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

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

**Seventeenth session**

**Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco**

**28 November to 3 December 2022**

**Item 14 of the provisional agenda:**

**Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle**

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| **Summary**  The present document provides information in support of the establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle, in conformity with Article 8.3 of the Convention.  **Decision required:** paragraph 15 |

**Introduction**

1. Article 8.3 of the Convention provides that ‘[t]he Committee may establish, on a temporary basis, whatever ad hoc consultative bodies it deems necessary to carry out its task’[[1]](#footnote-1). The present session of the Committee is requested to establish a consultative body, known as the Evaluation Body, for the 2023 cycle. The set of tasks to be entrusted to the Evaluation Body include the adjustments recently made through the revisions undertaken to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the 2003 Convention by the ninth session of the General Assembly of the States Parties, following the global reflection on the listing mechanisms (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)). It should also be noted that the Evaluation Body is no longer established on an ‘experimental basis’, since its composition and working methods have been confirmed through the global reflection process.

**Establishment of the 2023 Evaluation Body**

Adjustments to the mandate of the Evaluation Body

1. With reference to paragraphs 27 and 30 of the Operational Directives, the mandate of the Evaluation Body continues to include:

* The evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including nominations for the inscription on an extended or reduced basis of an already inscribed element.
* The evaluation of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention.
* The evaluation of International Assistance requests[[2]](#footnote-2) submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

1. The new tasks entrusted to the Evaluation Body pertain to:

* The evaluation of requests to transfer an already inscribed element from one List to another (paragraph 30 of the Operational Directives).
* The evaluation of International Assistance requests submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives).
* The possibility, following its evaluation of a request for transfer, for the Body to recommend that the Committee include the successful safeguarding experience in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (paragraph 39.3 of the Operational Directives).
* Evaluating an element placed under ‘enhanced follow-up’ status (paragraph 40.3 (a) of the Operational Directives).

1. The 2023 cycle represents a transitional period since the Evaluation Body shall evaluate two International Assistance requests greater than US$ 100,000 submitted before its mandate was revised by the ninth session of the General Assembly. The terms of reference of the Body therefore need to still include a specific task in this regard.

Composition and terms of reference

1. In conformity with Paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives, ‘[t]he Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage’.
2. Paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives further specifies that ‘[o]nce appointed by the Committee, the members of the Evaluation Body shall act impartially in the interests of all the States Parties and the Convention’. It also stipulates that ‘[t]he duration of office of a member of the Evaluation Body shall not exceed four years’ and that ‘[e]very year, the Committee shall renew one quarter of the members of the Evaluation Body’. The purpose of this system is to balance the need for continuity and institutional memory on the one hand with the need for reinvigoration and fresh inputs on the other. The principle of equitable geographic representation shall also be strictly respected.
3. Following the above and pursuant to Rule 20.2 of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure, the composition and terms of reference (including the mandate and duration of office) of the Evaluation Body are proposed in Annex 1 to the present document.

Vacant seats

1. The following three seats for the 2023 – 2026 cycles are scheduled to be filled by the present session of the Committee, as indicated in Decision [13.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/14) (and as also referred to in Decisions [14.COM 18](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/18), [15.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/10) and [16.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/16)):

* Electoral Group I – Expert
* Electoral Group II – Expert
* Electoral Group V(a) – non-governmental organization

1. Following the election of Ethiopia as a State Member of the Committee at the ninth session of the General Assembly, the mandate of Mr Limeneh Getachew Senishaw (Ethiopia) as an expert of the Evaluation Body came to an end[[3]](#footnote-3) upon the adoption of Resolution [9.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/11) on 7 July 2022. Only experts representing States Parties non-Members of the Committee may become members of the Evaluation Body, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives. The expert in question was initially elected by the Committee at its fourteenth session in 2019 to serve for a four-year mandate from the 2020 cycle to the 2023 cycle (Decision [14.COM 18](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/18)). As a result, the following seat has also become vacant, for the mandate of one year, to be filled by the present session of the Committee:

