**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 4 of the provisional agenda:**

**Examination of requests for International Assistance**

**up to US$100,000**

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| **Summary**  With reference to Article 23 of the Convention and paragraph 47 of the Operational Directives, this document presents seven requests for International Assistance up to US$100,000. The Bureau of the Committee is asked to examine these requests, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Operational Directives.  **Decisions required**: paragraph 8 |

1. Article 20 of the Convention states that International Assistance may be granted to States Parties for purposes relating to: the safeguarding of elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; the preparation of inventories in the sense of Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention; support for programmes, projects and activities undertaken at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; and for any other purpose that the Committee may deem necessary. As specified in the Operational Directives, International Assistance not exceeding US$100,000 can be submitted at any time (paragraph 47) for examination and approval by the Bureau of the Committee (paragraph 49).
2. **Overview of the requests**
3. The Bureau is asked to examine the following seven completed International Assistance requests up to US$100,000:

| **Draft decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | | **Amount requested** |  | **Technical Assistance** | **Service Modality** | | **File no.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.1 | Bahamas | Community-based inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas | | US$99,363 |  | Yes | Yes | 02004 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.2 | Mauritania | Safeguarding and inventories of children’s tales and narratives in Mauritania | | US$87,460 |  | No | No | 02046 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.3 | Nicaragua | Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of traditional and religious festivities in the municipalities of Bluefields, Diriamba, León, El Viejo and Masaya | | US$100,000 |  | Yes | No | 02042 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.4 | Peru | Strengthening and promotion of the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and meanings related to the production of traditional pottery in Checca Pupuja, Puno | US$99,275 | |  | No | Yes | 02078 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.5 | Rwanda | Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage | US$99,230 | |  | No | No | 02050 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.6 | Togo | Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dances of Togo as a vector of sustainable cultural development | US$99,876 | |  | No | No | 02072 | |
| 18.COM  2.BUR 4.7 | Uzbekistan | Urgent safeguarding of the making of traditional musical instrument Kobyz and its tradition of Zhyrau performance | US$99,903 | |  | No | Yes | 02146 | |

1. In conformity with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assessed the completeness of the requests. Given the importance of International Assistance for achieving the Convention’s purpose of international cooperation, the Secretariat provided support to all requesting States as follows:

* Four requesting States (The Bahamas, Nicaragua, Peru, Uzbekistan) were supported during the process of drafting their International Assistance requests before submission.
* The Bahamas and Nicaragua benefited from technical assistance, meaning that each requesting State received support from an expert and from the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston and the UNESCO Cluster Office in San Jose, respectively, for the elaboration of their requests before submission to the Secretariat.
* Following the submission of their requests, three requesting States (Mauritania, Rwanda and Togo) received guidance through letters indicating whether any information was missing or insufficient; these States submitted a revised version of their request.

1. The requests submitted by Peru and Uzbekistan are for International Assistance that will take the form of services (100%) from the Secretariat to the State. In the case of the request submitted by The Bahamas, assistance will take the form of services from the Secretariat to the State, in addition to the provision of a grant. 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 concerns 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. While the Bureau started granting assistance with this service modality on an experimental basis, trends from the last three years indicate that the modality has gained understanding and support among States Parties as a useful tool for certain safeguarding projects. To date, International Assistance has been approved twelve times under the ‘service’ modality.
2. 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. The requests submitted by The Bahamas, Peru and Uzbekistan benefited from a consultation involving the submitting States and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Lima and the UNESCO Office in Tashkent, respectively, to agree on the details of the project, including the budget and timetable.
3. Six of the seven requests for International Assistance presented to the Bureau concern inventorying as a main subject of intervention. Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention stipulate that intangible cultural heritage elements should be well defined in inventories to help put safeguarding measures into practice, while providing enough flexibility to States Parties to determine how they will prepare their inventories. Requesting States may be encouraged to consult the [guidance note](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/50279-EN.pdf) (2021) on the process of inventorying intangible cultural heritage, which provides a list of issues to be considered prior to and during the inventorying process. The Convention’s [capacity-building materials](https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building-materials) on inventorying may also provide additional information.
4. The Secretariat hereby forwards the seven requests 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. The International Assistance requests in question are available online for the Bureau’s consultation at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/bureau-18com-01311>.
5. **Draft decisions**
6. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02004 submitted by The Bahamas,
3. Takes note that The Bahamas has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Community-based inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas**:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture (Division of Cultural Affairs), this twenty-four-month project aims to raise awareness about the importance of intangible cultural heritage in The Bahamas and to build local capacities to create and manage a national inventory. The project involves preparing a two-year plan to implement and ensure the sustainability of the inventory and creating an online multimedia platform to provide national access to the information and data. A national awareness campaign will be launched to engage traditional communities, academia, civil society and students and to spark conversations about living heritage. The project also entails implementing a local technical training programme, including train-the-trainer modules, to teach cultural practitioners, teachers and community leaders how to identify, define and catalogue elements of Bahamian living heritage. The trainees will then be charged with raising awareness about intangible cultural heritage and conducting inventorying exercises on an ongoing basis. In addition to identifying elements in need of urgent safeguarding, this project is expected to increase understanding of living heritage and its intrinsic value among the people of The Bahamas. It will also increase involvement in traditional cultural practices and contribute to their transmission.

