



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

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

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Diversity of cultural expressions

6 IGC

Distribution: limited

CE/12/6.IGC/10
Paris, 9 November 2012
Original: English

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Sixth Ordinary Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
10 - 14 December 2012

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress on the implementation of the strategy of ratification to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2011-2012)

In Decision 4.IGC 4, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit at its sixth ordinary session a document reporting on the progress of implementing the strategy encouraging ratification, which was adopted at its third session in December 2009 (Decision 3.IGC 4). This document provides an update of progress made in implementing the said strategy for the period of 2011 and 2012.

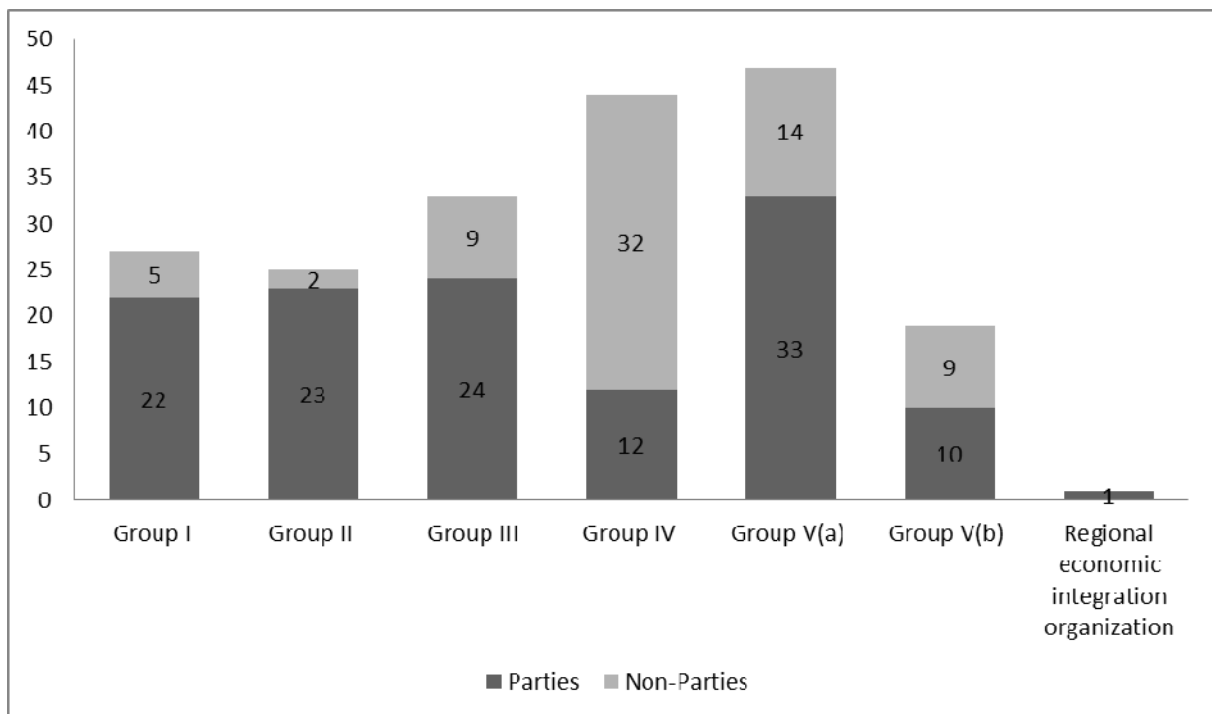
Decision required: paragraph 36

1. At its second extraordinary session (March 2009), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) requested the Secretariat to submit to it a strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) (Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7).
2. At its third ordinary session (December 2009), the Committee adopted a ratification strategy and action plan for the period of 2010-2013, indicating actions to be taken by Parties, the Secretariat and civil society (Decision 3.IGC 4). The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its fourth ordinary session a document reporting on the progress of ratifications as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2009-2010 (Decision 3.IGC 4).
3. At its fourth ordinary session (December 2010), the Committee took note of the progress of ratifications in 2009-2010 (CE/10/4.IGC/205/4) and requested the Secretariat to report to it at its sixth ordinary session on the further progress of ratification as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2011-2012 (Decision 4.IGC 4).
4. At its third ordinary session (June 2011), the Conference of Parties took note of the information concerning the implementation of the ratification strategy (CE/11/3.CP/209/INF.5) and invited the Committee to continue its work on it (Resolution 3.CP 11). During the general debate of this session, a number of Parties raised the importance of ratification of the Convention and called for greater concerted efforts.
5. In order to recall discussions that had taken place on this question, Annex II provides a list of relevant documents and decisions/resolutions.

