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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room VIII**

**4 October 2022**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 2

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/2 and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its fifth meeting as annexed to this Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Agenda of the fifth meeting of the 17.COM Bureau**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda item | | Document |
| 1. | Opening |  |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/2 |
| 3. | Examination of requests for International Assistance up to US$100,000 | LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/3 |
| 4. | Adoption of the provisional timetable of the seventeenth session of the Committee | LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/4 |
| 5. | Follow-up on elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention | LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/5 |
| 6. | Other business   1. Statutory meeting dates in 2022 2. Working methods of the seventeenth session of the Committee 3. Other issues | LHE/22/Schedule Rev.5 |
| 7. | Closure |  |

**DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 3.1**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 02010, under a regional multinational scope, submitted by Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama,
3. Takes note that Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama have requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba**:

This thirteen-month project aims to build a common conceptual and methodological basis for the safeguarding intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendants in Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. It is the first stage (preparation and planning) of a larger initiative titled ‘Safeguarding of the Afro-descendant Intangible Cultural Heritage of the SICA region and Cuba,’ to be developed between 2022 and 2025 by the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Cultural Integration System (CECC/SICA). The project has three main objectives: (a) strengthen the intangible cultural heritage management capacities of officials and community representatives from the nine participating countries; (b) identify and analyse the processes and actions targeting intangible cultural heritage of people of African-descent in the region in order to build national safeguarding proposals; and (c) spread awareness about the knowledge gained from the capacity-building process and the importance of Afro-descendant culture and history in the region. To achieve these objectives, the countries will develop three in-person workshops, a virtual working group and provide virtual support. Expected project outputs include strengthened capacities for intangible cultural heritage management, a mapping of relevant safeguarding initiatives in the region, common guidelines for the development of a multinational inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendants, and a virtual microsite for the dissemination of the project results.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the regional level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that the requesting States have requested assistance in the amount of US$99,986 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02010, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** This request is the result of the decision of the Heads of States and Governments to formulate actions and policies for the development and strengthening of the Afro-descendant population of the region, while ensuring the participation of the communities from the beginning. Community representatives from the Central American Black Organization (ONECA) participated in the preparation of this request, with the support of the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL). Additionally, community representatives and officers from each country will actively participate in the activities and implementation of the project. They are expected to participate in the mapping of projects and actions to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of African descent in the SICA region and Cuba, as well as in subsequent phases (development of the multinational participatory inventory of the living heritage of African descent in nine countries of Central America and the Caribbean).

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is well thought out and structured to support the different components of the project. The amount of assistance requested seems appropriate with regard to the objectives and scope of the project.

**Criterion A.3:** The request presents a set of activities that involves the establishment of project coordination bodies and the selection of participants, in-person capacity-building activities, and virtual monitoring and mapping of projects and actions for the safeguarding of ICH of African-descent. A second in-person meeting will be held to share the results, followed by virtual activities to design national projects with the goal of creating a conceptual and methodological horizon and guiding the safeguarding of living heritage of African descent in the region. The activities are presented logically and correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request.

**Criterion A.4:** The governments and institutions concerned have fully supported the project. The present request constitutes the first stage of the Multinational Framework Project ‘Safeguarding of the Afro-descendant Intangible Cultural Heritage of the SICA region and Cuba,’ to be developed between 2022 and 2025, and has the approval of the Council of Ministers of SICA, as well as provisions for its implementation. Thus, once this project is completed, it will produce background information and tools that will promote the safeguarding of the living heritage of Afro-descendants in the region, with the involvement of communities and governments. Since the project is part of a larger initiative to be implemented until 2025, the results of this project will be used beyond its immediate projection.

**Criterion A.5:** The submitting States Parties will contribute 46 percent and other partners will contribute a further 19 percent of the total amount of the project budget (US$284,426). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 35 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6:** The core of the project is capacity building for the creation of strategies to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendant communities. It highlights and promotes the participation of the bearers and communities at two levels: (a) on the one hand, by emphasizing the place and meaning of community participation in the safeguarding processes; and (b) by building the learning process on the involvement of representatives of the Afro-descendant communities and public managers.

