

Defining an accreditation system for NGOs

Process and responsibilities

Consultation meeting on the role of accredited NGOs under the 2003 Convention
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 18 April 2019

Two main stipulations, and NGOs in-between them

accreditation of NGOs with recognized competence in the field of the ICH to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee ([Convention, art. 9](#))

State Party working with communities, groups and relevant NGOs in the identification and definition of various elements of ICH present in its territory ([Convention, art. 11](#))

inter alia frame of reference in ODs ([para. 90, 91.a, 96](#))

Advisory Functions

96. Accredited non-governmental organizations who, according to Article 9.1 of the Convention, shall have advisory functions to the Committee, may be invited by the Committee to provide it, inter alia, with reports of evaluation as a reference for the Committee to examine:
- (a) nomination files for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
 - (b) the programmes, projects and activities mentioned in Article 18 of the Convention;
 - (c) requests for International Assistance;
 - (d) the effects of safeguarding plans for elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

OD Chapter III.2.2 Participation of accredited non-governmental organizations

Criteria for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations

91. Non-governmental organizations shall:

- (a) have proven competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage belonging, inter alia, to one or more specific domains;
- (b) have a local, national, regional or international nature, as appropriate;
- (c) have objectives that are in conformity with the spirit of the Convention and, preferably, statutes or bylaws that conform with those objectives;
- (d) cooperate in a spirit of mutual respect with communities, groups, and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practice and transmit ICH;
- (e) possess operational capacities, including:
 - (i) a regular active membership, which forms a community linked by the desire to pursue the objectives for which it was established;
 - (ii) an established domicile and a recognized legal personality as compatible with domestic law;
 - (iii) having existed and having carried out appropriate activities for at least four years when being considered for accreditation.

Present Procedure

97. A non-governmental organization requesting accreditation to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee shall submit to the Secretariat the following information:
- (a) a description of the organization, including its full official name;
 - (b) its main objectives;
 - (c) its full address;
 - (d) its date of founding or approximate duration of its existence;
 - (e) the name of the country or countries in which it is active;
 - (f) documentation showing that it possesses operational capacities, includ proof of:
 - (i) a regular active membership, which forms a community linked by the desire to pursue the objectives for which it was established;
 - (ii) an established domicile and a recognized legal personality as compatible with domestic law;
 - (iii) having existed and having carried out appropriate activities for at least four years when being considered for accreditation.
 - (g) its activities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;
 - (h) a description of its experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners.

Propose Procedure

Besides covering the requirements of paragraph 97, we suggest among others a Mandatory online Capacity Building:

- 1) Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- 2) Operational Directives;
- 3) Rules of procedure;
- 4) Ethical Principles;
- 5) Overall results framework;
- 6) ICH NGO Forum:
 - 1) Governance and statutes;
 - 2) Working groups;
- 7) Evaluation Body;