State of ratification

6. As of 10 November, 125 Parties (124 States and 1 regional economic integration organization) have ratified the Convention. For the period between January 2011 to November 2012, nine states ratified the Convention (4 in 2011 and 5 in 2012). In terms of geographical distribution, one belongs to Group III (Costa Rica), one to Group IV (Indonesia), five to Group V(a) (Angola, Central African Republic, Gambia, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania), and two to Group V(b) (Palestine, United Arab Emirates).
7. With these two additional ratifications by Arab states, Group V(b) has reached the 50 % threshold.
8. The cumulative number of ratifications since the start of the implementation of the ratification strategy (between 2010 and 2012) is 20. In order to achieve the goal set by the action plan of the strategy, i.e., at least 35 new ratifications between 2010 and 2013, additional 15 ratifications are necessary by the end of 2013.
9. A graph indicating ratification status according to UNESCO Electoral Groups is presented below. A detailed breakdown of the state of ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups is presented in Annex I.

Ratification status by Electoral Groups of UNESCO¹ as of 10 November 2012



Key elements of the action plan (2010-2013)

10. To recall, among the objectives of the ratification strategy (2010-2013) and its action plan are to improve geographical balance of Parties by addressing the issue of under-represented regions and sub-regions and raise the visibility of the Convention through its promotion in international and other forum. According to the action plan, 35 to 40 additional ratifications are expected over the 2010-2013 period.

11. The strategy calls Parties to define at the national, regional and subregional levels measures to encourage ratifications and activities to be carried out in collaboration with their National Commissions, national points of contact as well as civil society. In addition, they are invited to use international forum to promote the benefits of ratifying the Convention.

12. UNESCO is invited to ensure coordination with other relevant sectors concerned by this strategy and establish close and active cooperation between Field Offices and the Secretariat by encouraging awareness-raising activities in UNESCO Member States that are non-Parties to the Convention, especially in under-represented regions and subregions.

13. In collaboration with Field Offices, the Secretariat is called to develop new information tools responding to identified needs; prepare a document reporting on the progress of ratifications, steps taken and actions carried out by all stakeholders and publish the information kit in downloadable format on the Convention's website in UNESCO's six official languages.

14. Civil society is invited to play a key role in promoting ratification, particularly in under-represented regions and subregions, by disseminating information about the Convention and through networking activities and events, as well as by organizing information and awareness-raising workshops.

¹ The classification of countries by electoral groups is based on the UNESCO document *Grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board*.

Steps taken and actions carried out (2011- 2012)

15. Pursuant to Decision 4.IGC 4, the Secretariat sent a letter on 19 July 2012 to all Parties inviting them to communicate to it, by 14 September 2012, the results of any relevant information about activities undertaken as part of the strategy to encourage ratification. The Secretariat sent an e-mail reminder on 7 September 2012. Information document CE/12/6.IGC/INF.5 provides a summary of specific activities undertaken by Parties during the period between 2010 and 2012.

16. The rate of response by Parties to the Secretariat's invitation was low; only eight responses² were received. One of the reasons for such a low response rate may be that ninety-four Parties were due to submit their quadrennial periodic report by 30 April 2012. As expressed by some Parties, they encountered financial and human resource constraints to undertake both initiatives.

17. In their responses, Parties indicated that communicating about concrete measures taken to implement the Convention is the best way to promote it and serves as an incentive for other States to ratify. Indeed, a wide range of data provided by the quadrennial periodic reports demonstrates the importance of sharing information and good practice towards promoting the benefits of the Convention among non-Parties to the Convention (see document CE/12/6.IGC/INF.5).

18. Similarly, promoting ratification is closely linked to the implementation of Article 21 of the Convention, as actions of Parties to promote the objectives and principles of the Convention in various international forum directly and indirectly contribute to raising awareness about the Convention and its promotion among non-Parties (see document CE/12/6.IGC/11).

19. An analysis of responses and data from the quadrennial periodic reports and from the consultation on Article 21 demonstrates that Parties promote ratification by highlighting the principles and objectives of the Convention within existing networks, working groups and bilateral and regional coordination mechanisms of which they are part. Ratification is also promoted within bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation.

20. The European Union (EU) promotes ratification through its coordination mechanisms, policy dialogue, existing and newly created instruments, as well as international cooperation programmes. Documents resulting from such coordination mechanisms regularly refer to the importance of ratification. Moreover, many EU cooperation programmes and policies include ratification of the Convention as a condition for participation.

