved in the different stages of creation, production, distribution/dissemination and participatory enjoyment of the diverse Nigerian cultures.

The government agencies are as follows;

- i. National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC). This agency takes care of crafts, festivals, traditional medicine, sports, cuisine, fashion and textile.
- ii. National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) takes care of Nigeria's numerous artefacts antiquities and heritage sites. In Nigeria numerous artefacts have been included to the prohibited export list, and as a rule, crafts and artworks to be exported must be certified by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments as being excluded from the list. This is done to prevent illicit exportation of cultural items
- iii. National Troupe of Nigeria (NTN). This agency defines and monitors policies relating to operations of the Troupe; operate and artistically develop the troupe as a

performing baby whose repertoire shall embrace dance, music and drama; guide and give leadership to local efforts in artistic experimentation and strive to ensure that the Troupe is a centre of excellence.

- iv. National Gallery of Arts (NGA). This is the repository of artistic creations since the birth of the country as a nation. The gallery also promotes research on arts education and appreciation
- v. Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC). This centre came into existence after the Festival of all African Arts (FESTAC) which took place in 1977. The centre till date is a repository for several African Arts and Crafts that were used for the festival as well as the colloquium of the festival.
- vi. The National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO) is a cultural reorientation institute. This agency is at the fore front of safeguarding Nigerian Culture. The institution for instance organises courses and training for people who are interested in Nigerian languages. This adult education programme is aimed at protecting Nigerian languages.
- vii. National Theatre (NT) this organisation takes care of the National symbol of art, the National Theatre which was built and used for Festival 77, it is a rallying point for Nigerian Artists, it is a centre for presentation of the diversity of cultural expressions and a centre for production, creation, participation and even enjoyment of the diversity of cultural expression in Nigeria

Apart from these Cultural Agencies, The Federal Ministry of Culture works in collaboration with other ministries to protect several aspects of cultural expressions e.g. in collaboration with The Federal Ministry of Education, the teaching of the 3 major Nigerian Languages at primary and secondary school levels has been institutionalised. Every student is expected to learn at least one of

the 3 major languages. These languages are Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba.

Schools are also encouraged to set up tribal clubs which students belong and they are taught the culture of such language/tribe. At such clubs traditional mode of dressing, dance and even theatre are learnt.

Also in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Information, TV and Radio Stations are mandated to ensure that the context of their programs promote the cultural image and aspiration of the nation. Cultural programs are to be given adequate coverage and transmission. There is a peak period (6.00pm – 10.00pm) at the National Television Authority (NTA) when all programs to be transmitted must be local productions.

Furthermore, news presenters on the National Television are expected to appear only in native attires as a way of promoting Nigerian fashion. The news items are also presented in local languages both at the National and State levels. At the State level, major news are transmitted in local languages.

Also at the national level, no state function is complete without the display of Nigerian culture via dance, drama and even exhibitions. Even the National Anthem is being interpreted into local languages. The lyrics are rendered with the use of the local Talking Drums.

The Federal Government has also mandated Civil Servants to come to work on Fridays in only native attires. This policy is aimed at promoting the culture as well as Nigerian textiles/fabrics.

The members of The Performing Musicians Association are encouraged to ensure that at least a track in all their musical albums is done in native language.

Nigeria has a Film and Video Censorship Board (NFVCB) which censors and makes sure that the films and videos produced reflect Nigerian values and culture.

Government has provided enabling environments for the establishment of strong National Professional Associations for Artists, Authors, Dramatists, and Filmmakers etc. Civil Society Organizations or Professional associations include:

- The Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA)
- Guild of Nigerian Dancers (GOND),
- Performing Musicians Employers Association of Nigeria (PMAN)
- Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)
- Committee for Relevant Arts (CORA) which won the Prince Klaus Award
- Guild of Actors etc.

These associations help their members in the creation, production, distribution, dissemination and enjoyment of their various forms of cultural expressions.

The government has also continued to support these organisations with fund for instance the President has just approved \$200,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Million Dollars) as Presidential Intervention Fund for the Arts which is domiciled in Nigeria's Bank of Industry to support development of the entertainment industry in Nigeria.

In order to ensure the artist benefit and reap the fruits of their labour, government is supporting the fight against piracy with the establishment of The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) to give the copyrights of the artists a better protection.

The Federal Government has also commenced the establishment of cultural industries in states of the federation; seven of such industries have been established. The centres are built using the architecture of the society. The emphasis in each of the centre is

based on the predominant trade and handwork of the people in that state. These centres are to be commissioned and handed over to the local community to run. Workshops and trainings are organised for artisans at the centre and there are plans to form cooperatives to enhance funds accessibility and joint marketing strategies are to be evolved.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Through the instrumentality of Bilateral Cultural Agreements, existing between Nigeria and about 70 countries, she has been able to create enabling environments and necessary legal framework for the mobility of her arts and culture, including cultural professionals.

These bilateral cultural agreements encourage the exchange of cultural workers, as well as diverse forms of her cultural expressions.

