**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Open-ended intergovernmental working group  
in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms**

**Online  
25 and 26 April 2022 (Part III)**

**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Agenda, objectives and working methodology (Part III)**

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| **Summary**  In the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, and at the request of the sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Open-ended intergovernmental working group is convened for its Part III meeting. While the working group successfully addressed the priority reflection topics during its Part I and Part II meetings in 2021, the Committee considered that the discussion on additional issues needed to be concluded in order to complete the reflection (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)). The present document provides the objectives and working methodology of the Part III meeting, together with an annotated agenda. |

**Background**

1. The global reflection[[1]](#footnote-1) was launched in 2018 by the thirteenth session of the Committee to address broad, complex and inter-related aspects of the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention. The process has been supported with financial assistance from Japan (Decisions [12.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/14), [13.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/6) and [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10)). The reflection has already borne fruit, in terms of the formalisation of the dialogue process in the evaluation of nominations as an ‘early harvest’ of the process (Resolution [8.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/10)) and through the engagement of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (hereafter ‘the working group’) in 2021 (see below for the working documents of the working group). The working group based its work on proposals received through an inclusive and extensive consultation with experts (document [LHE/21/16.COM EXP/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-7-EN.docx)).

**Parts I and II of the working group and the sixteenth session of the Committee**

1. During its Part I (online, 8 and 9 July 2021) and Part II (online, 9 and 10 September 2021) meetings, the working group members considered that the reformed listing system should continue to place communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals at the centre of safeguarding efforts and strive to further enhance their active participation in all steps of the listing processes. This point was specifically underlined by the sixteenth session of the Committee (paragraph 6 of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)).
2. The working group focused on the priority issues identified by the fourteenth session of the Committee (document [LHE/19/14.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-14-EN.docx) and Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)) that have major implications for the further development of the Convention. In particular:
3. On issues related to **inscription criteria**, the working group recommended that all criteria for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (hereafter ‘the Representative List’) and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (hereafter ‘the Urgent Safeguarding List’) be maintained. In response to recurrent difficulties encountered with criterion R.2 in the nomination process, the working group recommended that the General Assembly reformulate and simplify the nomination form focusing on the contribution of nominated elements to sustainable development and to encouraging mutual respect and dialogue among communities, groups and, if appropriate, individuals.
4. As regards specific procedures for **transferring elements** from and between Lists, the adjustments proposed to the General Assembly are guided by three main considerations: (a) fast-tracking and facilitating access to financial assistance and technical support in order to encourage safeguarding efforts concerning elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List; (b) reinforcing the monitoring system through the periodic reporting mechanism to ensure that the safeguarding plans are implemented; and (c) facilitating the transfer of elements between the Lists, including the inclusion of successful safeguarding plans under the Urgent Safeguarding List in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.
5. The procedure for the **removal of elements** would include the possibility for communities, groups and, if appropriate, individuals to initiate removal requests. Another novelty is the introduction of an interim measure to place a nominated element under ‘enhanced follow-up’ status if the Committee considers that additional information is needed.
6. Concerning the methodology for evaluating nominations, specific procedures have been proposed for **inscribing elements on an extended or reduced** **basis** (both at the international and the national levels). The main reform that is proposed is a lighter procedure for an extension at the international and at the national level. For both types of extensions, the State Party is asked to demonstrate the consent of the original communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals for the extension. Similarly, for the reduction procedure, the State Party is required to demonstrate the free, prior and informed consent to the reduction of the element by the communities, groups and, where appropriate individuals who are proposed to be removed from the inscribed element.
7. As regards these above-mentioned issues, the sixteenth session of the Committee in 2021 recommended that the ninth session of the General Assembly in mid-2022 revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of the recommendations of the Part I and Part II meetings of the working group (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)). (See annexes I and II of document [LHE/21/16.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx)).
8. The Committee also decided to encourage a set of three measures in order to ensure inclusivity and a broader involvement of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals in the listing system (paragraph 8 of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)). They concern the use of the community's language(s) in the nomination forms, the use of technology for providing information and the use of gender-neutral and inclusive language in all aspects of the listing processes. While they do not figure in the proposed amendments in the Operational Directives as such, they will be reflected in the nomination forms which will be revised after the ninth session of the General Assembly.
9. In parallel, the sixteenth session of the Committee also accepted the recommendation of the working group to initiate an additional reflection on broader implications and improved functioning of Article 18 of the Convention. The general feeling is that, beyond what was proposed in terms of the new procedure for the transfer of elements (see paragraph 3 (ii) above), the potential of this mechanism has not been fully explored, particularly for making sure that communities can benefit from the sharing good practices when safeguarding their living heritage. The working group decided that this new reflection on Article 18 should include the continuation of the discussion on how to enhance dialogue and communication amongst stakeholders of the 2003 Convention, including the communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned (paragraph 12 of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)). In order to support this initiative, Sweden made a contribution in September 2021 in the form of an additional appropriation to the Regular Programme of UNESCO (document [LHE/21/16.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-12-EN.docx)). An expert meeting is being planned to prepare for a potential intergovernmental discussion on this topic.

