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Intangible Cultural Heritage

Representative List

ICH-02 – Form

Reçu CLT/LHE	
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N°

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

**Deadline: 31 March 2023
for possible inscription in 2024**

*Instructions for completing the form are available at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

A. State Party or States Parties

People's Republic of China

B. Name of the element

B.1. Name of the element in the languages and scripts of the community(ies) concerned

春节——中国人庆祝传统新年的社会实践

B.2. Name of the element in English

Spring festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of traditional new year

C. Name of the communities, groups or individuals concerned

The element is shared by the Chinese people and is widely practiced across the country. During Spring Festival, people enjoy family reunion and carry out family and community-based activities. Representative communities, groups and individuals concerned include:

Festivity preparations: Weifang City, Shandong Province; Kaifeng City, Henan Province; Foshan City, Guangdong Province; Liangping District, Chongqing; Mianzhu City, Sichuan Province; *Yinglian* (couplets) Society of China, Yangliuqing *Nianhua* (New Year picture) Society in Tianjin, Jiajiang *Nianhua* Research Institute; representative bearers such as Huo Qingshun, Huo Qingyou, Ma Xiqin, Wang Zude, Liu Guoli, Tai Liping, Dong Qiaolan (female), etc.

Clan worshipping activities: Wu clan in Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province; Liu clan in Wencheng County, Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province; Chen clan in Taoyuan Village, Qimen County, Huangshan City, Anhui Province, etc.

New Year fairs, *shehuo* (folk performances), temple fairs, lantern shows, etc.: Xicheng District, Beijing; Pingding County, Yangquan City, Shanxi Province; Benxi Manchu Autonomous County, Benxi City, Liaoning Province; Qian Gorlos Mongol Autonomous County, Songyuan City, Jilin Province; Aihui District, Heihe City, Heilongjiang Province; Huangpu District, Shanghai; Qinhuai District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province; Pujiang County, Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province; Mawei District, Fuzhou City, Fujian Province; Xunxian County, Hebi City, Henan Province; Hanyang District, Wuhan City, Hubei Province; Yuexiu District, Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province; Tongliang District, Chongqing; Zigong City, Sichuan Province; Ledu District, Haidong City, Qinghai Province; Poetry & Couplet and *Chunguanci* (Spring Blessing Lyrics) Society of Xiji County; representative bearers such as Gu Yeliang, Lyu Chunjing, Yang Fengshan, etc.

1. General information about the element

For **Criterion R.1**, States shall demonstrate that ‘the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention’.

1.1. Provide a brief description of the element that can introduce it to readers who have never seen or experienced it.

Not to exceed 200 words

Spring Festival, falling on the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar, marks the beginning of the new year. Around this time, a variety of social practices are carried out with the themes of ushering in the new year, praying for good fortune, celebrating family reunion and promoting community harmony. This process of celebration is known as “*guonian*” (crossing the year).

From the 23rd day of the twelfth month, people start to clean their home, post spring couplets and *nianhua*, stock provisions and prepare food. On New Year’s Eve, the family dine together and stay up late to welcome the new year. During the festival, people wear new clothes, make offerings to heaven, earth and ancestors, and extend New Year greetings to the elders, relatives, friends and neighbors. Festive events including temple fairs, *shehuo*, and lantern shows held by communities last until the 15th day of the first month. *Guonian* provides a sense of identity and continuity for the Chinese people.

With diversified social practices transmitted through generations, the element manifests the Chinese people’s ethics and norms and their devotion to family and country. It also embodies the concept of harmony between humanity and nature and among people.

1.2. Who are the bearers and practitioners of the element? Are there any specific roles, including gender-related ones or categories of persons with special responsibilities for the practice and transmission of the element? If so, who are they and what are their responsibilities?

Not to exceed 100 words

The Chinese people are the practitioners of the element. The elders organize family activities, such as shopping, cooking, and worshipping. Public festive events are held by the communities, cultural institutions, social groups, and art troupes. Craftsmen make festival decorations such as *nianhua*, lanterns and paper-cuts. During the Festival, people of all ages and genders play their parts, both in family and in the communities; children and youths are actively involved.

1.3. How are the knowledge and skills related to the element transmitted today?

Not to exceed 100 words

Traditional knowledge of rituals, customs, legends, and ballads associated with the element, and

life skills of preparing festival decorations and supplies, are transmitted orally or by examples within the family and the communities. Relevant traditional handicrafts and performing arts are transmitted from one generation to another through apprenticeship. As an important resource, the element has been integrated into formal education system and passed on to children and youths in primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational schools.

1.4. *What social functions and cultural meanings does the element have nowadays for the communities concerned?*

Not to exceed 100 words

During its inter-generational transmission, the element has played a significant role in promoting personal morality, family values and community solidarity, thus reinforcing social coherence and providing the sense of identity and continuity for the Chinese people. The element manifests the wisdom of the Chinese people in arranging production and daily life according to the pattern of nature and phenological changes, thus highlighting the concept of harmony between humanity and nature. The practices continue to stimulate creativity in the transmission of traditional culture, thereby providing a sustained driving force for a better life.

