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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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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
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P.O. Box 67374-00200
Nairobi
Kenya

12 March 2012

Ref.: CLT/CEH/ITH/2012/0121
References to be used on all correspondence: 00632 & 00649

Dear Gladys,

I write to you with reference to my previous letter CLT/CIH/ITH/00628/00008 of 8 August 2011 and your subsequent resubmission of two preparatory assistance requests for support for the elaboration of nominations for possible inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, under the revised titles, 'Rituals and practices associated with Kit Mikayi shrine of the Luo community in Kenya' (Reference No. 00632) and 'Soapstone carving among the Abagusii of Kenya' (Reference No. 00649).

The Secretariat has reviewed the revised requests you submitted, even if it has taken us substantially longer than I would have hoped. I regret that it has not been possible for us to forward those requests to the Bureau of the Committee in their revised versions. As you will see below, there remain a number of issues to be resolved before the requests can be presented to the Bureau. Perhaps you have already proceeded with elaborating one or both of these nominations with the intention to submit them before 31 March 2012. If not, and you wish to resubmit the preparatory assistance requests with the revisions outlined below, I would present them to the Bureau for its examination and evaluation.

For the several preparatory assistance requests that it approved on 8 February 2012 (see http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-12-7.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc), the Bureau suggested that an exceptional deadline of 31 May 2012 be applied, subject to the confirmation of the General Assembly, for the resulting nominations to be submitted, and the same deadline could be applied to these requests. Alternatively, the preparatory assistance could be used to elaborate a nomination to be submitted for the deadline of 31 March 2013.

Please take note that the large number of nominations that continue to be submitted each cycle necessitated the Committee in Bali to limit the number of files it can examine at its seventh session in 2012 to 62, ensuring to the extent possible to examine at least one file per submitting State. In fact, as you know, for the 2012 cycle, one file is both the minimum and the maximum that can be examined from any State. The continued enthusiasm for the Convention among States Parties strongly implies that in practice it will be unlikely that the

Committee can accept more than a single file per country in subsequent cycles and you may wish to take this into account in your planning.

Due to the similarities in the types of revisions that would need to be made concerning these two requests, I address both of them herein. In particular, the proposed budgets for both files are not sufficiently justified to permit the Secretariat to proceed to create a contract, if the funds were approved by the Bureau. The budgets therefore have to be substantially more detailed, avoiding lump sums for certain items and providing clear and sufficient justification for each expense.

Concerning request 00632, the budget you provide in section 12 should provide sufficient detail for readers to know how the specific expenses are necessary to carry out the activities for the preparation of the nomination. Please provide a more detailed budget and indicate how you calculate to reach the total amounts. Lump sums for photography (US\$500 + US\$500), filming (US\$1875 + US\$1000) and coordination (US\$740) cannot be accepted without such explanatory detail. Also note that the United Nations DSA rate outside of Nairobi is a maximum US\$99 per day rather than the US\$256 shown here. If the Government of Kenya establishes a DSA rate for Kisumu that is higher than the United Nations rate, please provide an explanation. The amount allocated to lunch, US\$25 per person, as well as the unit price for water and refreshments also seem to be quite elevated. The price of local rice, US\$450, seems to approximate the price per metric ton and not per 100 kg. Therefore I may ask you to provide more information and justification about these costs in order to allow the Bureau to evaluate their reasonableness and to permit the Secretariat to draw up a contract in the event the Bureau approves the requested assistance.

Also, please be aware that you must show the State contribution clearly and concretely. Sums allocated under the title 'coordination' (a lump sum of US\$8,340) or 'support for community cultural festival' (US\$2,250) are not sufficiently detailed and should be better explained.

Turning now to request 00649, activities included in sections 10 and 11 such as the community cultural festival should be better justified in order to allow the reader to understand the link between the soapstone carving and the activities included in the festival, particularly in view of the sizable cost budgeted (almost US\$10,000).

Concerning the budget presented in section 12, I again note that you propose a DSA of US\$197 while the UN rate of DSA outside of Nairobi is US\$99. I also note that the accommodation and conference package for each local participant is estimated at US\$50 and it is not clear why the DSA for those travelling from Nairobi would be four times as high. May I ask you to justify more clearly these amounts?

As with the other request, here it would also be necessary to provide further details on some costs included such as 'photography' (US\$400) and 'film making' (US\$5,000) in order to allow the reader to understand which specific activities are included under the amounts proposed.

Finally, I would appreciate if you could again provide more details of the State Party contribution: for instance, for coordination and finalizing the nomination dossier and report writing, only the lump sum of US\$8,340 is indicated and would therefore need to be itemized.

I encourage you to submit the requested information as soon as possible to enable the Secretariat to determine whether your requests are 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 those documents, in standard .rtf or .doc format, to the e-mail address: ich-assistance@unesco.org.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cécile Duvelle', with a horizontal line underneath.

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