**Objectives and working methods for the Part III meeting**

1. During the Part I and Part II meetings of the working group, additional issues were brought up that could not be addressed on time. Upon the request of the working group, the sixteenth session of the Committee decided to extend its mandate and convene a Part III meeting in early 2022 in order to discuss these additional issues (as listed in Decision [16.COM 14)](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14). As detailed below, these issues may be grouped into two main categories:
2. issues related to the annual number of files (including related aspects such as the composition and working methods of the Evaluation Body); and

(b)  any other technical issues that require further reflection.

1. These additional issues were considered by the working group to be essential for the reflection. The additional points would help the reformed listing system operate optimally, since they are related to how the States Parties would engage with the system. Some States Parties seek a reformed system in which a higher number of files per cycle can be evaluated, as they wish to increase the number of inscribed elements in their territories. Caution has been raised by other States, at the same time, that too much emphasis has been placed on the listing mechanisms at the expense of other activities could be undertaken, be it for capacity-building approach, thematic initiatives or other operational activities.
2. Part III of the working group's meeting will be composed of eight sessions **over the course of two days on 25 and 26 April 2022**.

* Given that Part III is a prolongation of the first two parts of the meeting, the agenda items and the corresponding working documents are presented as an extension of Part I and Part II of the working group's meeting (and start with Item 9, which is supported by document 9, and so on).Similarly, all working documents for Part III of the meeting are meant to be considered together with the documents previously presented for Parts I and II, and with documents [LHE/21/16.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx) and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.14-EN.docx), which were presented to the sixteenth session of the Committee.
* The Bureau established by Part I (and continued in Part II) of the working group remains in office until the end of Part III. It consists of H.E. Mr Atsuyuki Oike (Japan) as Chairperson as well as of a group of Vice-Chairpersons, one for each from the remaining Electoral Group, who also act as Rapporteurs: Germany, Poland, Peru, Côte d’Ivoire and Kuwait. The members will meet online on the two days of the meeting in order to facilitate the work and to adjust the working methods, including the timetable, as needed. As was the case for Parts I and II, the Part III Bureau meetings will be private.

**Annotated agenda**

1. After opening remarks by the Assistant Director-General for Culture at the beginning of Day 1 on 25 April 2022, the meeting will start, under Item 9, with an intervention by the Chairperson of the working group, H.E. Mr Atsuyuki Oike (Japan), in order to take stock of the main outcomes of Part I and Part II of the working group as well as **the objectives and working methods of Part III.**
2. **The rest of Day 1 will be dedicated to Item 10:**

**Item 10**: This item deals with the five discussion topics linked to the number of files per cycle (document [LHE/22/17.COM WG/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_WG-10-EN.docx)). These points are indicated under paragraph 14 (c) of ‘Ways forward’ in Annex I of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/14). The topic numbers are included below to facilitate the discussion. The working group may wish to focus on Topic 1. The proposal would be to undertake general discussion first to allow participating States Parties to express their views, before discussing more specifically possible recommendations related to topics covered by Item 10.

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| Conclude the following issues linked to the number of files per cycle:   * + *(Topic 1)* ‘Reviewing the adaptability of the composition and the working methods of the Evaluation Body to allow for a higher number of files per cycle to be evaluated, keeping in mind geographical representation’.   \*\*\*   * + *(Topic 2)* ‘Examining two files per State every three years, alternating between a nomination to the Representative List and the Urgent Safeguarding List or the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices’.   + *(Topic 3)* ‘Moving all International Assistance requests to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’.   + *(Topic 4)* ‘Whether the transfer requests from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List be treated as part of the annual ceiling approved by the Committee’.   + *(Topic 5)* ‘Whether the requests for extension be treated as part of the annual ceiling of files for examination and the priorities as defined by paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives’. |

1. The **proposed** plan is to start Day 2 with Item 11:

**Item 11**: This item concerns four other topics or aspects of the listing mechanisms (document [LHE/22/17.COM WG/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_WG-11-EN.docx)). Topic 6 and Topic 7 are from paragraphs 14 (a) and 14 (b) of ‘Ways forward’ in Annex I of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/14) as prepared by the working group. Topic 8 and Topic 9 were added by the sixteenth session of the Committee as shown in paragraph 11 of Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/14). The proposal would be, once again, to undertake general discussion first to allow participating States Parties to express their views, before discussing more specifically possible recommendations related to topics covered by Item 11.