1.5. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element is incompatible with existing international human rights instruments?*

Not to exceed 50 words

The element is widely practiced by people irrespective of age, gender, occupation, ethnicity and belief, and complies with existing international human rights instruments.

1.6. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals?*

Not to exceed 50 words

The element is widely diffused and takes various forms. It embodies the wish of all for a better life in the new year and the spirit of harmony between humanity, nature and society. It is compatible with the requirement of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals.

1.7. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of sustainable development?*

Not to exceed 50 words

The element plays a significant role in promoting family values, social harmony, economic development and environmental conservation, and is compatible with the requirement of sustainable development.

1.8. *Are there customary practices governing access to the element? If yes, describe any specific measures that are in place to ensure their respect.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No. During the Festival, people are expected to act in a way consistent with the festive theme and atmosphere. For example, red color is considered auspicious and is used often for clothing and private and public decorations. Auspicious words are often exchanged when people meet. Participants will be informed of the above-mentioned customs.

1.9. *Audiovisual materials about the element*

- 10 recent photographs in high definition are submitted
- Form ICH-07-photo is attached to grant rights for the 10 photos submitted
- A video is submitted
- Form ICH-07-video is attached to grant rights for the video submitted

2. Contribution to visibility, awareness, dialogue and sustainable development

For **Criterion R.2**, the States shall demonstrate that 'Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity'. In addition, States are encouraged, with reference to Chapter VI of the Operational Directives, to recognize the interdependence between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Given its extensive nature, criterion R.2 will be assessed based on the information provided in the nomination file as a whole including the answers provided in this section.

Do communities concerned consider that the element contributes to the following?

- Food security
- Health care
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Inclusive economic development
- Environmental sustainability including climate change
- Peace and social cohesion
- Others (please specify):

Provide explanations in support of the statement(s) made above, as appropriate.

Not to exceed 200 words

The element involves the knowledge and practices on food production, processing, storage, and preparation, bearing people's aspiration for a bumper harvest. The awareness of food security is thus strengthened.

The customs, knowledge, skills, and traditional ways of transmitting the element are still practiced today, and provide rich resources for formal education. This collaboration and complementarity between formal and non-formal education has contributed to achieving quality education for all.

The element passes on the values and norms of gender identity to the young generation, provides spaces for gender dialogues through collaborative work, and offers opportunities to build trust and an inclusive relationship as it adapts to changes of the times. The element has promoted gender equality.

Consumption demands generated from the element provide significant opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and decent work for communities, thus promoting economic development.

The environmental ethics of respecting and living in harmony with nature has been constantly strengthened in the practice of the element, which has raised communities' awareness of environmental sustainability.

Being open and inclusive, the element conveys the philosophy of harmony and integration, and promotes social cohesion and the value of peace through its vibrant practice.

States are encouraged to submit audiovisual materials that convey the communities' voice in support of the statements made above.

- Materials (written, audio-visual or any other way) are submitted

3. Safeguarding measures

For **Criterion R.3**, States shall demonstrate that 'safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element'.

What safeguarding measures are put in place to protect and promote the element? Include in your answer the

In the transmission and practice of the element, a long-term, community-based safeguarding mechanism involving multiple actors has been formed and effective measures have been taken to ensure the viability of the element. For example:

The central government provides institutional guarantees for practicing and safeguarding the element through authorizing national holiday to observe the Festival and including the element in the National List of Representative Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Project for Revitalizing Traditional Chinese Festivals has been implemented to promote traditional festivals, including the element. Competent authorities have ensured holiday travels, supplies, food safety and law and order. Communities, groups and individuals concerned have taken a central role in the practice of the element and its transmission in traditional ways. They also work with educational institutions for its integrated transmission in formal ways. Community-based cultural institutions such as museums, cultural centers and libraries organize awareness-raising and experiential activities about the element for the public. Professional institutions have advanced major projects such as Chronicles of Chinese Festivals and Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which contributes to the research and archiving of the element. Medias have made extensive efforts for the enhancement of the element and built platforms for sharing the practices of the communities.

On the basis of ongoing safeguarding measures, priorities will be given to the following areas: studying, exploring, and promoting the cultural meanings of the element, raising awareness and consciousness among the young generation to transmit and practice the element; implementing traditional and creative practices according to local conditions in order to diversify the enactment of the element; monitoring and evaluating the effects of the safeguarding measures, paying close attention to potential risks to the element, and regularly negotiating responses.

The Chinese government will provide administrative, financial, and technical support for the implementation of these measures, and incorporate them in the economic, social, and environmental plans to maximize the role of the element in sustainable development.

