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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Ninth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**5 to 7 July 2022**

**Item 10 of the provisional agenda:**

**Use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

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| **Summary**Article 7(c) of the Convention provides that the Committee shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund. This document presents such a draft plan, as recommended by the Committee for the period 2022–2023 and the first semester of 2024 (Annex).**Decision required:** paragraph 40 |

#### BACKGROUND

1. Article 7(c) of the Convention requests that the Committee ‘prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the [Intangible Cultural Heritage] Fund [Special Account (hereafter ‘the Fund’)], in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention. The draft plan (hereafter the ‘Plan’), submitted by the Committee in accordance with its Decision [16.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/13) and annexed to the present document, was prepared in conformity with the guidelines found in paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Operational Directives and based on the experience of implementing the Plan during previous biennia. The narrative and financial report for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, as required by Article 10 of the Financial Regulations of the Fund, is available in document [LHE/22/9.GA/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-INF.10-EN.docx).
2. In accordance with Article 2 of the Financial Regulations of the Fund, ‘the financial period for budget estimates shall be two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even-numbered year’. However, the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention meets in ordinary session in even years, about six months after the start of the calendar year. The present session of the Assembly is therefore requested to approve a Plan for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 and, on a provisional basis, for the first six months of the next financial period, i.e. from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024. The provisional budget for the first semester of 2022 adopted by the eighth session of the General Assembly (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)) will in turn be superseded by the present Plan once adopted by the current session of the General Assembly.
3. At year-end 2021, the fund balance available for programme activities was US$8,732,653, excluding the Reserve Fund. It is proposed that the General Assembly allocates funds in each line on the basis of percentages of the total resources available, rather than in absolute figures. This will allow, in case of need, for assessed contributions received during the biennium to be allocated to each budget line following the approved percentages. In this way, the Committee will be able to make use of any significant unrestricted voluntary supplementary contributions (as described in Article 27) that might be credited to the Fund during the biennium. At the same time, it is also suggested that the General Assembly, as it did during its previous sessions, authorize the Committee to make immediate use of any such contributions upon receipt, in conformity with the percentages established in the Plan.
4. Furthermore, the General Assembly is asked to authorize the Committee to make immediate use of contributions related to specific projects, provided that they are within the scope of the two funding priorities approved by the Committee for the period 2022–2025 (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)): ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ and ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’. The list of such contributions, as well as other voluntary supplementary contributions and donors, can be found in the information document [LHE/22/9.GA/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-INF.10-EN.docx).
5. The present document first provides an overview of the status of the Fund and of current trends, including an update on the Sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat since the annual target was reassessed by the General Assembly in 2020 (Part I). The proposed plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 2022–2023 is then presented with a rationale for each budget line (Part II).

#### STATUS AND TRENDS

1. Based on the above-mentioned report for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 and following the analysis of trends outlined in document [LHE/21/16.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-13-EN.docx), this section describes the evolution of the expenditure of the Fund and of assessed contributions until 31 December 2021.

**Expenditure**

1. After three consecutive biennia during which it experienced a continuous growth, the expenditure is on the decrease from US$5.4 million in the 2018–2019 biennium (expenditure rate of 62.9%) to US$3.6 million in the 2020–2021 biennium (expenditure rate of 46.1%). This approximately corresponds to the level of expenditure, in both rate and nominal amount, observed during the 2016–2017 biennium (see Figure 1 below).
2. This decrease is largely linked to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operations of the Secretariat, as well as those of the States Parties worldwide, having been severely impacted during the reporting period. The global health crisis led, *inter alia*, to:
* a drop in the number of International Assistance requests submitted by States Parties combined with the delay in the start of approved projects (see document [LHE/21/16.COM/7.d](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-7.d-EN.docx)), and the corresponding decrease in the use of funds dedicated to International Assistance under budget lines 1 and 2 (see paragraph 9 below);
* the delay or postponement of several activities planned under budget line 3 ‘other functions of the Committee’ (see Annex V in document [LHE/22/9.GA/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-INF.10-EN.docx)); and
* the switch to an online format of all statutory meetings of the Committee and of the Evaluation Body between March 2020 and December 2021, which means that, notwithstanding other costs incurred from other sources, budget lines allocated to cover the travel costs of participants (budget lines 4, 5 and 6) remained almost untouched.



