**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 5.b of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Report by the Secretariat on its activities
(January 2018 to June 2019)**

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| **Summary**The present document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019.**Decision required:** paragraph 29 |

**Introduction**

1. The present report[[1]](#footnote-1) focuses on activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from January 2018 to June 2019. The previous report[[2]](#footnote-2) examined by the last session of the Committee covered the first six months of that period, from January to June 2018. Taken together, the reporting period of these two reports corresponds with that of UNESCO’s other main statutory reporting processes, in particular with the Director-General’s reports to the Executive Board on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (EX/4).
2. The report seeks to highlight an overall strategic assessment of the Secretariat’s activities, its keys achievements and challenges encountered. The annex further demonstrates the contribution of the Secretariat’s work to the [39 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000261648) results framework and, more specifically, to the performance indicators of Expected Result 6 within Major Programme IV. While extending its attention to several new themes, the Secretariat’s core activities focused on the three main axes: (i) Governance of the 2003 Convention, (ii) Operational actions related mainly to capacity building and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Education, and (iii) Communication and Outreach. It is to be noted that since the reorganization of the Culture Sector on 1 November 2018, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section was renamed as the ‘Living Heritage Entity’.
3. **GOVERNANCE OF THE CONVENTION**

**Statutory support**

1. **Meetings and mechanisms of the 2003 Convention**: The Secretariat has provided substantial support for the work of the governing bodies in taking a set of key decisions during sixteen statutory meetings organized for the General Assembly, the Committee, and the Bureau of the Committee. The seventh session of the General Assembly in June 2018 and the thirteenth session of the Committee in December 2018 were instrumental in defining directions for the future development of the Convention. In addition, the Secretariat undertook administrative tasks for the Evaluation Body to support it in its evaluation of the nomination files under the 2018 and 2019 cycles, while checking the technical completeness of nominations under the 2020 cycle. The Secretariat also facilitated the provisional dialogue process[[3]](#footnote-3) for the nomination files under the 2019 cycle. Furthermore, periodic reports, and accreditation and renewal requests from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were processed during the given period. All these tasks were performed within the statutory deadlines defined by the text of the Convention or its Operational Directives.
2. **Monitoring the implementation and impact of the Convention**: Since 2017, the periodic reporting mechanism has been undergoing a major reform to enhance its quality, usefulness and timeliness, by aligning it to the approved overall results framework for the 2003 Convention[[4]](#footnote-4). Under this reformed system, States Parties will submit their reports every six years based on a system of regional rotation (instead of every six years after their year of ratification); Latin America and the Caribbean will be the first region in 2020 to report under this system[[5]](#footnote-5). The new reporting mechanism is intended to allow States to report on results and impacts rather than on activities, and to effectively monitor their implementation of the 2003 Convention. The Secretariat in this regard, aimed to give States the possibility of establishing their own targets against which progress can be measured in future reporting. During the transition period, the Secretariat undertook the following actions: a) the revision of reporting Form ICH-10 and its online version; b) the production of a set of twenty-six guidance notes; and c) the development of a capacity-building approach and related materials to assist reporting States. Some of these actions benefitted from the support of the Republic of Korea. The reform of the periodic reporting mechanism will be discussed at this session under Item 8 (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-8-EN.docx)).
3. **International Assistance**: Since 2010, income to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (therein after ‘Fund’) has largely exceeded expenditure in each biennium and the balance of unrestricted and unencumbered funds has grown steadily to the extent that more than US$8.6 million had been accumulated at the beginning of the 39C/5[[6]](#footnote-6). This situation has hindered the possibilities of raising extra-budgetary sources of funding. This reporting period saw a positive change since the expenditures have, for the first time, surpassed US$4 million during the current biennium, which represents 112% of the compulsory assessed contributions due for 2018-2019[[7]](#footnote-7). This trend can largely be attributed to a significantly higher use made by States Parties of the **International Assistance mechanisms.** This encouraging development in the implementation of the International Assistance line of the Fund can primarily be explained with three reasons; firstly, the increase of the ceiling for requests to be examined by the Bureau from US$25,000 to US$100,000 (Resolution [6.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/6.GA/7)), secondly the intensification of efforts by the Secretariat to present requests to the Bureau and provide support to submitting States in finalizing their requests (i.e. additional information letters, technical assistance), and finally a high proportion of requests approved by the Bureau. As a consequence the increased rate of expenditure will result in an overall decrease in the budget of the Fund for the upcoming biennium, reducing the capacity of the Secretariat to implement other aspects of the Convention, such as those related to the ‘Other Functions of the Committee’. The Secretariat, reinforced with the new Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring team (SIM), therefore intends to renew its efforts to advocate for the importance of voluntary contributions to the Fund, in order to continue to support new themes and initiatives of the Convention, including the two funding priorities approved by the Committee.
4. Under the reporting period, the Secretariat administered all the requests submitted, of which thirty-five were presented to the Bureau and twenty-three approved. Further details on the scope of the requests and the analysis of the current situation in this regard are provided in document [LHE/19/14.COM/9.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-9.b-EN.docx). The Secretariat also initiated a reflection on multiple submissions of International Assistance requests by a single State[[8]](#footnote-8) (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/9.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-9.b-EN.docx) for more details).
5. **Knowledge management**: Amongst the many new functionalities made possible by the knowledge management services of the Convention, the main developments include the on‑line reporting interface, to support the reformed periodic reporting mechanism (Form ICH- 10), the capacity-building programme, and the renewal of accredited NGOs. An Arabic version of the website of the Convention was also launched in May 2018. Moreover, a single sign-on bridge now allows password holders to access the database from the website of the Convention, using generic login credentials. Furthermore, inscribed elements, safeguarding projects and accredited NGOs were indexed and datasets are now available for searching by content-related criteria and for downloading to allow for external analysis. Another tool launched, the [Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention Research Bibliography](https://ich.unesco.org/en/research-references-on-2003-convention-implementation-00945), provides an interactive bibliography of research references related to the Convention and its implementation. During the thirteenth session of the Committee, the Secretariat also presented an innovative project, ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’, which offers a conceptual, visual and interactive navigation within all the elements inscribed on UNESCO’s Lists of the 2003 Convention (see Section III).

