

14 January 2010

Subject: Comments on the Modalities and Methods of Facilitating the Contribution of NGOs from Developing Countries (Decision 4.COM 10)

Dear Ms. Duvelle,

I would like to express my appreciation for involving non-government organizations (NGOs) in the ICH program of UNESCO. The NGOs are valuable partners as they have a grounded relationship with cultural communities. They can bridge the UNESCO ICH program with the people who are directly involved in the safeguarding of the intangible heritage of the state parties.

Upon review of Paragraphs 88-92 and 94-95, I am pleased to indicate my comments below:

1. The provisions cited in Paragraphs 88-92 and 94-95 sufficiently cover the issues concerning the criteria and process of NGO accreditation and the definition of its advisory functions.
2. It is important that accredited NGOs should be involved in all levels of participation with regards to the General, Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage. Their advisory function should be put to good use.
3. Accredited NGOs must have access to information so that their participation in meetings will be meaningful.
4. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage must make available funding sources accessible to accredited NGOs in order to facilitate their attendance and participation to General, Committee, Sub-Committee Meetings.

Again, thank you for your invitation to submit our comments regarding the matter stated above. I hope that these comments prove to be helpful for the Committee in its further deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

Carmen D. Padilla

CARMEN D. PADILLA
Chairperson
Philippine Intangible Cultural
Heritage Committee

Cécile Duvelle
Secretary, Convention for Safeguarding
of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section