**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 6 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund:**

**voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues**

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| **Summary**In accordance with Article 25.5 of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee. The present document: (1) reports on such contributions and other types of voluntary contributions received between the thirteenth session of the Committee and September 2019; and (2) brings to the attention of the Committee a recommendation regarding the Management Cost rate of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.**Decision required:** paragraph 18 |

1. Chapter VI of the Convention, concerning the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereafter, ‘the Fund’), establishes that States Parties may wish to provide voluntary supplementary contributions (Article 27) in addition to their assessed contributions (Article 26). Such contributions may be made in favor of specific projects, ‘provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee’, according to Article 25.5.
2. At its twelfth session, the Committee approved two new funding priorities for the period 2018– 2021: (1) ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contribute to sustainable development’ to continue efforts to extend the reach and effectiveness of the global capacity‑building strategy; and (2) ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, an initiative established in response to Article 2 of the Convention that defines transmission through formal and non-formal education as a safeguarding measure ([Decision 12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6)). The resource mobilization targets set for the two funding priorities were US$5 million and US$2 million, respectively, for the period 2018–2021.
3. At the present session, the Secretariat is asked to report on the progress made in the implementation of any voluntary supplementary contributions it has received since the thirteenth session ([Decision 13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6)). Furthermore, the Committee took note that States make use of different forms of support to the Convention, financial and in-kind, and not only of voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund ([Decision 7.COM 20.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/7.COM/20.1)). It therefore requested that the Secretariat report at each session of the Committee on all forms of contributions received since the previous session. Accordingly, the list of contributions in support of the 2003 Convention received between the thirteenth session of the Committee and September 2019 is annexed to the present document.
4. **State of affairs**
5. Since December 2018, no new voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund have been received, for the second consecutive year, for earmarked activities contributing to either of the two funding priorities approved by the Committee for the period 2018–2021. However, one contribution was received in 2019 to support the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention, as approved by the Committee at its thirteenth session ([Decision 13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6)). Meanwhile, in addition to the in-kind support provided by two States Parties, two contributions were made to the sub-fund to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat (see Annex).
6. In recent years, the growing amount of funding available in the Fund was identified as one of the main causes for the plummeting level of voluntary contributions. Much effort has been devoted in the current biennium to intensifying the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms of the Fund (see documents [LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx) and [LHE/19/14.COM/INF.7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-INF.7-EN.docx)) and to deploying outreach initiatives that illustrate the diversity of intangible cultural heritage and its role in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see [document LHE/19/14.COM/5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-5.b-EN.docx)). The increased implementation of the International Assistance mechanism represents a very positive trend that allowed the Fund to respond to an increasing number of needs expressed by States Parties and to enhance the visibility of the Convention. However, considering the human resources at hand, the emphasis on the implementation of the Fund also means that efforts towards mobilizing additional financial resources have not been as extensive as they could have been.
7. Furthermore, the corollary of the intensification in the implementation of the Fund is that the foreseen overall budget of the Fund for the coming biennium will be lower than the approved budget of the current biennium, and several budget lines will consequently be reduced. For instance, the amount allocated to the ‘other functions of the Committee’ will decrease, possibly by around 19 per cent in terms of nominal amount for the 2020–2021 period, should the proposed draft plan of the use of the resources of the Fund set out in [draft decision 14.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx) be approved. This means that, in the near future, the Fund may not be able to continue funding as many activities as it currently does, despite new emerging needs such as specialized capacity-building activities in a growing number of States Parties, upstream policy work or training activities linked to the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism.
8. Taking this perspective into account, the Secretariat will intensify its efforts to raise funds for the two funding priorities as well as to enhance its human resources. Considering the foreseen decrease in the amount available for International Assistance from the Fund, all States Parties should be encouraged to consider providing support to the Convention through the modality of their choice.