**Criterion A.7:** There is no previous regional and multinational financial assistance request to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a):** The proposed activities are regional in scope and involve cooperation with local and national implementing partners, including the Technical Secretariat of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Cultural Integration System (CECC/SICA) and the Central American Black Organization (ONECA), with the support of the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) and the UNESCO Cluster Office in San Jose.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The project contributes to raising awareness among governments, institutions and communities about the importance of safeguarding the living heritage of Afro-descendants. The States Parties are encouraged to implement safeguarding measures that can be presented as outputs of this project.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama for the project entitled **Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba** and grants the amount of US$99,986 to the States Parties for this purpose;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting States Parties on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
3. Invites the State Parties to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 3.2**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 02007 submitted by Kyrgyzstan,
3. Takes note that Kyrgyzstan has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Digital journey to intangible cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan**:

This thirty-month project is proposed as a second phase of the project on Safeguarding Practices and Rare Rituals Related to Sacred Sites in Kyrgyzstan, implemented in 2018–2020 with the support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. Initiated by community leaders of the pilgrimage practices, the project’s overall objective is to develop a website about ICH elements, with audiovisual materials and comprehensive information about the 2003 Convention, ICH communities, active stakeholders and safeguarding activities. The idea for the development of a digital platform was proposed by the communities concerned to mitigate the regulatory, educational and ideological risks to pilgrimage practices identified during the previous project. The proposed website will address: (a) the lack of knowledge, information, awareness and educational materials on ICH; (b) the underrepresentation of the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities living in Kyrgyzstan; and (c) the need to modernize the mechanism for registering living heritage expressions of the State’s National Inventory. The project is expected to facilitate the transmission of ICH to younger generations, foster a sense of recognition, inclusion and belonging of Dungan and Uyghur ethnic groups, promote social cohesion, mutual respect and understanding between different ethnic groups, and strengthen partnerships among ICH stakeholders, including communities, State structures and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Kyrgyzstan has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,963 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02007, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The project was conceived at the initiative of the communities concerned. Community members and practitioners are the main experts and partners of the implementing agency. The project emphasizes the central and active role of the communities throughout its implementation, from planning to evaluation, monitoring and follow-up.

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is well thought out and structured to support the different components of the project. The overall amount of assistance requested seems appropriate with regard to the objectives and scope of the project.

**Criterion A.3:** The proposed activities are coherent and well-planned in terms of the objectives and expected results of the project. The activities plan is structured around two main components: (a) the digitalization of previous intangible cultural heritage inventories into an interactive multimedia digital platform; and (b) elaborating the first community-based inventory of the Dungan and Uyghur ethnic groups. Moreover, the sequence of the proposed activities is logical, and the proposed timeframe is consistent with achieving the expected results of the project.

**Criterion A.4:** The project results are expected to last beyond the end of the project. The digital platform will be integrated into the State’s database, the regional museums and the curricula of the formal education system. The Aigine Cultural Research Center, the National Commission of Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic will take joint responsibility for ensuring technical and administrative support, as well as the viability and sustainability of the digital platform upon completion of the project.

**Criterion A.5:** The submitting State Party will contribute 15 per cent and other partners will contribute a further 17 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$145,995). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 68 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6:** The project emphasizes building the capacity of the communities to strengthen the practice of the intangible cultural heritage elements identified in the proposal. The interactive multimedia digital platform will build the capacity of NGOs and communities working in the Kyrgyz intangible cultural heritage field and raise their awareness of the living heritage of Dungans and Uyghurs. The platform will initiate and encourage exchanges among communities, groups and individuals.

**Criterion A.7:** Kyrgyzstan has benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one completed project entitled ‘Safeguarding of practices and rare rituals related to sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan: preparation of an inventory and safeguarding measures’ (file no. 01423, 2018-2020, US$99,950).