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 The Bahamas has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,363 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be jointly implemented by the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of The Bahamas and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Kingston will be responsible for the provision of one international expert for the capacity-building workshops, administrative assistance and technical support of the project (15,1 per cent of the requested amount). The requesting State will be responsible for all of the other activities related to project setup as well as: (a) the provision of materials, equipment and services; (b) the organization of a national awareness campaign, capacity-building workshops and community-based inventorying; and (c) dissemination of the intangible cultural heritage inventory and the results of the project (84,9 per cent of the requested amount).
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02004, 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**: Preliminary fact-finding exercises were conducted with key stakeholders and local communities on five major islands in The Bahamas (and will be duplicated in eleven additional islands). Furthermore, while implementing the project, an ‘ICH Corps’ composed of communities, practitioners and stakeholders will play an integral role in identifying, defining, recording and safeguarding their living heritage elements, while reflecting the aspirations and interests of communities.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is presented in a structured manner, reflecting the planned activities and related expenses. Detailed information on the part of the funds to be managed by the UNESCO Field Office is provided.

**Criterion A.3**: The request is clearly organized and includes a series of activities that are well-conceived and presented in a logical sequence. These include: (a) a national awareness campaign; (b) a local technical training programme, including train-the-trainer modules; (c) the development of a national intangible cultural heritage inventory; and (d) the creation of an online multimedia platform dedicated to the inventory. The expected results seem achievable within the proposed project duration and timetable.

**Criterion A.4**: The capacity-building workshops and pilot inventory projects are intended to provide participants (including community representatives, cultural stakeholders, teachers and national authorities) with the methodological tools and skills needed to continue working on the management and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage within their communities. For instance, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of The Bahamas will train their staff to monitor and sustainably maintain the website and registry in collaboration with the ‘ICH corps’ on the various islands.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 56 per cent (including in-kind contributions) and other partners will contribute a further 2 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$237,850). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 42 per cent of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project mainly aims to reinforce capacities in intangible cultural heritage at two levels. At the community level, community members will be sensitized and trained to inventory their living heritage, while at the institutional level, the project will strengthen the capacities of government officials from The Bahamas. Capacity-building activities will be conducted in sixteen islands. These activities will include awareness raising and training in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as well as data collection and reporting mechanisms. The project is expected to involve at least 67 persons: 32 ‘living heritage ambassadors’, 25 participants in the capacity-building workshops and 10 persons to be recognized in the framework of the awareness-raising campaign.

