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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Diversity of  
Cultural Expressions

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Diversité  
des expressions  
culturelles

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Diversidad  
de las expresiones  
culturales

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

Разнообразие форм  
культурного  
самовыражения

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

تنوع أشكال التعبير  
الثقافي

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

文化表现形式  
多样性

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CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE  
DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

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**Item 13 of the provisional agenda:** Future activities of the Committee (2022-2023)

Pursuant to Article 23.3 of the Convention, this document sets out a proposal for the future activities of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for the period 2022-2023.

**Decision required:** paragraph 29

1. Pursuant to Article 23.3 of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) shall “function under the authority and guidance of and be accountable to the Conference of Parties”. In line with the functions of the Committee as set out in Article 23.6 of the Convention, the present document outlines the strategic guidance on which the Committee’s workplan for the period 2022-2023 should be based. A full report on the operationalization and implementation of the priorities agreed upon by the Conference of Parties, the challenges encountered and the solutions found to overcome those challenges shall be submitted to the ninth session of the Conference of Parties in June 2023, as per Rule 45.1 of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure.
2. When formulating the list of strategic priorities that will guide the Committee’s work over the next two years, the Conference of Parties is invited to take into account the following strategic frameworks:
  - the [draft Medium-Term Strategy \(41 C/4\) and draft Programme and Budget \(41 C/5\)](#), and in particular the result matrix of the [draft Programme and Budget for the First biennium: 2022-2023](#) together with the proposed performance indicators and targets for Output 5.CLT 5 ‘Member States and civil society capacities strengthened to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions through dynamic and inclusive cultural and creative industries’;
  - the two global priorities of the Organisation (Africa and Gender Equality) as well as its priority groups (small island developing states, youth, Indigenous Peoples) and their related future actions plans;
  - the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its most relevant goals (SDGs) and their specific targets in accordance with the correspondences highlighted in the Convention’s monitoring framework; especially in the context of the [UN’s Decade for Action \(2020-2030\)](#);
  - other relevant international frameworks such as the African Union’s [Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want”](#);
  - the four overarching goals of the [Convention’s results-based monitoring framework](#), their expected results, 11 areas of monitoring and 33 core indicators;
  - the 100 recommendations stemming from UNESCO’s flagship ResiliArt movement, which has mobilized stakeholders around the world (DCE/21/8.CP/INF.8).
3. The Conference of Parties is also invited to take into account the far-reaching consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors around the world when determining the list of priority areas for the next biennium. Since the onset of this global crisis, cultural institutions and facilities have been losing millions in revenue and funding each day, with many at risk of permanent closure, wiping out decades of gains in economic growth and job creation in developed and developing countries alike. Artists across the world, most of whom were already working part-time, on an informal basis or under precarious contracts, are struggling to make ends meet and may be forced to consider alternative careers. As the world emerges from this crisis, it risks losing an entire generation of artistic voices if decision-makers do not take bold and concrete actions to support the cultural and creative sectors. Culture will need to be integrated into economic and social recovery plans if Parties are to avoid a long-term deterioration in the richness and diversity of the cultural sector, in all its manifestations.
4. As the custodians of UNESCO’s main normative instrument within the field of creativity, Parties to the 2005 Convention are called upon to harness the intellectual and creative capacities of this sector to reimagine a more inclusive, just and peaceful post-pandemic world. Culture will be key to support social inclusion, overcome inequalities, foster participation, and promote self-esteem, including through gainful employment for youth and women. It will also play a fundamental role in guaranteeing access to information, encouraging intercultural dialogue, and appealing to common human values, such as equality and justice for all.

