



የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ  
የባህልና ቱሪዝም ሚኒስቴር

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

**Re-Shaping cultural policies in Ethiopia**  
**A multi-stakeholder consultation meeting**  
**Tuesday 30 April 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**Venue: Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH)**

**Overall context**

***Supporting policy monitoring***

The 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, ratified by Ethiopia in 2008, recognizes the sovereign right of States to formulate and implement policies and measures that support the emergence of diverse and dynamic cultural and creative sectors. It also ensures that policies and measures are designed and implemented through informed, participatory and transparent processes.

To achieve this, countries have committed, through the preparation of quadrennial periodic reports (QPR), to collect and share information and data, identify achievements and challenges on policies and measures that can protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions. This reporting process goes well beyond a technical exercise; it is designed to support, through multi-stakeholder dialogues between government and civil society, innovative, forward-looking and evidence-based cultural policymaking.

In 2014-2017, with the financial support of the Government of Sweden, UNESCO implemented in 12 countries, including Ethiopia, a project called *“Enhancing fundamental freedoms through the promotion of the Diversity of cultural expressions”*. During this process, UNESCO supported the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ethiopia in organizing consultation meetings with representatives of

government ministries and civil society organizations and organizing workshops (on policy monitoring for an Ethiopian national team composed of 17 members from various ministries and representatives of professional associations of film, writers and design. Ethiopia’s periodic report was submitted to UNESCO on 12 December 2016.

***Identifying policy priorities and challenges***

The **quadrennial periodic report (2016)** submitted by Ethiopia highlights important achievements and challenges in policy areas to support creativity in line with the objectives of the 2005 Convention. Among the critical priorities to be addressed: training and capacity building, establishment of an Arts Council, creation of platforms for cooperation, financial support to creative sectors; lowering of taxation on cultural equipment; etc.

The adoption of a new **National Cultural Policy (2015)**, promoting the role of culture for peace, independence, democratization and sustainable development, was a key achievement. This policy recognizes the strategic importance of cultural Industries for the diversity of the country, and calls for action through, for example: support to cultural associations, Investment incentives for entrepreneurs; access to training and credit to associations, individuals and institutions engaged in the cultural industry development sector; protection of intellectual property and other related rights of cultural professionals.



የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ  
የባህልና ቱሪዝም ሚኒስቴር

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

**Next steps? Time for implementation**

***Supporting cultural industries***

Ethiopia’s new **Cultural Policy** states that “Investment incentives shall be put in place for entrepreneurs who want to establish cultural industries”. It also underlines that “Entrepreneurs shall be encouraged to establish theatres, cinemas, galleries for exhibition of paintings and sculptures, and other institutions that support cultural development”.

As an immediate follow-up action, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has prepared in December 2018 a study on incentives supporting creative sectors (film, visual arts, performing arts, book, etc.), currently under consideration by the **Ethiopian Investment Commission**. Most of the proposals call for the creation of new regulatory policy, fiscal and legal environments in order for the sectors to thrive. This study highlights in particular some of the following proposals for the film sector: investment in modern training equipment and technologies; support to co-productions and access to international markets; access to credit services; lowering of taxation, establishment of funds, etc.

***Ethiopia’s new Film policy***

Ethiopia’s new **Film Policy** (2017) has identified a range of key policy issues, covering in particular human resources; infrastructure; production, distribution and market development; copyright; financial support and incentives. It also puts forth an implementation strategy, with institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks to be established (e.g., Film Development Fund; Arts Council, National Film Institute; Film library and museum; fiscal incentives; copyright protection; trainings; infrastructures for digital distribution; support for film clubs; health and work-related insurance for film workers; etc.). It also reaffirms the importance of protecting

freedom of creation and right to creativity, and the role of public, private and civil society actors in implementing this policy. A first “Culture Forum” on the Implementation of the Film Policy was organized on 9 October 2018 by Selam Ethiopia, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ethiopian Film Producers Sectoral Association (EFPSA).

***UNESCO’s support: key objectives***

The project “*Reshaping cultural policies for the promotion of fundamental freedoms and the diversity of cultural expressions*” (2018-2021) is implemented by UNESCO, with the financial support of the Government of Sweden. It concerns 16 partner countries, including Ethiopia, and is designed as a continuation of the project “Enhancing fundamental freedoms through the promotion of the Diversity of cultural expressions”, to enhance transparent and participatory policy monitoring and making.

Through this project, UNESCO will assist Ethiopia in implementing its policy priorities, in line with commitments taken under the 2005 Convention to support creativity and fundamental freedoms, including gender equality and artistic freedom.

This public multi-stakeholder consultation meeting is therefore organized to discuss main cultural policy priorities for creative sectors stemming from the QPR and the new Cultural Policy (morning session), and put forward proposals for future action, focusing in particular on the implementation of the new Film policy (afternoon session).

**Expected results:**

The immediate expected result is to engage all concerned stakeholders from both governmental, non-governmental and the private sectors, as well as artists/creators, to **discuss and collectively agree on priority areas for operationalizing the film policy**. An overall goal is to continue an inclusive dialogue



የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ  
የባህልና ቱሪዝም ሚኒስቴር

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

process that can lead to the effective design and implementation of policies and measures that will enhance access to cultural life and promote the diversity of cultural expressions in Ethiopia.

This meeting is organized at a time when the Government of Ethiopia, for the first time, is

hosting World Press Freedom Day, in cooperation with UNESCO and the African Union (Addis, 1-3 may 2019).

**Supporting documents:**

- Ethiopia's [Quadrennial Periodic Report](#) (2016)
- Ethiopia's [national Cultural Policy](#) (2015)

## Agenda

- 8h30 Registration of participants. Participants are to indicate in which focus group (film sector) they would like to participate in the afternoon.
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening ceremony**
  - Welcoming remarks by Ana Elisa Santana Afonso, Director of UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa
  - Statement by HE Bizunesh Meseret, State Minister for Culture
  - Statement by His Excellency Torbjörn Pettersson, Ambassador of Sweden to Ethiopia
- 9:30-9:45 **Enhancing policy dialogues on creative sectors and fundamental freedoms:** Presentation by Danielle Cliche, Secretary of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 9:45-10:30 **A new vision for Ethiopia's cultural policy.** Presentation by Yisma Tsige, Director of the Directorate of Cultural Industries Development and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Mr Anteneh Alemuh, Deputy Commissioner, Ethiopian Investment Commission (tbc)
  - Cultural Policy of Ethiopia (2015)
  - Ethiopia's first quadrennial periodic report (QPR, 2016) to UNESCO on the implementation of the 2005 Convention
  - Ministry Study to support creative sectors, currently under examination by the Investment Commission (2018)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:30 **Public debate, Q&A**
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-17:00 **Operationalizing Ethiopia's Film Policy (2017)**
  - Implementing Ethiopia's' Film Policy: remarks by Yisma Tsige
  - New avenues for action: remarks by Bineyame Alemayehu, President of Ethiopian Film producers association, and Desalegn Hailu, President of Ethiopian film makers association



የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ  
የባህልና ቱሪዝም ሚኒስቴር

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Thematic discussion (in plenary or, if relevant, in 4 working groups):

- (a) Training and Institutional support (Arts Council, National Film Institute, Film library and museum, training, s film clubs, etc.)
- (b) Funding (Film Development Fund, fiscal incentives, etc.)

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

- (c) Market access (digital distribution, co-production facilities, film festivals and cooperation platforms, etc.)
- (d) Gender, Economic and social rights

17:15-17:30 **Wrap-up session: findings and way forward**, by Yisma Tsige and Danielle Cliche