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

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and involves a wide range of national and local implementing partners. The partnership was established when preparing this request, with representatives from the Local Government Administrations, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The requesting State has foreseen a series of actions to generate multiplier effects of the project and to solicit financial and technical contributions from other sources. Such actions include partnership with local business, support for entrepreneurship and the establishment of a cultural endowment fund. The establishment of an intangible cultural heritage inventory is also expected to serve as inspiration for other archipelago States Parties.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from The Bahamas for the project entitled **Community-based inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas** and grants the amount of US$99,363 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. Takes notes of the positive experience of the technical assistance provided to The Bahamas in finalizing this request, and invites the requesting State to build on the skills of the staff who directly benefited from this assistance;
3. Recommends the requesting State to be mindful of the progress of the ongoing Japanese Funds-in-Trust project ‘Capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and the Caribbean’ in The Bahamas, Belize, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu and to harmonize the activities of the two projects where appropriate;
4. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State on the budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, to ensure that the planned budgetary expenses are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of the expenditures;
5. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report when reporting on the use of the International Assistance provided.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02046 submitted by Mauritania,
3. Takes note that Mauritania has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Safeguarding and inventories of children’s tales and narratives in Mauritania**:

To be implemented by Association Maison des Théâtres, this eighteen-month project aims to safeguard children’s tales and narratives in Mauritania by creating an inventory and ensuring the transmission of the practice to future generations. The project involves the implementation of community workshops on how to develop participatory inventories, followed by the identification and inventorying of children’s tales and narratives across Mauritania. The tales identified during the inventorying process will be transmitted through a series of workshops targeting youth. Existing storytellers will organize a series of theoretical and practical workshops on how to recite tales and narratives for children. The participants of this workshop will transmit the practice within their communities in the future. Communication materials will be created to spread awareness about living heritage and to disseminate the collected stories and narratives in writing. This project is expected to revitalize the practice of children’s tales and narratives and to contribute to the safeguarding of Mauritania’s intangible cultural heritage in general. The workshops will increase national capacities to plan and conduct inventorying activities. By supporting opportunities in education and theatre, the project will provide resources for educational activities among the communities concerned.

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 Mauritania has requested assistance in the amount of US$87,460 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project.
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02046, 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 indicates that communities were consulted in five separate meetings held in different rural and urban areas between January and May 2022. They also collaborated with the project team in the development of the request. The project outlines the active role of communities during its implementation. It foresees that the communities will participate in the capacity-building workshops, fieldwork exercises and safeguarding activities. They will also participate in the planning, monitoring and follow-up of the project.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget defines the planned activities and related expenditures in sufficient detail. The amount of assistance requested seems appropriate for the objectives and scope of the project.

**Criterion A.3**: The request is structured in a series of activities in a logical sequence, from training workshops on the core principles of the Convention and community-based inventorying, to inventorying exercises. The project also includes four regional training workshops that focus on the transmission of the practice from storytellers, mainly women, to young community representatives. The expected results seem to be achievable within the proposed project duration.

**Criterion A.4**: Throughout the project, the implementing agency and its partners will seek to establish a sustainable framework to safeguard living heritage in Mauritania and to integrate the results of these inventories into the national inventory of the requesting State. Furthermore, the capacity-building workshops and inventorying activities aim to provide communities and other stakeholders with the methodological tools and skills needed to continue safeguarding the children’s tales and narratives traditions beyond the project completion. Finally, the focus on youth and women as a means of ensuring a sustainable transmission of knowledge related to this practice should lead to its revitalization within the communities.

**Criterion A.5**: The implementing partner will contribute 11 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$98,060). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 89 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: Capacity building will principally benefit members of the community, notably women and youth. Their capacities will be strengthened during various trainings, firstly through capacity-building workshops and participatory inventories, and secondly through the revitalization of the practice and training on the methods for transmission of children’s tales and narratives. At the community level, the project is expected to train 120 community members on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Sixty young members of the communities will also be involved in the transmission and safeguarding activities.