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| * + *(Topic 6)* ‘Revising the priority for the examination of nomination files for States Parties that did not fulfil their reporting obligations concerning the implementation of the Convention and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List or on the Urgent Safeguarding List’.   + *(Topic 7)* ‘Debating the possibility of obtaining additional information regarding nominations by using a dialogue process with accredited NGOs and communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned’.   + *(Topic 8)* ‘Necessary procedure to examine exceptional cases’.   + *(Topic 9)* ‘Reflections on the possibility of introducing preliminary assessment procedures to the existing upstream process’. |

1. The last part of Day 2 will be dedicated to establishing specific recommendations for adoption by the working group under Item 12 (document [LHE/22/17.COM WG/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_WG-12-EN.docx)) based on the deliberations under Item 10 and Item 11.
2. According to the decision of the sixteenth session of the Committee, the results of Part III of the working group meeting may be examined by an extraordinary session of the Committee (scheduled as an online meeting on 31 May 2022) in the form of revised Operational Directives, after which the Committee may wish to send the proposed revisions for examination and adoption by the ninth session of the General Assembly in mid-2022 (scheduled as an in-person meeting from 5 to 7 July 2022).

**Agenda**

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| **Monday, 25 April 2022** | | | | |
| **Time** | **Item N°** | | | **Item** |
| As of 8.30 | | | | Registration of participants / Connectivity test |
| 9.30 – 9.40 | |  | **Opening**  Welcoming remarks by Mr Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture | |
| 9.40 – 10.00 | | **9** | **Agenda, objectives and working methodology of the meeting (Part III)**  Summary of Parts I and II meetings by H.E. Mr Atsuyuki Oike (Japan), Chairperson of Open-ended intergovernmental working group | |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | | **10** | **Towards a reformed listing system (Part III): Issues linked to the annual number of files**  Introduction by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention (10 minutes)  General discussion   * Overall approach | |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | | Break | | |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | | **10** | **Towards a reformed listing system (Part III): Issues linked to the annual number of files**  General discussion   * Annual number of files, order of priority and backlog files * Composition and working methods of the Evaluation Body | |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | | Long break | | |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | | **10** | **Towards a reformed listing system (Part III): Issues linked to the annual number of files**  General discussion   * Annual number of files, order of priority and backlog files * Composition and working methods of the Evaluation Body | |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | | Break (meeting of the Bureau) | | |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | | **10** | **Towards a reformed listing system (Part III): Issues linked to the annual number of files**  Discussion on the recommendations | |

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| **Tuesday, 26 April 2022** | | | | | |
| **Time** | **Item N°** | | | **Item** | |
| 9.30 – 11.00 | | **11** | **Other issues requiring further reflection (Part III):**   * ‘Revising the priority for the examination of nomination files for States Parties that did not fulfil their reporting obligations concerning the implementation of the Convention and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List or on the Urgent Safeguarding List’. * ‘Necessary procedure to examine exceptional cases’ | | |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | | Break | | | |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | | **11** | **Other issues requiring further reflection (Part III)**   * ‘Debating the possibility of obtaining additional information regarding nominations by using a dialogue process with accredited NGOs and communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned’ * ‘Reflections on the possibility of introducing preliminary assessment procedures to the existing upstream process’ | | |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | | Long break | | | |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | | **11** | **Other issues requiring further reflection (Part III)**  Discussion on the recommendations | | |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | | Break (meeting of the Bureau) | | | |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | | **12** | **Adoption of overall recommendations of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** | |

**Available documents**

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| **Part III of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting** | |
| [LHE/22/17.COM WG/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_WG-9-EN.docx) | Agenda, objectives and working methodology (Part III) |
| LHE/22/17.COM WG/10 | Towards a reformed listing system (Part III): Issues linked to the annual number of files |
| LHE/22/17.COM WG/11 | Other issues requiring further reflection (Part III) |
| LHE/22/17.COM WG/12 | Report to the Intergovernmental Committee |
| **Sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee** | |
| [LHE/21/16.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx) | Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention and proposal for related revisions to the Operational Directives |
| [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.14-EN.docx) | Summary Records of Part I and II |
| **Part II of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting** | |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-4-EN.docx) | Agenda and Timetable (Part II) |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-5-EN.docx) | Summary of Part I and meeting objectives for Part II |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-6-EN.docx) | Towards a reformed listing system (Part II): Transfer, removal and extension of elements inscribed on the Lists |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-7-EN.docx) | Other issues requiring further reflection |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-8-EN.docx) | Report to the Intergovernmental Committee |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/8 -ways forward](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-8-Ways_forward-EN-FR.docx) | Ways forward |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/Recommendations](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-Recommandations_EN.docx) | Recommendations |
| **Part I of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting** | |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-1-EN.docx) | Agenda and Timetable (Part I) |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-2-EN.docx) | Global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention: Progress to date and meeting objectives |
| [LHE/21/16.COM WG/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-3-EN.docx) | Towards a reformed listing system |
| [LHE/21/16.COM EXP/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-7-EN.docx) | Report of the expert meeting in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention |

1. General information concerning the global reflection process is available on the webpage of the 2003 Convention: [https://ich.unesco.org/en/global-reflection-on-the-listing-mechanisms-01164.](https://ich.unesco.org/en/global-reflection-on-the-listing-mechanisms-01164) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)