**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** **10 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**IOS Evaluation (2021) of UNESCO’s action in the**

**framework of the 2003 Convention**

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| **Summary**  This document presents the main results of the 2021 evaluation by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention. It includes the executive summary of the key findings of the evaluation with a set of twelve recommendations as well as the corresponding management response.  **Decision required**:paragraph 18 |

**Introduction**

1. This document presents the main results of the 2021 evaluation by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention. It includes the executive summary (Section A) with key findings of the evaluation, a set of twelve recommendations (Section B) as well as the corresponding management response (Section C). The full evaluation report and its annexes are provided in the information document [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10-EN).
2. **Executive summary**
3. UNESCO’s General Conference adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereafter the 2003 Convention) on 17 October 2003. According to Article 2 of the 2003 Convention, “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts, and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. The main purpose of the Convention is to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage (hereafter ICH); ensure respect for the ICH of communities, groups and individuals concerned; to raise awareness [of its importance] at the local, national, and international levels, and ensure mutual appreciation thereof; and provide for international cooperation and assistance (Article 1). The Convention entered into force on 20 April 2006 and is now in its fifteenth year of implementation. To date, it has 180 States Parties, making it nearly universal.

*Evaluation Purpose, Scope and Methodology*

1. This second evaluation focusing on the 2003 Convention marks the first follow-up exercise to the cycle of Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluations of UNESCO’s six culture conventions.[[1]](#footnote-1) Eight years have gone by since the previous IOS Evaluation and during this period the 2003 Convention has not only matured and reached nearly universal ratification but has also witnessed important reform efforts. It was therefore timely to take stock of achievements and challenges and to inform future action of UNESCO’s support to Member States in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (hereafter ICH).
2. The main purpose of this 2021 evaluation was to generate findings, lessons learned, and recommendations regarding the relevance and effectiveness of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention. The evaluation assessed UNESCO’s standard-setting work within the framework of both regular and extrabudgetary programmes focusing on the period 2018-mid-2021 (since the adoption of the Overall Results Framework (hereafter the ORF) for the 2003 Convention). Nevertheless, to enable an assessment of the results of particular aspects such as the International Assistance mechanism, the Living Heritage and Education Programme, as well as the Global Capacity Building Strategy, the evaluation scope included work predating 2018.
3. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach to collect data from a wide variety of sources. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all data for this evaluation was collected remotely. Methods included:
   * A document review and mapping of UNESCO’s regular programme and extrabudgetary activities under the 40C/5 Expected Result 6[[2]](#footnote-2) with regards to the ORF
   * Survey of all UNESCO Member States and Associate Members (104 responses received from 89 Member States; 44% response rate; 63% women respondents)
   * Survey of UNESCO partners[[3]](#footnote-3) in ICH (154 responses; 48% women respondents)
   * Interviews with 95 people (54% women) from the following stakeholder groups: UNESCO Staff, States Parties, Facilitators, accredited NGOs, Category 2 Centres, ICH Experts, partners, and beneficiaries
   * Analysis of results of 49 completed International Assistance projects’ progress and final reports, as well as interviews with 15 partners and beneficiaries in 8 countries
   * Assessment of Living Heritage Education Programme based on analysis of 15 projects and interviews with UNESCO Culture and Education staff, partners, and beneficiaries
   * Observation of the Expert Meeting (May 2021) and the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (July and September 2021) within the global reflection on the listing mechanisms
   * Observation of the meeting of the Evaluation Body (June 2021)
   * Mapping and analysis of workflows of the Living Heritage Entity in relation to its statutory obligations, particularly on the listing mechanisms, and the International Assistance process
   * Observation of select online UNESCO capacity building activities[[4]](#footnote-4) (May – July 2021)
   * Review of UNESCO communication tools and approaches around the 2003 Convention
   * Workshop with UNESCO staff for feedback on preliminary findings and recommendations.