**Paragraph 10(a):** The project is local in scope and aims to enhance cooperation among local cultural organizations and museums, among others.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The project is expected to contribute to safeguarding the living heritage of other ethnic groups in Kyrgyzstan.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Kyrgyzstan for the project entitled **Digital journey to intangible cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan** and grants the amount of US$99,963 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are provided in a detailed manner to justify the expenditures;
3. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 3.3**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined Document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 02006 submitted by Thailand,
3. Takes note that Thailand has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Field School for capacity-building in safeguarding living heritage of ethnic communities in Thailand**:

This two-year project seeks to enhance the capacity of five ethnic groups and relevant stakeholders in Thailand to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH). The ethnic groups (Pgakenyaw Karen, Pwo Karen, Moken, Moklen and Urak Lawoi) were chosen on the basis of their vulnerability and their willingness to engage in the safeguarding activities. The project entails establishing the Field School for Capacity-Building in Safeguarding Living Heritage of Ethnic Communities as a platform for: (a) organizing hands-on trainings for ethnic communities as well as government, academic and development workers in inventorying and safeguarding the ICH of ethnic communities; (b) implementing fieldwork activities to inventory ICH, transmit and develop safeguarding plans, and coordinate visits between the different ethnic groups to exchange knowledge and build networks; (c) undertaking public communication and advocacy activities; and (d) producing technical and policy guidance. These activities respond to the risks posed to the ICH of ethnic groups in Thailand, which could lead to loss of identity and self-sufficiency. The project is expected to mitigate these risks while driving policy and leading to the establishment of long-term networks that will be mutually beneficial and supportive to current and future policies affecting ethnic groups in Thailand.

1. Further takes note that:
   * 1. This assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention;
     2. The State Party has requested International Assistance that will partly take the form of services from the Secretariat to the State; and
     3. The assistance therefore takes the form of the **provision of a grant** and of **services from UNESCO** (the provision of experts), pursuant to Article 21 (b) and (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Thailand has requested assistance in the amount of US$100,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be jointly implemented by the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (under the Ministry of Culture) and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Asia-Pacific region in Bangkok;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Bangkok will be responsible for: (a) the preparation of advocacy materials; (b) the provision of a facilitator and a coordinator for public fora to share fieldwork results; (c) the production of a technical toolkit on how to set up the field school in other communities; and (d) the provision of a publicity and online campaign to present a policy recommendation (23 per cent of the requested amount). The requesting State Party will be responsible for: (a) the project coordination and management; (b) training on inventorying and developing safeguarding activities; (c) fieldwork activities in inventorying, transmission and safeguarding; (d) the organization of public fora to share field school results; and (e) the production of a policy recommendation (77 per cent of the requested amount), as described in the request;
4. Decides that,from the information provided in file no. 02006, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The request demonstrates the active role of the communities in planning, implementing and evaluating the project. As the aim of this project is to empower marginalized ethnic groups through the identification of sustainable processes to safeguard their living heritage, activities have been focused on hands-on training methodologies. These emphasize creating a space for knowledge exchange through workshops and other hands-on activities.

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is clearly explained, reflecting the planned activities and related expenses. The total amount of assistance requested is therefore judged to be appropriate and in line with the scope of the project to achieve the desired results.

**Criterion A.3:** The activities proposed are presented in a logical sequence and include capacity building, fieldwork, awareness-raising and policy recommendations for safeguarding the living heritage of the communities involved in the project. They seem feasible within the proposed duration of the project.

**Criterion A.4:** This project is inserted in three main frameworks that ensure long-lasting results and sustainability. The project: (a) builds capacities and networks among bearers and raises awareness among a wide range of stakeholders; (b) is part of broader legal and regulatory reforms that are now underway, notably the enactment of the draft Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups; and (c) is an extension of the existing work and mandate of the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre, which will be continued after the project ends.

**Criterion A.5:** The submitting State Party will contribute 62 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$265,800). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 28 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6:** The project clearly aims at developing the capacities of communities and other stakeholders concerned, with a focus on bearers, stakeholders and other institutional partners. At the same time, it promotes participatory working mechanisms between ethnic communities and government agencies. The project will also be beneficial to building institutional capacity as part of mobilizing the draft Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups. It is a mechanism to support the creation of the ‘Special Cultural Zones’ model, which will support the lifeways of ethnic communities.