Communities, groups and individuals concerned have participated in the formulation of the above measures through policy proposals, as well as comments via the media, dialogues and interviews, and will implement the measures together with other actors.

4. Community participation in the nomination process and consent

For Criterion R.4, States shall demonstrate that 'the element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent'.

4.1. Describe how the communities, groups or individuals concerned have actively participated in all stages of the preparation of the nomination.

Not to exceed 300 words

As the notion of ICH safeguarding spreads, people across the country become more aware of the importance of the element. A strong desire has been expressed to nominate it on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In recent years, deputies to national and local people's congresses and political consultative conferences have time and again submitted suggestions and proposals on the nomination of the element. The same have been proposed by relevant communities, groups and individuals through online government platforms and hot lines, and medias, or in forms of meetings and activities.

Based on the broad public support, a working group consisting of community representatives, experts and professional institutions has been established in July 2022 with the coordination of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to initiate the preparation of the nomination. The working group is in close contact with local stakeholders through various channels, including video conferences, online meetings, WeChat groups, and written communications. During the process, relevant communities, groups, bearers, researchers and NGOs have provided a large amount of texts, pictures and video materials, as well as feedback on the current situation of the element. They have proposed suggestions and opinions on safeguarding measures and provided informed consent documents. The process of video shooting for the nomination has witnessed support and cooperation from all parties concerned. Based on all these relevant materials, the

working group drafted the nomination file, solicited inputs from the parties concerned, and finalized the draft.

- Consent (written, audio-visual or any other way) to the nomination of the element from the communities, groups or individuals concerned is attached in support to the description above

4.2. Community organizations or representatives concerned

Contact person for the communities:

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr

Family name: Bi

Given name: Chuanlong

Institution/position: China Folklore Society / Member of the Secretariat

Address: No. 141, Chaoyangmenwai St., Beijing, 100020, P. R. China

Telephone number: 0086-10-87930613

Email address: bclbnu@163.com

Other relevant information:

- Contact information for main community organizations or representatives, non-governmental organizations or other bodies concerned with the element are attached, and their details can be published on the website of the Convention as part of the nomination

5. Inventory

For Criterion R.5, States shall demonstrate that the element is identified and included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies) in conformity with Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention.

5.1. Name of the inventory(ies) in which the element is included

National List of Representative Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage

5.2. Name of the office(s), agency(ies), organization(s) or body(ies) responsible for maintaining and updating that (those) inventory(ies), both in the original language and in translation when the original language is not English or French

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China

5.3. Reference number(s) and name(s) of the element in the relevant inventory(ies)

Serial No.: 449

Category No.: X-1

Name of the element: Spring Festival

5.4. Date of the element's inclusion in the inventory(ies)

On May 20, 2006, the element was included in the first batch of the National List of Representative Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Is the information concerning the updating and periodicity of the inventory(ies), as well as the participation of communities, groups and NGOs concerned to the inventorying process, included in the periodic report on the implementation of the Convention?

- Yes, the information is included in the periodic report. Specify in the box below the year in which that

report was submitted

No, the information is not included in the periodic report. Provide information in the box below

Not to exceed 200 words

The information concerning the updating and periodicity of the inventory was included in the second periodic report submitted by China in December 2017. In addition, with further progress in ICH safeguarding and practices, China, in a manner geared to its own situations, has prioritized sustainable development in ICH safeguarding and further improved the inventory updating. From June 2019 to March 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has proceeded with the fourth national inventory updating. In May 2021, the State Council of the People's Republic of China released the fifth batch of the National List of Representative Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage and finalized the fourth updating of the inventory. The communities, groups and social organizations concerned have participated in this process according to the same procedures and mechanisms.

An extract of inventory(ies) in English or in French and in the original language, if different, is submitted

6. Correspondence and signature

6.1. Designated contact person

Provide the contact details of a single person responsible for all correspondence concerning the nomination. For multinational nominations, provide complete contact information for one person designated by the States Parties as the main contact person for all correspondence relating to the nomination.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr
Family name: Wang
Given name: Hui
Institution/position: Division of ICH Management, Department of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China / Director
Address: No. 10, North Chaoyangmen St., Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100020, P. R. China
Telephone number: 0086-10-59881355
Email address: fysglc2018@mct.gov.cn

Other relevant information:

6.2. Other contact persons (for multinational nomination only)

Provide below complete contact information for one person in each submitting State, other than the primary contact person identified above.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):
Family name:
Given name:
Institution/position:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email address:

Other relevant information:

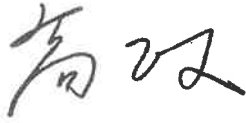
6.3. *Signature on behalf of the State Party or States Parties*

Name: Gao Zheng

Title: Director General, Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China

Date: March 31, 2023

Signature:



Name(s), title(s) and signature(s) of other official(s) (for multinational nominations only).

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