*Key Findings*

1. As the second youngest UNESCO Culture Convention, the 2003 Convention has been one of the most successful, not only because it has reached nearly universal ratification only fifteen years after entering into force, but especially because it has succeeded in raising awareness of the distinct nature and importance of intangible cultural heritage. Stakeholders attribute this achievement largely to the Convention’s Representative List as well as to UNESCO’s vast capacity building programme.
2. At the same time, States Parties’ multinational nominations to the listing mechanisms are growing at a steady rate and so are requests for international assistance, as well as calls for more statutory meetings and new procedures (such as for the transfer of elements between the listing mechanisms). Governments and other stakeholders are also asking for further capacity building to advance their implementation of the Convention. As demand for UNESCO support grows, the Secretariat has had to give precedence to statutory work over important priorities that include strengthening capacity building and policy guidance as well as managing and communicating on the considerable amounts of knowledge generated around the Convention. Strategic decisions on priorities, particularly on the need to focus on programme support versus statutory requirements and on use of its limited resources will need to be made in the near future.
3. The evaluation found that the Convention’s listing mechanisms have had mixed results. The Representative List has been the most successful in terms of meeting its objective of ensuring the visibility of ICH and awareness of its significance. The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding continues to *not* be prioritized by States Parties for the reason that its purpose continues to be misunderstood, particularly as, except for one case, elements have remained on it indefinitely. The Register of Safeguarding Practices also remains largely underutilized, as nomination files to it are technically harder to prepare and visibility for safeguarding of elements can reportedly be achieved through nominations to the Representative List. The evaluation also found that the growth of nominations to the listing mechanisms, especially in multinational files, has represented a major strain for States Parties, the UNESCO Secretariat, the Evaluation Body and even the Intergovernmental Committee. Consequently, many stakeholders call for the listing system to be simplified in order to free up resources to address the many capacity building needs identified by both States Parties and partners.
4. The Overall Results Framework constitutes an important reference in guiding the implementation of the 2003 Convention. However, the framework is complex and takes time to grasp, often requiring further guidance on its use. Stakeholders do note the value of the ORF in raising visibility and awareness of the diverse issues covered by the Convention and the role of various actors in its implementation. This was recently demonstrated through the rollout of the reformed Periodic Reporting, which achieved its original aims, that of gains in submissions, in encouraging multi-stakeholder consultations, and usefulness, as the process has led to policy debates both at the national and regional levels. The overall effectiveness of the periodic reports in informing decision-making will ultimately depend on the way that the data is both presented and made available. Further reflection on how to go about this is needed.
5. The evaluation identified a number of programmatic initiatives that demonstrate synergies between UNESCO’s six Culture Conventions, which are principally being implemented at the field level. Indeed, national stakeholders are interested in protecting their culture as a whole and UNESCO needs to continue drawing on all the available mechanisms and instruments to promote a holistic approach. UNESCO staff also welcome more structured opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and tackling thematic issues that require multi-Convention responses, including, to name but a few, cultural tourism, livelihoods, commercialization, and intellectual property, among others.
6. UNESCO as the lead coordinating agency for SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable education and the only UN agency with an exclusive mandate in the field of culture is well positioned to undertake interdisciplinary initiatives that lie at the nexus of culture and education. The evaluation found that the Living Heritage Education Programme has made some inroads in this regard. Scaling up from these projects to influence policy makers requires more robust data and analysis. Member States also need technical support to integrate living heritage into education policies at the national level. Further reflection on scope and priorities will be required by both the Culture and Education Sectors to take this important work forward.
7. The International Assistance mechanism has provided financial and technical support to nearly 40 countries, largely prioritizing Africa, and has achieved some significant results. These include raising awareness of the 2003 Convention at the national and community levels, developing much-needed national infrastructure for the safeguarding of ICH, building capacities in safeguarding and inventorying, and helping States Parties respond to emergency situations. The International Assistance mechanism remains unknown for some States Parties and many continue to face difficulties in applying. A dedicated team within the Secretariat has been providing much needed technical support to applicants and efforts should continue in this regard. Raising the visibility of International Assistance beyond traditional expert circles is also a priority area for the future.
8. For over ten years the capacity-building programme has brought a variety of actors (government officials, NGOs, academia, and communities) together, raised awareness of the importance of safeguarding ICH and has strengthened their capacities in implementing the various mechanisms created by the 2003 Convention. The facilitators network, as well as partners such as Category 2 Centres, have extended the programme’s outreach and its repository of materials is used by academia and expert circles around the world. The programme needs to continue addressing a number of challenges relating to strengthening the regional and thematic expertise of its facilitators network, adapting its delivery to new online and hybrid modalities and targeting new audiences.
9. UNESCO’s work on the 2003 Convention has produced a lot of rich and diverse knowledge on the safeguarding of ICH, which is stored on the dedicated and very comprehensive website that is deemed useful for stakeholders that are already familiar with the Convention and its mechanisms. However, if UNESCO wants to reach the bearers of intangible cultural heritage and sensitize them on the importance of safeguarding ICH, it needs to prioritize outreach to include a non-expert audience, including the public and especially focus on youth. Consequently, new avenues for communication will be needed, including social media, that present information in digestible and attractive formats.
10. As data from incoming Periodic Reports brings new insights on the emerging needs of States Parties, UNESCO will need to work closely with its partners including accredited NGOs, Category 2 Centres, Chairs, and university networks, among others to establish and follow through on priorities. To better demonstrate the link between safeguarding ICH and sustainable development, UNESCO needs to draw on all its internal resources, including from other Programme Sectors and engage with actors working outside the cultural sphere.
11. **Recommendations**
12. The evaluation makes twelve recommendations mainly for the Living Heritage Entity, but also with joint responsibility for the Executive Offices of the Culture and Education Sectors, the Department of Public Information, the Bureau of Digital Business Solutions and for Field Offices. These are listed in order of most strategic to operational. The implementation and follow-through on the first recommendation is a prerequisite for responding to the others, as the evaluation team acknowledges that most of the recommendations have resource implications. Otherwise, additional and permanent human resources will be required to fulfil the rising demands of States Parties and the ability to deliver beyond statutory obligations.

