



# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**Deadline: 15 February 2023  
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information requested below.  
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

### A. Identification of the organization

#### A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

The International Organization of Folk Art (IOV)

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

The International Organization of Folk Art (IOV)

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90154

#### A.2. Address of the organization

*Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.*

Organization: *The International Organization of Folk Art (IOV)*

Address: Via Pietro Spino 102 cap24126 - Bergamo - Italy

Telephone number: +39.335.5430256

Email address: secretarygeneral@iov.world

Website: www.iov.world

Other relevant information:

### A.3. Contact person for correspondence

*Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.*

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Khalifa

Given name: Ali

Institution/position: International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) President

Address: Manama, P.O Box 5050, The Kingdom of Bahrain

Telephone number: 0097336644000

Email address: akhalifa44@hotmail.com

Other relevant information:

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

**B.1.** *Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

For over 40 years, the main mission and purpose of the International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) has been working towards safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) around the world. Here are some brief examples of the work done in this area: In the Kingdom of Bahrain, IOV President Ali Khalifa worked with state and national legislators to place traditional poetry, dance and music into the school curriculum. He also successfully collaborated with the Ministry of Education to have a Folk Culture textbook. They are now in the implementation phase.

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

Moreover, he got support and funding for a new building that will hold the IOV presidential headquarters and the offices of Folk Culture. This Journal, which is published in cooperation with IOV is a quarterly scientific journal containing research on aspects of folk culture from around the world. The journal is translated into 6 languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian) and it is distributed to more than 100 countries around the world, in addition to uploading all its content to a free, full access website (since 2008-present). Furthermore, the presidential office of IOV in Bahrain has taken on the expenses for its employees' higher education. The most recent of which is paying the University tuitions of an employee sent to earn a master's degree in Heritage Studies at the University of Manchester (ongoing).

Brazil (on-going): Clerton Vieira created new cultural section in Brazil.

Italy (on-going): Fabrizio Cattaneo, the IOV Secretary General, worked with state and national legislators to place traditional dance and music in the national law. He is also a member of the National Board of ICH at the Ministry of Culture of Italy.

Austria: Prof Hanz Holz, IOV Vice President, led in drafting ICH policies and legislation in Austria.

China: Emma Chen Hoffler, IOV Vice President, and member of the China Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee, contributed to the drafting of legislation to safeguard ICH in China.

In reality, every national section organized by IOV is an informal ICH committee. (The USA Section was invited to apply for accreditation as a separate entity.)

In addition, IOV members Elvira Kunina and Ksenia Fokina have taken an active role in the Committee for Safeguarding the ICH, which Kunina chairs. and the IOV Science and Research Commission, which is comprised of academics and professional folklorists and researchers work together to hold several seminars, workshops and other events revolving around the safeguarding of ICH.

The IOV is also in constant cooperation with the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE. Under the patronage and with the support of Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, the IOV has been organizing cultural meetings and scientific conferences on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in cooperation with Emirati governmental institutions such as the Sharjah Institute for Heritage. This cooperation began in 2017 and remains continuous. The IOV is currently preparing for its upcoming cultural meeting and IOV Youths meeting in Sharjah on March 2023.

**B.2.** *Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The IOV is highly focused on the involvement of youths in its cultural endeavours, as it believes that they are the future holders of the message of safeguarding ICH. As aforementioned, the IOV's presidential office strengthens its employee's capacity for safeguarding ICH through supporting their studies financially. The presidential office has supported the education of young 7 employees so far.

Furthermore, the IOV has a special scientific commission dedicated to research. This commission conducts research, hold seminars and lectures, and contributes to publications and workshops. The IOV's recent publications are listed below in section B.5.