**Reflection on existing mechanisms and actors of the Convention**

1. **Listing mechanisms of the Convention**: More than twelve years since the Convention entered into force, the Committee initiated a global reflection on the listing mechanisms established under the Convention, thanks to the voluntary supplementary contribution of the Government of Japan to the Fund[[9]](#footnote-9). This is an all-encompassing reflection aimed at examining the listing mechanisms in a holistic manner, which will likely have significant implications for the future of the Convention. While this process is foreseen to continue until 2022, the reflection will begin with a preliminary expert meeting in March 2020. Given the long-term timeframe, the Committee requested, in parallel, that the Secretariat propose ways to improve the inscription process for nominations, taking into account imminent issues raised during its thirteenth session. This topic is discussed at this session under Item 10 (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-10-EN.docx)).
2. **Lighter ways of sharing safeguarding practices:** As part of the reflection on the listing mechanisms and following the requests by the Committee[[10]](#footnote-10), the Secretariat undertook a consultation survey on alternative and lighter ways of sharing intangible cultural heritage safeguarding practices to complement the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. With 225 responses, the online survey[[11]](#footnote-11) highlighted various ways and means in which the safeguarding practices are being utilized and disseminated within local, regional and global contexts. The survey further demonstrated that safeguarding experiences are mainly being shared at the local or country levels, followed by the regional level. While social media are the most frequently used channel, interestingly, they are evaluated as the least meaningful way to obtain information from others. With regards to new ways of sharing safeguarding practices, the majority of the respondents suggested that they would prefer to see the establishment of a lighter filtering and validation mechanism through UNESCO. The survey results will be taken into account during the above-mentioned global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention.
3. **Accredited non-governmental organizations**: On many occasions, the governing bodies of the Convention underlined the important role that NGOs play under the Convention. However, only 6 out of 176 accredited NGOs perform an advisory function as members of the Evaluation Body at any time. Following the decision by the Committee at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions[[12]](#footnote-12), the Secretariat undertook an electronic consultation in 2018, and convened a consultation meeting involving States Parties and accredited NGOs on 18 April 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters. The discussion centered on the identification and definition of the advisory functions that the Committee wishes accredited NGOs to fulfil and on the relevance of the accreditation system. Article 9.1 of the Convention states that the accreditation system is intended to identify NGOs to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee. Nonetheless, the reflection process showed that the accreditation system is in fact widely considered as an affiliation mechanism through which NGOs of all capacities and sizes can benefit from international recognition. The Committee will discuss this topic in more detail under item 15 of the current session (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-15-EN.docx)).
4. **OPERATIONAL ACTIONS**
5. **Capacity building**: Demand for the capacity-building programme has remained strong, with the number of benefitting countries increasing to ninety-two countries including thirty-three in Africa and eighteen Small Island Developing States (SIDS) under the reporting period. The Secretariat significantly strengthened and expanded the facilitators’ network by organizing three training of trainers’ workshops in cooperation with the Category 2 Centres in the field of intangible cultural heritage, in Almaty (Central Asia), Hangzhou (Asia and the Pacific) and Sofia (Europe). The nature of the network has evolved as facilitators have become more experienced in taking on specific thematic areas relevant to the work of the Convention. An interregional working group was established to support this strategic shift and reflect on issues relating to network development. Furthermore, a side event was held at the thirteenth session of the Committee to give greater visibility to the global network as an important resource to support countries in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage. The online presentation of the facilitators’ network was also improved to facilitate the identification of their profiles on the [webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/facilitator) of the Convention. In terms of networking with other actors, contacts were established with sixty-six universities identified through surveys[[13]](#footnote-13) as having programmes or courses related to intangible cultural heritage.