However, some countries such as United States of America and Great Britain do not have cultural agreements with Nigeria and so penetrating such countries with her cultural expressions has not been too smooth.

The recent establishment of Nigerian Cultural centres in countries such as China and Brazil has helped in promoting Nigerian Cultural expressions in these countries. Nigeria is considering establishing at least 6 of such cultural centres around the world. The country has also been organising an African Art Expo which has created an avenue for the exposition of various cultural expressions among African nations.

2.3 INTEGRATION OF CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Nigeria has kick started this project by establishing cultural industries in all the states of the federation. Seven (7) of such industries have been established. They are to be transferred to appropriate authorities at the local level for running.

In addition, Nigeria has initiated measured actions to develop her tourism sites, festivals etc. with the hope of creating jobs and wealth for the local communities where these sites are located.

Nigeria Tourism is Culture based. The diversity of her culture makes her a tourism destination. A lot of effort is geared towards the promotion of the nation's local festivals with a view to attracting tourists and thereby providing sustainable development for the populace. So far 10 Nigerian Cultural festivals have been upgraded to international levels such that they will attract tourists. Among those festivals are: the Argungu Fishing Festival in Northern Nigeria; the Mmawu Festival in Eastern Nigeria; the Osun Oshogbo Festival in Western Nigeria and the Calabar Christmas Carnival in Southern Nigeria, etc. Several other local festivals have been identified for inclusion on the national calendar of festivals. The State Governments are also beginning to appreciate the impact of these festivals on their economy and many of them are identifying festivals to be so upgraded following examples from the Federal level.

2.4 PROTECTING CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS UNDER THREATS

Nigeria has undertaken a research with the assistance of UNESCO on endangered languages. As a first step, these languages have been identified and the reasons for the threats have also been identified. The next line of action is to deliberate on how to solve this problem. Though in the course of the research, many communities have come to realise that their language unconsciously was being threatened. This research created an

awareness which is expected to prompt leaders of such tribes to take positive actions aimed at rescuing their language.

3. AWARENESS – RAISING AND PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Towards the realisation of this convention, the Nigerian Government, the Culture Ministry in particular has commenced series of meeting with culture stakeholders with a view to letting them know more about government activities which are aimed at protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. The stakeholders are also encouraged to go on their own to see to the implementation of this convention. Those who on their own have been working on this convention are being identified and encouraged. However, the paucity of funds has not made it very easy for government to give them some money. However, there have been collaborations between the government and several individual artists who have been playing key roles in the protection and promotion of diverse cultural expressions.

The meeting also served as vehicle for creating awareness on activities of the government and the NGOs and it enables them share information and knowledge about the ministry and those non-governmental agencies. These various guilds and associations have also been identified and are given necessary enabling environment to function.

Within the Federal Ministry of Culture, there is a Cultural Liaison section which supervises the activities of the cultural agencies as well as the NGOs involved in the protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions

4 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

4.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The country has been able to sustain the promotion of her diverse cultural expressions via the implementation of the bilateral cultural agreements she has signed with several countries. These agreements enhance cultural exchange programs. In addition, Nigeria plays a very active role in multilateral and regional organisations such as the African Union, Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS), UNESCO e.t.c. and she has been very active in the implementation of the cultural conventions of these bodies.

Internally, culture has been identified as the base for her tourism and so with a view to developing her tourism potentials, a lot of development and promotion is being experienced in the cultural expressions of the people e.g. cultural festivals are now receiving more government attention and funding all over the states of the federation.

The government agenda which aims at promoting jobs and reduce poverty has also aided the implementation of this convention because government is looking at Arts and Culture as a veritable means for creating jobs and sustainable development especially for the youths, hence, the establishment of Cultural Industries in the States.

Promotion of the teaching of Nigeria's major 3 languages at primary and secondary schools levels is an achievement, so also is the sustenance of the transmission of News items in local languages by Television and Radio Stations. Recent enforcement of wearing native attires for all federal government workers on Friday is a new achievement.

The Nigeria Film and Videos Censors Board is also very active in the censorship of home videos and movies being churned out. The content is monitored in such a way that the diversity of the cultural expressions of the people is not lost or corrupted unduly.

4.2 CHALLENGES

The various government agencies are allocated funds from the budget to implement this policy but the funds are not enough. At times funds are secured from the private sector especially from companies operating in Nigeria because government funding is inadequate and very little is coming from the private sector. Poor funding can be identified as one of the major impediments to the implementation of the convention.

Furthermore, the Government is yet to enact appropriate legislations for enforcing the implementation of the sources of funding of Culture as agreed at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Africa which took place in Accra, Ghana in 1975 as well as the UNESCO Conference on Cultural Policies which held in Mexico in 1982. The government is yet to set up an endowment fund which government, organisations and individuals shall contribute.

There is also no tax deductible contribution for non-governmental, industrial, commercial financial and other organisations operating in Nigeria.

The Culture Sector is yet to be given adequate recognition and consideration in government planning.