**Figure 1:** Evolution ofexpenditures of the Fund

1. Figure 2 (below) shows a decrease in the use of funds dedicated to International Assistance, corresponding to budget lines 1, 1.1 and 2. At the end of the 40 C/5 biennium (2020–2021), the expenditure rate for these lines represented 44% compared to 52% for the 2018–2019 biennium. It should be noted that even with this decrease, the expenditure linked to International Assistance remains significantly higher than that experienced until 2017; for instance, it reached US$2.2 million in 2020–2021 against US$1.3 million in 2016–2017. The biennium was also marked by the decrease of the number of requests submitted by States Parties, from forty-eight requests registered and treated by the Secretariat in 2018 and 2019 to thirty-four from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021. During the reporting period, sixteen International Assistance requests were approved by the Committee and its Bureau, including eight in Africa (43% of total amount of funds granted in the reporting period) and four in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



**Figure 2:** Expenditure rate for International and Preparatory Assistance

**Assessed contributions**

1. It should be recalled that the **payment of contributions** is an obligation incumbent on all States Parties that have ratified the Convention, in accordance with its Article 26. As States Parties exercise rights and enjoy benefits conferred on them under the Convention, they are also expected to fulfil their corresponding commitments in return. The lack of cash availability caused by late payments of assessed contributions might delay and thus jeopardize the implementation of activities foreseen in the budget.
2. As shown in the [Statement of assessed contributions for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/55755.pdf), the unpaid **compulsory assessed contributions** as of 31 December 2021 represent US$409,948 (against US$435,138 as of 31 December 2019), of which US$171,869 correspond to unpaid contributions of years prior to 2020. As of 31 December 2021, 74 States Parties (42% of all States Parties bound by Article 26.1 of the Convention) had not paid their contributions for 2020-2021. Amongst them, 27 States Parties (15%) had also not paid their contribution for years prior to 2020. The payments of **voluntary assessed contributions** by States Parties in accordance with Article 26.2 of the Convention, for the biennium 2020–2021 were on average at 76% of the assessed amounts, which is on par with the preceding biennium and higher in comparison to the past three biennia (63% on average).

**Prospects for future budget cycles**

1. In the context of the global health crisis that marked the 2020–2021 biennium, the fund balance at year-end returned to its level at the end of the 2016–2017 biennium. However, given the recent development of the pandemic, it is hoped that the implementation of activities will resume at a more ‘normal’ pace, thereby increasing the biennial expenditure for the present and future budget cycles as foreseen in the Plan presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020 (document [LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx)). At the same time, the Fund remains in a healthy state; it is currently in a position to respond to the needs of States Parties and communities, including those needs emerging from and/or exacerbated by the pandemic. Furthermore, the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention may create additional channels for States Parties’ requests for International Assistance (through the proposed procedures for the transfer of elements from one List to the other and the inscription on an extended or reduced basis), while facilitating and accelerating their treatment by delegating the examination of all International Assistance requests to the Bureau of the Committee. Should the outcomes of the global reflection be adopted by the General Assembly (document [LHE/22/9.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-9-EN.docx)), the Fund is in a position to respond to requests that States Parties may wish to submit.

**Update on the Sub-fund to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat**

1. The Sub-fund to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat was created by the General Assembly in June 2010 (Resolution [3.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/9)) to support the Secretariat on a lasting basis and allow it to respond to the needs expressed by States Parties. The annual target of the Sub-fund initially set at approximately US$1.1 million in 2010 was reassessed by the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020 at US$950,000 per year (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). During the 2020–2021 biennium, eight voluntary contributions were received from Lithuania, Monaco (twice), Palestine, Slovakia (three times) and the Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari (Italy) for a combined amount of US$65,597.62. This total amount corresponds to 3.5% of the target endorsed by the General Assembly in 2020.
2. In recent years, the Convention simultaneously experienced geographical expansion (180 States Parties as of 31 December 2021), as well as the development of thematic initiatives. These include actions on ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, ‘intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’, the recent reform of the periodic reporting mechanism and the reflection launched by the Committee on the listing mechanisms of the Convention. These recent developments demonstrate the continued relevance of the Convention; they are positive for the present and future of its implementation. It should however be kept in mind that these initiatives require continuous support from the Secretariat. This was recently stressed in the evaluation of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage carried out by UNESCO’s Division of Internal Oversight Services (IOS, previously called Internal Oversight Services) in 2021 (document [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10-EN.docx), hereafter referred to as the ‘IOS evaluation’), which recalls that ‘additional and stable human resources [in the Secretariat…] will be required to fulfil the rising demands of States Parties and the ability to deliver beyond statutory obligations’.
3. To this purpose, the General Assembly may wish to take into consideration implications in terms of human resources to ensure that the Secretariat is equipped to provide adequate support to these new actions. Otherwise, some of these initiatives will need to be put on hold based on priorities to be identified by the governing bodies. In this regard, it is worth noting that the target set by the General Assembly since the establishment of the Sub-fund in 2010 has never been reached. In fact, contributions to the Sub-fund experienced a clear decline since 2010 with an average of 13% of the target per biennium, from US$511,885 in 2010–2011 (23% of the target, the highest rate ever achieved) to US$65,598 in 2020–2021 (3.5% of the target, the lowest rate ever reached).