5. In this context, and in compliance with the goals, performance indicators and expected results listed in paragraph 3 above, the guiding principles that could guide the formulation of the Committee’s workplan are:
  1. **To support the good governance of the Convention and to broaden and diversify the range of stakeholders involved in its governance at the international level**
6. Over the next two years, the continued good governance of the Convention will remain a central priority to ensure its effective implementation and monitoring around the world. The Committee is called upon to translate the priorities established by the Conference of Parties in the present document into a realistic work plan with clear actionable items, to be presented at its fifteenth session, and to adopt strategic decisions, including commitments towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs), which can be implemented within the human and financial resources of the Secretariat.
7. Promoting the objectives of the Convention and its **universal ratification** will be key to advance the development of sustainable systems of governance for culture worldwide. It will be essential to maintain active dialogue with UNESCO Member States not Parties to the Convention, notably through projects supported by voluntary contributions, to raise awareness of the relevance of this instrument as a framework to inspire and guide their support for the cultural and creative sector within and outside their territories, and to invite them to join the global movement for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. A holistic approach based on the dissemination of information about the Convention in international fora, the organisation of targeted networking activities and events both with civil society and governments, and the development, updating or translating of existing awareness-raising and advocacy tools, will be required to communicate about the importance and benefits of ratification, particularly in the context of revitalising the cultural and creative sectors so severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. The **continued participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the work of its Governing Bodies** will also be essential to ensure the Convention’s sound governance. In addition to contributing to the achievement of greater transparency and accountability in governance, civil society also offers new perspectives and approaches to the formulation of cultural policies, as well as to the development of innovative cultural processes, practices or programmes, as demonstrated by the more than 500 civil-society led measures reported by Parties in the quadrennial periodic reports submitted in 2020 (DCE/21/8.CP/9) and the 100 recommendations resulting from the ResiliArt movement (DCE/21/8.CP/INF.8). The perspective and input of civil society organisations that directly support the work of artists and cultural communities will be particularly valuable over the next two years to devise inclusive and effective post-pandemic recovery plans for the creative sector.
9. The Committee may wish to pursue the reflection it began at its fourteenth session for the purpose of **clarifying the modalities of its collaboration with civil society**, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the provisions of the Convention and its Operational Guidelines, with the aim of capitalizing on existing cooperation and optimizing the contribution of civil society to its work. The Committee has already noted that formalizing the participation of civil society in the work of the Convention’s governing bodies could provide them with a better visibility on their interlocutors and their areas of expertise, and enable the Committee, where appropriate, to be in a better position to consult civil society on specific issues, as provided for in Article 23.7 of the Convention. This process may be done through the **improved implementation of the Operational Guidelines relating to Article 11**, on the “Role and Participation of Civil Society”, and by providing additional guidance on the precise modalities of this cooperation through the Committee’s decisions. More specifically, the Committee may wish to further elaborate on the specific mechanisms it wishes to put in place for the preparation of the civil society activity reports that it wishes to consider at its annual sessions.

10. With the year 2021 declared the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly<sup>1</sup>, the Committee expressed its wish to foster cooperation with micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises in the implementation of the Convention ([Decision 14.IGC 16](#)). The development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is one of the objectives of cooperation for development encouraged by the Convention, in its Article 14, to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector. Thus, the Conference of the Parties may wish to encourage the Committee to explore the possibility of establishing a mechanism for regular consultation within the Committee with these enterprises, on the basis of a feasibility study to be prepared by the Secretariat taking into account the resources at its disposal.

## **II. To monitor the implementation and impact of the Convention, including its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals**

