Report by a Non-Governmental Organization Accredited to Act in an Advisory Capacity to the Committee on its Contribution to the Implementation of the Convention

Deadline 15 February 2019

for examination in 2019

*File may be downloaded at:*

*https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms*

*Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

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| 1. **Identification of the organization** |
| **A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report** |
| A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.* |
| The International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) |
| A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.* |
| The International Organization of Folk Art ( IOV) , |
| A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)* |
| NGO-90154 |
| **A.2. Address of the organization** |
| *Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Organization: | The International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) | | Address: | Via Pietro Spino 102 cap24126 - Bergamo - Italy | | Telephone number: | +39.335.5430256 | | Email address: | secretarygeneral@iov.world | | Website: | www.iov.world | | Other relevant information: |  | |
| **A.3. Contact person for correspondence** |
| *Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): | Mr. | | Family name: | Khalifa | | Given name: | Ali | | Institution/position: | International Organization of Folk Art (IOV)- President | | Address: | Manama, P.O Box 5050, The Kingdom of Bahrain | | Telephone number: | 0097336644000 | | Email address: | akhalifa44@hotmail.com | | Other relevant information: |  | |
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| **B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)**[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| *Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.* |
| **B.1.** *Describe your organization’s participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The main mission and purpose of the International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) is to safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage ( ICH). We have done it for 40 years and our chapters around the world are hard at work everyday implementing measures to safeguard ICH. Here are some brief examples of the work done in this area: In the Kingdom of Bahrain , IOV President Ali Khalifa worked with state and national legislators to place traditional poetry, dance and music into the school curriculum. He also successfully collaborated with the Ministry of Education to have a Folk Culture textbook. They are now in the implementation phase. Moreover, he got support and funding for a new building that will hold the IOV presidential headquarters and the offices of Folk Culture journal (which is published in collaboration with IOV).  Brazil (on-going) : Clerton Vieira created new cultural section in Brazil.  Italy (on-going): Fabrizio Cattaneo worked with state and national legislators to place traditional dance and music in the national law.  Austria : Prof Hanz Holz , IOV Vice President, led in drafting ICH policies and legislation in Austria.  China : Emma Chen Hoffler, IOV Vice President, and member of the China Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee, contributed to the drafting of legislation to safeguard ICH in China.  In reality, every national section organized by IOV is an informal ICH committee. (The USA Section was invited to apply for accreditation as a separate entity.) |
| **B.2.** *Describe your organization’s cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| In some countries, our members are also members of national UNESCO commissions ( Carmen Padilla, Philippines; Elvira Kunina, Russian Federation).  IOV members organize more than 100 international folkloric festivals each year in many different countries in cooperation with IOV Festival and Practices Commision Chair Geert Nijhof. These are most often a joint project with a local or state government, and involve several hundred traditional performing artists from 4 to 15 foreign countries. Funding frequently comes in large part from local government. For example, in Nova Petropolis, Brazil, the IOV festival involves most members of the German-speaking population. The city funds the $1 million budget. IOV has a representative working in Mayor's office year round.. Russia: State Russian House of Folk Art, which is funded government, is our partner organization in Russia, and is a member of the UNESCO Commission of the Russian Federation. IOV members Elvira Kunina, Ksenia Fokina have taken an active role in the Committee for Safeguarding the ICH, which Kunina chairs.  The IOV Science and Research Commission, which is comprised of academicians and professional folklorists and researchers work together with government entities to present seminars, workshops and other events. For example, in Austria the 14th IOV scientific conference was recently organized jointly with academics from 22 european countries. Another conference was produced with the Mariie Curie Sklodowska University of Lublin Poland where academicians presented papers and best practices on identification and inventorying the ICH.  Fabrizio Cattaneo IOV Secretary General is member of the National Board of ICH at the Ministry of Culture of Italy |
| **B.3.** *Describe your organization’s involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State’s Periodic Report (OD 152).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV has not been officially asked to participate in this activity. |
| **B.4** *Describe your organization’s participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV members, as individuals, have participated in all areas named in this question, inscription of decorated steamed bread , medicine Acupuncture, cuisine culture, tradition of carpet, etc… |
| **B.5.** *Describe your organization’s participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV members have individually been highly involved in identifying and inventorying ICH. IOV vice president Hans Holz, led efforts to implement the convention there. Other IOV members have been active in identifying and inventorying the ICH in many countries.  Our individual members have been active in identifying ICH in the States, for example,  where Dr. Florence Neubauer has documented the rituals of the Plains Indian Tribes, as well as those of the Navajo Indian Nation.  Patricia Stoddard has worked with the women of the Rilli Valley in Pakistan to bring their tradition of quilt making to the public eye. She assists a group of the women participate each year in the UNESCO supported Santa Fe Folk Art Market.  We have served as consultant to several groups trying to have their ICH inscribed on the Representative List . |
| **B.6.** *Describe your organization’s participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*   1. *promoting the function of ICH in society;* 2. *fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;* 3. *facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*   *Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV's activities to promote the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage are divided between two commissions, one of which is the IOV Scientific and Research Commission. This commission is made up of scientists, professors and other academicians, and researches of folk art and folk culture. The commission chair is Prof. Mohammed El Nouri, who also edits Folk Culture journal. They are in the second stage of organizing an international scientific conference, in collaboartion with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, in Sharjah, UAE. They event is titled "Folk Culture, the Pressent and Future Pathways" and this is the main theme of the papers that will be presented. It will take place in April 2019.  Moreover, from November 23rd to 26th, 2017, IOV Vice President, Prof. Mag. Hans J. Holz and the Chair of IOV-Poland and of the Scientific and Research-Commission for Central and Eastern Europe, Prof. Dr. Anna Brzozowska-Krajka, organised a scientific conference of IOV in memoriam of Alexander Veigl, the founder of IOV, at the 10th anniversary of his death:  All together 32 participants from 14 countries took part in the lectures and discussions. 18 university-professors spoke to the topic” Between Folk Culture and Global Culture in Contemporary Europe”.  Abdulaziz A. Al Musallam and Prof. Dr. Ahmed Morsi founded the National Center for ICH in Sharjah UAE, and local centers, whose duties include archiving documentation for ICH, accessible to holders and general public.  The activities of the Research Commission are also carried out by regions. Using the UN geoscheme, IOV is in the process of organizing commissions in each region. Our Central and Eastern European Research Commission has been the model we follow, as it has beenfunctioning well for 40 years. In November 2016, the IOV commission, together with the Institute of Art Studies, Folklore and Ethnology produced a conference in Austria of Traditional European Cultures in the Twenty-First Century. Presenters from presented on the topics:  • Preservation and study of traditional folk culture;  • Contemporary borderland ethno-cultural processes in the countries;  • Ethnic culture and national identity within the modern European integration process. |
| **B.7.** *Describe your organization’s involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*   1. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;* 2. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;* 3. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;* 4. *non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;* 5. *education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.*   *Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The IOV Youth program is international, with chapters in many countries.  The Fifth IOV World Youth Congress was held from July 12 to 17, 2017 in Myslenice, Poland, on the theme, "Living Tradition: Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage". Youth from 40 countries delivered papers, gave demonstrations and lectures on this topic and a new youth commision was elected to serve on a two year term.  Together they hosted an exhibt and published a digital journal documenting the conference.  IOV supports and promotes youth participation in folkloric dance and musical groups. Each year, more than 2500 young people participate in folkloric groups in festivals throughout the world.  The public is invited to participate in workshops and recreational dancing with folkloric groups at festivals each summer.  The IOV web site www.iov.world devotes a large section to intangible cultural heritage, with the ICH Kits produced by UNESCO (used with permission). The site is available to the public.  A directory of folkloric festivals, is also found on the web site, with information about the traditional dance and music program, traditional foods available, handicrafts exhibits and sales, and other public events.  IOV’s admission policy welcomes all people, including the general public, who have an interest in intangible cultural heritage. |
