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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Fourteenth session**

**Bogotá, Republic of Colombia**

**9 to 14 December 2019**

**Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Follow-up on the implementation of the relevant recommendations of
the Open-Ended Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO (39 C/Resolution 87)**

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| **Summary**At its thirty-ninth session, by 39 C/Resolution 87, the General Conference invited the governing bodies of the different organs to implement the recommendations on the governance of UNESCO, which it endorsed by the same Resolution. This document provides an update on the status of the implementation of those recommendations that are relevant to the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention in relation to the status presented to the seventh session of the General Assembly and updated at the thirteenth session of the Committee.**Decision required:** paragraph 8 |

1. At its thirty-ninth session in 2017, the General Conference endorsed a set of recommendations on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO ([39 C/Resolution 87](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/39c-res87-governance-eng.pdf)). These recommendations are based on the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO ([document 39 C/70](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002600/260089e.pdf)), which the General Conference created with the objective of harnessing the potential for greater synergy, harmonization, efficiency and impact. By that same Resolution, the General Conference invited the Executive Board, the Director-General and the governing bodies – examined by the Open-Ended Working Group – to implement those recommendations, as appropriate.
2. The issue was examined by the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention on two previous occasions:

**7.GA**: The seventh session of the General Assembly reviewed the status of each recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group ([document ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx)). When doing so, the Assembly also discussed the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor’s 2015 report to improve the governance of UNESCO’s intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the Conventions; this concerned the disparity of the rules of procedure of the different organs of the UNESCO conventions in the field of culture ([ITH/18/7.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-13-EN.docx)).

**13**.**COM**: The thirteenth session of the Committee once again considered the status of each recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group, with a focus on those recommendations that had changed status (see document [ITH/18/13.COM/16](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-16-EN.docx)). This session of the Committee also inscribed a follow-up to this issue on the agenda of the fourteenth session of the Committee [(document ITH/18/13.COM/17](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-17-EN.docx)). At the same session, the Committee encouraged States Parties to take into account the recommendations of the informal ad hoc working group with a view to promoting the follow-up to recommendations in the sense of 39 C/Resolution 87.

1. At the request of the President of the General Conference, the Secretariat provided documents [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx) and [ITH/18/7.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-13-EN.docx) for the attention of the General Conference. At the same time, a Vice-Chairperson of the thirteenth session of the Committee presented the status of the implementation of the recommendations to the open-ended Working Group on Governance during the group’s meeting on 27 March 2019. Furthermore, a short standard format report was submitted to the Secretariat of the General Conference in August 2019.
2. As was the case in the previous documents, the annex to this document reports on the status of the implementation of the recommendations that are relevant to the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention. It is an update on the status presented to the thirteenth session of the Committee. Once again, each recommendation selected is presented with an indication as to which one of the four following categories it may belong to:
3. **Closed**: the current practice and/or rules comply with the recommendations, and no further action is therefore needed. Moreover, the Secretariat considers that its practice in some of the areas covered by the recommendations can be highlighted as a good practice (seventeen recommendations, including four good practices);
4. **Ongoing**: action has already been initiated by the Secretariat (seven recommendations, including one good practice);
5. **Action proposed:** action is proposed for the implementation of these recommendations (one recommendation);
6. **Action required by States Parties:** responsibility for the implementation of these recommendations lies with States Parties (three recommendations).
7. The table below indicates the changes in status compared to those presented at the thirteenth session of the Committee. In general, actions were taken to change the status of a number of recommendations to ‘closed’ or ‘ongoing’.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Status | As presented at 13.COM | As presented at 14.COM |
| Closed | 12 recommendations, including 4 good practices(56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 69, 70, 73, 78, 79, 99, 101) | 17 recommendations, including 4 good practices(56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 76, 78, 79, 80, 94, 99, 101) |
| Ongoing | 7 recommendations, including 1 good practice(58, 65, 71, 76, 94, 96, 100) | 7 recommendations, including 1 good practice(58, 65, 66, 67, 74, 96, 100) |
| Action proposed | 3 recommendations(66, 67, 97) | 1 recommendation(97) |
| Action required by States Parties | 4 recommendations(60, 64, 68, 107) | 3 recommendations(60, 64, 107) |

1. As shown in the table above and in the Annex, many of the recommendations are now closed after having received appropriate follow-up actions. Furthermore, a set of mitigating measures has already been taken for most of the outstanding recommendations. At the same time, some other issues require action by States Parties on a long term-basis. In general, it can be concluded that the governing bodies and the Secretariat have made steady progress in contribution to the sound governance of the 2003 Convention.
2. The following two points merit particular attention:

a. Harmonization: Several recommendations (e.g. 66, 68, 71) relate to the request made by the seventh session of the General Assembly ([Resolution 7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13)) concerning the issue of ‘harmonization’. The Assembly underlined the importance of harmonizing the rules of procedure of the governing bodies of the six culture conventions; highlighting the crucial role of the Culture Sector in this regard, the General Assembly requested that the Secretariat, ‘in consultation with States Parties, submit a consolidated set of draft amendments for examination by the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020’. Following that Resolution, the Secretariats of the 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions undertook an informal comparative analysis of the Rules of Procedures of these instruments. Coordination at the level of the Culture Sector is still needed to extend the analysis to include the 1954, 1970 and 2001 Conventions.