6. The development of innovative training approaches, tools and materials has advanced in several thematic areas. An [online toolbox](https://ich.unesco.org/en/sustainable-development-toolbox-00987) collating more than thirty examples on the links between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development was launched. The toolbox brings together diverse experiences from around the world to demonstrate the myriad ways in which intangible culture heritage can contribute to sustainable development and may be used to facilitate learning on this important topic in training workshops. Furthermore, new training materials are being finalized on disaster risk reduction and policy information briefs in the areas of education and gender. Lastly, new linguistic versions of various materials were made available online, notably on the topic of ethics and a video animation on gender.
7. **Intangible cultural heritage and education:** The Committee took a strategic decision in 2017 by adopting ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ as a new, second funding priority for the period 2018–2021[[14]](#footnote-14). Until then, the global capacity-building programme had been the exclusive funding priority. The Committee saw a chance to harness this new opportunity to promote a broader approach to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in education, which is underlined as a key safeguarding measure in the Convention (Articles 2 and 14). This was timely, as the international community had adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which emphasize the role of culture in teaching and learning for sustainable development, global citizenship education and preventing violent extremism under SDG 4 on education. Despite the lack of voluntary supplementary contributions to the fund to support this funding priority so far, the Secretariat has nevertheless been able to make some progress in this area, notably through some provisions in the ‘Other Functions of the Committee’ as well as through the decentralized Regular Programme Funds under MLA 2, ER 6 of the 39 C/5.
8. This funding priority benefits from strong collaboration with the Education Sector at UNESCO Headquarters and in the Field Offices. Under the reporting period, the Secretariat prepared for a second intersectoral meeting with the Education Sector (7 and 8 October 2019). The meeting, which brought together over 50 Culture and Education colleagues from all UNESCO regions, reviewed progress made thus far, defined areas for future strategic work on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in education for the 40 C/5, and confirmed the joint commitment from the two Sectors for this work. At the regional and national level, fifteen Field Offices[[15]](#footnote-15) initiated concrete activities on intangible cultural heritage and education. At the global level, the Secretariat is establishing a clearinghouse for knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation on intangible cultural heritage and education, which will be housed under the dedicated webpage of the Convention. In the meantime, the Secretariat has organized two side events at statutory meetings[[16]](#footnote-16); held a webinar on intangible cultural heritage and education for sustainable development with the Education Sector; and organized a virtual conference on intangible cultural heritage and technical and vocation education and training with UNESCO-UNEVOC[[17]](#footnote-17).
9. A new project in the Culture Sector, ‘2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Engaging Youth for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future’ funded by the European Union was initiated in early 2019. For the part concerning the 2003 Convention, the project has organized a webinar for ASPnet National Coordinators, held a European Young Heritage Professionals Forum in Zadar, Croatia (20–24 May) with twenty-eight young professionals from each EU Member State, and selected a team of researchers to conduct a survey on intangible cultural heritage in school-based teaching and learning.