**Criterion A.7:** The State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a):** The project is national in scope and its implementation involves national and local partners.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The project is expected to raise awareness at the national level about the importance of safeguarding the living heritage of all ethnic groups within the country.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Thailand for the project entitled **Field School for capacity-building in safeguarding living heritage of ethnic communities in Thailand** and grants the amount of US$100,000 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
3. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 4

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/4 and its annex,
2. Takes note of the provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the Committee;
3. Submits to the Committee the provisional timetable of its work for examination at its seventeenth session (28 November to 3 December 2022, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco).

**ANNEX**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday, 28 November 2022** | | | |
| As of 8.30 a.m. | Registration of participants | | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 1. | Opening | |
|  | 2. | Adoption of the agenda | |
|  | 3. | Observers | |
|  | 4. | Adoption of summary records | |
|  | 4.a | Adoption of the summary records of the sixteenth session of the Committee | |
|  | 4.b | Adoption of the summary records of the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee | |
|  | 5. | Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January to June 2022) | |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 6. | Reports by States Parties | |
|  | 6.a | Examination of the reports by States Parties on the current status of elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding | |
|  | 6.b | Examination of the reports of the first cycle of periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by States Parties in Europe | |
|  | 6.c | Update on the first cycle of periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (2021 Cycle), in the Arab States (2023 Cycle) and in Africa (2024 Cycle) | |
| **Tuesday, 29 November 2022** | | | |
| 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. |  | Meeting of the Bureau | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 6.d | Reports by States Parties on the use of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund | |
|  | 7. | Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2022 (Part I) | |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 7.a | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding |
|  | 7.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| **Wednesday, 30 November 2022** | | | |
| 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 7.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 7.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| **Thursday, 1 December 2022** | | | |
| 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 7.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
|  | 7.c | | Examination of proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 7.d | | Examination of requests for International Assistance |
|  | 7. | | Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2022 (Part II) |
|  | 8. | | Follow-up on elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention |
|  | 9. | | Report of the non-governmental organizations forum |
| **Friday, 2 December 2022** | | | |
| 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. |  | Meeting of the Bureau | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 10. | Update on the reflection on the broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention | |
|  | 11. | Strategy for the monitoring, evaluation and identification of lessons learnt for International Assistance projects | |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 12. | Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues | |
|  | 13. | Thematic initiatives on living heritage and sustainable development | |
| **Saturday, 3 December 2022** | | | |
| 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 14. | | Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle (Part I) |
|  | 15. | | Number of files submitted for the 2022 and 2023 cycles and number of files that can be treated in the 2024 and 2025 cycles |
|  | 16. | | Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the Committee |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Break | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 17. | Election of the members of the Bureau of the eighteenth session of the Committee | |
|  | 14. | Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle (Part II) | |
|  | 18. | Other business | |
|  | 19. | Adoption of the list of decisions | |
|  | 20. | Closure | |

DECISION 17.COM 5.BUR 5

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 5.BUR/5 and its annexes (I to III),
2. Recalling Decisions 3.COM 1, 13.COM 9, 14.COM 14, 16.COM 11, Resolution 9.GA 9 and paragraphs 40.1 to 40.3 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling that ‘Processional giants and dragons in Belgium and France’ (Belgium and France) was incorporated in 2008 in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,
4. Takes note that in 2022 the Secretariat registered a series of correspondence from the third parties condemning the ‘Sauvage’ character of the procession that takes place in the town of Ath (Belgium) as representing a form of racism and discrimination, and requesting the removal of the Ducasse of Ath from the Representative List, and that the Secretariat transmitted the removal requests to the State Party of Belgium;
5. Further takes note that the State Party of Belgium replied in response to the removal requests and provided information on the reflection process initiated at the community level in order to address the concerns raised;
6. Considers that the allegations of racism and discrimination are an extremely serious matter that touch upon UNESCO’s founding principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect amongst peoples as reflected in the preamble of the Organization’s Constitution, as well as the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals as stipulated under Article 2 of the Convention;
7. Recommends that, in accordance with paragraph 40.2 (e) of the Operational Directives, the removal requests concerning the Ducasse of Ath be included in the provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the Committee.