**Recommendation 1.** The Secretary of the 2003 Convention should engage with the Intergovernmental Committee, the General Assembly of States Parties and UNESCO Senior Management in order to draw their attention to the necessity of establishing priorities for the use of the limited resources of the 2003 Convention Secretariat (Living Heritage Entity and Field Offices).

**Recommendation 2.** The Living Heritage Entity should reflect upon the potential uses of the data collected through periodic reports, as well as on strategies for making it widely available in a digestible and visual manner. The content should be free to access and easy to search and use. Global, regional, and national analyses and synopses should be made available.

**Recommendation 3.** The Living Heritage Entity in coordination with the Culture Sector Executive Office and other Convention Secretariats as appropriate should create working groups to tackle priority thematic areas that require a multi-Convention response. These should include inter alia commercialization and intellectual property, cultural tourism, and education. At a later stage, UNESCO should engage with other organizations working in these areas.

**Recommendation 4.** The Living Heritage Entity together with the Education Sector Executive Office should use the proposed Theory of Change as a tool for reflecting on and sharpening the scope of the Living Heritage and Education Programme.

**Recommendation 5.** The Living Heritage Entity should continue to promote the International Assistance mechanism particularly among eligible States Parties that have not applied to it. This should entail reaching out beyond traditional ICH expert circles and communicating about the technical backstopping that can be provided by the Secretariat to applicants and recipients, as well as the provision of relevant guidelines and tools for the design, implementation and reporting on projects.

**Recommendation 6.** The Living Heritage Entity should strengthen the quality of project design, monitoring and outcomes reporting to be guided by the Overall Results Framework. Specific attention should furthermore be given to community engagement, sustainable development and gender equality, among other areas.

**Recommendation 7.** The Living Heritage Entity should strengthen the Facilitators network to ensure that it meets the geographic and thematic requirements of the Global Capacity Building Programme. This should entail a mapping of existing capacities and the identification of needs. It should furthermore include an assessment of current and past activity of existing network members, as well as of the active participation of individuals in other activities such as International Assistance projects and focal points on periodic reporting, among others. Opportunities for new membership and exchange amongst facilitators should be created.