11. By ratifying the Convention, Parties commit to exchanging information and sharing expertise regarding the collection of data and statistics on the diversity of cultural expressions as well as on best practices for its protection and promotion. They also agree to share and exchange information relating to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on their territory and at the international level, notably through their quadrennial periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention.
12. Pursuant to Articles 9 and 19 of the Convention and their respective Operational Guidelines, the Committee may wish to build on the efforts undertaken in recent years to monitor the worldwide implementation of the Convention in a structured and systematic manner. It may choose to **support monitoring and evaluation activities** to determine the global impact of the Convention and its contribution to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by considering all the tools at its disposal, including Parties' quadrennial periodic reports, the survey on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and Parties' national roadmaps to implement the Convention in the digital environment.
13. These separate monitoring mechanisms all provide valuable information about the state of implementation of the Convention, while offering opportunities to engage with a variety of stakeholders and creating spaces for dialogue with civil society organisations. On this basis, the Committee may wish to encourage the consolidation of an accessible knowledge base for cultural policies by further developing and integrating the Convention's knowledge management system. The **continued development of the Convention's Policy Monitoring Platform** (hereinafter "the PMP"), both to increase its user-friendliness and to include information sourced from monitoring mechanisms beyond Parties' quadrennial periodic reports, would not only enhance synergies between the various relevant monitoring tools, but also make the PMP into a multifaceted interface that would promote information-sharing, strengthen transparency, and stimulate the exchange of good practices.
14. An effective knowledge-management system to organize and present the qualitative and quantitative data gathered through these monitoring processes can also serve to inform the development of cultural policies at the national and sub-national levels and to identify transversal issues to be addressed in the future implementation of the Convention. For this purpose, the Committee may also wish to support the **production of in-depth analyses of the information, statistics and good practices aggregated from the monitoring mechanisms at its disposal**. The production and dissemination of knowledge could be done through the publication of research papers, sectoral studies and policy briefs to maximise the potential of the Convention as a tool for awareness-raising and advocacy.

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1. See Resolution 74/198 at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/198>.

### III. To develop and implement international cooperation and assistance programmes, including the International Fund for Cultural Diversity

15. The Convention provides a strategic framework to develop sustainable creative ecosystems and harness the power of cultural and creative industries around the world. It ensures that artists, cultural professionals and practitioners and all citizens have the capacity to create, produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities. Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention foresee that Parties shall endeavour to integrate culture in their sustainable development policies and to support cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction in order to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector. Parties commit to strengthening international cooperation and solidarity in a spirit of partnership with a view, in particular, to enhancing the capacities of developing countries to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions. The Committee has a crucial role to play in this process by ensuring the effective implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and by providing support to the Convention's other international cooperation and assistance programmes.

#### *International Fund for Cultural Diversity*

16. As the Convention's main financial instrument, the International Fund for Cultural Diversity contributes to the implementation of the Convention by financing projects that aim to create structural change through the elaboration or revision of policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions, as well as through the reinforcement of institutional infrastructures deemed necessary to support viable cultural industries at the local and regional levels. One of the core functions of the Committee is to decide on the use of the resources of the Fund, notably by approving the projects submitted for funding that have been recommended by the Fund's Panel of Experts and by adopting the Fund's budget every two years.
17. As the IFCD enters its second decade, its long-term sustainability remains a core preoccupation for the governing bodies of the Convention. The main objective for the next biennium is to reverse the trend detected in the last few years, which has seen a stagnation or decrease in the voluntary contributions made to the IFCD and an exponential surge in the number of funding requests received by the Fund. The next biennium should therefore focus on **the implementation of the Fund's fundraising and communication strategy (2021-2023)** adopted by the Committee at its fourteenth session ([Decision 14.IGC 11](#)), in order to better articulate the Fund's role as a support mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and to raise its capacity to finance projects that lead to structural change in the cultural and creative sectors. The implementation of this strategy will require not only advocacy and relationship-building with donors, but also better results-based communication highlighting how IFCD-funded projects are producing lasting results. The human and financial resources that will be required to implement this strategy should be taken into account by the Committee in the development of the next IFCD budget.
18. The effort to raise the level of voluntary contributions made to the IFCD also needs to be accompanied by concrete actions to make the Fund more efficient. At its last session, the Conference of Parties requested the Committee to undertake, if necessary, a revision of the Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and to present their results to the eighth session of the Conference of Parties ([Resolution 7.CP 14](#)). At its thirteenth session, the Committee chose to undertake an in-depth analysis of the Guidelines ([Decision 13.IGC 5b](#)), which it examined at its fourteenth session, before deciding that a revision was necessary ([Decision 14.IGC 10](#)), notably to reflect the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Fund's second external evaluation in 2017, as these have led to improvements to the procedures for funding applications and project selection that are not reflected in the current Guidelines. The Committee is therefore invited to **prepare a revision of the Operational Guidelines relating to Article 18** and to submit the revised guidelines to the Conference of Parties at its ninth session for approval.