In addition to that, the IOV holds more than 100 cultural meeting around the world per year. These meetings vary between workshops, festivals, assemblies, seminars, and conferences. Nevertheless, each of these gatherings is organized in such way that it is an optimal cultural exchange opportunity. Since it was founded in the 1970s, the IOV has sought every opportunity to bring together people from around the world and have them teach others about aspects of their culture and learn about other cultures around the world in order to promote understanding and world peace. In the IOV's upcoming general assembly in March 2023, IOV members will be joining from all around the world to exchange culture and knowledge and discuss matters of heritage.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

IOV members have individually been highly involved in researching and inventorying ICH. IOV vice president Hans Holz, led efforts to implement the convention there. Other IOV members have been active in identifying and inventorying the ICH in many countries.

Our individual members have been active in identifying ICH in the States, for example, where Dr. Florence Neubauer has documented the rituals of the Plains Indian Tribes, as well as those of the Navajo Indian Nation.

Patricia Stoddard has worked with the women of the Rilli Valley in Pakistan to bring their tradition of quilt making to the public eye. She assists a group of the women participate each year in the UNESCO supported Santa Fe Folk Art Market.

We have served as consultant to several groups trying to have their ICH inscribed on the Representative List

**B.4.** Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Individual member of the IOV and IOV's national sections work tirelessly to positively affect legal and administrative policies and measures regarding the safeguarding of ICH in their countries.

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, IOV President Ali Khalifa worked with state and national legislators to place traditional poetry, dance and music into the school curriculum. He also successfully collaborated with the Ministry of Education to have a Folk Culture textbook. They are now in the implementation phase.

Italy (on-going): Fabrizio Cattaneo, the IOV Secretary General, worked with state and national legislators to place traditional dance and music in the national law.

China: Emma Chen Hoffler, IOV Vice President, and member of the China Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee, contributed to the drafting of legislation to safeguard ICH in China.

the IOV Board of Directors maintained contact with the national sections spread across 105 countries through online meetings and collaborated in the exchange of invitations for participation in song-dance festivals with displays of local ethnic handicrafts.

**B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

IOV's activities to promote the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage can be best exemplified by the IOV Scientific and Research Commission and the IOV Festivals Commission. The Scientific and Research Commission is made up of scientists, professors academics, and researches of folk art and folk culture. The commission chair is Prof. Mohammed El Nouri, who also edits Folk Culture journal. The commission has organized many scientific conferences and produced several publications. The most recent scientific conference "Folk Culture: A Tributary of Development" was held in October at the IOV Presidential office. There are also two upcoming scientific conferences concerned with ICH: one of which is the European Scientific conference in Italy in December 2023, and the other is the IOV World Scientific Conference, which dates are yet to be announced.

IOV members Abdulaziz A. Al Musallam and Prof. Dr. Ahmed Morsi founded the National Centre for ICH in Sharjah UAE, and local centres, whose duties include archiving documentation for ICH,

accessible to holders and general public.

Furthermore, in addition to its cooperation with Folk Art Journal, the IOV has also supported the publication and distribution of many books, booklets, and brochures that promote the role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society. Below are some of the IOV's publications in the time period 2019-2022:

- Cultural Heritage: The Foundation of Identity. (IOV booklet in Arabic and English)
- Alexander: Leben und Wirken für die IOV by Anna Veigl Hof (Book on a life journey dedicated to safeguarding and promoting ICH – in German)
- Alexander and the History of the World of IOV by Anna Veigl Hof. (English version/translation of above book)
- "Between Folk Culture and Global Culture in Contemporary Europe" Edited by Professor Anna Brzozowska-Krajka.
- One Thousand and One Bahraini Folk Tales: A one of a kind Field collection and codification project published in 5 volumes.

As for the festivals commission, IOV supports and promotes youth participation in folkloric dance and musical groups. Each year, more than 2500 young people participate in folkloric groups in festivals throughout the

world. The public is invited to participate in workshops and recreational dancing with folkloric groups at festivals each summer.

The IOV web site [www.iov.world](http://www.iov.world) devotes a large section to intangible cultural heritage, with the ICH Kits produced by UNESCO (used with permission). The site is available to the public.