Finally, the effect of globalization on Nigerian Culture especially among the youths is alarming. Due to their exposure to what youth from other parts of the world are doing, wearing, singing etc, Nigerian youths are departing so fast from the culture of their forefathers. Many of them would not even practise the trade and crafts that were known to have been practised by their ancestors. The arts of weaving, drumming, farming, fishing, singing are some examples of cultural expressions which are under serious threats.

There is the need to identify means of attracting the attention of the youths to continue to practise the cultures of their people. Introduction of incentives like awards for youths who stick to the cultural practises might go a long way in retaining these cultural expressions.

Improved patronage of the diverse cultural expressions by the Government at Federal, State and Local levels and by individuals will also enhance the protection and promotion of diversifying of cultural expressions.

Government needs to help in the marketing of these cultural expressions both locally and internationally to encourage and sustain their production. In the same vein, there is need for public-private partnership (PPP) in the sustenance and implementation of this convention. It will also be good if government can introduce and ensure that teachings of certain cultural trade are introduced into school curriculums.

ATTENDANCE FOR THE CULTURE STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING

S/N	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANISATION	CONTACT ADDRESS	E-MAIL	PHONE
1	Cletus George	Performing Musicians Employers Association of Nigeria (PMAN HQ)	18, Adegbola Str, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Anifowose, Ikeja, Lagos	cjlang@yahoo.com	08136056925
2	Ogbechie Hilary	National Council For Arts and Culture	Garki, Abuja	larryogbechie@yahoo.com	08033334306
3	Victor Mark-Onyegbu	National Council For Arts and Culture	Garki, Abuja	markvc58@yahoo.com	08032613219
4	Lexy Mojo-Eyes	Legendary Gold Limited	9, Oyedele Oguniyi Str, Anthony, Lagos	lexy@legendarygold.tv	08033015074
5	Ngozi Udo (Mrs) Mohammed	Nigeria Film Corporation		ngoudo@gmail.com	08023032736
6	Mariam	Nigeria Film Corporation		mohammedmariam2012@gmail.com	0803619067
7	Tar Ukoh	Mambissa Nigeria Limited		amambissa@yahoo.com	08036787134
8	Deborah Bature	National Council of Women Societies	NCWS, Abuja	dabykato@yahoo.com	08036648090
9	Abodunrin Victoria R. (Mrs)	Centre for Black Arts & African Civilization (CBAAC)		victoria.abodunrin@yahoo.com	08056418522
10	Agbi P. O. (Mrs)	Centre for Black Arts & African Civilization (CBAAC)			08055954484

11	Akusu T.J.	National Gallery of Art	Room 025, Ground Floor, Block D Federal Secretariat, Abuja	tituz.akusu@nga.gov.ng	08023734102
12	Mr Godwin Ukah A.	National Troupe of Nigeria	Central Business Area, Abuja	mail2ajah@yahoo.com	08059618998
13	Mazi I. M. Okeh	National Bureau of Statistics		maziheoke@yahoo.com	08063133911
14	Prince St. Myke	Dance's Guild of Nigeria		stemokhai@yahoo.com	08038244872
15	King Bobby Yinkus	Performing Musicians Employers Association of Nigeria (Abuja Chapter)		kbyinkus@yahoo.com	08066081221
16	Abdullahi Shittu	Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture & National Orientation	Abuja	Situabdul@yahoo.com	08033256490
17	Usman S	Nigerian Customs Service			08038117137
18	Ehirim F.	Nigerian Customs Service			
19	John Ofitoju	Nike Centre for Arts & Culture			08065738993
20	Festus Ihenetu	National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO)		fesinetu@yahoo.com	08033444429
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11	Akusu T.J.	National Gallery of Art			fituz.akusu@nga.gov.ng	08023734102
12	Mr Godwin Ukah A.	National Troupe of Nigeria	Room 025, Ground Floor, Block D Federal Secretariat, Abuja		mail2ajah@yahoo.com	08059618998
13	Mazi I. M. Okeh	National Bureau of Statistics	Central Business Area, Abuja		maziheoke@yahoo.com	08063133911
14	Prince St. Myke	Dance's Guild of Nigeria			stemokhai@yahoo.com	08038244872
15	King Bobby Yinkus	Performing Musicians Employers Association of Nigeria (Abuja Chapter)			kbyinkus@yahoo.com	08066081221
16	Abdullahi Shittu	Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture & National Orientation	Abuja		Situabdul@yahoo.com	08033256490
17	Usman S	Nigerian Customs Service				08038117137
18	Ehirim F.	Nigerian Customs Service				08065738993
19	John Ofitoju	Nike Centre for Arts & Culture				08033444429
20	Festus Ihenetu	National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO)			fesinetu@yahoo.com	08033444429
21	Job Anu	Nike Centre for Arts & Culture				08164769995
22	Robert Iyinbor Roberts	Edestar Concepts International Limited			roberts_001@yahoo.co.uk	08069560069

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