**Funding priority 1: Capacity-building programme**

1. The current biennium (39 C/5) is marked by a sharp decline in both earmarked contributions and Funds-in-Trust arrangements supporting the global capacity-building programme. During the reporting period, no contribution to the Fund were received for this funding priority. Despite the generous contributions from Belgium (Flanders) and Japan in 2018, for a combined approved budget of US$377,467 in 2018, it will be difficult to reach the fixed target of US$5 million for the 2018–2021 quadrennium ([Decision 12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6)).
2. Furthermore, it should be noted that the ongoing project ‘Intangible Heritage and Creativity for Sustainable Cities’ supported by the private sector of the People’s Republic of China, includes a component dedicated to capacity-building for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (2017-2020; budget allocation of the component: US$639,580).
3. Considering the increase in the number of International Assistance requests submitted and approved (see documents [LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx) and [LHE/19/14.COM/9.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-9.b-EN.docx)), it could be inferred that capacity-building needs are being progressively addressed through International Assistance. However, as the overall budget of the Fund, and with it the allocation dedicated to International Assistance, is foreseen to decrease in the coming biennium, voluntary contributions will become even more crucial, as the Fund might not always be in a position to support all the requests submitted to it.

**Funding priority 2: Intangible cultural heritage in education**

1. Under the funding priority ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ approved by the Committee in December 2017, the Secretariat has intensified its advocacy and upstream efforts at the global, regional and national levels (see the Report of the Secretariat under [document LHE/19/14.COM/5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-5.b-EN.docx)), although no voluntary contribution to the Fund has been received so far.
2. Meanwhile, the project ‘2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Engaging Youth for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future’ supported by the European Commission, under which one component is dedicated to raising awareness about and learning with intangible cultural heritage in European schools (2018-2020; budget allocation of the component: US$234,599), was operationally launched in 2019.

**Strengthening the human resources of the Secretariat**

1. Recognizing that the Secretariat’s ability to provide quality services to Member States depends largely on its human resources, many and various donors have provided support over the years. This support was most recently reflected in [Decision 7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8) of the General Assembly to create three new extra-budgetary fixed-term posts in order to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat for the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms of the Fund (see [document LHE/19/14.COM/INF.7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-INF.7-EN.docx)). Beyond the three posts, in-kind contributions from the governments of China and Singapore, as well as two voluntary contributions for a consolidated amount of US$12,855.56 from the governments of Monaco and Montenegro, were received since the last session of the Committee.
2. The three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts, together with the in-kind and financial contributions received during the present biennium, contribute to addressing the needs identified by the Secretariat in terms of human resources, even though the annual target of the sub-fund, set at US$1.1 million by the General Assembly in 2010 ([Resolution 3.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/9)), will not be reached. Since the target was first set in 2010, the Convention has considerably expanded its geographical reach (from 113 States Parties in 2010 to 178 as of September 2019) and its thematic scope, for instance through the development of an outreach and communication plan and recent initiatives on ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ as well as ‘intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’. Furthermore, the recent reform of the periodic reporting mechanism and the reflections launched by the Committee on the listing mechanisms of the Convention as well as on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations demonstrate that the expansion of the Convention comes with emerging needs and challenges. To adequately continue addressing these emerging needs and enhancing the implementation of the Convention, contributions to the sub-fund are still necessary[[1]](#footnote-1). Given that the annual target of the sub-fund was first set in 2010, it may be timely that the Secretariat reassess it with the view to propose a revised target to the General Assembly at its next session in 2020.

**Ongoing earmarked activities**

1. Finally, the implementation of the following earmarked activities, financed with voluntary supplementary contributions, continued during the reporting period:

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| **Project** | **Contributors** | **Last report issued** |
| Improvement of the periodic reporting mechanisms under the 2003 Convention | Republic of Korea | - |
| Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention | Japan | - |
| Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through strengthening national capacities in Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia | Norway and Spain (Generalitat de Catalunya) | [Progress report (2017](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-strengthening-national-capacities-in-morocco-mauritania-and-tunisia-00281)) |
| Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Guatemala | Azerbaijan | [Final report (2018](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-national-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-guatemala-00372)) |
| Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh | Azerbaijan | [Final report (2019](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-the-capacities-of-bangladesh-for-implementing-the-2003-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-00371)) |
| Strengthening the capacities of Eritrea for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage | Norway | [Final report (2019)](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-the-capacities-of-eritrea-for-implementing-the-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-00272) |
| Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage | Netherlands | [Final report Phase III (2018)](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-the-capacities-of-suriname-and-dutch-caribbean-islands-for-implementing-the-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-00328) |