**Criterion A.7**: Mauritania has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for four completed projects[[1]](#footnote-1) as well as for one ongoing project entitled ‘Safeguarding the Oulad Mbarek epic’ (US$88,375; August 2022–December 2023). The work stipulated by the contracts related to these projects was and is being carried out in compliance with UNESCO’s regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and its implementation involves national and local authorities, including the Ministry of culture and associations and NGOs working in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project foresees that the various stakeholder meetings with communities and the communication materials developed within the framework of the project will provide greater visibility of intangible cultural heritage at the national level. The project is expected to trigger additional contributions from donors that could fund future safeguarding projects.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Mauritania for the project entitled **Safeguarding and inventories of children’s tales and narratives in Mauritania** and grants the amount of US$87,460 to the requesting State for this purpose;
2. Requests the implementing agency to work in close collaboration with the national authorities to ensure their active participation in all activities foreseen under this project and encourages the requesting State to take into consideration the results of this project in all national initiatives in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
3. Further encourages the implementing agency to consider the results of previous International Assistance granted to the requesting State in order to build on their achievements and to benefit from the lessons learnt;
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.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02042 submitted by Nicaragua,
3. Takes note that Nicaragua has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of traditional and religious festivities in the municipalities of Bluefields, Diriamba, León, El Viejo and Masaya**:

To be implemented by the Nicaraguan Institute of Culture, this twenty-four-month project aims to prepare an inventory of Nicaraguan intangible cultural heritage and to contribute to the safeguarding of elements related to the following traditional and religious festivities: (a) the traditional May Pole Festival; (b) the San Sebastian Patron Saint Festival; (c) the Festival of the Virgin of the Throne; (d) ‘La Gritería’, in honour of the Immaculate Conception of Mary; and (e) the San Jerónimo Patron Saint Festival. The project involves a series of capacity-building workshops on the identification and inventorying of intangible cultural heritage. Community workshops will also be implemented to spread awareness about the importance of living heritage and of community participation in its safeguarding and transmission. Other activities include data collection and inventorying and the publication of a book about the intangible cultural heritage of traditional and religious festivals.

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 Nicaragua has requested assistance in the amount of US$100,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02042, 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**: Community consultations were held with bearers and practitioners from the five communities that will participate in the project. Each community expressed full support, consent and participation. The Nicaraguan Institute of Culture will also actively work with local authorities, bearers, community leaders, cultural youth movements and other stakeholders. An inclusive gender and age perspective is aimed to be achieved as well.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is well-structured and specific details, descriptions and calculations of the cost of the proposed project are clearly explained. The amount of assistance requested is appropriate for the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are well-planned and coherent in terms of objectives, activities and expected outcomes. The project is based on three main actions: research and inventory documentation, capacity building and awareness-raising. It is expected that the inventory will be published as a book.

**Criterion A.4**: The project foresees capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for multiple stakeholders, including living heritage bearers and academics and staff of governmental institutions. The project ensures the transmission of knowledge and collaboration amongst communities and with other stakeholders. Furthermore, the project will promote continuing inventory processes at local and national levels.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 13 per cent and other partners will contribute a further 3 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$119,199). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 84 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project emphasizes building the capacities of communities and stakeholders. Government officers will gain enhanced understanding of the meanings of living heritage for the communities, as well as of the role of the bearers in the enactment of intangible cultural heritage elements. Communities will be encouraged to participate in safeguarding processes. The project is expected to engage 40 participants in the awareness-raising workshop as well as 35 persons in the inventory preparation workshops and inventorying exercise.

**Criterion A.7**: Nicaragua has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one completed project[[2]](#footnote-2) and one ongoing multinational project (Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) entitled ‘Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba’ (US$99,986; February 2023 – March 2024). The work stipulated by the contracts related to these projects was and is being carried out in compliance with UNESCO’s regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is to be implemented at the local level and involves partners such as the National Network of Public Libraries, the Ministry of Education, the Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism, the National Commission of Creative Economy, and the country’s academic sector, heritage foundations and civil associations.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: As part of the multiplier effects of the project, the project may lead to other initiatives to inventory other types of Nicaraguan intangible cultural heritage elements, with a view to establish a national inventory of Nicaraguan intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Nicaragua for the project entitled **Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of traditional and religious festivities in the municipalities of Bluefields, Diriamba, León, El Viejo and Masaya** and grants the amount of US$100,000 to the requesting State for this purpose;
2. Takes note of the positive experience of the technical assistance provided to Nicaragua 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 Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02078 submitted by Peru,
3. Takes note that Peru has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Strengthening and promotion of the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and meanings related to the production of traditional pottery in Checca Pupuja, Puno**:

To be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Lima in cooperation with the Intangible Heritage Directorate of the Ministry of Culture of Peru, this eighteen-month project aims to promote the intergenerational transmission of the knowledge and techniques related to traditional Checca Pupuja pottery. One of the main aspects related to the importance of this pottery is that it fulfils three main functions: utilitarian, decorative and ceremonial. The associated practices of the Checca Pupuja pottery are disappearing. The project involves carrying out a study to update the meanings associated with the pottery production process. It also entails recognizing masters and apprentices and analyzing their production capacities. Moreover, it will identify opportunities to strengthen the production processes and support local and regional economic exchange. Three paid pottery masters will facilitate a workshop to increase the capacities of youth to safeguard and produce traditional pottery. The workshop will include a combination of theoretical and practical modules addressing the history, meanings and values of traditional pottery and its production and commercialization. The project also entails publishing and disseminating educational materials to promote traditional Checca Pupuja pottery in family and community spaces. The project is expected to contribute to the safeguarding of traditional pottery production and its transmission to younger generations. It will serve as a pilot for similar projects in other locations while promoting the economic revitalization of the heritage sector in the southern Andean region.

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 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 Peru has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,275 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Lima, in close cooperation with the Intangible Heritage Directorate of the Ministry of Culture of Peru;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Lima 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 by renting premises for communication, hiring communication staff, and providing an intangible cultural heritage and museums specialist from the Ministry of Culture of Peru. All the above activities will be financed by the requesting State;
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02078, 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 concerns practitioners and artisans of the community of Checca Pupuja associated with the production of traditional pottery in the district of Jose Domingo Choquehuanca, province of Azángaro, department of Puno. A series of community workshops took place for the establishment of a safeguarding plan in 2018, and for the preparation of the request between 2020 and 2022. Furthermore, the main beneficiaries of the project are the practitioners and artisans of these traditional practices as well as future apprentices, who will also have an active role throughout the implementation and monitoring of the project.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget breakdown and the proposed timetable are well structured and in line with the activities described in the request. The amount of assistance requested is deemed appropriate.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are coherent and well-planned in terms of the objectives and expected results of the project. The project is structured around three main activities: (a) identifying the meanings related to the production and using of the traditional pottery of Checca Pupuja; (b) capacity building to strengthen the learning of the history and production of traditional pottery among Checca Pupuja youth; and (c) publication and dissemination of educational materials.

**Criterion A.4**: The project occurs at the community level, strengthening the skills of master potters and young apprentices, who will acquire the tools and technical skills to continue working at school and in family workshops. As a result, practitioners will guarantee the transmission of knowledge to new generations.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 21 per cent (including in-kind contributions) of the total amount of the project budget (US$126,095). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 79 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: Through its co-management strategy with community members and state institutions, the project takes a transversal approach to building the capacity of the bearers and stakeholders to strengthen traditional knowledge and techniques associated with the meanings and production of ceramics in Checca Pupuja, ensuring its transmission to future generations. Moreover, the project will contribute to the strengthening of pottery masters’ and youth’s skills for transmitting knowledge in new workspaces such as schools and for developing educational tools. The project is expected to involve 12 participants in the capacity building and learning workshop. The publication and dissemination of educational materials aim to target children and adolescents; in addition, the texts will be translated in Quechua to reach out broadly to community members.

**Criterion A.7**: Peru has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one completed project.[[3]](#footnote-3) The work stipulated by the contract related to this project was carried out in compliance with UNESCO’s regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and its implementation involves the Checca Pupuja community, national partners, the Ministry of Culture, the National Museums Office and local authorities.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project is expected to contribute to safeguarding traditional pottery production and its transmission to younger generations, as well as to the economic revitalization of the heritage sector in the southern Andean region of Peru, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the project, the implementing agency will seek to generate private sector participation strategies to stimulate new financial contributions that will strengthen the project results.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Peru for the project entitled **Strengthening and promotion of the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and meanings related to the production of traditional pottery in Checca Pupuja, Puno** and grants the amount of US$99,275 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. Recommends that the requesting State ensures the involvement of the communities concerned throughout the implementation of the project and in particular in the activity that aims to update the meanings related to the production and use of the traditional pottery of Checca Pupuja;
3. 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 justify the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02050 submitted by Rwanda,
3. Takes note that Rwanda has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage**:

To be implemented by the Rwandan National Commission for UNESCO, this eighteen-month project aims to develop the first inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Rwanda and to support the government’s national safeguarding efforts. The project involves: (a) implementing a capacity-building training workshop about the Convention and the importance of intangible cultural heritage, including training on relevant techniques and tools; (b) conducting community-based inventories; (c) collecting and analysing information on intangible cultural heritage in the communities; and (d) organizing awareness-raising meetings in the communities. Other activities include consulting over 300 project stakeholders, including community members, government entities and researchers. Fieldwork will also be conducted to inventory intangible cultural heritage throughout the country, and the collected materials and data will be digitalized. The project is expected to contribute to the strengthening of existing resources in the field of living heritage. It will benefit communities and cultural professionals in Rwanda, who will be able to carry out safeguarding activities in the future. It is also intended that national authorities use the results of the inventories to prepare a nomination file for inscription of an element on the Representative List.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project to be 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 Rwanda has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,230 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project.
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02050, 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 designed following the ‘Needs assessment for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rwanda’ carried out in 2017 by a member of the Global Network of Facilitators of the 2003 Convention. Four bearers and community leaders collaborated with national authorities in the development of the request. The project outlines the vital role of the communities concerned in the implementation of the activities, such as in capacity-building workshops and inventorying as well as in monitoring and evaluation.

**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 request is structured around four main activities: (a) awareness-raising stakeholder meetings in the thirty districts of Rwanda; (b) capacity-building workshops on the 2003 Convention; (c) community-based inventory field exercises in the different areas; and (d) elaboration of the inventory of national intangible cultural heritage. The proposed activities are clearly identified and correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request. Furthermore, the timeframe is realistic to enable the effective implementation of the project.

**Criterion A.4**: The request adequately describes how the project will contribute to building capacities at two levels. At the institutional level, it will strengthen the capacities of the staff from the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission to UNESCO through the various training workshops. At the community level, the project is expected to train almost 100 community members on the safeguarding and inventorying of intangible cultural heritage. The project will thus contribute to building long-term capacity for the safeguarding of living heritage, for professionals involved in the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, as well as for youth and community leaders.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 13 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$114,585). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 87 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: Through the project, the implementing agency and its partners are expected to set up a sustainable framework for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Rwanda. The elaboration of the first national inventory will result in the identification of elements for potential inclusion. Through the development of the inventory, the project should raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage among the population while contributing to their pride in its recognition.

**Criterion A.7**: The requesting State has not previously received any financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 UNESCO 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, including the Ministry of Culture and district administrations.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project is expected to promote safeguarding measures for living heritage practices to be identified through inventorying, supported by the involvement of the communities.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Rwanda for the project entitled **Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage** and grants the amount of US$99,230 to the requesting State for this purpose;
2. 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;
3. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02072 submitted by Togo,
3. Takes note that Togo has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dances of Togo as a vector of sustainable cultural development**:

To be implemented by CUL.DEV (Culture and Development), an accredited NGO under the Convention, this twenty-five-month project aims to identify, safeguard and promote traditional dances in Togo. The project involves inventorying the dances, including categorizing them and describing the related performance techniques, music, rhythms, contexts, dress and norms, as well as their social, spiritual and secular roles within the communities. The development of the inventory will engage youth, women and men, who will be specially trained for this purpose and will be mentored by professionals. To ensure the sustainability and transmission of the dances, the groups and associations holding the traditional knowledge and skills will contribute to the initiation of young practitioners representing communities from all Togo prefectures. The initiation sessions will be filmed and will cover techniques, songs and rituals related to the traditional dances. Demonstration sessions will also be organized in each region to feature rare or endangered dances and to present the project results to the communities concerned, dance associations, researchers, and other stakeholders. The project is expected to contribute to increased awareness about the cultural significance of traditional dances in particular, and about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in general.

