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

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

**Sixteenth session**

**Online**

**13 to 18 December 2021**

**Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Follow-up on elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention**

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| **Summary**The present document provides a summary of correspondence received (October 2019 to June 2021) from third parties concerning six inscribed elements as well as two nominations under process for possible inscription on the Lists of the Convention, in response to the request by the fourteenth session of the Committee (Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)).**Decision required**:paragraph 7 |

**Introduction**

1. At its fourteenth session in 2019, the Committee requested that the Secretariat continue the practice that started at the previous session[[1]](#footnote-1) of reporting on the information received from third parties concerning already-inscribed elements as well as nominations submitted for possible inscription on the Lists of the Convention. The request was to do so in the form of a summary to be included in a working document (Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)). The present document provides an overview of correspondences received between October 2019 and June 2021[[2]](#footnote-2).These correspondences were administered using the ‘Guidelines for the treatment of correspondence from the public or other concerned parties with regard to nominations’, adopted by the seventh session of the Committee in 2012 (Decision [7.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.COM/15)).

**Cases of inscribed elements**

1. During the reporting period, **six** **cases** concerning inscribed elements were subject of correspondence (Annex 1); five pertained to elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and one was related to an element inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. The correspondence raised issues that may affect the viability of elements, such as changes to spaces associated with the practice of elements, concerns regarding the requirements of mutual respect among communities, cases of disrespect and misappropriation as well as concerns regarding the lack of technical and financial support for the implementation of a safeguarding plan.
2. The correspondence was received from a range of stakeholders, including individuals external to the communities concerned, community members, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media. A correspondence received anonymously was not treated as it was considered that a lack of sender’s details compromised the credibility of the content in that particular case. In terms of regional distribution, the elements concerned originate from Electoral Group I (two cases), Electoral Group II (two cases) and Electoral Group III (two cases). Amongst the cases treated, only one State Party provided a response.

**Cases of ongoing nominations**

1. During the reporting period, **two** **nominations** under process were subject of correspondence (Annex 2), both for possible inscription on the Representative List. For the first case concerning Turkey, a State Party initiated the correspondence raising concerns regarding the geographical range, social functions and cultural meanings of the nominated element as identified in the file (Turkey’s nomination has been made available to the members of the Committee and the public through the dedicated [webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2021-under-process-01119) on the nominations under the 2021 cycle). For the second case, concerning Italy, information was brought directly to the attention of the Evaluation Body by an NGO with regards to animal welfare in the practice of the element. The submitting State provided a response for the first case but not for the latter case.

**Ways forward**

1. The issues around the follow-up of inscribed elements and ongoing nominations are part of the ongoing global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (Decision [13.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/9)) and the progress of the reflection will be examined during the present session of the Committee (working document [LHE/21/16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx)). The reflection has raised a number of relevant considerations such as the role of communities, groups and individuals, possible ways to ensure a link between the follow-up of inscribed elements and periodic reporting, as well as the feasibility for creating and maintaining a platform/network/forum for the follow-up of inscribed elements.
2. In the meantime, the Committee may wish to request the Secretariat to continue bringing to its attention information received from third parties concerning the status of inscribed elements. This may again take the form of a summary to be included in a working document regarding the follow-up of inscribed elements.
3. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

**DRAFT DECISION 16.COM 11**

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/21/16.COM/11 Rev.,
2. Recalling [Decisions 7.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.COM/15), [13.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/9) and [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14),
3. Takes note of the correspondence concerning inscribed elements and ongoing nominations that was brought to the attention of the Secretariat during the reporting period, as contained in the annexes of the present document, and encourages the States Parties concerned to provide responses to the concerns raised by third parties;
4. Requests that the Secretariat, pending the conclusion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, continue to bring to the attention of the Committee information received from third parties concerning already-inscribed elements and nominations under consideration, and to do so in the form of a summary to be included in a working document.

**Annex 1**

**Cases of inscribed elements brought to the attention of the Secretariat**

**between October 2019 and June 2021**

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| **Element****(List, inscription year)** | **State(s) Party(ies)** | **Nature of issues** | **Original correspondence and stakeholders** | **Action** |
| **Equitation in the French tradition** (Representative List, 2011) | France | Concerns regarding land use affecting a space associated with the element.  | - Letters from an individual (representative of a civil society organization); December 2020. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of France in February 2021; - No response from the State Party. |
| **Busó festivities at Mohács: masked end-of-winter carnival custom** (Representative List, 2009) | Hungary | Concerns regarding the requirements of mutual respect among communities.  | - Email from an individual external to the communities; February 2020. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Hungary in February 2020;- Response provided by the Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage and transmitted to the original sender in July 2020. |
| **Suiti cultural space** (Urgent Safeguarding List, 2009) | Latvia | Concerns regarding the impact of municipal reform and a request for an evaluation of the safeguarding process of the element. | - Letter from an individual member of the communities (representative of the community-based governing entity); May 2021. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Latvia in November 2021; - No response from the State Party. |
| **Ritual ceremony of the Voladores** (Representative List, 2009) | Mexico | Concerns regarding misappropriation and the requirements of mutual respect among communities.  | - Email from an individual member of the communities; July 2021.- Multiple media reports. | - N/A (The issue was dealt with by the national authorities of Mexico; press release issued by the Secretariat of Culture condemning the advertisement). |
| **Tango** (Representative List, 2009) | Argentina and Uruguay | Concerns regarding land use affecting a space associated with the element.  | - Email from a member of the communities who is also a representative of civil society organization; December 2019. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Uruguay in January 2020.- No response from the State Party. |
| **Processional giants and dragons in Belgium and France** (Representative List, 2008) | Belgium and France | Concerns regarding the requirements of mutual respect among communities. | - Email from an individual scholar external to the communities; December 2019.- Email from a representative of a civil society organization external to the communities; February 2020.- Multiple media reports. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Belgium in December 2019;- Several meetings and exchanges have taken place between the Secretariat and the Delegation of the Kingdom of Belgium, indicating that the concerned community is looking at how to address the issue. |

**Annex 2**

**Cases of ongoing nominations subject of correspondence**

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| **Nomination (File No)** | **State(s)** | **Draft Decision** | **Nature of issues**  | **Original correspondence and stakeholders** | **Action** |
| **Truffle hunting and extraction in Italy, traditional knowledge and practice** (01395) | Italy | 16.COM 8.b.18 | Concerns regarding animal welfare.  | Email from an individual of the communities concerned (representative of a civil society organization); March 2021. | - N/A (Correspondence addressed to the Evaluation Body directly with a copy to the Secretariat).  |
| **Hüsn-i Hat, traditional calligraphy in Islamic art in Turkey** (01684) | Turkey | 16.COM 8.b.43 | Concerns regarding the geographical range and the inclusivity of the element as identified in the nomination. | - Letter from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts from the Islamic Republic of Iran; July 2020. | - Correspondence transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Turkey; - Response provided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and transmitted to the Islamic Republic of Iran; March 2021.  |

1. At its thirteenth session in 2018, the Committee took note of eight cases of elements which were subject of correspondence (document [ITH/18/13.COM/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-18-13.COM-9-EN.docx); Decision [13.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/9)).

 At its fourteenth session in 2019, the Committee took note of four cases of elements which were subject of correspondence (document [LHE/19/14.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-14-EN.docx); Decision  [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)), and also decided on the removal of an element (document [LHE/19/14.COM/12+Add](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-12_Add-EN.docx).; Decision [14.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/14.COM/12?dec=decisions&ref_decision=14.COM)). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . The fifteenth session of the Committee in 2020 took place online with a reduced agenda due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It did not include an item on the follow-up of inscribed elements. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)