**Other thematic initiatives**

1. **Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies**: Over the past three sessions (2016, 2017, 2018), the Secretariat has supported the reflections undertaken by the Committee on the role of communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage in emergencies[[18]](#footnote-18). This statutory cycle culminated with the elaboration of ‘Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’ prepared through an expert meeting that the Secretariat organized on 21 and 22 May 2019, with the financial support of China. The operational principles and modalities underscore the usefulness of community-based needs identifications and approaches, and the need to strengthen cooperation beyond traditional partners, such as with the humanitarian and security sectors. In addition, a set of awareness raising activities were undertaken with the support of the Secretariat. This topic will be discussed at this session under Item 13 (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-13-EN.docx)).
2. **Intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts**: With more than half the world’s population now living in urban areas, it is crucial to consider the particular conditions and requirements for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in such contexts. Since May 2018, the Secretariat has been entrusted with the implementation of a part of the multi-year extra-budgetary project, ‘Intangible Heritage and Creativity for Sustainable Cities’, funded by Yong Xin Hua Yun Cultural Industry Investment Co. Ltd (China). The project aims to promote the role of culture in sustainable urban development and more specifically, address the role that living heritage can play in building sustainable cities. Through pilot community-based inventorying exercises in nine pilot cities, the project will identify and better understand the key issues related to intangible heritage safeguarding in urban contexts, develop appropriate inventory methodologies and materials for urban contexts, as well as formulate possible recommendations for policymakers and practitioners. A desk research and consultation process was undertaken to develop a methodological framework for community-based inventories in urban areas. The first pilot phase included Kingston (Jamaica), George Town (Malaysia) and Harare (Zimbabwe). Furthermore, three cities for the second pilot phase were selected in May 2019: Ayacucho (Peru), Irbid (Jordan), and Tbilisi (Georgia).
3. **COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**
4. Communication and outreach should be undertaken above all with the aim of promoting the objectives of the Convention. With this in mind, the pilot communication initiatives[[19]](#footnote-19) proposed to the Committee at its thirteenth session have been rolled out. The development of new thematic considerations - intangible cultural heritage and indigenous peoples, intangible cultural heritage and education - was supported through these initiatives, along with the opportunities to demonstrate the synergy between the work of the Convention and that of organizations working in different areas at key strategic events. These actions also contributed to broadening the outreach of the Convention to a wider and untapped audience (see paragraph 19). To that effect, the following outreach activities and communication tools have been produced during the reporting period:
* communication events (i.e. a dialogue session, roundtable discussion, audio-visual exhibition, networking platform) at the seventh session of the General Assembly;
* a panel discussion organized at the eighteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (22 April 2019, New York) in line with the celebration of the International Year of Indigenous Languages;
* communication materials produced include: a) the audio-visual stories of four young people talking about their living heritage experiences (distributed via social media with the hashtags #livingheritage and #intangibleheritage); and b) the brochure ‘Living heritage and Indigenous peoples’;
* press conferences organized at key statutory meetings, along with the production of a press kit at Committee meetings in order to promote positive media coverage and establish constructive relations with the media;
* various media channels – web and social media, including Twitter and Facebook Live – broadly utilized to foster positive public opinion on the importance of safeguarding living heritage.
1. Communication materials in print, audio-visual and digital format were developed to present the key concepts and issues of the Convention. These interventions involved a broad array of stakeholders, such as States Parties, institutional partners – including Category 2 centres and accredited NGOs, heritage professionals, living heritage practitioners, community members, and indigenous peoples. They conveyed the collective and dynamic nature of living heritage with a particular aim of targeting youth.
2. In addition, the Secretariat launched a project ‘[Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive)’ with the support of the Government of Netherlands. The project with its different visualizations (biomes, threats and domains), aims to visualize living heritage elements as well as explore the different thematic interconnectedness between them and their relation to nature or to threats. Released at the end of 2018, this tool reached almost one million page views over the first semester of 2019, representing by itself an increase of 50% of the audience of the webpage of the 2003 Convention.
3. **KEY CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD**
4. The reporting period was marked by a number of significant accomplishments made by the governing bodies of the Convention. Above all, results-based monitoring and assessment of the impact of the Convention became a real possibility with the adoption of the overall results framework for the Convention and the related revisions to the periodic reporting forms. Several reflections undertaken by the Committee and new thematic initiatives launched provided further demonstrations of areas in which the Convention could be developed. The Convention must grow to renew itself and adapt an increasing set of complex challenges; it is part of the duties of the Secretariat to accompany and support the work of the General Assembly and the Committee. One example is of course the long-term and global reflection on the listing mechanisms under the Convention, which is scheduled to continue until 2022. At the same time, different thematic areas are emerging which may require the attention of the Committee in the near future. These include the links between intangible cultural heritage and tourism, intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts, climate change, museums, as well as improved demonstrations and visualizations of the overall contributions of living heritage to the Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals.
5. In the meantime, the statutory responsibilities continue to occupy a significant portion of the Secretariat’s workload. The main challenge is administering a high volume of files and meetings, with overlapping cycles, within a strictly set timeframe. The broadness and swift speed with which the governing bodies of the Convention have been taking up new subjects of reflection or reform means that the Secretariat is asked to master emerging topics and propose technical solutions so that the Convention remains relevant in response to global and emerging issues.
6. As for operational activities, financial support for the first funding priority on the capacity‑building programme has been low, with contributions from Japan and Flanders, under the reporting period. The high amount of funding that has accumulated in the Fund seems to have discouraged donors and partners from making additional voluntary contributions. However, now that the Fund is in a healthier operational situation, the Secretariat has started to receive positive informal reactions from donors and partners on project proposals presented to them. At the same time, the programme has seen an important shift under the reporting period in terms of the strategic role played by Category 2 centres in supporting the implementation of the programme in different regions. In addition, there has been a growing number of capacity-building initiatives supported through the International Assistance mechanism, including capacity building on inventorying and safeguarding in twenty-one countries. This accumulation of wider experience has made it possible for the programme to reach a more mature state.
7. The Secretariat continues to feel the need to reflect seriously and creatively on how to sustain the capacity-building programme. In the longer term, institutional partnerships could provide innovative opportunities as a way forward to allow for the continued expansion and financial stability of the programme. A feasibility study, which the Secretariat commissioned on possible future partnerships for sustaining the programme, points in this direction. This study underlined the considerable great potential of a stronger role for Category 2 centres in regionalizing the programme, stronger partnerships with other heritage institutions in integrating the capacity-building programme into their actions and capacity-building mechanisms at the national level. It also recommended stakeholder group‑specific capacity building initiatives through partnerships with organizations, such as NGOs and museum associations as well as local governments or other UN agencies.
8. The Convention mentions transmission through formal and non-formal education in Article 2 of the Convention. The situation for the second funding priority on intangible cultural heritage in education requires careful consideration, as two years after its launch no voluntary supplementary contribution has been made to the Fund. Financial sustainability must be sought if States wish to give this priority a chance to make a meaningful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goal 4). In this regard, the Secretariat will continue to explore potential partnerships by leveraging UNESCO’s global role in intangible cultural heritage and in education as well as its ability to work intersectorally. Future fundraising efforts will focus on key entry points within the work of the Education Sector where living heritage can contribute most to improving education quality and relevance, notably global citizenship education, education for sustainable development, technical and vocational education and training, and teacher development.
9. The work undertaken during this reporting period has made it possible to support the safeguarding actions of the Convention through awareness raising and outreach and will furthermore contribute to shaping future communication initiatives. Future efforts should further target untapped stakeholders that are key for the development of the Convention, such as youth, indigenous peoples, city dwellers and vulnerable populations subject to emergencies. It is also important that the communication and outreach approach under the 2003 Convention continue to articulate itself with that of UNESCO, so that messages that are key to fundamental values and strategies of the Organizations are clearly communicated. As the number of communication actions grow, however, developing an effective and impactful communication continues to be a challenging task and a long-term work-in-progress. While the communication actions are driven to better accompany the evolving work of the Convention and a wide range of safeguarding actions, the active involvement of the main stakeholders of the Convention, including institutional partners, heritage professionals, living heritage practitioners and community members, is fundamental.
10. The capacities of the Secretariat have been enhanced with the approval by the seventh session of the General Assembly in June 2018 of the creation of a dedicated team (Safeguarding and Implementation Team) to oversee the implementation of the International Assistance portfolio of the Fund. The Secretariat has also benefitted from secondments from China (from 2014 to 2018), Japan (from March 2015 to April 2018) and from Singapore (from August 2018 to August 2019). Moreover, contributions to the sub-fund have been received from China, Finland, Kazakhstan, Monaco, and Montenegro[[20]](#footnote-20).
11. Despite the above-mentioned reinforcement and contributions received from States Parties, the Secretariat continues to rely heavily on temporary staff. It must be noted that the three above-mentioned posts were created for monitoring International Assistance projects and lesson learning, which were not previously being adequately performed due to limited human resources. Therefore, this reinforcement does not contribute to alleviating the regular statutory and operational workload of the Secretariat, which remains the same. At the same time, there is an increasing number of new thematic considerations and initiatives undertaken by the governing bodies of the Convention. In other words, the demand for areas of action related to living heritage continue to grow as the Convention itself gains more widespread recognition and appreciation.
12. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.COM 5.b

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/19/14.COM/5.b,
2. Recalling Decisions [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1), [10.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/10) and, [13.COM 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/5),
3. Commends the Secretariat for the timely support provided to the governing bodies of the Convention in executing its key decisions and resolutions and for accompanying continuous efforts made by the international community to develop the Convention, notably through the development of the overall results framework, the ongoing reflection on the listing mechanisms, as well as for exploring and providing technical support for new thematic initiatives such as intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, education and urban contexts;

**Governance of the 2003 Convention**

1. Further commends the Secretariat for ensuring the timely and efficient organization of the statutory meetings, the administration of nomination files, periodic reports, the accreditation and renewal of non-governmental organizations, as well as international assistance requests and notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Secretariat to roll out the overall results framework for the Convention and the operationalization of the International Assistance portfolio;
2. Takes note of the initiative ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention Research’ which allows for the creation of a rich source of information related to the Convention and its implementation at large;
3. Welcomes the results of the survey on alternative and lighter ways of sharing intangible cultural heritage safeguarding experiences and decides to take these results into consideration in the ongoing global reflection on the listing mechanisms established under the Convention;

**Operational Actions**

1. Expresses satisfaction with the effectiveness of the global capacity-building programme, which has enhanced national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, and further welcomes new developments in this regard notably through the creation of the sustainable development toolbox, the work on gender, and the establishment of the facilitators’ interregional working group;
2. Thanks States Parties and Category 2 Centres for hosting and conducting regional training workshops for facilitators in close collaboration with the Secretariat, to effectively strengthen and expand the regional network of facilitators and contribute to UNESCO’s strategic objectives in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
3. Underlines the primary role education plays in strengthening the transmission of intangible cultural heritage, and also welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the funding priority ‘safeguarding and transmission of intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education’, notably through the intersectoral work being undertaken both at Headquarters and in UNESCO Field Offices, as well as through the establishment of the clearinghouse for knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation on intangible cultural heritage and education;
4. Further notes the initiative on intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts, thanks the private sector of the People’s Republic of China for its generous contribution towards this initiative and invites the Secretariat to pursue its efforts in this regard;

**Communication and Outreach**

1. Appreciates the implementation of the various outreach and communications initiatives carried out to enhance awareness about, and the visibility of the Convention, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this regard;
2. Further appreciates the additional development of the initiative, ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’, and thanks the Government of Netherlands for its generous contribution to this initiative;

**Voluntary contribution**

1. Expresses concern regarding the continued decline in voluntary contributions for the implementation of the two funding priorities of the Convention approved for the period 2018–2021 and calls on States Parties to provide additional resources to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support the financial sustainability and operationalization of the projects.