#### BUDGET LINES AND ALLOCATIONS FOR THE 41 C/5 (2022–2023)

1. The proposal for the allocation of funds for the 41C/5 (2022–2023) follows the structure based on budget lines, which has been used for the past equivalent exercises. These budget lines can be divided into three categories, namely those expenditures related to: a) International Assistance; b) ‘other functions of the Committee’ in the sense of Article 7 of the Convention; and c) participation in the meetings of the governing bodies and advisory services to the Committee. The percentage of allocation expressed for each budget line proposed on this occasion also largely follows the same proportionality as the past biennium, with variations taking into account the 11.4% increase of funds available for programme activities (excluding the Reserve Fund) at the end of the 2020–2021 biennium (US$8.7 million) compared with the end of the 2018–2019 biennium (US$7.8 million):

• An increase of budget lines 2 (Preparatory Assistance) from 2% to 2.6% and 7 (Advisory services to the Committee) from 6% to 7.7% in order to foresee the additional costs that may be incurred in the implementation of the outcomes from the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (document [LHE/22/9.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-9-EN.docx)), should the newly proposed procedures for the transfer, removal and inscriptions on an extended/reduced basis of inscribed elements be approved by present session of the General Assembly (see paragraphs 22 and 37). This increase (and that of budget line 4 from 2.63% to 3.10%) is offset by a 1.96% decrease of budget line 1 (International Assistance) and a 0.79% decrease of budget line 1.1 (Human resources to improve the International Assistance mechanisms). While budget lines 1 and 1.1 will be decreased in percentages, the nominal amounts for these two lines will be slightly increased, as the overall budget is higher than in the previous biennium;

• Taking into account the findings from the IOS evaluation, it is proposed to use part of the funds under budget line 1 to cover the monitoring and evaluation costs of projects, in order to better support States Parties in the implementation of safeguarding programmes and to measure the contribution of International Assistance projects to national safeguarding efforts.