**Recommendation 8.** The Living Heritage Entity should pursue adapting the Global Capacity Building Programme to a hybrid modality, combining online learning with in-person training and developing learning materials and tools best suited to these different contexts. The programme should furthermore continue diversifying its target audiences and prioritize communities, civil society, including NGOs working with ICH bearers, and specifically target youth.

**Recommendation 9.** The Living Heritage Entity, in cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices, should develop a system of continuous support to States Parties during the periodic reporting cycle in addition to the online training that is already in place. This should entail guidance on the profiles and designation of national focal points, materials for self-learning, and the provision of ongoing technical backstopping by national or regional resource persons. The networks established during the periodic reporting exercises could also be entrusted with providing guidance thereon.

**Recommendation 10.** The Living Heritage Entity in cooperation with the Bureau of Digital Business Solutions should provide an online platform to facilitate knowledge management on ICH and safeguarding measures from all the listing mechanisms, nominations, periodic reports, International Assistance projects, research, inventories, among others. This tool should allow users to search for information on ICH using simple keywords and criteria. Partner networks such as the ICH NGO Forum and UNESCO Chairs could be entrusted with the processing of data.

**Recommendation 11.** The Living Heritage Entity together with the Department of Public Information should explore new avenues for communication and outreach targeting the general public and youth in particular through the use of channels such as social media. This can entail setting up a dedicated social media account and/or making more use of other UNESCO and partners’ accounts. A visual identity for content from the Entity should be developed to ensure its tracing.

**Recommendation 12.** The Living Heritage Entity should introduce regular opportunities for bilateral planning and exchange with each of the Category 2 Centres specializing in ICH, focussing on priorities of the Secretariat and of the Intergovernmental Committee that can be informed by regional needs in order to strengthen the engagement of these partners and the alignment of their work programmes with those of UNESCO.

1. **Management response**
2. Management response to each of the twelve recommendations was prepared in consultation with the Culture Sector, Education Sector and the central services of UNESCO.

