UNIT 41

Hand-out 4.b:

General assessment of the initial storytelling nomination

Use this hand-out together with the **‘**Instructions for completing nomination forms ICH-01 and ICH-02**’** (available at the webpage <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/forms>) to analyse the initial nomination file. These questions can guide the discussion, but feel free to raise other issues and concerns.

* Is the focus on the stories in the name of the element (and in the whole file) appropriate and consistent?
* Which communities or groups might consider Mashriq storytelling as part of their cultural heritage?
* What is the geographical location of the communities or groups concerned? How does the element fit into the domain mentioned? Which other domains might be involved?
* Researchers are reconstructing original or authentic versions of the stories. In what ways is this idea contrary to the spirit of the Convention?
* Does the file indicate whether the element is compliant with the criteria for human rights and sustainability?
* Does the formulation of the description of the element foster dialogue and mutual respect?
* How could one decide whether or not the element was viable today?
* Can the current measures preserve the central role of the local communities in safeguarding the element?
* Which of the threats mentioned could be real threats to the element’s viability? Explain why this is so.
* What’s wrong with the safeguarding measures proposed? Do they address the threats?
* Would establishing a Mashriq museum be a good safeguarding measure? Explain.
* Is the viability of the element guaranteed by ongoing performances in theatres?
* What additional community participation is required in the nomination and safeguarding process? What further information is required on community participation by the Giriyati?
* Was the element identified and defined with the participation of the community, groups or individuals concerned, and inventoried?
* Is the role of women sufficiently reflected throughout the nomination process? Were they given the chance to provide consent to the nomination?
* Has sufficient attention been paid to respect for customary restrictions and is the level of information on such restrictions adequate?
* Have the photos and videos been well chosen? If not, what could they have done instead? Are there too many or too few photos / too much or too little video material? Is the range of evidence presented sufficient?
* Has an appropriate person signed the nomination file?