* Electoral Group V (a) – Expert

1. For future cycles, the Evaluation Body shall continue to be renewed according to paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives, whereby three seats are replaced on an annual basis as they become available. According to this system, twelve new members shall be elected over the next four years. The above-mentioned seat for an expert from Electoral Group V (a) will become vacant again at the end of the 2023 cycle and the eighteenth session of the Committee in 2023 would then elect a new member with a full mandate for four years (2024 cycle to 2027 cycle).
2. In conformity with paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat informed the States Parties on 3 October 2022 of the vacant seats to be filled from each Electoral Group. Thereafter, the Chairperson of each Electoral Group concerned sent up to three candidatures to the Secretariat (in accordance with paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives; in addition, the Committee by its Decision [9.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/11) encouraged States Parties to ensure that ‘at least two candidatures […] are sent to the Secretariat by the Chairperson of the Electoral Group concerned’).
3. Accordingly, a table in Annex 2 to this document provides the names of three candidate experts from Electoral Group I, three candidate experts from Electoral Group II, as well as one candidate expert and three candidate non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Electoral Group V(a). The same table provides a link to the website and the request for accreditation in the case of NGOs, as well as to the curriculum vitae in the case of experts.
4. The Committee is hereby asked to elect four new members in accordance with Rule 39.B (Rules 39.7 – 39.16) of its Rules of Procedure, and to renew the appointments of the eight continuing members.

**Sequence in evaluating and examining files**

1. At the fourteenth session of the Committee in 2019, a new system was introduced for determining the sequence in which files would be evaluated; this was designed to avoid following the same order on each occasion by always beginning with the files of those States whose names fall at the beginning of the English alphabet. The Committee decided that, for the following cycle, files would be evaluated by the Evaluation Body and subsequently examined by the Committee in alphabetical order starting with the files of States whose names begin with a letter drawn by lot. This practice was then followed for the subsequent cycles. The table below summarizes the letter of the English alphabet used in this regard for the three past cycles:

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| **Cycle** | **Letter chosen** | **Decision** |
| 2020 cycle | letter ‘Q’ | Decision [14.COM 18](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/18) |
| 2021 cycle | letter ‘X’ | [Decision 15.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/10) |
| 2022 cycle | letter ‘C’ | [Decision 16.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/16) |

1. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM.14

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM/14 Rev.3 and its annexes,
2. Recalling Article 8.3 of the Convention, Paragraphs 27, 28, 30, 39.3 and 40.3 (a) of the Operational Directives and Rules 20 and 39 of its Rules of Procedure,
3. Further recalling its Decisions [9.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/11), [13.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/14), [14.COM 18](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/18), 15.COM 10 and [16.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/16), as well as its [Resolutions 9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-Resolutions-EN.docx) and [9.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/11),
4. Establishes a consultative body to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’ and adopts its terms of reference as annexed to this decision;
5. Appoints the following individual experts and accredited non-governmental organizations as members of the Evaluation Body for 2023:

**Experts representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee**

1. EG I: \*\*\* (Name/State Party)
2. EG II: \*\*\*(Name/State Party)
3. EG III: Mr Nigel Encalada (Belize)
4. EG IV: Mr Kirk Siang Yeo (Singapore)
5. EG V(a): \*\*\* (Name/State Party)
6. EG V(b): Ms Nahla Abdallah Emam (Egypt)

**Accredited non-governmental organizations**

1. EG I: Workshop intangible heritage Flanders
2. EG II: European Association of Folklore Festivals
3. EG III: Daniel Rubin de la Borbolla Center
4. EG IV: Aigine Cultural Research Center – Aigine CRC
5. EG V(a): \*\*\* (NGO)
6. EG V(b): Syria Trust for Development
7. Notes that for the purpose of elections at its future sessions, the twelve seats of the Evaluation Body shall be filled as follows:

Seats to be filled for the 2024 – 2027 cycles:

EG I NGO

EG II NGO

EG V(a) Expert

Seats to be filled for the 2025 – 2028 cycles:

EG III Expert

EG IV Expert

EG V(b) NGO

Seats to be filled for the 2026 – 2029 cycles:

EG III NGO

EG IV NGO

EG V(b) Expert

Seats to be filled for the 2027 – 2030 cycles:

EG I Expert

EG II Expert

EG V(a) NGO

1. Decides to examine the 2023 cycle files in alphabetical order, starting with the files of States whose names begin with the letter XX in the English alphabet, and requests that the Evaluation Body follow the same order when evaluating the files and that it present its report in that order.