21. Ratification was promoted by the EU and some Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), notably the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), which made ratifying the Convention a prerequisite to becoming a member or observer. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie through its inter-parliamentary Conference on the diversity of cultural expressions (2-3 February 2011 in Québec, Canada) adopted the "Québec Declaration on the commitment of the parliamentarians of la Francophonie to implement the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions," calling upon parliamentarians to initiate and support ratification of the Convention.

22. On 3 August 2012, the Secretariat also sent a letter to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, inviting it to forward relevant information on activities undertaken by civil society organizations. While the Liaison Committee was unable to coordinate inputs by Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) due to lack of resources, the Secretariat managed to

² Afghanistan, Austria, Costa Rica, Germany, Latvia, Mexico, Slovakia and the European Union (EU).

receive replies from two international civil society organizations³. Actions by civil society organizations demonstrate their continuing engagement as a bridge between governmental authorities, artists, cultural professionals and citizens. As a key stakeholder of the Convention, civil society organizations participated in a number of activities, systematically highlighting the importance of ratification. Information document CE/12/6.IGC/INF.5 provides a summary of specific activities taken by them.

23. The Secretariat in cooperation with Field Offices and UNESCO at large implemented the ratification strategy mainly in the following two ways. One was through strategically participating in planned meetings which involved Parties and non-Parties to the Convention. This proved to be highly cost-effective, allowing the Secretariat to avoid spending on travel while ensuring its strong presence, creating synergies between meeting organizers and the Secretariat. The other way was by producing awareness-raising and information tools and making them available on the Convention's website.

Priority activities in under-represented regions and subregions

24. Several Parties and civil society organizations undertook activities to raise awareness of the Convention and promote ratification particularly in Asia and Pacific. For example, Bangladesh organized from 9 to 11 May 2012 a Ministerial Forum on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The first of its kind, the Forum was in part funded by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and brought together representatives of more than 30 states from the region, which resulted in the adoption of the "Dhaka Declaration". The Declaration calls on states in the Asia and the Pacific region to ratify the Convention, indicating concrete actions to be taken to strengthen regional cultural cooperation in favour of protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. Given the strategic importance of the Forum, UNESCO ensured a strong presence through the participation of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary of the Convention as well as UNESCO Bangkok office. The participation of the Director-General was indeed significant and received wide-spread media coverage.

25. During 2011 and 2012, the Director-General contributed to the implementation of the ratification strategy by encouraging UNESCO Member States non-Parties to the Convention to ratify, especially in under-represented regions and subregions. During her official visits to UNESCO's Member States, most recently in Myanmar in April 2012, in Bangladesh in May 2012, and in the Russian Federation in June 2012, she highlighted the importance of ratification and benefits of becoming a Party to the Convention. She also raised the importance of ratification at a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings that she held with numerous authorities, especially during the 36th General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011. In her official speeches and editorials, she stressed the importance of UNESCO's cultural conventions, including and especially the 2005 Convention, for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

26. In 2011, the Secretariat commissioned two research papers, one on Southeast Asia and the other on Arab states, with the aim of better understanding the regional contexts and reasons why ratification has so far been lagging behind in these regions. Major findings include: lack of cultural policies and limited financial resources for cultural industries; lack of awareness about the Convention even among key stakeholders (artists, cultural professionals, officials working in the Ministry of Culture); need to improve information dissemination to reach out to diverse stakeholders; need to communicate more explicitly about benefits of the ratification; need to create and disseminate customized messages according to target audiences. The findings serve as the basis of awareness-raising brochures that the Secretariat is currently finalizing.

³ The International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) and the Arterial Network.

27. UNESCO Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Jakarta Offices cooperated to organize the first Southeast Asian Expert Meeting on the Convention (20-21 October 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia) in which the Secretary of the Convention participated. The Meeting, which brought together 25 experts from nine Southeast Asian states, resulted in the creation of a regional expert network and a regional action plan designed to promote awareness of the Convention and to increase the number of Parties from the region. The UNESCO Bangkok Office is coordinating follow-up activities.

28. For the Pacific region, the UNESCO Apia Office participated in the Pacific Ministers of Culture meeting (4 July 2012 in Honiara, Solomon Islands), as did the General Secretary of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity. This meeting launched a consultation process on the Convention in the Pacific region and resulted in a public pledge by a number of non-Parties to the Convention.