A directory of folkloric festivals, is also found on the web site, with information about the traditional dance and music program, traditional foods available, handicrafts exhibit and sales, and other public events.

IOV's admission policy welcomes all people, including the general public, who have an interest in intangible cultural heritage.

This way, the IOV promotes the role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society not only through producing and publishing scientific materials which will attract those with scholarly interests, it also targets laypeople that would be interested in interactive forms of folk culture.

**B.6.** Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The IOV fosters many methods to both promote and raise awareness about intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding. As elaborated in detail in other sections, IOV members have made efforts to include cultural heritage studies in schools' curricula to give children an early understanding of what the ICH is and why it is important (as in the example of the Kingdom of Bahrain). The IOV has also created a youth-centred commission that focuses on raising awareness among youths. Furthermore, IOV's members' effort in holding scientific events, festivals, and workshops, in addition to creating, publishing, and distributing publications is all done with the intent of raising awareness about intangible cultural heritage: what it is, why it is important, and ways in which we can protect it.

**B.7.** Describe your organization's participation in **facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.**

*Not to exceed 250 words*

In the modern day, there is no better way to facilitate the engagement of the public than online presence. The IOV has a very user-friendly website also navigable by mobile phone. Through the website, individuals and groups from all around the world can sign up for memberships, learn about the IOV's mission and plans, learn about upcoming events and register to attend them, and read articles about, or

view media from past events.

The IOV also facilitates members' engagement by keeping an open door of communication through creating social media multiple access by Wechat, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook groups as well as providing quick responses via email.

**B.8.** Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

IOV successfully publishes a quarterly periodical called Folk Culture, for the past 12 years. Published in Bahrain, Folk Culture contains research and scholarly articles on traditional folk art among the Arab Nations, in Arabic with English and French summaries and many more translated summaries on their website. IOV also publishes a directory of folk arts festivals where traditional dance and music are performed by amateur performers. Traditional instrumentation and costuming are required of all performers.

IOV is itself a network of institutions and individuals, with over 800 active members and 4500 associated members in more than 85 countries. Members include associations with thousands of members each.

UNESCO identified and added to its roster 40 IOV experts in the intangible cultural heritage.

Their expertise covers all 5 domains.

IOV has developed a network of more than 200 international folkloric festivals. An estimated 500,000 to 700,000 members of the public participate as audiences for folk dance and musical performances.

we held meetings in Italy in Bari in May 2022 involving participants from 5 continents and with the promotion of collaboration between world organizations of dance and artistic performance in expression of the local cultural heritage, and IOV EUROPE meeting in Valencia in June 2022 for the coordination and the devolution of the European national sections of Eastern and Western Europe present in 25 countries , we are preparing the FIRST MEDITERRANEAN IOV MEETING: ,“Mediterranean Sea shared in culture and peace” for the inclusion of all the first and second tier nations bordering the Mediterranean Sea, creating a close collaboration for the protection of cultural heritage and the organization of scientific research seminars between NORTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

**B.9.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

IOV has not been officially asked to participate in this activity.

**B.10.** Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

## C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

Connection with UNESCO Italy commission

## D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

**D.1** Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

**D.2** Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.

Not to exceed 100 words

No, but we have a large body of experts and are willing to.

---

**D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

*Not to exceed 500 words*

Indirectly, IOV has provided advisory assistance to the committee. Our conferences, festivals, and other activities have reached many hundreds of thousands of members of the public (see other responses for details). Bringing ICH to the forefront of the public consciousness by making it aware of the existence and importance of ICH is a first step. As mentioned in this report, the public participates in many of our events, including festivals, handicraft markets, as well as public workshops. IOV has publicized the ICH convention and its implementation on our website, where we have the UNESCO ICH Information Papers. Our 25th and 30th anniversary publications contain articles on various aspects of the convention, and these are posted on our website. IOV Publications (Folk Culture Journal and the IOV Journal of ICH) are devoted to the dissemination of information on intangible cultural heritage. The various conferences that are organized by IOV, referred to herein, support the committee's efforts to raise awareness of the convention and the importance of ICH.