b. Alignment with the overarching priorities of UNESCO: This is the first time that the Secretariat has reported on the status of Recommendation 74. This is because, within the framework of Pillar 3 of the Strategic Transformation process initiated by the Director-General, the Secretariat will inscribe a specific item on the agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly, in 2020, as part of the consultation process on the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41/C/4) and draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41C/5).

1. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.COM 19

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/19/14.COM/19, including its annex,
2. Recalling documents [ITH/18/13.COM/17](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-17-EN.docx), [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx) and [ITH/18/7.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-13-EN.docx), Decisions [12.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/13) and [12.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/16), and Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12), [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13) and [6.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/11),
3. Further recalling [39 C/Resolution 87](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/39c-res87-governance-eng.pdf),
4. Takes note of the status of the recommendations on governance based on the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO, which are relevant to the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention;
5. Encourages the Culture Sector to continue its efforts to harmonize the rules of procedure of the governing bodies of the six culture conventions in conformity with [Resolution 7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13);
6. Further takes note that at its eighth session the General Assembly will discuss the preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41C/4) and draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41C/5) with reference to Recommendation 74 of the recommendations in question;
7. Considers that sufficient progress has been made with the follow-up on the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the above-mentioned Open-Ended Working Group that require the attention of the Committee and requests that the Secretariat continue reporting as and when necessary on further progress regarding the status of recommendations.

**ANNEX**

**Recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO**

**Part 2. Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO’s International and Intergovernmental Bodies (IIBs)[[1]](#footnote-2)**

| **Recommendation** | **Status** |
| --- | --- |
| **B. General recommendations for all international and intergovernmental bodies (IIBs)** |
| **Efficiency (mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work)** |
| 1. IIBs are invited to update their mandates, as appropriate, including their objectives and programs, to be more coherent with approved C/5 priorities and responsive to current global developments, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. To promote diversity and inclusivity, voluntary term limits of two consecutive mandates are recommended for IIBs which currently do not have term limitations for membership.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. As a general rule, term limits of two consecutive mandates for membership in all Bureaus are recommended.

**Ongoing** | * In accordance with [Rule 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/rules-com#Rule13) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, Bureau members ‘shall be eligible for immediate re-election for a second term of office, provided that the country that each represents continues to be a State Member of the Committee at least until the end of the new term of office’.
* Although the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly do not stipulate the term of Bureau members, the practice has been for members to serve for only one mandate (see document [ITH/18/7.GA/2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-2-EN.docx) for the list of Bureau members of previous sessions).
* The General Assembly may either decide to amend its Rules of Procedure to reflect this recommendation or continue with the current practice.
* In accordance with Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in June 2020.
 |
| 1. For cost-saving, coherence and harmonization purposes, it is recommended that IIBs and the General Conference consider “right-sizing” the composition of the IIBs.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. There is a need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and decisions.

**Action required by States Parties** | * Responsibility for the implementation of this recommendation lies primarily with States Parties.
* At the same time, it is worth noting that at its eleventh session the Committee established an informal ad hoc working group to address politicization. In particular, the group was formed to examine issues related to the consultation and dialogue process between the Evaluation Body and submitting States, the decision-making process of the Committee on nominations, proposals and requests, as well as any other issue to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. At its twelfth session, the Committee examined the report of the group and decided to submit it to the seventh session of the General Assembly (document [ITH/18/7.GA/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-6-EN.docx)).
* Furthermore, by its [Decision 12.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/13), the Committee decided to continue the informal ad hoc working group in 2018, which was extended to become open-ended, and to expand its mandate.
* **Update:** The report of the open-ended informal working group was presented to the thirteenth session of the Committee; the recommendations of the informal ad hoc working group, as contained in the annex of document [ITH/18/13.COM/16](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-16-EN.docx), were also endorsed. The report on the work achieved by the group during 2019 is presented at the current session of the Committee (annex of document [LHE/19/14.COM/16](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-16-EN.docx)). Furthermore, in accordance with [Decision 13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10), the provisional upstream dialogue mechanism was introduced in the 2019 cycle.
 |
| 1. To enhance visibility and the effectiveness of the work of the IIBs, more effective information-dissemination is recommended through updating and enhancement of websites and outreach to all involved actors, including Member States and their National Commissions.