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 Togo has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,876 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02072, 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 information provided in the request demonstrates that the project builds on the safeguarding efforts that Togo has been undertaking since 2011 with the general inventory of intangible cultural heritage. Furthermore, a series of national and regional consultations with communities, which took place from 2018 to 2022 as part of the implementation of the project ‘Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments (national phase)’, also highlighted community needs to identify and safeguard traditional dances. Moreover, the request provides a detailed description of the role of the communities, including women and youth, and their close involvement in the proposed activities, including the monitoring and evaluation of those activities.

**Criterion A.2**: The total amount of assistance requested and the budget per activity seem appropriate and in line with the scope of the project to achieve the desired results.

**Criterion A.3**: The project has been developed taking into account the lessons learned from the previous International Assistance. The nine proposed activities are described in detail and presented in a logical sequence. They include: (a) awareness-raising activities through fifteen meetings throughout the country; (b) capacity building of communities on inventory techniques and safeguarding; and (c) revitalization actions.

**Criterion A.4**: The project is part of a long-term strategy implemented by the submitting State aimed at implementing a national programme for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. This includes a training component on traditional dance practices. Furthermore, the Regional Institute for Higher Studies and Research in Cultural Development (IRES-RDEC) will offer high-level training to artists of all genders who wish to have a career in dance. Existing festivals, groups and local clubs also offer a framework for the sustainability of the project’s results, as they will contribute to revitalizing the transmission of the social and cultural values of this living heritage.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 7 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$106,991). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 93 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: Capacity building of national institutions and of communities, especially women and youth, is an important aspect of the project, especially in terms of participatory inventories of living heritage and revitalizing the transmission of practices associated with traditional dances through training workshops and dance demonstrations. More than 500 people will be made aware of the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and almost 200 young people will be initiated by practitioners and bearers to the techniques, know-how, songs and rituals linked to traditional dances. The project will also contribute to strengthening the capacities of government and NGO staff working in the field of safeguarding living heritage, thus helping to maintain safeguarding efforts in the country beyond the end of the project.

**Criterion A.7**: Togo has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for three completed projects.[[4]](#footnote-4) The work stipulated in the contracts related to these projects was carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and involves national and regional partners, including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and civil society institutions.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project foresees that the Fund to support cultural activities (FAC - Fonds d’aide à la culture) will support the future projects related to the practice of traditional dance. This demonstrates the State’s capacity to mobilize financial resources with the aim of safeguarding traditional dance practices in Togo.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Togo for the project entitled **Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dances of Togo as a vector of sustainable cultural development** and grants the amount of US$99,876 to the requesting State for this purpose;
2. Requests the implementing agency to work in close collaboration with national authorities to ensure their active participation in all activities foreseen under this project and encourages the requesting State to take into consideration the results of this project in all national initiatives in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
3. Further encourages the implementing agency to consider the results of previous International Assistance granted to the requesting State in order to build on their achievements and to benefit from the lessons learnt;
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.

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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/4 as well as International Assistance request no. 02146 submitted by Uzbekistan,
3. Takes note that Uzbekistan has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Urgent safeguarding of the making of traditional musical instrument Kobyz and its tradition of Zhyrau performance**:

To be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan, this eighteen-month project aims to safeguard and raise awareness of Karakalpak living heritage in Uzbekistan, with a focus on the endangered kobyz and zhyrau traditions. Using a gender-based approach, the project involves identifying and documenting the techniques of creating kobyz (a traditional string instrument) and performing zhyrau music. It will also entail workshops to build the capacity of youth to craft the instrument and perform zhyrau. The workshops will be filmed, and the footage will be used to create a documentary that will be broadcast on local and national television. Other project activities include: (a) raising awareness about related safeguarding processes, including among local communities and youth; (b) implementing a workshop on the 2003 Convention and UNESCO’s inventorying methodology, including guidance and hands-on practice on compiling, recording and documenting elements of intangible cultural heritage; (c) mapping, inventorying and documenting kobyz and zhyrau and related elements; and (d) organizing awareness-raising activities with public education and media outlets. The project is expected to support traditional craftspeople and performers while encouraging youth to learn, appreciate and transmit their cultural heritage.