**International Assistance**

1. In line with the priorities set by the Guidelines for the use of the resources of the Fund in paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Operational Directives, it is proposed that a large majority of the resources (62.6%) be allocated to providing International Assistance to States Parties to supplement their national efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (**budget lines 1, 1.1 and 2**).
2. As part of this combined percentage, funds allocated to **budget line 1** (50%) are foreseen for the support to States, through the International Assistance mechanisms, in the safeguarding of heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the preparation of inventories and other safeguarding programmes and projects. Although the number of requests has decreased during the previous biennium (see paragraph 9), it is important to maintain the allocation of budget line 1 at a high level to enable States Parties to strengthen their safeguarding efforts.
3. Noting that the projects supported by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund through the International Assistance mechanisms benefit from ‘a relatively low level of monitoring and evaluation overall’, the IOS evaluation recommended strengthening the quality of project design, monitoring and outcomes reporting (IOS Recommendation 6) and promoting the ‘provision of relevant guidelines and tools for the design, implementation and reporting on projects’ (IOS Recommendation 5). Monitoring and evaluating individual projects require significant resources for the Secretariat and the Field Offices involved in the implementation of projects concerned and would benefit in some cases from the assistance of external experts, in particular to provide an independent evaluation of projects. To this end, the Committee authorized the Secretariat, on an experimental basis, to use funds under budget line 1 in an amount not exceeding 10%[[1]](#footnote-2) of the budget of each approved International Assistance project, to finance the provision of expertise, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, for monitoring and evaluating ongoing and recently completed International Assistance projects. These additional funds, separate from the grants allocated to the beneficiaries, would be dedicated to the evaluation and monitoring of projects and would be managed directly by the Secretariat. Monitoring and evaluation actions will be carried out using the methodologies that will be developed in the framework of the International Assistance monitoring strategy and may take the form of monitoring missions and contracts with individual experts to be planned in cooperation with the State Party concerned and according to the needs and requirements of each project.
4. At its seventh session in June 2018, the General Assembly approved the creation of three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8)) to form a dedicated team to operationalize the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms (SIM team). Some 10% of the resources of the Fund are proposed to be allocated to cover the costs of these three posts (**budget line 1.1**).
5. Furthermore, it is proposed that 2.6% of the funds be budgeted for granting preparatory assistance (**budget line 2**), which represents a slight increase compared with the present biennium (2%). In addition to preparatory assistance for nomination files, this budget line covers the costs incurred for the provision of technical assistance to States Parties for preparing International Assistance requests[[2]](#footnote-3).
6. Moreover, it is proposed, through the present Plan, that budget line 2 also be used to grant preparatory assistance for requests for the transfer of inscribed elements between the two Lists of the Convention, as well as for inscriptions of elements on an extended or reduced basis. This relates to a [recommendation of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-Recommandations_EN.docx) (Part I and Part II) as regards the introduction of specific procedures for the transfer of inscribed elements between the two Lists of the Convention, as well as for inscriptions of elements on an extended or reduced basis; this recommendation was submitted by the sixteenth session of the Committee to the present session of the General Assembly for its examination under Item 9 of the provisional agenda (see Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14) and document [LHE/22/9.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-9-EN.docx)).
7. As part of the proposed procedures, States Parties and the communities concerned would be offered the possibility to request expert advice prior to the possible submission of a request for transfer or for an inscription on an extended/reduced basis (‘pre-submission actions’). On the basis of a letter from the State Party seeking assistance, the Secretariat could arrange for the provision of expertise, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, to assist the State and communities in developing such a request. Should the present General Assembly approve this possibility for ‘assistance to pre-submission actions’ under Item 9, the proposed increased allocation from 2% to 2.6% would allow the provision of such an assistance for an initial number of requests that the Secretariat may receive during the 2022–2023 biennium.

**‘Other functions of the Committee’**

1. **Budget line 3** (‘other functions of the Committee’) will be maintained at 20% in order to strengthen the work initiated during the current biennium, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the 2021 IOS evaluation. Such functions are listed under Article 7 of the Convention, and the Secretariat makes use of these funds to assist the Committee in performing these functions, as required by Article 10 of the Convention. These funds will be used for upstream and cross-cutting actions aiming to promote the objectives of the Convention and encourage and monitor its implementation (Article 7[a]), as well as provide guidance on measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 7[b]).
2. At its fourteenth session in 2019, the Committee introduced a new approval procedure for the spending plan under budget line 3 (Decision [14.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/7)). In accordance with this Decision, the proposed Plan presented to the General Assembly includes a percentage breakdown under budget line 3 in terms of Expected Results (ERs) as per the approved C/5. Continuing with the approach of the previous biennium, the proposed Expected Results are aligned with the performance indicators defined in the approved [41 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000380868/PDF/380868eng.pdf.multi) for the Major Programme IV Culture, Outcome 5, Output 5.CLT4 ‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’.
3. The budget breakdown proposed for the current biennium aims to balance the allocation between the different ERs:

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| **Expected Result** | **2020−2021[[3]](#footnote-4)** | **2022−2023** |
| ER 1: Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services | 27% | **25%** |
| ER 2: Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme  | 33% | **33%** |
| ER 3: Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported | 13% | **19%** |
| ER 4: Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach | 27% | **23%** |

1. In line with [41 C/Resolution 76](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000380399/PDF/380399eng.pdf.multi) (paragraph 5(b)) adopted by the General Conference at its 41st session in November 2021, authorizing the Director-General to make transfers between appropriation lines of UNESCO’s regular programme up to an amount of 5% of the initial appropriation under the 41 C/5, the Committee authorized the Secretariat to make transfers between activities included within the specific proposals for budget line 3 up to a cumulative amount equivalent to 5% of the initial total allocation (Decision [16.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/13)). Based on the indicative amount of the budget indicated in the Annex, this would be equivalent to US$87,327. The Secretariat would inform the General Assembly and Committee in writing, at the session following such action, of the details and reasons for these transfers, should they occur.