**Closed(Good practice)** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. Earlier preparation and dissemination of draft agendas and preliminary timetables, mainly by using the same template containing hyper-links to documents to be adopted/discussed in sessions.

**Closed(Good practice)** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. Open-ended informal consultations on draft decisions to promote inclusive and effective decision-making.

**Action required by States Parties** | * Responsibility for the implementation of this recommendation lies with States Parties.
 |
| 1. It is recommended that the Rules of Procedure of the IIBs be amended, when relevant, to advance the deadline for submission of candidatures to their subsidiary bodies from 48 hours to seven days before elections.

**Ongoing** | * [Rule 14.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/rules-ga#Rule14) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly states that ‘[t]he list of candidatures shall be finalized three working days prior to the opening of the General Assembly. No candidature will be accepted in the three working days preceding the opening of the Assembly.’
* In addition, according to [Rule 14.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/rules-ga#Rule14), ‘[n]o payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted later than a week before the opening of the Assembly.’
* The General Assembly may decide to amend its Rules of Procedure or to continue with the current practice.
* In accordance with Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020.
 |
| **Harmonization (role of Bureaus, transparency)** |
| 1. The role, composition and procedures of Bureaus and their members should be clarified and harmonized through codification in rules of procedure/ statutes or development of general guidelines for all IIBs, in close cooperation with the Secretariat.

**Ongoing** | * While [Rule 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/rules-com#Rule12) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee defines the role of the Bureau of the Committee, the Role of the Bureau of the General Assembly is not described in the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure. Neither the Rules of Procedure of the Committee nor those of the General Assembly specify in detail the composition of their respective Bureaus.
* The General Assembly may decide to amend its Rules of Procedure to specify the role and composition of its Bureau or continue with the current practice.
* In accordance with Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020.
 |
| 1. It is suggested that Bureaus’ composition be set, as much as compatible with individual IIBs’ mandates, at a maximum of six members (Chair, Rapporteur, and four Vice-Presidents from the six Electoral Groups).

**Ongoing** | * In practice, for both the General Assembly and the Committee, the composition of the Bureau is set at a maximum of seven members (Chair, Rapporteur, and four or five Vice-Presidents). However, neither the Rules of Procedure of the Committee nor those of the General Assembly specify in detail the composition of their respective Bureaus.
* In accordance with Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020.
* See recommendation 66.
 |
| 1. The intergovernmental nature of Bureaus should be reaffirmed while maintaining expert engagement. In this regard, the attached guidelines on responsibilities of Bureau members are recommended for dissemination to all Governing Bodies and IIBs ([appendix 2](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002590/259081e.pdf#page=25)).

**Closed** | * By its [Decision 12.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/16), the Committee invited the Bureau to conduct its work in accordance with the guiding principles and responsibilities of representatives of Electoral Groups in Bureaus.
 |
| 1. Documents related to Bureau meetings should appear online before meetings take place; outcomes, including reports of Bureau meetings, should be communicated to all members, and as appropriate, all Permanent Delegations, in a timely manner.

**Closed(Good practice)** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. Elections of Bureaus should be held, as much as possible, soon after elections for seats on the IIBs conducted at the General Conference, to avoid having Bureau members from Member States, which are no longer members of the IIBs concerned.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. As much as feasible, Bureau meetings should be open to observers and working methods made more transparent.

**Closed**  | * There is no relevant rule in the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. However, in practice, the meetings of the Bureau of the General Assembly are open to observers. The General Assembly may decide to amend its Rules of Procedure to reflect this recommendation or continue with the current practice.
* In accordance with Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly.
* According to [Rule 12.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/rules-com#Rule12) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, ‘[t]he meetings of the Bureau of the Committee shall be open to Committee Members and States Parties as observers, unless decided otherwise by the Bureau. Observers may address the Bureau only with the prior consent of the Chairperson.’
 |
| 73. Gender-neutral language be adopted throughout all UNESCO documents.**Closed** | * **Closed since 13.COM** (See document [ITH/18/13.COM/17](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-17-EN.docx))
 |
| **Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO** |
| 1. All IIBs should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the mid-term strategy C/4 and the draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO.

**Ongoing** | * **Update:** In line with Recommendation 74 and within the framework of Pillar 3 of the Strategic Transformation process initiated by the Director-General, a specific item will be inscribed on the agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly, in 2020, as part of the consultation process on the preparation of the C/4 and C/5.
 |
| 1. Orientation sessions for new members of all IIBs, especially for Chairpersons and Bureau members, should be institutionalized and include introduction to the C/4 and C/5 frameworks. To that end, a short user-friendly guidebook including good practices and acronyms could be produced to familiarize members with working methods and C/4 and C/5 mechanisms.