29. For the Arab states, the German National Commission for UNESCO organized an international working conference entitled “CONNEXIONS: Cultural life, diversity of cultural expressions, human development – perspectives and actions” in Hammamet, Tunisia (6-8 September 2012). This conference brought together experts from across the Arab states to raise awareness of the Convention and thereby empowering civil society in their advocacy work to promote ratification.

Awareness-raising activities and information tools

30. In conformity with the decision of the Committee (Decision 4.IGC 4), the Secretariat organized an exchange session entitled “Ratification makes a Difference” on the first day of the third session of the Conference of Parties (14 June 2011 in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters). Five panellists representing different stakeholders (Parties to the Convention, non-Parties, civil society players) presented their views on the Convention and why they think the ratification is important. The webcast video of the session is available from the Convention website at www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/cultural-diversity/diversity-of-cultural-expressions/meetings/conference-of-parties/sessions/3cp/information-session-ratification-makes-a-difference/.

31. The Secretariat launched in August 2011 a new look and structure of a trilingual website of the Convention (English, French, Spanish) (www.unesco.org/culture/en/2005convention/) with substantial improvement in navigability and functionality. The Convention website functions as a main platform for information dissemination and exchange. New photos and videos are constantly uploaded to make the website a dynamic communication tool. For instance, a one-minute promotional video spot “protect, foster, recognize, promote, strengthen” was produced by a group of students from the “Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños” (Cuba), in cooperation with UNESCO Havana Office. It is often used by UNESCO field colleagues to present the 2005 Convention to various stakeholders.

32. A first edition of the Basic Texts of the Convention was published in UNESCO’s six official languages in December 2011. Printed versions were distributed to all Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, National Commissions for UNESCO, national points of contact for the Convention, UNESCO Field Offices, as well as to institutions, foundations, universities, experts and individuals working in fields relevant to the Convention. The Convention’s info kit has further been enriched by the addition of its Arabic version. The info kit is now available in twelve languages, including in six official languages of UNESCO. The electronic versions of the Basic Texts and all language versions of the info kit are available for download at www.unesco.org/culture/en/2005convention/.

33. Finally, with the funds made available by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust (Spanish FIT), the Secretariat is currently finalizing a series of electronic brochures on the following topics, responding to needs for such materials expressed by the Convention’s stakeholders:

- What is the 2005 Convention?

- 10 steps to implement the 2005 Convention
- 10 reasons to ratify the 2005 Convention
- 2005 Convention by and for Civil Society
- 2005 Convention: Commitment to Culture and Development

Next Steps

34. Achieving near-universal ratification depends on the capacity of Parties, the Secretariat, and other key actors such as civil society organizations to reach out to various stakeholders and deliver key messages about the importance and benefits of ratification. It also requires an evidence-based approach to demonstrate how and why ratification does make a difference for the international community, national governments, civil society and citizens at large. Considering that sharing good practices is one of the most effective means to promote ratification, the Secretariat will seek the means to continue developing its knowledge management system so that information gathered through the quadrennial periodic reports and other mechanisms such as the IFCD and the consultation on Article 21 can systematically be made accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

35. Building on the achievements made by the participants of the Hammamet conference (September 2012) mentioned above, the Secretariat will work in cooperation with Parties, the European Commission and UNESCO Field Offices to organize in the Arab states a two-day subregional awareness-raising meeting on the Convention in the second half of 2013. This meeting will gather participants from Parties and non-Parties, including policy makers, cultural professionals as well as civil society actors, to engage them in a dialogue about the objectives of the Convention and why the Convention is relevant to them. The aim is to empower stakeholders who would then advocate for ratification and implementation of the Convention in their countries.

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

DRAFT DECISION 6.IGC 10

The Committee,

1. *Having examined document CE/12/6.IGC/10 and its Annexes;*
2. *Takes note of the progress of ratifications (2011-2012);*
3. *Requests Parties and civil society to continue their efforts to implement the strategy for encouraging ratification in 2013 and communicate to the Secretariat the results of the steps that they have taken to increase the number of ratification;*
4. *Further requests the Secretariat to prepare an information document on this matter and transmit it to the Conference of Parties at its fourth ordinary session (June 2013);*
5. *Invites the Secretariat to submit to it at its seventh ordinary session in December 2013 a document reporting on the outcomes achieved through implementing the ratification strategy between 2010 and 2013;*
6. *Thanks the Government of Spain for its long-standing support to the Secretariat for awareness-raising activities;*
7. *Further invites the Secretariat to continue sharing information and good practices on the implementation of the Convention as an effective means of promoting ratification.*