By standing ready to provide advice and consultation, as well as hands-on services, IOV is in fact supporting the committee. We have more than 40 scientists, academicians, practitioners and researchers across all five domains of the ICH, which UNESCO identified as experts and listed on its roster of experts. These individuals are prepared to consult if asked.

We intend to continue our programs with the youth, our conferences, festivals, and support of traditional folk dance and music festivals, culinary festivals, handicrafts exhibits, lectures and projects in support of the IOV Mission, which includes safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage through dissemination of information. We intend to further develop and build our network of individuals and institutions active in the fields of folk art and folk culture.

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):**

**E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

English: approximately 30, French: approximately 20, We also have 10 or more native speakers of Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Portuguese, and more than 40 Spanish. Many other languages are represented.

**E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Even before the convention existed, IOV was active in all five domains of the ICH. Every two years, an international scientific conference ICH. Our members organized over 200 international folkloric festivals in each of the past four years where 120 to 300 traditional dancers and musicians from, 4 to 15 countries gather for performances, dance labs, workshops and master's classes.

Many festivals combined handicrafts sales and exhibits, and traditional food, with scientific seminars or conferences.

Social Practices, rituals and festive events have been topics of Scientific conference. Folk Culture, a quarterly IOV publication from Bahrain has publish several issues devoted to wedding rituals and other festive events.

The IOV youth congress in 2017 – 2019 – 2022 focused on the intangible cultural heritage of traditional foods, dance and dress, Traditional medicine has been a topic of a conference.

Form ICH-08 Report-2019-EN – revised on 25/07/2017 – page 8

IOV is very active in handicrafts, and works with some of the world's leading handicrafts organizations. The IOV Handicraft Project is being organized with Makhfuza Salimova as chair.

She has been awarded the UNESCO Seal of Excellence in Handicrafts for her work with women artisans in Uzbekistan. We have handicrafts artists who organize markets in Saudi Arabia, China and many other places. We have organized exhibits of textiles in the United States, Germany, China and elsewhere.

Also, IOV's exceptional efforts made it possible for staff in Shanghai to communicate with international folk arts groups from Alaska to Africa and from America to Australia, facilitating the successful organisation of the past nine consecutive festivals of the Shanghai Baoshan International Folk Arts Festival. This year, the 10th edition was attended by IOV President Ali Khalifa, who gave a speech at the opening ceremony. The festival was held at the Municipal Stadium, was attended by 10,000 people including senior officials and international guests. In 2018, the IOV presidential office successfully cooperated with the University of Bahrain and documented 1100 Bahraini folk tales and published them in five volumes. It was a major accomplishment and the stories were taken from all over the country.

**E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Many of our members are also members of other cultural arts organizations, universities, culture centers, and more, including some that are granting agencies. In such capacity, they have both prepared and reviewed proposals for funding. We support and facilitate many conferences, which include reviewing applications, analysing profiles, collected data and more. The membership of the IOV Scientific and Research Commission is comprised mainly of academicians, who would be experienced in analysing documents and papers.

**E.4.** Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.

Not to exceed 250 words

We are not clear on the meaning of synthetic texts. With respect to drafting texts of resolutions and other public documents, the secretary general and several other lawyer members of the IOV Legal Committee may be able to assist.

**E.5.** Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

IOV maintains daily relations by email and with the use of many social media such as Wechat, Whatsapp, Facebook and others, through the three offices located in: BAHRAIN, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS Our secretarial employees maintain daily relations with the associates who come from the 5 continents and represent 105 global nations. the official language authorized and used is ENGLISH.

## F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

## G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: FABRIZIO CATTANEO

Title: IOV SECRETARY GENERAL

Date: 2023, February 13

Signature:

