**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**

**5 June 2023**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda:**

**Examination of an emergency request**

**for International Assistance**

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| **Summary**  Paragraph 47 of the Operational Directives provides that emergency requests for International Assistance can be submitted at any time and are examined by the Bureau of the Committee. This document includes one request which is presented for examination of the Bureau as a matter of priority in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention.  **Decision required:** paragraph 8 |

1. As stipulated in Article 22 of the Convention, requests for International Assistance in emergency situations shall be examined as a matter of priority. The Operational Directives provide for such emergency International Assistance requests to be submitted at any time, regardless of the amount, for examination by the Bureau of the Committee (paragraph 47). The Operational Directives further specify that ‘for the purpose of determining whether a request for International Assistance constitutes an emergency request eligible to receive priority consideration by the Bureau, an emergency shall be considered to exist when a State Party finds itself unable to overcome on its own any circumstance due to calamity, natural disaster, armed conflict, serious epidemic or any other natural or human event that has severe consequences for the intangible cultural heritage as well as communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are the bearers of that heritage’ (paragraph 50).
2. **Overview of the present request**
3. The Bureau is asked to examine the following emergency request:

| **Draft decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File no.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Emergency request for International Assistance** | | | | |
| [18.COM 2.BUR 3.1](#Decision1) | Haiti | Supporting the community of artists and artisans of the village of Noailles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in the context of the security crisis and for resilience in Haiti | US$280,092 | 02049 |

1. In conformity with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assessed the completeness of the request in an expedient manner in response to the urgency signalled by the requesting State in November 2022. The Secretariat through the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince provided the national authorities and communities concerned with technical assistance between March and June 2023. A national expert and an international expert from the Global Network of Facilitators of the 2003 Convention provided advice and hosted hybrid community meetings. In addition, the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince solicited the participation of two international organizations to support the implementation of the project.
2. The request is for International Assistance that will take the form of services (100%) from the Secretariat, through the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince, to the State. The provision of services to the requesting State corresponds to the expanded interpretation of Article 21, as endorsed by the Committee at its tenth session (Decision [10.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/8)). This service modality for the request may concern the provision of experts, the training of the necessary staff, the development of standard-setting measures and the supply of equipment, pursuant to Article 21 (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the Convention. Whereas financial assistance in the form of a grant means that a financial transaction through a contract will be made from UNESCO to the implementing agency, the service modality does not necessarily foresee such financial transactions to requesting States that will receive assistance from UNESCO.
3. The security situation in Haiti constitutes an emergency in the sense of paragraph 50 of the Operational Directives. Since 2021, a growing instability has been observed in Haiti. The deepening crisis is being fuelled by escalating gang violence, severe food insecurity, steep inflations and the scarcity of fuel. It has critical consequences for the intangible cultural heritage of artisans and communities in the village of Noailles, preventing them from practicing their living heritage related to metal cutting. In October 2022, violent armed attacks led to the destruction of part of the village, including workshops, and to the displacement of village inhabitants. The artisans and community members took refuge in other districts or localities in the island, resulting in the dispersal of the community and a loss of nearly 40% of its workforce.
4. The security of those who will be involved in the project – including artisans, community members, experts, national authorities, international organizations and other stakeholders – is of utmost concern. The project is designed to take place in the ‘green area’ designated by the United Nations Safety and Security (UNDSS). For instance, community meetings will be held at the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince. If the International Assistance is granted, the Secretariat stands ready to monitor the security situation for the duration of the project. It is also proposed that the project be carried out in phases to allow implementation details to be adjusted to the changing security situation, should the need arise.
5. The Secretariat hereby transmits this emergency request for International Assistance to the Bureau, along with a draft decision incorporating the Secretariat’s assessment of how the request responds to the eligibility and selection criteria set out in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives, which also apply to emergency requests for International Assistance. The International Assistance request in question is available at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ia-request-18com-2bur-01312>.
6. **Draft decision**
7. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 2.BUR 3.1[Return to top](#A)

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/23/18.COM 2.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 02049 submitted by Haiti,
3. Takes note that Haiti has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Supporting the community of artists and artisans of the village of Noailles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in the context of the security crisis and for resilience in Haiti**:

For several generations, the village of Noailles was home to communities of metal cutters, listed in the inventory of Haiti’s intangible cultural heritage. This form of expression was revived in the mid-twentieth century, using recycled drums as raw material. Cutting metal is the primary means of subsistence and source of resilience for the artisans and community members. To be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Communication of Haiti, this three-year project aims to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the art of metal cutting, which has been jeopardised by the security crisis in the country. The crisis has led to the displacement of most bearers from their places of life and work, the loss of skills, and the disappearance of distribution networks. The artisans and communities concerned will be represented by the Association of Artists and Craftspersons of Croix-des-Bouquets (ADAAC). Focusing on metal cutters displaced from the village of Noailles, this project seeks to provide them with the conditions and means to resume their activity, to strengthen social organization of the community, to build the capacities of the artisans, to support the development of new channels of distribution, and to promote the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in Haiti and abroad.