**Expected Result 1: Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services**

1. Providing adequate support to the Convention’s governing bodies and Member States remains key for the good governance of the Convention. In this regard, the IOS Evaluation underlined the importance of a solid knowledge management strategy to leverage abundant quantities of information and recommended facilitating knowledge management on intangible cultural heritage and safeguarding measures (Recommendation 10). Since the establishment of the Convention, a critical mass of information has been collected and the amount of data is increasing at a growing pace and intensity, due to the introduction of the Overall Results Framework and the reform of the periodic reporting mechanism, the increasing number of stakeholders involved, the high number of nominations submitted, the enhanced monitoring and evaluation of International Assistance projects or the initial results from the work on new thematic areas. In line with the IOS evaluation, the Secretariat will redefine its knowledge management strategy to streamline data production, improve its data analysis tools, ensure the usefulness of the information collected for safeguarding and facilitate access to such information through user-friendly and open formats. This new strategy could also provide more space for information emanating from partners such as category 2 centres, accredited NGOs, UNESCO Chairs and national institutions, in particular about their operational activities, safeguarding practices and research.
2. Responding to the recommendation from IOS to tackle priority thematic areas (Recommendation 3), the Secretariat intends to continue its work on the economic aspects of living heritage based on the ongoing work initiated during the previous biennium on the safeguarding measures and good practices that address the risk of decontextualization and over-commercialization of elements. Thematic work will be extended to other areas such as climate change or intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts. Furthermore, building on the increased operationalization of the International Assistance mechanisms over the past few years, the Secretariat will enhance the monitoring of the projects funded by the Fund and gather lessons learned from ongoing and completed projects. This will be achieved with the development and implementation of a monitoring strategy aiming at assessing the outcomes of International Assistance projects and their impacts on the safeguarding of living heritage. Efforts will also focus on developing communication and online tools to promote International Assistance, so as to encourage the submission of requests.

**Expected Result 2: Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme**

1. The success and central role of the global capacity-building programme for the implementation of the Convention was positively highlighted in the IOS evaluation, noting that while demand continues to grow, the context and needs are evolving, which requires strategic adaptation and programme development. The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, created challenges for programme delivery, but also provided new opportunities for digital learning, consultation, and networking. At the same time, an increased awareness of the important role of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in responding to socio-development challenges has resulted in evolving capacity-building needs in a wider range of policy and thematic areas with new audiences.
2. The Secretariat will focus on strengthening the regional scope and thematic expertise of its facilitators’ network, while adapting its programme approach to new online and hybrid modalities and reaching out to new audiences (IOS Recommendations 8 and 9). It will map the existing capacities and needs of the network, utilize technology and social media platforms to support networking, and provide opportunities for new membership. The Secretariat will pursue reorienting the Programme, combining online learning, in-person training and self-learning. This will involve materials adaptation and updating in core action areas of the Convention, tools development, and broadening the programme’s thematic scope in areas such as intangible cultural heritage and commercialization and intangible cultural heritage and urban contexts. The Secretariat will notably establish a Learning management system in close collaboration with the facilitators’ network and other partners, to allow users to easily create, manage and deliver training content for different modalities and contexts. Partnerships with category 2 centres, UNESCO Chairs, universities, NGOs and organizations active in the fields of culture and heritage will be strengthened.

**Expected Result 3: Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported**

1. Some inroads have been made in developing methods and projects to incorporate living heritage in a wide range of formal and non-formal education programmes and settings since the establishment of the programme ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ in 2017, resulting in stronger appreciation of cultural diversity among participating youth, more confidence in teachers and a better understanding of the important role of intangible cultural heritage for quality education (SDG 4). It is time to scale up through a combined approach of strengthening inter-ministerial collaboration at all levels and bottom-up initiatives. This is the conclusion of the IOS evaluation which recommended that, as a next step, the Secretariat and UNESCO’s Education sector sharpen and reflect on the scope of the programme by using the proposed Theory of Change (Recommendation 4).
2. The Secretariat will organize this intersectoral reflection process jointly with the Education Sector, develop a common framework for the second phase of this programme and facilitate its utilization for project design, monitoring and reporting. Moreover, the Secretariat will develop relevant capacities, tools and methodologies with experts and actors that can be utilized in supporting countries in scaling up the programme at country level. Particular attention will be given to the development of innovative assessment methods to evaluate learning achievement in this new area and generate more robust data and analysis, which are required to advocate for the further integration of living heritage in education systems. Collaboration with relevant research and education institutions will be established for this purpose. The Secretariat will also facilitate knowledge-sharing and networking by further developing the online clearinghouse on living heritage and education to allow peer learning and the effective dissemination of the knowledge and tools generated. In addition, the Secretariat will continue strengthening intersectoral and inter-institutional collaboration for safeguarding living heritage in other development programmes, notably in the context of the International Decade on Indigenous Languages.

**Expected Result 4: Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach**

1. As defined in its Article 1, one of the main purposes of the Convention is to raise awareness about the importance of intangible cultural heritage and ensuring mutual appreciation thereof, while Article 14 highlights the role of awareness-raising as a safeguarding measure in itself. The [Convention’s website](https://ich.unesco.org/) is the backbone for disseminating information on the Convention and its implementation, from the work of governing bodies to projects and activities implemented at the national level. While it is a key repository of information for States representatives and experts, its current format and content focuses on statutory mechanisms and the website does not currently constitute the engaging communication tool it could be. Actions planned for the coming biennium will contribute to exploring new avenues for communication and outreach targeting the general public and youth in particular, as recommended by the IOS evaluation (Recommendation 11). Beyond its alignment with UNESCO’s new graphic charter, the website will be restructured to better tell stories, provide thematic approaches, offer transversal navigations – in particular around Sustainable Development Goals – and highlight striking content such as data-visualization, high-quality photos and audio-visual materials depicting living heritage in action.
2. Building on the successful experience of the [platform on living heritage experiences and the COVID-19 pandemic](https://ich.unesco.org/en/living-heritage-experiences-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-01123) launched in May 2020, the Secretariat will also reinforce the capacity of its website to serve as an exchange and communication platform, in particular building on the communication and outreach potential of its partners (category 2 centres, accredited NGOs, UNESCO Chairs and national institutions). To better reach out to youth, the Secretariat will also elaborate and implement a communication plan intensifying the usage of social media, using all possible channels and relays. Guidance tools will be developed to help States Parties establish communication strategies at the national level. Already envisaged during the previous biennium but delayed because of the pandemic, new initiatives will be undertaken to reach out beyond the usual audiences of the Convention and promote the presentation of living heritage within other major relevant international events linked to priority thematic areas (cities, climate change, environment). The transversal potential of ‘Dive into intangible cultural heritage!’ interfaces will be further exploited through physical and virtual exhibitions and electronic brochures will be prepared and organized around strategic themes.

**Participation of experts in the meetings of the governing bodies**

1. The participation of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States Parties in statutory meetings is covered either by **budget line 4** when they are members of the Committee or by **budget line 5** when they are not. The participation of experts representing accredited NGOs from developing countries in the sessions of the Committee is covered by **budget line 6**. It is proposed that 3.1%, 3.3% and 3.3%, respectively, be dedicated to the above-mentioned lines. While budget lines 5 and 6 remain unchanged, it is proposed that budget line 4 be slightly increased to ensure that sufficient funds be available to support the participation costs of experts representing developing States Parties that are members of the Committee for the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee.

**Advisory services to the Committee**

1. **Budget line 7** is proposed to be increased from 6% to 7.7% to cover the cost of the advisory services provided at the request of the Committee from January 2022 to December 2023, in particular those associated with the work of the Evaluation Body and of accredited NGOs. The 1.7% increase is proposed in light of the additional costs that may result from the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention concerning the treatment, evaluation and examination of transfer requests of elements between the Lists and Register of the Convention, the inscription of elements on an extended or reduced basis and the follow-up of elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention (see Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14) and document [LHE/22/9.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-9-EN.docx)). Should the General Assembly approve the abovementioned procedures under Item 9 of the provisional agenda, the proposed increased allocation would allow the treatment, evaluation and examination of an initial number of requests that the Secretariat may receive during the 2022–2023 biennium.
2. At its eighth session, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretariat be authorized to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, for up to 30% of their initial total allocation (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). While no transfer has been necessary during the reporting period, since travel costs have been reduced dramatically due to the pandemic, the intention remains to make efficient use of the funds in accordance with the necessities of each cycle. Therefore, in order to be able to respond to as many requests for financial assistance as possible across the different categories of participants, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly continue authorizing the Secretariat to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, up to an equivalent of 30% of their initial total (Decision [16.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/13)). Should such a transfer be necessary, the Secretariat would inform the General Assembly and the Committee in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers.

