

TEXT OF THE OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

DECISION

No 1173-N of 3 September 2010

ON ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION,  
PRESERVATION OF, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL  
VALUES AND ON APPROVING THE FORM OF THE CERTIFICATE OF INTANGIBLE  
CULTURAL VALUE

In accordance with Article 7(1)(5) of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On intangible cultural heritage”, the Government of the Republic of Armenia hereby **decides**:

1. To approve:

- (1) the procedure for identification, documentation, preservation of, and exchange of information on intangible cultural values, pursuant to Annex No 1;
- (2) the form of the certificate of intangible cultural value, pursuant to Annex No 2.

2. This Decision shall enter into force on the day following the official promulgation.

**Prime Minister**  
**of the Republic of Armenia**

15 September 2010

Yerevan

**T. Sargsyan**

**Annex No 1**  
**to the Decision of the**  
**Government**

## **P R O C E D U R E**

### **FOR IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, PRESERVATION OF, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL VALUES**

#### **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This Procedure establishes the social relations in the field of identification, documentation, preservation of, and exchange of information on intangible cultural values.

2. The provisions of this Procedure shall refer both to the intangible cultural values inscribed on the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Values of the Republic of Armenia in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and to the intangible cultural values recognised by the professional board of the state authorised body of the Republic of Armenia in the field of culture (hereinafter referred to as “the state authorised body”), which are to be inscribed on the mentioned State Lists.

#### **II. IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL VALUES**

3. The state authorised body shall regularly organise scientific route expeditions — covering, in a systematised manner, the territories of all Marzes and settlements of the Republic of Armenia — with a view to revealing, inventorizing and studying the intangible cultural values, as well as updating, adjusting and elaborating the data of the State Lists of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intangible Cultural Values of the Republic of Armenia in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (hereinafter referred to as “the State Lists”).

4. The expedition shall comprise specialists of relevant fields – ethnographers, folklore specialists, musicologists, dance specialists, specialists in folk craftsmanship and folk artefacts, photographers, cameramen. Specialists, who have studied (study) and coordinate annalistic, archival, informational, travel, scientific and research as well as documentary materials, shall be selected to participate in the expedition.

5. The composition of the expedition shall be approved by the head of the state authorised body based on the candidacies proposed by scientific and cultural organisations.

6. With a view to drawing up or adjusting the inventory documents (certificate, records, lists, etc.) concerning the intangible cultural value revealed during the scientific expedition, the descriptive and characteristic data shall be written down, photographed, video- and audio-recorded at the site.

7. After the completion of the scientific expedition, the compiled materials shall be identified with the previously registered values of the same name or with similar descriptive data; both the preserved and lost components shall be recorded; a note shall be taken of the current situation at the time of the scientific expedition.

8. Based on the materials specified in points 5 and 6 of this Procedure, a value certificate — supplemented with photographic documents and video materials — shall be drawn up, pursuant to Annex N 2 to the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1173-N of 3 September 2010.

9. State authorised body shall submit the recommendations on inscribing of a new value on the State Lists or on removing a value therefrom to the consideration of the professional board.

10. The state authorised body shall submit the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments and supplements to the State Lists or the lists already approved to the consideration of the public administration bodies and the scientific institutions concerned.

11. The state authorised body shall file — attached to the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments and supplements to the State Lists or the lists already approved to be submitted to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia — the conclusions and recommendations of the professional board, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the interested organisations.

12. Public administration and local self-government bodies, scientific institutions, religious and cultural organisations, creative unions and bearers of the intangible cultural heritage may also submit recommendations on inscribing a new value on the State Lists or removing a value therefrom by applying to the state authorised body with a relevant justification.

13. A value may be removed from the State Lists only when, by the influence of natural or artificial factors, it no longer exists in the practice, and it is impossible to recreate its viability.

14. The data on the values inscribed on the State Lists shall be periodically (once every two years) adjusted and supplemented pursuant to the data on new revelations, researches, the state of preservation and change of status. New data shall be recorded in the certificates on inserts wherein their sources, the performer and the date of registration shall be specified. The certificate and inserts shall be enumerated in an ascending order.

15. The inventorization, research and preservation of the objects of the Armenian intangible cultural heritage outside the territory of the Republic of Armenia shall be carried out by the state authorised body in accordance with the international norms and in cooperation with relevant foreign state and non-governmental organisations, scientific and education institutions, the Diaspora-Armenian religious, cultural, scientific, education organisations and compatriot unions.

16. The materials and documents concerning the research, inventorization, identification and records of the intangible cultural values shall be kept — for an indefinite period of time — in the archives of the state authorised body, as well as of the state scientific and cultural institutions. Based on them, the state authorised body shall establish a scientific information database of the Armenian intangible cultural heritage within the territory of the Republic of Armenia and those of the foreign states, compile and publish the complete multi-volume collection of the Armenian intangible cultural heritage.