**Closed** | * With regard to the General Assembly, the Secretariat sends a welcome letter to each new State Party to the Convention, which draws their attention to the Basic Texts of the Convention and provides them with the contact details of the officer designated to support them. The Chairperson is elected at the opening of each Session and therefore cannot receive an introduction in advance.
* Regarding the Committee, during a preparatory mission to the Host Country (in March/April each year) the Secretary has face-to-face discussions with the Chairperson on the agenda items, the role of the Chairperson, the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and the working methods.
* For States Members of the Committee, an orientation session is organized on the eve of the opening of the Committee session every even year when new Committee members are elected. Furthermore, an information and exchange session concerning the following Committee session is organized each year in October. To enable Committee Members to understand their tasks and responsibilities early after their election, the Secretariat may share relevant briefing documentation with new Committee members.
* Following the election of the twelve new Committee members in June 2018, the Secretariat sent a general introduction document on the 2003 Convention to these new members; in addition, an orientation session was organized during the exchange and information session, held on 2 October 2018, concerning the thirteenth session of the Committee.
 |
| **Coherence, coordination and synergies** |
| 1. Use of languages for inclusivity and effectiveness remains an important objective.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. IIBs and their Secretariats are requested to enhance coordination in scheduling of meetings to avoid overlap.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| **Best practices** |
| 1. Best practices should be shared and replicated or, if necessary, adjusted to reflect specificities with the aim to promote governance mechanisms that facilitate strategies and action plans anchored on the C/4 and C/5.

**Closed** | * The General Assembly, at its seventh session in 2018, adopted an overall results framework for the 2003 Convention. The initiative to develop such framework was recognized as a good practice by the working group on governance. The Monitoring Framework for the implementation of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was a source of inspiration for the development of the overall results framework for the 2003 Convention.
* Inspired by the 1972 Convention, the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention were amended in 2018 so that States Parties submit their report every six years on the basis of a system of regional rotation (instead of every six years after their year of ratification). Regional capacity-building will be organized at the regional level to help States prepare their reports.
 |
| **E. Specific recommendations for the UNESCO Conventions** |
| **Cultural Conventions** |
| 94. A more balanced approach in terms of equitable financial and human resource allocation for all cultural conventions was called for, considering their importance to the mandate of UNESCO. All cultural conventions are in need of additional resources to fulfill their objectives fully.**Closed** | * The implementation of this recommendation is the direct responsibility of States Parties. However, the Secretariat has demonstrated the need to enhance its human resources for the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms of the Fund, including their effective monitoring (see document [ITH/17/12.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-7-EN.docx)). In response, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the creation of three new extrabudgetary fixed-term posts ([Decision 12.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/7)).
* At its seventh session in June 2018, the General Assembly approved the creation of three extrabudgetary fixed-term posts to be funded by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms of the Fund.
* **Update**: The recruitment process has been finalized and the incumbents appointed to their respective posts.
 |
| 96. Governing Bodies of the Conventions, through broad consultations, are invited to further explore, as appropriate, harmonization of rules of procedure and coherence in decision-making procedures, taking into account their respective mandates and specificities. They can consider best practices from the environmental treaties/UNEP to further develop synergies in organizational matters, information-sharing, and cost-efficiency.**Ongoing**  | * By its [Resolution 6.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/11), the General Assembly invited States Parties to propose modifications to its Rules of Procedure to improve coherence in the rules of procedure of the different organs of the UNESCO cultural conventions. An item to present the proposals received was inscribed on the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly (see document [ITH/18/7.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-13-EN.docx)).
* Following Resolutions [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/12) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/13), a revised set of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly will be presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020.
 |
| 97. Meetings of the Chairpersons of the Committees of the Cultural Conventions can be more interactive and action-oriented. Chairpersons should work strategically together to address common themes and challenges and consider shared responses and cooperation.**Closed** | * The Chairpersons of the six UNESCO culture conventions met on two occasions in 2015 and 2016.
 |
| 1. Transparency and accountability measures can be enhanced, such as dissemination of minutes/ key results of Bureau meetings.

**Closed(Good practice)** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. Capacity-building and common training on all cultural conventions should be strengthened.

**Ongoing(Good practice)** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
 |
| 1. Governing bodies of Conventions and their Secretariats are encouraged to develop appropriate ratification strategies.

**Closed** | * **Closed since 7.GA** (See document [ITH/18/7.GA/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-7.GA-12-EN.docx))
* **Update:** the number of States Parties to the 2003 Convention is 178 (as of October 2018), approaching universal ratification.
 |
| **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)** |
| 107. Need to strengthen decision-making procedures and credibility of Committee, taking due note of Ad Hoc Working Group established to address these issues.**Action required by States Parties** | * See recommendation 60.
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1. . For the full recommendation, including Part 1, which concerns the governing bodies of UNESCO (General Conference and Executive Board), see documents 39 C/20 (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002590/259081e.pdf>) and 39 C/70 (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002600/260089E.pdf>). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)