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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Cultural Expressions and Heritage

Ms Gladys Gatheru
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Department of Culture
Ministry of State for National Heritage
and Culture
P.O. Box 67374-00200
Nairobi
Kenya

5 August 2011

Ref: CLT/CIH/ITH/00628/00008

Reference to be used on all correspondence: 00628, 00632 & 00649

Dear Ms Gatheru,

Dear Gladys,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we find ourselves in the midst of preparations for the upcoming meeting of the Committee in Bali, I remember fondly your gracious hospitality last year when you welcomed us to Nairobi.

I write with reference to the three preparatory assistance requests submitted by Kenya for support to the elaboration of nomination files for possible inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. These are the requests for 'Traditional governance system of Meru council of elders-Njurinceke' (Reference No. 00628), 'Traditions and practices associated with Kit Mikayi shrine' (Reference No. 00632) and 'Traditional skills and knowledge associated with soapstone carving among the Abagusii' (Reference No. 00649).

The Secretariat has reviewed the materials you submitted. I would appreciate it if you would send the additional information indicated below in order that the Bureau of the Committee will have all the information it needs to examine and evaluate your request.

Due to the similarities in the types of revisions that would need to be made concerning these three requests, I address all three within this one letter. Before beginning, I note that sections of the requests – including the essential items 8, 9 and 10 – are identical except for the change of the name. While there will certainly be similarities in the approaches that you plan to take, the lack of specific measures adapted to specific communities and specific elements does not seem to respect the spirit of the Convention. This also suggests to me that you may wish to focus your efforts in this cycle on one or perhaps two nominations, rather than trying to do three simultaneously, so that you would be better able to adopt methods and approaches adapted to the particularities of the communities and elements concerned.

.../...

With that in mind, the **names of the elements** in item 3 would appear in published material about the Urgent Safeguarding List, if they are inscribed, and should thus identify the elements clearly for people who are not familiar with the cultural heritage of Kenya. Even at this early phase, readers will wish to know more clearly what element is concerned. In the case of files 00628 and 00632 you could improve recognition of the element by simply adding 'of Kenya' at the end of the titles. For file 00649, may I suggest a title such as 'Soapstone carving of the Abagusii of Kenya' or something similarly concise but descriptive?

With regard to item 9 concerning the **process of elaborating the nominations**, it is important to illustrate how each of the three requests is separate and unique. Except for the name of the individual elements, the wording for each section is identical. As noted above, I encourage you to define a process of elaborating each nomination that is adapted to the specific particularities of the community and element concerned. A copy-and-paste or one-size-fits-all approach is not well-suited to the characteristics of intangible cultural heritage, and may raise apprehensions among the members of the Bureau that would examine your requests for assistance. Specifically, the roles and responsibilities of different actors in elaborating the nomination should be more clearly explained. It is not clear, for instance, what role the Permanent Presidential Music Commission would play in the nominations of soapstone carving or the Meru council of elders, and none of the three elements is identified as involving performing arts. Who are the 'conservation experts, anthropologists/sociologists and cultural experts' who would assist in each case, and how would they do so? Which community based organizations and community cooperative societies would be involved with each nomination, and in what way?

The descriptions you have provided for item 10 concerning **preparatory measures** should also be revised in a substantially more detailed and structured manner once you have revised item 9. The descriptions should explain clearly what are the key activities to be carried out in order to elaborate and submit each nomination file, in particular taking into account planned mechanisms for fully involving the communities concerned. It would be important to demonstrate these activities in their best sequence, addressing their feasibility. Item 10 allows you 250 words to make your case but you have used only 50. All of the expenses for which you are requesting support in the budget must first be explained in narrative form here in item 10.

The timetable in item 11 also appears exactly the same in each of your three requests with simple changes in the name of the element to be nominated. You will need to explain how the three processes will remain separate as well as how human resources will be distributed to handle the different proposed activities. After having revised the description of preparatory measures in item 10 for each request, the respective budgets (item 12) may need to be revised to reflect the specific measures and activities that you have justified above.

Finally, I would like to alert you that the 'swift code' and exact bank account number you provided on the Request for Vendor Creation Form are incorrect. Please check what you provided us and make sure that you resubmit the correct numbers. Also, may I remind you that the request must be submitted electronically in standard .rtf or .doc format?

.../...

I encourage you to submit the requested information as soon as possible, and no later than 5 September 2011 to enable the Secretariat to determine whether your file is complete. Please send revised versions of your requests in electronic form, incorporating the additional information requested above. We will substitute them in place of your original requests. Please send that document, in standard .rtf or .doc format, to the e-mail address: ich-nominations@unesco.org.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Cécile Duvelle
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding
of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

cc: Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO
Kenya National Commission for UNESCO
UNESCO Office in Nairobi