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| **C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation** |
| *Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:*   1. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);* 2. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);* 3. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*   *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV successfully publishes a quarterly periodical called Folk Culture, for the past 12 years. Published in Bahrain, Folk Culture contains research and scholarly articles on traditional folk art among the Arab Nations, in Arabic with English and French summaries and many more translated summaries on their website. IOV also publishes a directory of folk arts festivals where traditional dance and music are performed by amateur performers. Traditional instrumentation and costuming are required of all performers.  IOV is itself a network of institutions and individuals, with over 800 active members and 4500 associated members in more than 85 countries. Members include associations with thousands of members each.  UNESCO identified and added to its roster 40 IOV experts in the intangible cultural heritage. Their expertise covers all 5 domains.  IOV has developed a network of more than 200 international folkloric festivals. An estimated 500,000 to 700,000 members of the public participate as audiences for folk dance and musical performances.. |
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| **D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |
| **D.1** *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee’s work.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV President Ali Khalifa represented the organization at the UNESCO’s NGO Forum 2017, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on May 3-4. The 2- day forum, titled “Youth and their Social Impact” . Also, Vice President Hans Holz attended The First Bishkek Forum of Cultures in Kyrgistan . Dr. Mohamed Nouri represented IOV in South-Korea, in the Yecheon international archery festival, in October 2017 and presented a scholarly paper on the history of Archey in Arabic Literature and tradition. Vice President Hans and Treasurer Henk attended the opening of the Sharjah Heritage Days folk festival, the 16th edition (April 6-13 2018). EC members meet with HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and the Ruler of Sharjah UAE on 12 March 2018 to discuss ways of support and cooperation in the fields of folk art and folk culture. |
| **D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*  *Not to exceed 100 words* |
| No, but we have a large body of experts and are willing to. |
| **D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*  *Not to exceed 500 words* |
| Indirectly, IOV has provided advisory assistance to the committee. Our conferences, festivals, and other activities have reached many hundreds of thousands of members of the public (see other responses for details). Bringing ICH to the forefront of the public's consciousness by making it aware of the existence and importance of ICH is a first step. As mentioned in this report, the public participates in many of our events, including festivals, handicraft markets, as well as public workshops. IOV has publicized the ICH convention and its implementation on our web site, where we have the UNESCO ICH Information Papers. Our 25th and 30th anniversary publications contain articles on various aspects of the convention, and these are posted on our web site .  IOV Publications (Folk Culture Journal and the IOV Journal of ICH) are devoted to the dissemination of information on intangible cultural heritage. The various conferences that are organized by IOV, referred to herein, support the committee's efforts to raise awareness of the convention and the importance of ICH.  By standing ready to provide advice and consultation, as well as hands-on services, IOV is in fact supporting the committee. We have more than 40 scientists, academicians, praticioners and researchers across all five domains of the ICH, which UNESCO identified as experts and listed on its roster of experts. These individuals are prepared to consult if asked.  We intend to continue our programs with the youth, our conferences, festivals, and support of traditional folk dance and music festivals, culinary festivals, handicrafts exhibits, lectures and projects in support of the IOV Mission, which includes safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage through dissemination of information. We intend to further develop and build our network of individuals and institutions active in the fields of folk art and folk culture. |
| **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):** |
| **E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| English: approximately 30, French: approximately 20, We also have 10 or more native speakers of Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Portuguese , and more than 40 Spanish. Many other languages are represented. |
