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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Eleventh session**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**28 November to 2 December 2016**

**Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Number of files submitted for the 2017 cycle and  
number of files that can be treated in the 2018 and 2019 cycle**

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| **Summary**  In conformity with paragraph 33 of the Operational Directives, the Committee is to determine two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals to the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000 that can be treated during the two following cycles. To that effect this document informs the Committee of the distribution of such files submitted for the 2017 cycle and provides an overview of the anticipated number of files regarding other mechanisms the Committee will examine during 2018 and 2019 in comparison to previous years.  **Decision required:** paragraph 16 |

1. Paragraph 33 of the Operational Directives states that ‘[t]he Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000.’ The Committee is therefore called upon to determine the number of such files that can be treated for the two following cycles, namely the 2018 and 2019 cycles.
2. The Committee by its [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13) established the limit of 50 files per cycle to be applied for the 2017 and 2018 cycles and ‘that at least one file per submitting State should be processed during the two-year period 2017-2018, within the agreed number of nominations per biennium’. It also invited States Parties ‘to take the present decision into account when submitting files for the 2017 and 2018 cycle’ and requested the Secretariat ‘to report to it on the number of files submitted for the 2017 cycle and its experience applying the Operational Directives and the present decision at its eleventh session’.

**Report on the 2017 cycle**

1. As of the 31 March 2016 deadline, the Secretariat received 42 new files, composed of four multinational and 38 national files. In addition, there are 132 files carried over from previous cycles (also called ‘backlog files’) that could not be previously treated due to the limited capacities of the Committee, its bodies and the Secretariat. By its [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13) the Committee encouraged ‘States Parties to retrieve at the Secretariat the files submitted four years ago or more that have not been examined by the Committee, due to the limited number of files that can be treated in the course of a cycle’. One country withdrew in 2016 six files which had been in backlog as a consequence of this decision.
2. In order to determine which 50 files could be treated for the 2017 cycle from a total of 174 receivable files, the Secretariat applied the Decisions of the Committee and the level of priorities stated in paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives, as described in the annex to the present document below. The list of files to be treated for the 2017 cycle is also displayed on a [dedicated page](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/submitting-states-and-priorities-00860) of the Convention’s website.
3. First of all, following the Committee’s [Decision 9.COM 12](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/12) to have at least one file per submitting State processed over the two cycles of 2016 and 2017, the first 11 files, marked with priority (0), are from submitting States which did not have any national files treated in 2016.
4. Subsequently, the files are ordered according to the level of priorities stated in paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives. Priority level (i) consists of eight files from submitting States having no elements inscribed on any of the Lists, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved as well as four nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (including one multinational file).
5. Priority (ii) covers the remaining three multinational files. Applying [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13) and priorities (i) and (ii) of paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives thus filled 26 of the 50 slots available.
6. Priority (iii) then includes the remaining files, in increasing order of the number of elements previously inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance approved, in comparison with other submitting States. Making use of the flexibility mentioned in [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13)[[1]](#footnote-1), the Secretariat included two files with equal level of priority (ten files already inscribed, selected or approved) and determined a set of 51 files submitted by 51 States Parties, for treatment under the 2017 cycle.
7. In addition, the Secretariat received a letter in October 2015 from the National Commission of Viet Nam expressing the State’s wish to transfer ‘Xoan singing of Phú Thọ Province, Viet Nam’ from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (inscribed in 2011) to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Committee considered this request during its tenth session and decided on an exceptional basis that it could examine at its twelfth session in 2017 the report of Viet Nam on the status of this element and a new nomination file for possible inscription on the Representative List, above the adopted overall ceiling for the 2017 cycle ([Decision 10.COM 19](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/19)). Consequently, the Secretariat treated a total of 52 files submitted by 51 States Parties for the 2017 cycle.
8. Since none of the files submitted by five States having eleven or more previous inscriptions, selections or approvals could be treated for the 2017 cycle and, according to [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13), those States were informed that their files would be considered a priority in the 2018 cycle.