*Other international cooperation and assistance programmes*

19. The Convention's capacity development and technical assistance programmes seek to assist States in establishing informed, transparent and participatory processes and systems of governance for culture that translate the provisions of the Convention into concrete policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution of and access to diverse cultural goods and services. These programmes, which are all exclusively supported by voluntary contributions, enable the Secretariat to provide or coordinate technical assistance, policy advice, or peer learning to build human and institutional capacities.
20. The Conference of Parties may wish to invite the Committee to **support and promote the implementation of the Secretariat's international cooperation and assistance programmes as part of the Convention's global capacity-building strategy**, which in recent years has expanded its areas of intervention beyond participatory policy monitoring to include the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks in the field of cultural and creative industries and the development or updating of legislation and regulations to improve the status of the artist.
21. In particular, following [Resolution 7.CP 13](#) and [Decision 14.IGC 14](#) in which the Committee took note of the long-term assistance programme for the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment elaborated by the Secretariat, the Conference of Parties may wish to encourage the Committee to mobilise resources to **advocate for the operationalization of the first phase and encourage** Parties to make voluntary contributions to this programme. Through peer-learning, information-sharing and advocacy initiatives, the programme should provide valuable support to Parties to implement the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Convention in the Digital Environment through the development of national roadmaps that equip them to respond adequately to the profound changes triggered by the digital shift. In addition, the Committee may support the production of capacity-building content, tools and methodologies or contribute to building specialised expertise in the digital creative economy by commissioning studies or sectoral analyses.
22. More generally, the Committee may also wish to promote the transversal themes of artistic freedom and gender equality as a cornerstone of human rights within all of the Convention's cooperation and assistance programmes. This support may include the identification of further synergies between the Convention and the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist as well as with the relevant activities pursued by the Communication and Information Sector and the Gender Equality Division.

**IV. To devote particular attention to the implementation of preferential treatment measures for developing countries**

23. One of the core objectives of the Convention is to encourage dialogue among cultures with a view to ensuring wider and balanced cultural exchanges in the world in favour of intercultural respect and a culture of peace. Support for balanced cultural exchanges and for the mobility of artists and other cultural professionals is crucial to maintaining a heterogeneous world of ideas, values and worldviews, as well as to the promotion of vibrant cultural and creative industries.
24. In order to boost dynamic and balanced cultural exchanges, especially between developed and developing countries, the Committee may wish to **monitor closely the implementation of Article 16 on Preferential Treatment in close synergy with Article 21 on International consultation and coordination**, including through encouraging the establishment of procedures and other consultation mechanisms aimed at promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention in multilateral, regional and bilateral frameworks. In light of the accelerated digitization of the cultural value chain, it may decide to pay particular attention to the consideration (or lack thereof) of cultural goods and services in e-commerce agreements or trade negotiations involving digital goods and services.

25. The Committee may also choose to support programmes to strengthen capacities for the implementation of preferential treatment measures through appropriate institutional and legal frameworks that have either a culture dimension, a trade dimension or a combined trade and cultural dimension, including e-commerce agreements. This could involve research and analysis activities, such as the development of a database of case-studies on trade/culture agreements or the publication of impact studies, or implementation of technical assistance either to advocate for adequate consideration of cultural goods and services in such frameworks, or to accompany the development of measures and programmes that take full advantage of existing frameworks, where their terms allow.