**Continuity measure for the implementation of the Fund**

1. In light of the postponement of the eighth session of the General Assembly (8.GA) from June to September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat, in consultation with UNESCO’s Central Services, extended the validity of the approved budget until the 8.GA could be convened. This intermediary measure allowed activities supported by the Fund to be maintained, without affecting the overall budget approved by the General Assembly. Following this precedent, the General Assembly authorized the Secretariat, should the General Assembly be unable to meet prior to 30 June 2022, to continue its operations until such a time that the General Assembly is able to meet (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). In order to ensure that the activities supported by the Fund are not disrupted in 2024, the General Assembly may wish to take a similar resolution in the event that its tenth session takes place after 30 June 2024.
2. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 9.GA 10

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined documents LHE/22/9.GA/10 and [LHE/22/9.GA/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-INF.10-EN.docx) and their respective annexes,
2. Recalling Article 7(c) of the Convention and paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling the Appropriation resolution for 2022–2023 adopted by UNESCO’s General Conference ([41 C/Resolution 76](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000380399/PDF/380399eng.pdf.multi)),

**Status and trends of the Fund**

1. Takes note of the statement of assessed contributions of the Fund for 2020–2021, recalls that the payment of compulsory and assessed voluntary contributions is, per Article 26 of the Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention, and calls upon all States Parties which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions for 2021 or previous years, including voluntary assessed contributions, to ensure that their contributions are paid in due course;
2. Further takes note of the donors that have provided during the 2020–2021 biennium (a) voluntary supplementary contributions for specific activities approved by the Committee, namely Azerbaijan, France, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), as well as (b) voluntary supplementary contributions to the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, namely Lithuania, Monaco, Palestine, Slovakia and the Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari;
3. Thanks all the contributors that have supported the Convention and its Secretariat, since its last session, through different forms of support, financial or in-kind, such as voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund including the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, Funds-in-Trust, or loaned personnel, and encourages potential contributors to consider the possibility of supporting the Convention through the modality of their choice;
4. Reiterates the need to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat on a lasting basis to allow the Secretariat to better respond to the needs of the States Parties and invites States Parties to provide voluntary supplementary contributions to the sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat;

**Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund**

1. Approves the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 as well as for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. Understands that, at the time of its tenth session in 2024, it may readjust the budget plan from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024; if the General Assembly is unable to meet prior to 30 June 2024, the Secretariat is authorized to continue operations until such a time that the General Assembly is able to meet;
3. Welcomes the proposed strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation of International Assistance projects in line with the IOS evaluation of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the Convention and also takes note of the authorization granted by Committee to the Secretariat to use on an experimental basis an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of each International Assistance project, in addition to the amount granted by the Committee or its Bureau for each project, to monitor and assess the impact of projects supported by the Fund;
4. Further welcomes the adjustments in allocations foreseen to operationalize the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention;
5. Takes note furthermore of the authorization granted by the Committee to the Secretariat, when utilizing the funds allocated under budget line 3 of the Plan, to make transfers between activities included under budget line 3 up to a cumulative amount equivalent to 5 per cent of the initial total allocation proposed to the General Assembly for this purpose;
6. Authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any voluntary supplementary contributions that might be received during these periods, as described in Article 27 of the Convention, in accordance with the percentages laid out in the Plan;
7. Further authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any contributions that it might accept, during these periods, for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee prior to the receipt of the funds, as described in Article 25.5 of the Convention;
8. Also authorizes the Secretariat to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, up to an equivalent of 30 per cent of their initial total allocation, and requests that the Secretariat inform the Committee and the General Assembly in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers.