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 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 Uzbekistan has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,903 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Tashkent 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 by renting the office for the management team for the duration of the project and providing venues for the capacity-building workshops and awareness-raising meetings;
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02146, 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**: Representatives of local communities and bearers from Karakalpakstan were involved in the project design, which foresees the broad involvement of community members and practitioners throughout the project implementation, particularly in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Gender responsiveness will be monitored and evaluated through gender-specific indicators, stakeholder involvement and the recognition of women’s contributions.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is well-structured and realistic. The details regarding the activities and cost of the proposed project are clearly explained.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are coherent and well-planned in terms of the objectives and expected results of the project. Two main actions are proposed: (a) capacity building on safeguarding methodologies (with an emphasis on inventorying living heritage) and traditional knowledge and skills of kobyz and zhyrau; and (b) awareness-raising actions. Overall, the sequence of the proposed activities is logical and seems feasible with respect to the project duration.

**Criterion A.4**: The project foresees awareness-raising activities on safeguarding living heritage that may continue beyond its duration. Moreover, alliances with the schools in Karakalpakstan will be promoted to ensure the transmission of the kobyz and zhyrau traditions to new generations. The plan to encourage cooperation between the cultural sector and educational sector is promising for the sustainability of this project.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 5 per cent of the total amount of the project budget for which International Assistance is requested (US$104,903). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 95 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6**: The project emphasizes building the communities’ capacities to strengthen the viability of kobyz and zhyrau traditions in Uzbekistan and to transmit the knowledge and practices to future generations. The project is expected to involve 130 people in different activities related to training, inventorying and awareness raising initiatives.

**Criterion A.7**: The requesting State has not previously received any financial assistance from 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 aims to establish cooperation and networking at the national level. Cultural organizations and national institutions such as the Ministries of Education and Culture have been invited to participate in the project implementation.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: This project has the potential to stimulate financial and technical contributions from other sources and to inspire similar efforts elsewhere. Cultural organizations and national institutions such as the Ministries of Education and Culture have been engaged in the preparation of the project and will take part in its implementation. The requesting State expects to generate interest in Karakalpakstan, providing economic benefits for the local communities.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Uzbekistan for the project entitled **Urgent safeguarding of the making of traditional musical instrument Kobyz and its tradition of Zhyrau performance,** and grants the amount of US$99,903 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. 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 justify the expenditures;
3. Invites the requesting State to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

1. 1) Preparatory assistance (Good Safeguarding Practices) for the project ‘Safeguarding and promotion of the Imraguen intangible cultural heritage’ (US$9,800; December 2009 – April 2010); 2) Preparatory assistance (Urgent Safeguarding List) for the project ‘Moorish epic T’Heydinn’ (US$9,800; December 2009 – April 2010; the element ‘Moorish epic T’heydinn’’ was subsequently inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List by the sixth session of the Committee in 2011, Decision [6.COM 8.13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/6.COM/8.13)); 3) International assistance entitled ‘Strengthening the capacities of NGOs active in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Mauritania’ (US$94,300; July 2019 – July 2021); 4) International assistance entitled ‘National Oral Traditions (NOT), additional collection component’ (US$90,562; October 2020 – December 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Preparatory assistance (Urgent Safeguarding List) for the project entitled ‘Oral traditions and expressions of Rama people’ (US$9,695; December 2009 – April 2010). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Preparatory assistance (Register of Good Safeguarding Practices) for the multinational (Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Peru) project entitled ‘Aymara Cultural Universe’ (US$7,500; February – April 2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1) ‘General inventory of intangible cultural heritage’ (US$24,770; March 2010 – September 2011); 2) ‘Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments (Pilot phase in the Maritime region, south Togo)’ (US$24,950; December 2015 – December 2016); and 3) ‘Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments (national phase)’ (US$99,890.39; March 2019 – June 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)