| **Recommendations** | **Management Response (Accepted or Not Accepted as well as the way forward)** |
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| The Secretary of the 2003 Convention should engage with the Intergovernmental Committee, the General Assembly of States Parties and UNESCO Senior Management in order to draw their attention to the necessity of establishing priorities for the use of the limited resources of the 2003 Convention Secretariat (Living Heritage Entity and Field Offices). | **Accepted**  The Secretary of the Convention agrees with this recommendation noting that the Convention has grown considerably since the previous IOS evaluation in 2013, in terms of membership, participation and visibility, whilst human and core resources have diminished. The outcome of this recommendation will therefore be critical to the successful implementation of all subsequent recommendations. It is also noted that many of the issues related to the prioritization and capacity required to address the growing demands of the 2003 Convention, including required human resources, are directly linked to discussions on resource allocation and prioritization at a UNESCO wide level.  On an immediate scale, a number of provisions have been made in the document [LHE/21/16.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-13-EN.docx) to enable CLT/LHE to initiate implementation of the various recommendations below.  The need to allocate adequate human and financial resources, and define priorities, will continue to be advocated to governing bodies. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should reflect upon the potential uses of the data collected through periodic reports, as well as on strategies for making it widely available in a digestible and visual manner. The content should be free to access and easy to search and use. Global, regional, and national analyses and synopses should be made available. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees with the recommendation and draws attention to the fact that this is a process that has already begun, but which will take time, as the new periodic reporting system is in its first year of the reformed periodic reporting cycle.  For the current session of the committee in 2021 (16.COM) an analytical overview of the submission from reports by States Parties in the Latin American and Caribbean region are being presented, whilst a more detailed analysis will be done next year. This process will continue for each of the subsequent reporting regions, with a view to incorporating lessons learnt and continually refining and improving the data collection and analysis. The sixth year of the new cycle (reflection year) will allow for global analyses to be made. The point on making the data widely available and digestible is also noted and agreed. In that regard, the Secretariat will continue to refine the data with this in mind and link its diffusion in the context of recommendation 11 below. The sixth year of the cycle in particular, should provide an opportunity for wide diffusion of the data for all regions in a visually accessible manner.  While noting and agreeing to the recommendation to undertake global and regional analyses, it is important to remember that the primary purpose of Periodic Reporting, according to Article 29 of the Convention, is for States to report to the Committee on their implementation of the Convention at the national level. CLT/LHE will therefore prioritize assisting states with their national level reporting whilst striving nevertheless to implement regional and global analyses subject to available resources. |
| The Living Heritage Entity in coordination with the Culture Sector Executive Office and other Convention Secretariats as appropriate should create working groups to tackle priority thematic areas that require a multi-Convention response. These should include inter alia commercialization and intellectual property, cultural tourism, and education. At a later stage, UNESCO should engage with other organizations working in these areas. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees with the recommendation in terms both of expanding its work into thematic areas as well as of collaborating within and between sectors. CLT/LHE is already working to develop a number of new thematic areas under the Convention, in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee.  CLT/LHE is actively working on an intra- (as well as  inter-) sectoral basis on Culture and Education, notably with the Division of Cultural Policies. The Entity is also currently working on the elaboration of guidance on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Commercialization, which is expected to be presented to the seventeenth session of the Committee. This work, which will also address issues of cultural tourism and living heritage, is expected to provide guidance on how the 2003 Convention may better intersect with other Conventions, in particular the 2005 and the 1972 Conventions. Whilst appreciating the importance of Intellectual Property issues in the commercialization of cultural expressions, the Secretariat wishes to note some reservation on this matter, in line with Article 3 (b) of the Convention which states: ‘Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as … affecting the rights and obligations of States Parties deriving from any international instrument relating to intellectual property…’.  The Executive Office of the Culture Sector (CLT/EO) will lead the creation and/or follow up of existing working groups for key thematic/priority areas which are relevant across the Sector’s programmes. As regards to engaging with other organizations working in these areas, this will be done by the relevant lead Entities themselves, as and when appropriate and ensuring the liaison with the other members of the working group created by CLT/EO. |
| The Living Heritage Entity together with the Education Sector Executive Office should use the proposed Theory of Change as a tool for reflecting on and sharpening the scope of the Living Heritage and Education Programme. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees and will continue its engaged collaboration with the Education Sector. It also welcomes the proposed Theory of Change to sharpen the scope of the programme. CLT/LHE will continue the intersectoral work to reflect on experiences, outputs, outcomes and impact using the proposed Theory of Change. CLT/LHE will engage with the Education Sector to disseminate the revised programme framework for project design, monitoring and reporting.  The Education Sector welcomes this recommendation and will use the Theory of Change to sharpen the scope of the Living Heritage and Education programme together with the Culture Sector, including for the joint vision paper being developed on the intersection of education and culture for the acceleration of the SDGs and SDG 4. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should continue to promote the International Assistance mechanism particularly among eligible States Parties that have not applied to it. This should entail reaching out beyond traditional ICH expert circles and communicating about the technical backstopping that can be provided by the Secretariat to applicants and recipients, as well as the provision of relevant guidelines and tools for the design, implementation and reporting on projects. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees and will continue the work already begun to promote and extend the reach of the International Assistance mechanism. This will involve developing tools as resources to understand the required planning and monitoring methodologies for projects under the mechanism. The outreach strategy will also seek to explain the eligibility and selection criteria for international assistance requests in a language available to all stakeholders, regardless of their level of expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, subject to available funding, a communication strategy around the fund will be developed to raise awareness of its existence and purpose in broader circles. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should strengthen the quality of project design, monitoring and outcomes reporting to be guided by the Overall Results Framework. Specific attention should furthermore be given to community engagement, sustainable development and gender equality, among other areas. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees and in fact is already in the process of developing a monitoring strategy linked to the Overall Results Framework. The monitoring tools will endeavour to use categories that will better measure community participation, sustainable development and gender inclusion. The current document LHE/21/16.COM/13 proposes the allocation of funds for monitoring which will be strategically invested in monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure the sustainability of this strategy. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should strengthen the Facilitators network to ensure that it meets the geographic and thematic requirements of the Global Capacity Building Programme. This should entail a mapping of existing capacities and the identification of needs. It should furthermore include an assessment of current and past activity of existing network members, as well as of the active participation of individuals in other activities such as International Assistance projects and focal points on periodic reporting, among others. Opportunities for new membership and exchange amongst facilitators should be created. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) agrees, whilst noting that this recommendation is closely linked to the implementation of recommendation 1. If sufficient human and financial resources are available, the Living Heritage Entity will utilize technology and social media platforms to support training and networking. CLT/LHE will seek to provide opportunities for new membership paying special attention to the active participation of individuals in the national and international mechanisms and processes of implementing the Convention and to collaboration with national networks of trainers, where they exist. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should pursue adapting the Global Capacity Building Programme to a hybrid modality, combining online learning with in-person training and developing learning materials and tools best suited to these different contexts. The programme should furthermore continue diversifying its target audiences and prioritize communities, civil society, including NGOs working with ICH bearers, and specifically target youth. | **Accepted**  Following the experience, and lessons learnt, of the last two years with the restrictions related to COVID 19, the Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) is already engaged in developing a strategy for reorienting the Programme. This will combine online learning, in-person training and self-learning. Pending the availability of resources, the Entity will pursue the implementation of the new strategy, which will involve materials adaptation and updating in core action areas of the Convention, tools development as well as broadening the programme’s thematic scope and reaching out to new audiences. The work in the thematic areas will involve actors from other development areas (i.e. from education, emergency response teams or specialized institutions) and the use of more online formats will allow reaching out horizontally to community members and NGOs as well as to youth. CLT/LHE has also planned to establish a Learning management system (LMS) in close collaboration with the facilitators network and other partners. This will allow users to easily create, manage and deliver training content for different modalities and contexts. |
| The Living Heritage Entity, in cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices, should develop a system of continuous support to States Parties during the periodic reporting cycle in addition to the online training that is already in place. This should entail guidance on the profiles and designation of national focal points, materials for self-learning, and the provision of ongoing technical backstopping by national or regional resource persons. The networks established during the periodic reporting exercises could also be entrusted with providing guidance thereon. | **Accepted**  A specific capacity-building approach to support countries in preparing their periodic reports was developed, adapted to an online format and implemented with success in two regions. Based on the lessons learnt, the Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) intends to further refine and streamline the approach. Pending the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the CLT/LHE will develop self-learning materials and strengthen - through the concerned Field Offices – the involvement of trained facilitators from the region, and when feasible within the country, to provide technical backstopping to countries upon demand throughout the reporting cycle.  For the upcoming quadrennium, CLT/LHE intends to intensify the cooperation with Field Offices in the regions that will be implementing periodic reporting, and field offices will continue to be closely involved at all stages. |
| The Living Heritage Entity in cooperation with the Bureau of Digital Business Solutions should provide an online platform to facilitate knowledge management on ICH and safeguarding measures from all the listing mechanisms, nominations, periodic reports, International Assistance projects, research, inventories, among others. This tool should allow users to search for information on ICH using simple keywords and criteria. Partner networks such as the ICH NGO Forum and UNESCO Chairs could be entrusted with the processing of data. | **Accepted**  Subject again to the implementation of recommendation 1, the Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE), together with experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage and partner networks, will define a simple format to describe safeguarding measures and a methodology, based on indexing in order to extract such measures from the documentation already available (nominations, periodic reports, international assistance projects, etc.) These measures will be easily accessible, and a link to the full source will ensure its contextualization.  CLT/LHE will work with the Bureau of Digital Business Solutions (DBS) who stands ready to provide methodological advice on compiling information and data from heterogeneous sources, based on its experience with related implementations, and expertise in knowledge management and information classification. DBS will also assist the Living Heritage Entity with the selection of a digital solution, as appropriate, and with relevant guidance on technical and cyber-security aspects. |
| The Living Heritage Entity together with the Department of Public Information should explore new avenues for communication and outreach targeting the general public and youth in particular through the use of channels such as social media. This can entail setting up a dedicated social media account and/or making more use of other UNESCO and partners’ accounts. A visual identity for content from the Entity should be developed to ensure its tracing. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) will work with the Department of Public Information (DPI) to establish a strategy for a proactive usage of social media particularly suited to the context of living heritage and underexploited so far, with a dedicated account and visual identity. Subject again to the provisions of recommendation 1, a ‘community manager’ will be in charge of implementing this strategy and of liaising with UNESCO and partner accounts to maximize outreach.  DPI notes that data collection and visualization has been designed as a key feature of the new communication strategy and DPI stands ready to provide methodological advice on sharing information and data about ICH. DPI underlines that any development in this regard should be closely linked to the UNESCORE project and feed into the new Web overhaul and data visualization mechanism. DPI is ready to work with CLT/LHE with the selection of a digital solution and user experience interface. |
| The Living Heritage Entity should introduce regular opportunities for bilateral planning and exchange with each of the Category 2 Centres specializing in ICH, focussing on priorities of the Secretariat and of the Intergovernmental Committee that can be informed by regional needs in order to strengthen the engagement of these partners and the alignment of their work programmes with those of UNESCO. | **Accepted**  The Living Heritage Entity (CLT/LHE) has established UNESCO focal points in relevant field offices who are closely involved in the work of the centres, as well as a focal point in the Secretariat for global coordination and the organization of annual coordination meetings with all the centres. In addition, the regional officers in CLT/LHE provide technical support if and as required and collaborate on larger projects. Nevertheless, CLT/LHE agrees that it could go further and foresee at least one additional working meeting with each centre individually to continue strengthening the partnership and alignment of the work. |

1. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 16.COM 10

The Committee,

1. Having examined documents LHE/21/16.COM/10 and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10-EN),
2. Recalling the 2013 ‘Evaluation of UNESCO’s Standard‐setting Work of the Culture Sector: Part I – 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’ (Document [IOS/EVS/PI/129](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/IOS-EVS-PI-129_REV.-EN.pdf)), and Decision [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/8.COM/5.C.1?dec=decisions&ref_decision=8.COM),
3. Welcomes the timely submission by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of the 2021 evaluation of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention, expresses its appreciation for the pertinent analysis undertaken by the IOS and takes note with interest of the findings of the evaluation, the twelve recommendations offered therein as well as the management response;
4. Expresses satisfaction with the overall success of the 2003 Convention in raising awareness on the distinct nature and importance of Intangible Cultural Heritage and acknowledges that the significantly broadened scope and the intensified activities of the Convention bring about corresponding challenges with implications for human and financial resources, as well as the need to establish strategic priorities, in particular between programme support and statutory requirements, for its future development;
5. Calls on the Secretariat to ensure adequate follow-up of the recommendations, including through coordination between the culture and education sectors as well as the central services of UNESCO, and at the same time urges States Parties to provide financial contributions to support the implementation of the recommendations through the modality of their choice;
6. Requests the Secretariat to report on the implementation status of the twelve recommendations for examination by the seventeenth session of the Committee.

1. . UNESCO’s Evaluation Office has undertaken evaluations of all six of the Organization’s normative instruments in culture, namely the 1954, 1970, 1972, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Conventions between 2013 and 2019. All the reports are available at <https://en.unesco.org/about-us/ios>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Intangible cultural heritage identified and safeguarded by Member States and communities, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Accredited NGOs, Chairs, Facilitators of the Global Capacity Building Programme, Category 2 Centres, university networks, experts, and recipients of International Assistance. When identifying themselves, stakeholders were allowed to select more than one category. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . Online Training Workshop for ICH in Emergencies in the Philippines, 19 and 26 May 2021; Webinar series, session one: Online facilitation and learning approaches for delivering the global capacity-building programme, 28 May 2021; Living Heritage and Education, Online training of trainers’ course, June and July 2021; Associated Schools Network Global Online Meeting, session on Living heritage as an enabling force for transformative education, 3 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)