#### **V. To promote the objectives of the Convention and develop new partnerships**

26. Article 12.c of the Convention calls upon Parties to reinforce partnerships with and among civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in fostering and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, while Article 19.3 foresees that UNESCO shall establish and update a data bank on different sectors and governmental, private and non-profit organizations involved in the area of cultural expressions. Implemented together in a dynamic manner, these two articles can generate broader support, resources and commitment around the goals of the Convention.
27. The Conference of Parties may thus wish to invite the Committee to engage more closely with cultural organisations and institutions committed with a particular effort in the promotion of diversity of cultural expression by providing access to diverse cultural expressions from within their territory as well as from other countries of the world, in line with Article 7b of the Convention. Such a broadening and networking of the Convention's constituency would serve to bring the work of its governing bodies closer to initiatives around the world that already contribute to the implementation of the Convention and could, in addition, help to communicate and advocate for its objectives.
28. In general, the purpose of pursuing new partnerships, in particular with cultural institutions, small and medium cultural enterprises and intergovernmental organisations, would be to harness their different comparative advantages, create synergies and develop innovative approaches and solutions. Additional efforts may be made to enhance connectivity and networking between the Convention's stakeholders and to encourage the establishment of communities of practice around the policy areas identified in the Convention's monitoring framework. The organisation of conferences and meetings, specialized exchanges and workshops, and tailored training and information sessions in the margins of statutory meetings would be to help build new partnerships and networks and to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, so that innovative solutions can be identified to face common challenges.
29. The Conference of Parties may wish to adopt the following resolution:

#### **DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.CP 13**

*The Conference of Parties,*

1. *Having examined document DCE/21/8.CP/13,*
2. *Recognizing the unprecedented challenges facing the cultural and creative sectors in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the exacerbation of the pre-existing precariousness of artists and cultural professionals,*
3. *Affirming the need for Parties to take appropriate measures to support the cultural and creative sectors and their individual players as the world emerges from this global crisis in order to protect the diversity of cultural expressions and promote the development of resilient and dynamic creative ecosystems,*
4. *Recalling Decisions 14.IGC 5, 14.IGC 10, 14.IGC 12, 14.IGC 14, 14.IGC 15 and 14.IGC 16,*

5. Invites the Committee:

- *To continue supporting the good governance of the Convention and to broaden and diversify the range of stakeholders involved in its governance at the international level, notably by encouraging and supporting the participation of civil society in the work of its governing bodies through the effective implementation of the Operational Guidelines on the Role and Participation of Civil Society, and considering the establishment of a regular consultation mechanism with micro, small and medium cultural and creative enterprises involved in the implementation of the Convention,*
- *To ensure the implementation of Articles 9 and 19 of the Convention by taking advantage of all available monitoring tools to assess the implementation and impact of the Convention, including inter alia Parties' quadrennial periodic reporting, the quadrennial survey on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and Parties' national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, with a view to informing policy-making and stimulating knowledge creation and dissemination through the publication of research papers, policy briefs and the further development of the Convention's Policy Monitoring Platform,*
- *To ensure the effective implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, including through the implementation its communication and fundraising strategy (2021-2023) and the update and revision of the Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity,*
- *To support and promote the development and implementation of the Secretariat's international cooperation and assistance programmes as part of the Convention's global capacity-building strategy, including its capacity-building programme for participatory policy-monitoring, its programme on the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks in the field of cultural and creative industries, its technical assistance programme for the elaboration or updating of legislation and regulations to improve the status of the artist, its programme for the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, and its programmes to support the structuring of cultural and creative industries, taking into account pressing transversal needs such as gender equality,*
- *Devote particular attention to the implementation of preferential treatment measures for developing countries and to the promotion of the objectives and principles of the Convention in other international fora, including in the context of the negotiation and implementation of cultural cooperation agreements and multilateral, regional or bilateral trade frameworks involving one or more Parties to the Convention,*
- *Undertake a reflection with a view to recognizing and encouraging the particular efforts made by cultural organizations and institutions that are committed to providing access to diverse cultural expressions from their territory as well as from other countries of the world and/or to promoting the representation of diversity in cultural content,*

6. Requests the Committee to establish, at its fifteenth session, a work plan and timeline for the implementation of these activities, based on the human and financial resources available to the Secretariat, and to submit a report on the implementation of these activities, the challenges met and solutions found to overcome these challenges to the ninth session of the Conference of Parties.