**Annex**

**Assessment by Performance Indicator**

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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Sound governance exercised through the adoption and implementation of strategic resolutions/decisions of the governing bodies of the 2003 Convention.** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2018 to 30/06/2019**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Strengthened ability to provide strategic guidance to States Parties for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including through examination of submitted periodic reports
* Working methods of the governing bodies improved
* Level of funding to the implementation of decisions adopted by the governing bodies
* Level of contribution of non-governmental organizations, with recognized competence in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to the Convention’s governance
 | * Partially
 | * Yes
 | * Overall results framework established through intergovernmental consultation processes and Operational Directives revised to improve the periodic reporting mechanism
* The calendar for the first regional cycle of periodic reporting to begin in 2020 established
* Creation of three fixed-term posts approved to operationalize the International Assistance mechanism
* 57 nomination files submitted from 57 States Parties for the 2018 cycle; 55 nomination files from 64 States were submitted for the 2019 cycle; and 60 files from 63 States were submitted for the 2020 cycle[[21]](#footnote-21)
* 16 statutory meetings organized[[22]](#footnote-22)
* Analysis undertaken concerning 32 reports on the implementation of the Convention and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List submitted by States Parties for the 2018 cycle, in addition to 16 reports on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List; further 4 reports received on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List.
* Processed 62 accreditation requests and reviewed 67 reports submitted by accredited non-governmental organizations for renewal
* 26 proposals for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO chairs processed
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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of supported Member States utilizing strengthened human and institutional resources for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2018 to 30/06/2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Strengthened or newly established institutional frameworks for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage
* Community-based approaches adopted or strengthened for inventorying intangible cultural heritage or developing safeguarding plans, including those reflecting a gender-sensitive approach
 | * 70, of which 30 in Africa and 5 SIDS (Small Island Developing States)
 | * 55 of which 25 in Africa and 10 SIDS
 | * 92 Member States supported, including 33 in Africa and 18 SIDS. Of these, 51 adopted a gender-sensitive approach, while 19 were gender-responsive
* 39 Member States supported in the field of policy advice, of which 22 in Africa and 8 SIDS
* 33 Member States supported through multi-year projects capacity-building projects
* 3 regional training of trainers session[[23]](#footnote-23) organized in cooperation with C2Cs[[24]](#footnote-24), training 52 network members including 21 new members
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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 3** | **Number of supported Member States which have integrated intangible cultural heritage into their plans, policies and programmes, in particular as a contribution towards the achievement of SDGs in a gender-responsive manner** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2018 to 30/06/2019**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Convention-related reports address plans, policies and programmes aimed at integrating the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage with a gender-sensitive approach, including in emergency contexts, and provide evidence towards the attainment of SDG targets
* Partnerships established, within and outside the culture sector, with a view to strengthening the role of intangible cultural heritage as an enabler and guarantee of sustainable development and supporting national plans to achieve the SDGs
* Initiatives designed and implemented, resulting in the incorporation of intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education (SDG 4.7)
 | * 15, of which 5 in Africa and 2 SIDS
 | * 25 of which 8 in Africa and 5 SIDS
 | * 39 Member States supported, including 22 in Africa and 8 SIDS. Of these, 21 adopted a gender-sensitive approach, while 6 were gender-responsive
* 15 offices initiated activities that incorporated intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education
* Partnerships established to support projects in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Cities and Education
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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 4** | **Number of States Parties which have effectively implemented International Assistance, including from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, complementing their national safeguarding efforts** |

| **Assessed according to the following** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2018 to 30/06/2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund used by States Parties to effectively complement their national safeguarding efforts
* Preparatory/technical assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund used by States Parties to elaborate International Assistance requests to effectively complement their national safeguarding efforts
 | * 15, of which 10 in Africa and 1 SIDS
 | * 15 of which 10 in Africa and 2 SIDS
 | * 9 States Parties completed the implementation of an International Assistance project, of which 7 in Africa and 2 in SIDS
* 35 International Assistance requests for up to US$100,000 treated and submitted to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention, of which 23 were approved, including 9 for Africa and 1 SIDS
* 2 requests received technical assistance, including 1 from Africa
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| **39C/5 Performance Indicator 5** | **Number of initiatives undertaken by supported Member States which have enhanced knowledge and understanding of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and of the 2003 Convention** |