**ANNEX**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund** |  |  |
| For the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023, as well as for the period 1 January to 30 June 2024, the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund may be used for the following purposes: | % applied during previous biennium 2020–2021 | % of the total amount proposed 2022–2023 [1] | Indicative amounts2022-2023 | Indicative amountsJan-Jun 2024 |
| 1. | International Assistance, comprising the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the preparation of inventories and support for other safeguarding programmes, projects and activities, including the monitoring and evaluation of requests approved; | 51.96% | 50.00% | $ 4,366,327 | $ 1,091,582 |
| 1.1 | Enhancing human resources to improve the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms through three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (one P3, one P2 and one G5); | 10.79% | 10.00% | $ 873,265 | $ 218,316 |
| 2. | Preparatory assistance for International Assistance requests, as well as for nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List, for proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, for the transfer of elements between the Lists and Register of the Convention and for the inscription of elements on an extended or reduced basis; | 2.00% | 2.60% | $ 227,049 | $ 56,762 |
| 3. | Other functions of the Committee, as described in Article 7 of the Convention, aimed at promoting the objectives of the Convention and encouraging and monitoring its implementation, in particular by strengthening capacities to effectively safeguard intangible cultural heritage, raising awareness of the importance of such heritage, providing guidance on good safeguarding practices and updating and publishing the Lists and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices:  | 20.00% | 20.00% | $ 1,746,531 | $ 436,633 |
|  | ***ER 1:*** *Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services;* | *5.40%* | *5.00%* | $ 436,633 | $ 109,158 |
|  | *(27% of line 3)* | *(25% of line 3)* |
|  | ***ER 2:*** *Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme;* | *6.60%* | *6.60%* | $ 576,355 | $ 144,089 |
|  |  | *(33% of line 3)* | *(33% of line 3)* |
|  | ***ER 3:*** *Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported;* | *2.60%* | *3.70%* | $ 323,108 | $ 80,777 |
|  |  | *(13% of line 3)* | *(19% of line 3)* |
|  | ***ER 4:*** *Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach;* | *5.40%* | *4.70%* | $ 410,435 | $ 102,609 |
| *(27% of line 3)* | *(23% of line 3)* |
| 4. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and subsidiary bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Members of the Committee; | 2.63% | 3.10% | $ 270,712 | $ 67,678 |
| 5. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee and its consultative bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Parties to the Convention but not Members of the Committee; | 3.31% | 3.30% | $ 288,178 | $ 72,044 |
| 6. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and consultative bodies of public or private bodies, private persons, notably members of communities and groups, that have been invited by the Committee to advise it on specific matters, as well as experts in intangible cultural heritage representing accredited NGOs from developing countries; | 3.31% | 3.30% | $ 288,178 | $ 72,044 |
| 7. | The costs of advisory services to be provided at the request of the Committee, including support to developing States whose representatives have been appointed to the Evaluation Body, the transfer of elements between the Lists and Register of the Convention, the inscription of elements on an extended or reduced basis and the follow-up of elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention ; | 6.00% | 7.70% | $ 672,414 | $ 168,104 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100.00%** | **100.00%** | **$ 8,732,653** | **$ 2,183,163** |
| [1] Percentages are applied to the balance of the Fund related to Programme Activities as of 31 December 2021. This balance does not include the Reserve Fund (US$1,000,000). |
| Funds that have not been committed at the end of the period of this Plan are carried over to the next financial period and shall be allocated in accordance with the Plan approved by the General Assembly at that time. |
| For the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024, one-fourth of the amount established for the twenty-four months of the financial period 2022–2023 shall be allocated on a provisional basis, except for the Reserve Fund, whose amount was set by the Committee at US$1 million (Decision [10.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/8)). |

1. . The [UNESCO Evaluation Policy](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000381664) recommends that 3% of programme expenditure be earmarked for evaluation as a recommended minimum level of investment. Considering that the cost of an evaluation may vary from US$5,000 to US$10,000 for each project, depending on its scale and duration, it is estimated that 5% of a project budget are necessary for evaluation. Based on this guidance, monitoring actions may also correspond to 5% of a project budget. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. . ‘Preparatory assistance’ corresponds to the assistance that States Parties can request for developing nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (paragraph 21 of the [Operational Directives](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/2003_Convention_Basic_Texts-_2020_version-EN.pdf)). ‘Technical assistance’ refers to the provision of experts, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, to States Parties wishing to develop requests for International Assistance ([Decision 8.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/7.c)). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. . The breakdown by expected result for 2020-2021 was approved by the General Assembly in 2020 (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)