**Annex I: Terms of Reference of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle**

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| The Evaluation Body: | | |
| 1. | Shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of intangible cultural heritage representative of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage; | |
| 2. | Shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur; | |
| 3. | Shall hold private meetings in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee; | |
| 4. | Shall be responsible for the evaluation of nominations for inscription (including the transfer from one List to another, the extension or reduction of an already inscribed element) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, of International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000 and of International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, in conformity with the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention. It shall, in particular, include in its evaluation: | |
|  | a. | An assessment of the conformity of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding with the inscription criteria as provided in Chapter I.1 of the Operational Directives, including an assessment of the viability of the element and the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan, and an assessment of the risks of it disappearing, as provided in Paragraph 29 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | b. | An assessment of the conformity of nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity with the inscription criteria, as provided in Chapter I.2 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | c. | An assessment of the conformity of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention with the selection criteria, as provided in Chapter I.3 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | d. | An assessment of the conformity with the approval criteria, as provided in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives, of:   * International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000; * International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; * International Assistance requests submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; |
|  | e. | Recommendations to the Committee:   * To inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element (including the transfer from one List to another, the extension or reduction of an already inscribed element) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity, or to refer the proposal to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To approve or not to approve the International Assistance request greater than US$100,000, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or * To maintain or to remove the inscribed element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, in case of ‘enhanced follow-up’; * To include or not, following its evaluation of a request for transfer, the successful safeguarding experience in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. |
| 5. | Shall provide the Committee with an overview of all the files and a report of its evaluation; | |
| 6. | Shall conduct a dialogue process with submitting States Parties during the evaluation process, as provided in Chapter I.15 of the Operational Directives; | |
| 7. | Shall cease to exist following the submission and presentation to the eighteenth session of the Committee of the report on its evaluation of the files to be examined by the Committee in 2023 and with the establishment of the next Evaluation Body. | |
| Once appointed by the Committee, the members of the Evaluation Body shall act impartially in the interests of all States Parties and of the Convention. | | |

**Annex II: List of candidates**

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| **Electoral Group I** | | | |
| **Experts** | | | |
| Ms Sophie ELPERS | Netherlands | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_ELPERS.pdf) |
| Mr Luis Pablo MARTÍNEZ-SANMARTÍN | Spain | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_MART%C3%8DNEZ-SANMART%C3%8DN.pdf) |
| Ms Evrim ÖLÇER ÖZÜNEL | Türkiye | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_%C3%96L%C3%87ER_%C3%96Z%C3%9CNEL.pdf) |
| **Electoral Group II** | | | |
| **Experts** | | | |
| Ms Meri KUMBE | Albania | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_KUMBE_Rev..pdf) |
| Mr Rimvydas LAUŽIKAS | Lithuania | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_LAU%C5%BDIKAS.pdf) |
| Ms Ioana Otilia BASKERVILLE | Romania | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_BASKERVILLE.pdf) |
| **Electoral Group V(a)** | | | |
| **Expert** | | | |
| Ms Tiana Lalaina RAZAFIMANANTSOA | Madagascar | | [CV](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/17COM_EB_CV_RAZAFIMANANTSOA.pdf) |
| **Accredited non-governmental organizations** | | | |
| Amagugu International Heritage Center | | Accredited in 2018  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/37566-EN.pdf))  [Website](http://www.amaguguheritage.org) | |
| Global Development for Pygmee Minorities (GLODEPM) | | Accredited in 2010  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=02455))  Renewed in 2015  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/30021-FR.doc))  Renewed in 2019  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/43187-FR.pdf)) | |
| The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU) | | Accredited in 2012  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/NGO-90274-ICH-09.pdf))  Renewed in 2017  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/36081-EN.pdf))  Renewed in 2021  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/52851-EN.pdf))  [Website](https://crossculturalfoundation.or.ug/) | |

1. . The same provision also figures as paragraph 20.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. .  Following the amendments to the Operational Directives by the ninth session of the General Assembly, all stand-alone International Assistance requests are to be examined by the Bureau with a cap of US$100,000 per request. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. .  Following the election of Slovakia as a State Member of the Committee at the ninth session of the General Assembly, the mandate of Ms Ľubica Voľanská (Slovakia) came to an end upon the adoption of Resolution [9.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/11) on 7 July 2022. Since the expert in question was initially elected by the Committee at its thirteenth session in 2018 to serve for a four-year mandate from the 2019 cycle to the 2022 cycle (Decision [13.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/14)), this does not affect the schedule for the election of a new expert of the Evaluation Body from Electoral Group II. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)