| **Assessed according to the following:** | **Baselines** | **Targets 2018-2019** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2018 to 30/06/2019**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Evidence of programmes, projects or initiatives for the safeguarding of heritage reflecting the principles and objectives of the 2003 Convention with proven effectiveness to contribute to the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned
* Communication and/or awareness-raising initiatives developed in line with the Convention's communications and outreach strategy
* Level of engagement of all actors (governmental and non-governmental) concerned with the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in related initiatives
 | * 4
 | * 15 of which 5 in Africa and 2 SIDS
 | * Activities in the area of outreach and communication for the 2003 Convention currently under development
* Communication and outreach initiatives organized during 7.GA and 13.COM, in addition a side event during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
* 'Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage' project launched
* Online consultation and consultation meeting organized to clarify the accreditation process and the criteria including identify the inter alia functions of the accredited NGOs
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1. . The report should be read together with the financial statement regarding the Convention’s Funds for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, included in document [LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx); the Secretariat’s plan for the utilization of the funds, made available from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for ‘Other Functions of the Committee’ was approved by the Bureau of the Committee ([Decision 13.COM 2.BUR 3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/3)). The latest detailed report on the implementation of that spending plan was presented to the Bureau of the Committee in June 2019 (document [LHE/19/14.COM 2.BUR/INF.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM_2.BUR-INF.3-EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Document [ITH/18/13.COM/5 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-5_Rev.-EN.docx) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Information note: [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42998-EN.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . [Decision 12.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/10); [Resolution 7.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/9); and [Resolution 7.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/7.GA/10). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . [Decision 13.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/8). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . See document [LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. . Document [ITH/18/13.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-12-EN.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. . Decision [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. . Decisions [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1) and [10.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/10), paragraph 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. . For the executive summary and the report of the survey, see [here](https://ich.unesco.org/en/lighter-ways-of-sharing-ich-safeguarding-practices-00999). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. . Decision [12.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/17); [Decision 13.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/13). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. . For the results of the survey see the [webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/global-tertiary-education-networking-00976) of the Convention. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. . Decision [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. . UNESCO’s office in: Abuja, Almaty, Amman, Bangladesh, Bangkok, Beijing, Beirut, Cairo, Dakar, Harare, Havana, Lima, Nairobi, Santiago and Tashkent. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. . These events were held at the seventh session of the General Assembly and the thirteenth session of the Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. . The webinar was joined by 302 participants from 83 countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. . Decision [11.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/15); [12.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/15); and [13.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/11). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. . See document [ITH/18/13.COM/INF.5.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-INF.5.1-EN.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. . See document [ITH/18/13.COM/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-6-EN.docx) and [LHE/19/14.COM/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-6-EN.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. . Out of the submitted nomination files for each year, the Secretariat organized five meetings of the Evaluation Body to evaluate 50 nomination files for the 2018 cycle as well as 52 files for the 2019 cycle. The Secretariat also administered technical completeness for a set of 52 nomination files for the 2020 cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. . Meetings in 2018:

3 meetings of the 13.COM Bureau;

Information and exchange meeting on the overall results framework for the 2003 Convention, 20 April 2018;

7th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, UNESCO HQ, 4–6 June 2018;

3 meetings of the Evaluation Body for the 2018 cycle;

13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius, 26 November – 1 December 2018.

Meetings in2019:

2 meetings of the 14.COM Bureau;

2 meetings of the Evaluation Body for the 2019 cycle;

Information and Exchange Session on the provisional upstream dialogue for nominations to be examined in 2019, March 2019;

Consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations under the 2003 Convention, 18 April 2019;

Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergencies, 21–22 May 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. . Central Asia (18–22 June 2018), Asia and the Pacific (2–6 July 2018), and Europe (17–20 September 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. . Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe; International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia‑Pacific Region (CRIHAP). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)