| **E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Even before the convention existed, IOV was active in all five domains of the ICH. Every two years, an international scientific conference ICH . Our members organized over 200 international folkloric festivals in each of the past four years where 120 to 300 traditional dancers and musicians from, 4 to 15 countries gather for performances, dance labs, workshops and master's classes.  Many festivals combined handicrafts sales and exhibits, and traditional food, with scientific seminars or conferences.  Social Practices, rituals and festive events have been topics of Scientific conference . Folk Culture, a quarterly IOV publication from Bahrain has publish several issues devoted to wedding rituals and other festive events.  The IOV youth congress in 2017 focused on the intangible cultural heritage of traditional foods . Traditional medicine has been a topic of a conference.  IOV is very active in handicrafts, and works with some of the world's leaving handicrafts organizations. The IOV Handicraft Project is being organized with Makhfuza Salimova as chair. She has been awarded the UNESCO Seal of Excellence in Handicrafts for her work with women artisans in Uzbekistan. We have handicrafts artists who organize markets in Saudi Arabia, China and many other places. We have organized exhibits of textiles in the United States, Germany, China and elsewhere.  Also, IOV’s exceptional efforts made it possible for staff in Shanghai to communicate with international folk arts groups from Alaska to Africa and from America to Australia, facilitating the successful organisation of the past nine consecutive festivals of the Shanghai Baoshan International Folk Arts Festival. This year, the `10th edition was attended by IOV President Ali Khalifa, who gave a speech at the opening ceremony. The festival was held at the Municipal Stadium, was attended by 10,000 people including senior officials and international guests  In 2018, the IOV presidential office successfully cooperated with the University of Bahrain and documented 1100 Bahraini folk talkes and published them in five volumes It was a major accomplishment and the stories were taken from all over the country. |
| **E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Many of our members are also members of other arts organizations,univeristies, culture centers and more, including some that are granting agencies. In such capacity, they have both prepared and reviewed proposals for funding. We support and faciliate many conferences, which include reviewing applications, analysing profiles, collected data and more. The membership of the IOV Scientific and Research Commission is comprised mainly of academicians, who would be experienced in analysing documents and papers. |
| **E.4.** *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| We are not clear on the meaning of synthetic texts. With respect to drafting texts of resolutions and other public documents, the secretary general and several other lawyer members of the IOV Legal Committee may be able to assist. |
| **E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| As the responses to the questions on this form attest, IOV has been operating at the international level since it was first founded 40 years ago. The very name, International Organization of Folk Art, indicates that our work is internatinoal in its nature. Please see other responses for details of our ability to work and organize at the local, regional and international level.  In addition to the resonses given elsewhere, IOV organized several international conferences,  In Bahrain, with support from His Majesty King Hamand bin Isa Al Khalifa, IOV organized an academic conference, with papers presented on a variety of topics within the broader context of preserving the intangible cultural heritage  The presidential office of the IOV in Bahrain also cooperated with the government of Sharjah and succesfuly selected Sharjah as the IOV MENA Headquarters, headed by Dr. Abdulazziz Al Musallam. There headquarters will have a new building dedicate to it and will work to develop IOV Chapters in the middle east.  IOV world also cooperated with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage to host the IOV General Assembly and IOV Scientific Conference, which will take place in April 2019. |
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| **F. Cooperation with UNESCO** |
| *Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).*  *Not to exceed 250 words* |
| IOV organized the IOV European Congress, which was held in Bratislava, Budapest, Manama and Vienna. Funding was received from the UNESCO Participation Program. The IOV Conference on Myths and Legends held in Manila, the Philippines received funding from the National UNESCO Commission of the Philippines. The UNESCO Regional Center in Bangkok participated in the IOV Asia Youth Congress by sending a speaker the topic was traditional Asian cooking. The UNESCO Center in Quito, Ecuador participated in a Conference on Traditional Couples Dances held in Quito. |
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| **G. Signature** |
| *The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Name: | Ali Abdulla Khalifa | | Title: | IOV World President | | Date: | Febuary 11, 2019 | | Signature: | Ali Abdulla Khalifa | | |

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1. . In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)