1. **Management Cost rate of the Fund**
2. The Fund, as well as other comparable multi-donor special accounts such as the World Heritage Fund, has benefitted from a special Management Cost rate derogation (0 per cent), granted by the Director-General with regard to their assessed contributions, while 10 per cent was charged on voluntary supplementary contributions.
3. At its thirteenth session ([Decision 13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6)), the Committee took note of the Executive Board document [204 EX/5 Part II.E](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002615/261576e.pdf) on ‘Cost recovery policy: Revised Proposal for a differential rate policy for Management Cost Rates’ and its related decision, according to which the Board decided that multi-donor special accounts should now be subject to a new rate of 7 per cent, instead of the previous standard rate of 10 per cent. The document presented to the 204thsession of the Executive Board stated that ‘necessary consultations with the Governing Bodies of States Parties to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and to the World Heritage Convention will take place between June 2018 and November 2019’ (see document [204 EX/5 Part II.E](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ExtractPDF.pl?catno=261576&lang=e&from=126&to=139&display=2&ts=1534862511), paragraph 14). At its 42nd session in 2018, the World Heritage Committee decided to ‘recommend strongly that the current Management Cost rate of 0 per cent continues to apply to the special account of the World Heritage Fund’ ([Decision 42 COM 14](https://whc.unesco.org/document/168796)).
4. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

**DRAFT DECISION 14.COM 6**

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/19/14.COM/6 Rev.,
2. Recalling Article 25.5 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling its previous decisions regarding voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and most recently its Decision [13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6),
4. Also recalling Executive Board Document [204 EX/5 Part II.E](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002615/261576e.pdf) on ‘Cost recovery policy: Revised Proposal for a differential rate policy for Management Cost Rates’ and its related decision,
5. Expresses appreciation to all the contributors that have generously supported the Convention and its Secretariat since its last session, namely Japan, Monaco and Montenegro, as well as to the People’s Republic of China and Singapore for their in-kind support;
6. Takes note that no supplementary voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund have yet been received in line with the two funding priorities approved for the period 2018–2021, and encourages States Parties to consider supporting the Convention, in particular within the scope of the two funding priorities set for the period 2018–2021 and the sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat, taking into account the recent efforts and success in implementing the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
7. Further encourages the Secretariat, in line with its outreach and communication plan, to pursue its efforts to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Convention, in particular for the two funding priorities approved for the period 2018–2021, and enhance the human resources of the Secretariat;
8. Requests that the Secretariat reassess its human resource needs and submit a new revised annual target of the sub-fund to enhance its human resources, for examination by the General Assembly at its eighth session in 2020;
9. **Option A**

Recommends that the General Assembly endorse the continued application of a Management Cost rate of 0 per cent for all assessed contributions to the special account of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;

**Option B**

Recommends that the General Assembly endorse the application of a Management Cost rate of 7 per cent for all contributions, including assessed contributions, to the special account of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in line with the Revised UNESCO Cost Recovery Policy;

1. Further requests that the Secretariat report, at its fifteenth session, on the progress made in the implementation of any voluntary supplementary contributions it may have received since the fourteenth session.

**ANNEX**

**Cash and in-kind contributions received in support to the 2003 Convention between**

**the thirteenth session of the Committee (December 2018) and September 2019**

**Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

**Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention**

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| Japan | US$267,238.00 |

**Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat**

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| Monaco | US$11,376.60 |
| Montenegro | US$1,478.96 |

**Loans and Secondments**

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| China | 2 months at P-2 level |
| Singapore | 10 months at P-2 level |

1. . See paragraph 26 of [document LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)