**Number of files for the 2018 and 2019 cycles**

1. As was the case in previous cycles, the Committee cannot predict the distribution of files between the two Lists, the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and International Assistance in the cycles after 2017. The Committee, instead, is called upon to confirm an overall number of such files to be treated. In taking that decision it may also wish to take into account the anticipated number of files that it will examine each year for other processes, such as the periodic reports of States Parties on their implementation of the Convention and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List, as well as their periodic reports on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. In addition, the Committee examines in odd-numbered years the requests for accreditation from non-governmental organizations as well as renewal of its relations with the accredited non-governmental organizations.
2. Paragraph 33 of the Operational Directives calls for the Committee to determine the number of files based upon its available resources and capacity. Since 2012 the timetable of the Committee foresaw at least five days to examine all items inscribed on its agenda. In the majority of its sessions (seventh, eighth and tenth), night sessions were necessary to complete the agenda. Furthermore, the Committee at its tenth session for the first time examined and decided on the renewal or non-renewal of its relations with 97 non-governmental organizations accredited by the General Assembly in 2010, in conformity with paragraph 94 of the Operational Directives. This means that the Committee is scheduled to examine, in 2017 its relations with the non-governmental organizations accredited in 2012 (59), and in 2019 with those accredited 2014 (22) and those renewed in 2014 (59), representing additional workload. The Committee may also wish to take into account that other agenda items will continue to require increasing attention in the course of its sessions.
3. Furthermore, the Committee may also consider the capacity of the Evaluation Body and the financial resources allocated to it to carry out its work. Each of the twelve members of the Body (six experts and six accredited non-governmental organizations) assess individually each file before they begin the process of a joint evaluation to reach consensus on each specific criteria for each file. This allows each member about 10 weeks to individually assess all 50 files before the joint evaluation. This process ensures against potential individual bias and ensures even geographical representation. Experience shows that even if more financial resources were dedicated to this process the time available during a cycle is just enough to evaluate around 50 files.
4. The Committee may wish to take into account the ‘available resources’. In the context of the financial constraints confronting the Organization, the Secretariat of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention continues struggle to meet the ever increasing expectations from States. The Committee may want to also take into consideration that in even-numbered years the Secretariat organises the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
5. The Committee may consequently wish to re-confirm the number of files to be treated in the 2018 cycle and fix the same number of files for the 2019 cycle, while in keeping with the principle of one file per submitting State during each two-year period. It may also again request that the Secretariat exercise flexibility when applying these limits in order to permit greater equity among submitting States with equal priority.
6. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 11.COM 12

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/11.COM/12,
2. Recalling paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Operational Directives, and its [Decisions 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13) and [10.COM 19](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/19),
3. Taking note that the number of files being treated for the 2017 cycle is 52, representing 51 submitting States,
4. Considering that its capacities to examine files during a session are still limited, as are the capacities and human resources of the Secretariat,
5. Further considering that the Evaluation Body’s composition and working method is designed to promote even geographical representation in the evaluation of each criteria of each individual file,
6. Reaffirms that those States Parties which submitted files that could not be treated in the 2017 cycle will see their files examined with priority in the 2018 cycle, following the principle of one file per submitting State during the two-year period ([Decisions 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13) and [9.COM 12](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/9.COM/12));
7. Decides that in the course of the 2018 and 2019 cycles, the number of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000 that can be treated is determined to be 50 per cycle;
8. Also decides that at least one file per submitting State should be processed during the two-year period 2018-2019, within the agreed number of nominations per biennium, in conformity with paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives;
9. Further decides that the Secretariat may exercise some flexibility, if that would permit greater equity among submitting States with equal priority under paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives;
10. Invites States Parties to take the present decision into account when submitting files for the 2018 and 2019 cycles;
11. Encourages States Parties, in reference to [Decision 10.COM 13](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/13), to retrieve at the Secretariat the files submitted in 2012 or before and have not been examined by the Committee, due to the limited number of files that can be treated in the course of a cycle, so that they can be updated for a subsequent cycle, particularly in light of the technical requirements adopted by the Committee and any other relevant considerations;
12. Requests the Secretariat to report to it on the number of files submitted for the 2018 cycle, its experience applying the Operational Directives and the present decision at its twelfth session.

ANNEX: Distribution of files for the 2017 cycle

Files submitted for the 2017 cycle are presented below in the order of priority as described above in paragraphs 3 to 9:

| Countries | | Submitted files | | Level of priority |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Algeria | RL | Les savoirs et savoir-faire liés à la distillation de l’eau de rose et de l’eau de fleur de bigaradier par les citadines de Constantine, dit Teqtar (01192) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 2 | Armenia | RL | Kochari, traditional group dance (01295) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 3 | Azerbaijan | RL | Dolma making and sharing tradition, a maker of cultural identity (01188) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 4 | Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | RL | Parcours rituels dans la ville de La Paz pendant l’Alasita (01182) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 5 | Colombia | IAR+100 | Mon héritage, mon pays - stratégie de renforcement des capacités de gestion sociale du patrimoine culturel immatériel du Système national de la culture en Colombie (01211) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 6 | Indonesia | RL | Pinisi, art of boatbuilding in South Sulawesi (01197) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 7 | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | RL | Chogān, a horse-riding game accompanied by music and storytelling (01282) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 8 | Italy | RL | Art of Napolitan ‘Pizzaiuolo’ (00722) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 9 | Mongolia | USL | Mongolian traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites (00871) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 10 | Morocco | USL | La Taskiwin, danse martiale du Haut-Atlas occidental (01256) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 11 | Peru | RL | Traditional system of Corongo’s water judges (01155) | (0) one file for 2016-2017 |
| 12 | Germany | RL | Organ craftsmanship and music (01277) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 13 | Ireland | RL | Uilleann piping (01264) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 14 | Lao People’s Democratic Republic | RL | Musique du khène du peuple lao (01296) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 15 | Netherlands | RL | Craft of the miller operating windmills and watermills (01265) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 16 | Panama | RL | Artisanal processes and plant fibres techniques for talcos, crinejas and pintas weaving of the pinta’o hat (01272) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 17 | Slovenia | RL | Door-to-door rounds of Kurenti (01278) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 18 | Switzerland | RL | Carnaval de Bâle (01262) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 19 | Tajikistan | RL | Falak (01193) | (i) no element inscribed |
| 20 | Botswana | USL | Dikopelo folk music of Bakgatla ba Kgafela in Kgatleng District (01290) | (i) nomination for USL |
| 21 | Colombia; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | USL | Colombian-Venezuelan llano work songs (01285) | (i) nomination for USL |
| 22 | Turkey | USL | Whistled language (00658) | (i) nomination for USL |
| 23 | United Arab Emirates | USL | Al Azi, the art of performing praise, pride and fortitude poetry (01268) | (i) nomination for USL |
| 24 | Azerbaijan; Iran (Islamic Republic of) | RL | Crafting and playing with Kamantcheh/Kamancha, a bowed string musical instrument (01286) | (ii) multinational nomination |
| 25 | Bulgaria; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Republic of Moldova; Romania | RL | Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March (01287) | (ii) multinational nomination |
| 26 | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey | RL | Spring celebration, Hıdrellez (01284) | (ii) multinational nomination |
| 27 | Argentina | RL | Cuarteto. Music and dance, which originated in Córdoba, Argentina (01168) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 28 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | RL | Konjic woodcarving (01288) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 29 | Côte d’Ivoire | RL | Le Zaouli, musique et danse populaires des communautés gouro de Côte d’Ivoire (01255) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 30 | Cuba | RL | Punto (01297) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 31 | Egypt | BSP | Documenting, preserving, training and promoting the Egyptian intangible heritage of the art and crafts of Tally in Upper Egypt (00963) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 32 | Kazakhstan | RL | Kazakh traditional Assyk games (01086) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 33 | Saudi Arabia | RL | Al-Qatt Al-Asiri, a female traditional interior wall decoration in Asir, Saudi Arabia (01261) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 34 | Serbia | RL | Kolo, traditional folk dance (01270) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 35 | Turkmenistan | RL | Kushtdepdi rite of singing and dancing (01259) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 36 | Zambia | IAR+100 | Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia (01281) | (iii) 1 elements inscribed |
| 37 | Bangladesh | RL | Traditional art of Shital Pati weaving (01112) | (iii) 2 elements inscribed |
| 38 | Greece | RL | Rebetiko (01291) | (iii) 2 elements inscribed |
| 39 | Nigeria | RL | Ijala, Yoruba oral poetry (00682) | (iii) 2 elements inscribed |
| 40 | Kenya | IAR+25 | Promoting the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in learning institutions in Kenya (00880) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 41 | Kyrgyzstan | RL | Kok boru, traditional horse game (01294) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 42 | Malawi | RL | Nsima, culinary tradition of Malawi (01292) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 43 | Mauritius | RL | Sega tambour of Rodrigues Island (01257) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 44 | Portugal | RL | Craftmanship of Estremoz clay figures (01279) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 45 | Slovakia | RL | Multipart singing of Horehronie (01266) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 46 | Uzbekistan | BSP | Margilan Crafts Development Centre, safeguarding of the atlas and adras making traditional technologies (01254) | (iii) 3 elements inscribed |
| 47 | Bulgaria | BSP | The Bulgarian Chitalishte (Community Cultural Centre): Practical experience in safeguarding the vitality of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (00969) | (iii) 4 elements inscribed |
| 48 | Uganda | IAR+100 | Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda (01210) | (iii) 6 elements inscribed |
| 49 | Viet Nam | RL | The art of Bài Chòi in Central Viet Nam (01222), | (iii) 9 elements inscribed |
| 50 | Belgium | BSP | Remembrance education and safeguarding the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, City of Peace (00875) | (iii) 10 elements inscribed |
| 51 | India | RL | Kumbh Mela (01258) | (iii) 10 elements inscribed |
|  |  |  | **Exceptional case** |  |
| 52 | Viet Nam | RL | Xoan singing of Phú Thọ province, Viet Nam (01260) | [Decision 10.COM 19](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/10.COM/19) |
|  |  |  | **Priority States for the 2018 cycle** |  |
|  | France |  |  | 11 elements inscribed |
|  | Spain |  |  | 12 elements inscribed |
|  | Republic of Korea |  |  | 16 elements inscribed |
|  | Japan |  |  | 22 elements inscribed |
|  | China |  |  | 37 elements inscribed |

1. Paragraph 8 of Decision 10.COM 13 which says ‘[…] the Secretariat may exercise some flexibility, if that would permit greater equity among submitting States with equal priority under paragraph 34 of the Operational Directives’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)