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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**Online**

**21 May 2021,   
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (UTC+2)**

**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Examination of requests for**  
**International Assistance up to US$100,000**

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| **Summary**  Paragraph 49 of the Operational Directives provides that International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 be examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. The present document includes an overview of three requests that the Secretariat treated, together with the draft decisions for each request.  **Decisions required**: paragraph 7 |

1. As stipulated in Article 20 of the Convention, International Assistance may be granted to States Parties for purposes relating to the safeguarding of elements of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; the preparation of inventories in the sense of Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention, in support of programmes, projects and activities undertaken at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; and for any other purpose that the Committee may deem necessary. In conformity with paragraph 47 of the Operational Directives, International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 (except for requests for preparatory assistance) may be submitted at any time. Paragraph 49 further provides that requests up to US$100,000 be examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee.
2. **Overview of the present requests**
3. The Bureau is asked to examine and decide on the following three completed requests:

| **Draft decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File no.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [16.COM 2.BUR 3.1](#Decision1) | Cook Islands | Documentation and inventory of *peu karioi* (performing arts) in the Cook Islands | US$99,983 | 01635 |
| [16.COM 2.BUR 3.2](#Decision2)16.COM 2.BUR 3.2 | Pakistan | Community-based inventorying and capacity building of indigenous communities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces | US$99,990 | 01809 |
| [16.COM 2.BUR 3.3](#Decision3) | Zambia | Inventorying of Kuyabila of the Tonga ethnic group of Zambia | US$83,790 | 01621 |

1. One request, submitted by Pakistan, is for International Assistance that will take the form of services from the Secretariat to the State. This is the first time a State Party applies for this form of assistance for the total amount of the project.
2. Financial assistance in the form of a grant means that a financial transaction through a contract will be made from UNESCO to the implementing agency. The ‘service’ modality does not necessarily foresee such financial transactions to requesting States that will receive assistance from UNESCO. This request benefitted from a consultation involving the submitting State and the UNESCO Office in Islamabad to agree on the details of the project, including the budget and timetable. This is the seventh request submitted for the attention of the Bureau that includes the ‘service’ modality. While the Bureau granted assistance to these requests on an experimental basis, recent trends point to the fact that the modality is gaining awareness and support among States Parties as a useful tool for certain safeguarding projects.
3. In conformity with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assessed the completeness of the requests. Considering the importance of International Assistance for achieving the Convention’s purpose of international cooperation, the Secretariat provided support to all three requesting States for improving their requests thorough letters indicating whether any information was missing or insufficient. All the States concerned submitted a revised version of their request following an additional information letter from the Secretariat. Moreover, the International Assistance request submitted by the Cook Islands required a more substantial revision. It therefore benefitted from the technical assistance mechanism set up by the Committee in its [Decision 8.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/8.COM/7.C), in the form of specific advice provided by an expert. The International Assistance requests in question are available online for the Bureau’s consultation, in English and French, at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/16com-bureau>, together with the preceding versions and the Secretariat’s letters requesting additional information.
4. As previously requested by the Bureau, the Secretariat forwards each request for International Assistance up to US$100,000 to the Bureau, along with a draft decision incorporating the Secretariat’s assessment of how the request responds to the eligibility and selection criteria set out in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives.
5. **Draft decisions**
6. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

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The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document LHE/21/16.COM 2.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 01635 submitted by the Cook Islands,
3. Takes note that the Cook Islands has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Documentation and inventory of *peu karioi* (performing arts) in the Cook Islands**:

To be implemented by the Cook Islands Ministry of Cultural Development, this eighteen-month project is geared at documenting and inventorying *peu karioi* (performing arts) in the Cook Islands, which constitutes a traditional technique of telling stories, proverbs, myths and legends. Conventionally, the elders of each island transmit knowledge about the *peu karioi* to the next generation orally. However, this approach is now challenged by over-commercialization of *peu karioi*, a decline in interest amongst youth and the migration of many Cook Islanders abroad. This project has several objectives: (a) to engage community members in documenting their intangible cultural heritage; (b) to enhance the role of the *Are Korero* (houses of knowledge) as repositories of living heritage; (c) to work with performing arts practitioners and publish relevant resources; (d) to work with educational institutions to accredit practitioners so they can teach performing arts in schools with a set syllabus; and (e) to assist communities in developing standard guidelines to ensure the safeguarding of traditional performing arts and prevent their over-commercialization. The information collected will be stored in a database and the *Are Korero* will serve as a vehicle to enhance the awareness, transmission and safeguarding of *peu karioi*.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that the Cook Islands has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,983 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01635, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The project follows a national consultation that established the need to document the performing arts of the Cook Islands, while involving different groups and communities such as elders, youth, researchers and community associations. The project also clearly outlines the central role of the communities concerned in the implementation of the activities, such as inventory fieldwork and monitoring and evaluation.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is well thought-out and structured to support the different components of the project. Moreover, it takes the COVID-19 pandemic situation into account. In particular, while the capacity-building workshop on inventorying and safeguarding is planned as a face-to-face meeting, a cost estimate is provided for a hybrid workshop alternative should the health situation require it. The overall amount of assistance requested seems appropriate with regard to the objectives and scope of the project.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are well-planned and coherent in terms of the project’s objectives and expected results. One of the strengths of this proposal is that it engages communities and stakeholders in its activities in a holistic manner. The different activities of the project show innovative approaches, such as the creation of an open data platform that will allow public access to the information registered. The platform will include a bilingual glossary of performing arts terminology in order to safeguard the language used in the performing arts.

**Criterion A.4**: The involvement of children, youth and elders throughout the project will ensure that the knowledge and skills of *peu karioi* are shared across generations and thus foster continuity. Moreover, this project links institutions of different levels, such as the *Are Korero* (houses of knowledge) and the public institutions (Ministry of Cultural Development, Ministry of Education, schools and libraries), ensuring that the results of the project will be kept, promoted and utilized after the project is completed. Furthermore, as part of the project’s awareness raising activities, the information collected will be presented in a major exhibition at the National Museum in Rarotonga, as well as in mobile exhibitions in the halls of 11 island councils.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State Party will contribute 40 per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Criterion A.6**: The project will contribute to building long-term capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at the national level. The project is focused on capacity building by providing opportunities for communities, state agencies, island councils and Cook Islanders to learn about the 2003 Convention, and to transmit and exchange ideas on how best to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

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

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and involves key national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Cultural Development and the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, relevant partners will assist in the coordination and implementation of the project, including the island councils, the House of Chiefs, island communities, the *Peu Karioi* Association of Cook Islands, and women and youth associations. Although the UNESCO facilitator will be participating in the implementation of the project, the State Party is also encouraged to involve the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project envisions educational and promotional resources, a glossary of words associated with the performing arts, a syllabus for the national curriculum, and a youth mentorship programme. The inventory methodology that will be implemented during this project can be used as a model in the future for inventorying other elements of living heritage on the islands.

1. Takes note of the technical assistance provided to the Cook Islands to finalize the request and commends the State Party’s efforts in substantially revising the initial draft;
2. Approves the International Assistance request from the Cook Islands for the project entitled **Documentation and inventory of *peu karioi* (performing arts) in the Cook Islands** and grants the amount of US$99,983 to the State Party for this purpose;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
4. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

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The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document LHE/21/16.COM 2.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 01809 submitted by Pakistan,
3. Takes note that Pakistan has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Community-based inventorying and capacity building of indigenous communities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces**:

To be implemented jointly by the UNESCO Office in Islamabad and the National Heritage and Culture Division (NHCD) of the Government of Pakistan, this twenty-four-month project has been designed in collaboration with the communities concerned. The main objective of the project is to enhance the capacities of communities and stakeholders to safeguard intangible culture heritage for sustainable development in the regions of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, for the Thari and Kalasha communities, respectively. These communities are geographically remote and not connected to the social, cultural, economic and technological mechanisms of support in Pakistan. Consequently, they have been historically disadvantaged when seeking assistance for their own sustainable development needs. In this context, this project aims to empower communities to play an active role in studying their culture and placing their knowledge in broader spheres of action such as education. To achieve this goal, three main activities will be developed: (a) community-based inventories based on similar work previously conducted by UNESCO and the NHCD; (b) development of pedagogical tools to connect educational institutions with indigenous traditions, in order to enhance their transmission through academic discourse; and (c) capacity building of bearers and relevant organizations to promote economic growth and improve income-generating opportunities. Moreover, this project is expected to increase the number of intangible cultural heritage experts in the country while enhancing the analytical skills of teachers and communities for documenting living heritage.

1. Further takes note that:
   * 1. this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the local level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention;
     2. the State Party has requested International Assistance that will take the form of services from the UNESCO to the State; and
     3. the assistance therefore takes the form of **services from UNESCO** (100 per cent of the financial transactions to be managed by UNESCO), pursuant to Article 21 (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Pakistan has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,990 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Islamabad in close cooperation with the National Heritage and Culture Division of the Government of Pakistan;
3. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Islamabad will be responsible for the management of the total amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, while the requesting State will be responsible for co-managing the project, renting premises for consultations, steering committee meetings and trainings throughout the project, and providing national facilitators for the training on the community-based inventory, the training for teachers on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and the training for community representatives on harnessing intangible cultural heritage for economic benefit. All the above activities will be financed by the State Party's contribution, as described in the request.
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01809, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: This project intends to address the interest expressed by communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage during the implementation of the Heritage and Sustainable Tourism project in 2018–2019 and the community-based inventory held from 2015 to 2017 by the Kalasha community. Furthermore, the current project involves representatives from the Thari and Kalasha communities, and other stakeholders such as academic institutions and governmental institutions.

**Criterion A.2**: In general, the budget is presented clearly, demonstrating a balanced allocation of resources for each of the planned activities. However, more detailed information should be provided for certain items of expenditure, such as those related to the subcontracting costs for inventorying, pedagogical tools, exhibitions and capacity-building training for tradition bearers.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are well-planned and coherent in terms of the objectives, project’s activities and expected outcomes. The activities interconnect all the stakeholders involved in the project to safeguard the defined practices.

**Criterion A.4**: The project builds on the results of earlier projects on cultural heritage and sustainable development, which gives reassurance as to the broader sustainability of the project results. The project foresees capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for multiple stakeholders, including living heritage bearers and academic and governmental institutions. The pedagogical tools developed during the project will be a mandatory part of the university curricula. This will ensure that the lessons learned about the living heritage of the communities involved will be utilized beyond the duration of the project. Moreover, creating networks between indigenous communities and academic scholars will strengthen cooperation towards safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of ethnic groups.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State Party will contribute 5 per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Criterion A.6**: The project places a strong emphasis on building the capacities of communities and stakeholders. As result of this process, training and pedagogical tools will be produced to strengthen knowledge and awareness on identifying and safeguarding the living heritage of the Thari and Kalasha communities.

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

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is to be implemented at the local level and involves partners such as the National Heritage and Culture Division, the region’s academic sector, heritage foundations and civil associations.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: As part of the multiplier effects of the project, it is expected to involve the media and dissemination of the implementation process and results. This will enable the public to learn more about the intangible cultural heritage of the Thari and Kalasha communities.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Pakistan for the project entitled **Community-based inventorying and capacity building of indigenous communities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces** and grants the amount of US$99,990 to the State Party for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

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The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined Document LHE/21/16.COM 2.BUR/3 as well as International Assistance request no. 01621 submitted by Zambia,
3. Takes note that Zambia has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Inventorying of Kuyabila of the Tonga ethnic group of Zambia**:

The proposed twenty-four-month project, to be implemented by Zambia’s Ministry of Tourism and Arts, aims to undertake an inventory of the Tonga ethnic group’s poems in the Monze and Namwala districts of the country’s southern province. Accompanied by music and a special dance, kuyabila is the poetry of the Tonga people. It is accompanied by music and a special dance and performed during various social gatherings such as funerals, festivals, initiation rites and other traditional ceremonies. It also serves as an educational tool in sensitizing community members to issues such as gender-based violence and health concerns. However, the majority of kuyabilapractitioners today are elderly, putting the practice at risk of extinction if safeguarding measures are not pursued. In light of this situation, the project seeks to safeguard and promote kuyabila through the following activities: (a) awareness-raising meetings in the community; (b) capacity-building training in conducting inventory-making; and (c) inventorying of forty poems.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the local level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Zambia has requested assistance in the amount of US$83,790 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that,from the information provided in file no. 01621, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request demonstrates the active role of the communities from the southern province of Zambia in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. It was designed following a direct request from the community leaders and members of community-based organizations who, in 2017, expressed the need to safeguard and inventory kuyabila. Community participation seems to also be ensured through their active involvement in the identification of the custodians, in the capacity-building workshop and the community-based inventory. The communities will also be involved in the monitoring and follow-up activities.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is presented in a clear way, demonstrating a balanced allocation of resources for each of the planned activities, and can therefore be considered as appropriate.

**Criterion A.3**: The project proposes a series of nine activities aimed at inventorying and safeguarding the kuyabila practice of the Tonga ethnic group. They are presented in a logical sequence and include identification of the community representatives and organization of awareness-raising activities and of training workshops on the community-based inventorying. The proposed activities correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request. They seem feasible within the proposed duration of the project.

**Criterion A.4**: The involvement of youth in the activities is presented as an important factor in ensuring the sustainability of the project results. Their participation is expected to enhance knowledge and transmission of skills relating to the kuyabila practice beyond the completion of the project. The project also aims to revitalize this practice and strengthen its appropriation by youth and local communities by encouraging, amongst other things, the creation of poetry clubs as a means of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The request implies that the information collected during the inventories will be shared with national heritage institutions, and thus may contribute to further learning and research initiatives. The project is expected to provide an opportunity to initiate a dialogue with representatives of professional institutions and the communities in order to develop measures to safeguard kuyabila.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will contribute 15 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Criterion A.6**: The project is clearly aimed at developing the capacities of the communities concerned, with a focus on traditional custodians and youth. During various training workshops, forty practitioners of intangible cultural heritage will be trained on the principles of the 2003 Convention, safeguarding measures and community-based inventorying. Staff from the Ministry of Tourism and Arts and four district cultural officers from the implementing agency will also benefit from the capacity-building component of the project. Consequently, the skills acquired by the cultural officers over the course of the project will help maintain the inventorying work and other safeguarding efforts in the country.

**Criterion A.7**: Zambia has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for two completed projects, entitled ‘Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community of Luano District of Zambia’ (file no. 01216, 2016–2017, US$24,999.90) and ‘[Inventorying of the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-of-the-music-and-dance-of-the-lozi-and-nkoya-people-of-kaoma-district-01217)’ (file no. 01217, 2016–2017, US$24,928.30); as well as for one ongoing project entitled ‘Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia’ (file no. 01281, 2018–2021, US$334,820). The work stipulated by the contracts related to these projects was and is being carried out in compliance with UNESCO’s regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and its implementation involves national and local partners, including community-based organizations, the Zambia National Commission to UNESCO, the University of Zambia and the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project should raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding kuyabila among the communities concerned, but also among the population in general. In addition to the expected results defined in the request, the project is also likely to raise the interest of other national communities in inventorying and safeguarding their respective intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Zambia for the project entitled **Inventorying of Kuyabila of the Tonga ethnic group of Zambia** and grants the amount of US$83,790 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Commends the State Party for the submission of an improved request for International Assistance following the decision of the Bureau to refer the previous version of the file in 2019;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
4. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.