1. Further takes note that:
   * 1. This assistance is to support a project implemented at the local level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention;
     2. The State Party has requested International Assistance that will take the form of services from the Secretariat to the State; and
     3. The assistance therefore takes the form of the **provision of services** from UNESCO (100 per cent of the financial transactions are to be managed by UNESCO), pursuant to Article 21 (b) and (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Haiti has requested assistance in the amount of US$280,092 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Communication of Haiti;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince will be responsible for the management of the total amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, while the requesting State will be responsible for co-managing the project and contributing to the elaboration of media dissemination tools to raise awareness among the public, including a ten-minute video and a series of TV and radio programmes. Other partnering organizations will also contribute to the project. The European Union will support the project with the development of the website and its management during the time of the project implementation, and the House of Culture of the World in Berlin will support some artisans in their participation in international fairs. The Haiti Association of Psychology will also cover a part of the costs of psychological treatments;
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02049, 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 involvement of communities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the project is at the heart of the project, with the artisans being the main beneficiaries. When designing this project, the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince hosted four workshops in a hybrid format, bringing together representatives from the Association of Artists and Craftspeople of Croix-des-Bouquets (ADAAC), the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Haitian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO. During these meetings, the community outlined needs and proposed the necessary measures for the revival and sustainability of the practice.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is presented in a clear, comprehensive and detailed manner. The amount requested adequately covers each of the proposed activities and can therefore be deemed appropriate.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are well-planned and coherent in terms of the objectives and expected results of the project, enabling artisans to resume, practice and transmit the art of metal cutting in the ongoing emergency situation. The activities include capacity building for the practice and transmission of metal cutting, training to strengthen the capacity of the ADAAC, the establishment a cooperative as well as an online sales site, participation in national and international events, and an awareness campaign. Additionally, given the importance of living heritage to promote resilience of communities in times of conflict, the project will also provide psychological support to all beneficiaries.

**Criterion A.4**: The project aims to enable artisans to resume, practice and transmit the art of metal cutting. After the end of the project, the community will have quality materials for awareness raising, communication and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage related to metal cutting, through virtual galleries, videos, and an updated inventory. The artisans will also benefit from renewed professional networks and opportunities, including abroad through participation in international events.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 9 per cent and other partners will contribute a further 15 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$368,092). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 76 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**:Capacity-building of the communities in the village of Noailles is one of the main objectives of the project. Through tailor-made training programmes, the artisans will improve their technical skills and acquire new ones, both in terms of metal cutting skills and for the development of their activity. In general, the involvement of the community in the direct implementation of all activities will contribute to strengthening its capacity to effectively safeguard its intangible cultural heritage, including awareness-raising and promotion, but also organization, planning and evaluation.

**Criterion A.7**: The requesting State has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the project entitled ‘Programme in support of the education system for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage (PASS-TPCI)’ (August 2018 – August 2021; US$98,970); the project is undergoing administrative and financial closure.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: While the proposed activities are local in scope, the project promotes cooperation with several national organisations (i.e., la Fondation AfricAmericA and the Haiti Association of Psychology) and international organizations (i.e., European Union and the House of Culture of the World in Berlin).

**Paragraph 10(b)**: Through this project, artisans will be able to recover their mode of expression and financial autonomy, collectively and individually. The transmission and training workshops will allow the community to regain a trained workforce, with expanded skills to meet demands, such as orders from collectors or museums, and to diversify income sources and thus sustain their livelihoods.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Haiti** for the project entitled **Supporting the community of artists and artisans of the village of Noailles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in the context of the security crisis and for resilience in Haiti** and grants the amount of US$280,092 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. Takes further note of the positive experience of the technical assistance provided to Haiti in finalizing this request, and invites the requesting State to build on the skills of the staff who directly benefited from this assistance;
3. Requests that the project be implemented in phases to allow for a close monitoring of the ongoing security situation and the adjustment of implementation as needed;
4. Further requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State 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;
5. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.