Annex I
State of ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups

Group I	
States Parties ⁴	Non-States Parties
Andorra	Belgium
Austria	Israel
Canada	San Marino
Cyprus	Turkey
Denmark	United States of America
Finland	
France	
Germany	
Greece	
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Monaco	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Portugal	
Spain	
Sweden	
Switzerland	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	

Group II	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Albania	Russian Federation
Armenia	Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan	
Belarus	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Czech Republic	
Estonia	
Georgia	
Hungary	
Latvia	
Lithuania	
Montenegro	
Poland	
Republic of Moldova	
Romania	
Serbia	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Tajikistan	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Ukraine	

Group III	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Argentina	Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados	Bahamas
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Belize
Brazil	Colombia
Chile	Dominica
Costa Rica	El Salvador
Cuba	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Dominican Republic	Suriname
Ecuador	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Grenada	
Guatemala	
Guyana	
Haiti	
Honduras	
Jamaica	
Mexico	
Nicaragua	
Panama	
Paraguay	
Peru	
Saint Lucia	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Uruguay	

Group IV	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Afghanistan	Bhutan
Australia	Brunei Darussalam
Bangladesh	Cook Islands
Cambodia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
China	Fiji
India	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Indonesia	Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Kazakhstan
Mongolia	Kiribati
New Zealand	Kyrgyzstan
Republic of Korea	Malaysia
Viet Nam	Maldives
	Marshall Islands
	Micronesia (Federated States of)
	Myanmar
	Nauru
	Nepal
	Niue
	Pakistan
	Palau
	Papua New Guinea
	Philippines
	Samoa
	Singapore
	Solomon Islands
	Sri Lanka
	Thailand
	Timor-Leste
	Tonga
	Turkmenistan
	Tuvalu
	Vanuatu

Group V(a)	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Angola	Botswana
Benin	Cape Verde
Burkina Faso	Comoros
Burundi	Eritrea
Cameroon	Ghana
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau
Chad	Liberia
Congo	Sao Tome and Principe
Côte d'Ivoire	Sierra Leone
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Somalia
Djibouti	South Sudan
Equatorial Guinea	Swaziland
Ethiopia	Uganda
Gabon	Zambia
Gambia	
Guinea	
Kenya	
Lesotho	
Madagascar	
Malawi	
Mali	
Mauritius	
Mozambique	
Namibia	
Niger	
Nigeria	
Rwanda	
Senegal	
Seychelles	
South Africa	
Togo	
United Republic of Tanzania	
Zimbabwe	

Group V(b)	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Egypt	Algeria
Jordan	Bahrain
Kuwait	Iraq
Oman	Lebanon
Palestine	Libya
Qatar	Mauritania
Sudan	Morocco
Syrian Arab Republic	Saudi Arabia
Tunisia	Yemen
United Arab Emirates	

⁴ The European Union is a Party to the Convention under Article 27.3 of the Convention.

Annex II

Relevant documents and decisions/resolutions regarding the ratification strategy

Session	Document (reference)	Download
2 nd extraordinary session of the Committee, March 2009	Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7	http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/diversity/convention/2extigc/Decisions_en_2_ext%20igc.pdf
2 nd ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, June 2009	Resolution 2.CP 7	http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/diversity/pdf/convention_2005/CoP/Resolutions_2CP_en.pdf
3 rd ordinary session of the Committee, December 2009	Working document on the “Strategy for encouraging ratifications of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” (CE/09/3.IGC/211/4)	http://www.unesco.org/culture/fr/diversity/convention/3igc/3IGC_4_strategie_ratification_en.pdf
	Decision 3.IGC 4	http://www.unesco.org/culture/fr/diversity/convention/3igc/final_decisions_3igc_en.pdf
4 th ordinary session of the Committee, December 2010	Working document presenting “Progress of ratifications to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” (CE/10/4.IGC/205/4)	http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/diversity/pdf/convention_2005/IFCD/4IGC_4_Etat_avancement_des_ratifications_en.pdf
	Decision 4.IGC 4	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_4IGC_decisions_en_10_12_10.pdf
3 rd ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, June 2011	Information document presenting “Progress of ratifications of the Convention and implementation of the ratification strategy” (CE/11/3.CP/209/INF.4)	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_3CP_INF4_Strategie_ratification_en.pdf
	CE/11/3.CP/209/Res.	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_3CP_resolutions_en.pdf