17. The comprehensive multi-volume collection of the Armenian intangible cultural heritage is a multi-volume encyclopaedic publication, wherein the Armenian intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Armenia as well as that in foreign states are presented in the domains defined by Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the intangible cultural heritage”. Each volume covers one entire domain. Where the material is voluminous, the volume may be presented in separate parts. Each value shall be presented through a scientific information article (historical outline — historical, ethnographic, fine arts, national and universal cultural, religious, scientific characterisation, history of study, information on viability (preliminary functions; the state of upholding the historical, cultural, economic and social significance; developments and changes) together with documentary materials (photographs, video materials) and available bibliography about the value).

### **III. PRESERVATION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL VALUES**

18. Functions of preservation of intangible cultural values may be performed both by state authorised bodies, local and territorial administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia operating in the field of culture, science and education, and by legal and natural persons of the Republic of Armenia engaged in scientific and cultural activities.

19. Upon the consent of cultural, scientific, education institutions and organisations, the state authorised body shall develop action plans for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, engaging, if appropriate, other state bodies or non-governmental organisations.

20. The plans shall be developed taking into account the priorities and development perspectives of each domain of the intangible cultural heritage.

21. Taking into account the decreasing trends of viability of separate values, the state authorised body shall submit a proposal to the Government of the Republic of Armenia on inscribing them on the List of Values of the Republic of Armenia in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

22. The state authorised body shall develop and carry out, together with cultural, scientific and education institutions, measures for preservation of intangible cultural values in need of urgent safeguarding as well as protection of the viability thereof.

23. Measures for the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage shall be carried out by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, as well as by other funds not proscribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

24. Where the maintenance of certain intangible cultural values is no longer possible in natural and social-cultural environment, the whole information thereon shall be kept in the museums in the prescribed manner. The museum shall maintain and present them to the public through materialised carriers, using modern technologies.

#### **IV. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL VALUES**

25. The scientific information database of the intangible cultural heritage is an information system which contains information on intangible cultural values (domain, localisation, coverage, their bearers, preconditions for the formation, time period, records available in sources, viability, functions, the state of upholding of historical, cultural, economic and social significance, developments and changes, ethno-cultural and other peculiarities), as well as legal, regulatory and other instruments in the field of the intangible cultural heritage.

26. Scientific information database shall be placed at the “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Armenia” webpage of the official website of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and shall be updated and maintained by the state authorised body.

27. The main purpose of the scientific information database is the registration of Armenian intangible cultural values located within and outside the territory of the Republic of Armenia and the provision of reliable information on the intangible cultural heritage to the public administration and local self-government bodies, legal and natural persons.

28. The main tasks for maintaining the scientific information database shall be the following:

(1) ensuring the reliability and integrity of the data;

(2) updating (monitoring) of the data on the preservation, use, developments and changes of intangible cultural values and of the information on their bearers;

(3) interconnection and synchronisation of the scientific information database with the archives of scientific, cultural, education institutions and those of natural persons;

(4) provision of information.

29. Information shall be provided in accordance with the procedure approved by the order of the head of the state authorised body.

**Chief of Staff of the Government**

**of the Republic of Armenia**

**D. Sargsyan**

**Annex No 2**

**to the Decision of the  
Government**

**of the Republic of Armenia**

**No 1173-N of 3 September 2010**

**FORM**

**C E R T I F I C A T E**

**O F I N T A N G I B L E C U L T U R A L V A L U E**

1.	NAME	OF	THE	INTANGIBLE	CULTURAL	VALUE
<hr/>						
2.						DOMAIN
<hr/>						
3.						GENRE
<hr/>						
4.						STYLE
<hr/>						

5. LOCALISATION AND COVERAGE

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6. INFORMATION ABOUT THE VALUE; CREATORS (authors)

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7. PECULIARITIES OF PERFORMANCE OR PRODUCTION TECHNIQUE

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8. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, PRODUCTION TOOLS, OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS

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9. CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

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10. LANGUAGE (musical, oral or other)

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11. LEVEL

---

Traditional

---

Styled

---

Recreated or modernised

---

12. NOTE ON THE PERFORMANCE (premiere or regular)

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13. ELEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE AND CREATION

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14. DATE, PLACE AND NAME OF PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION

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15. SCHOOL

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16. BEARER (information)

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First name, patronymic name, last name

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Age, date of birth (day, month, year)

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17. Place of birth, place of residence

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18. Education

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19. National origin

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20. Relation to the value (amateur, professional)

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*(source of study or inheritance)*

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*(first name and last name of the master or the teacher)*

21. OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON PROVIDING THE VALUE

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22. FIRST NAME, LAST NAME AND PATRONYMIC NAME, POSITION, PROFESSION OF THE PERSON REGISTERING THE INFORMATION

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23. DATE (DAY, MONTH, YEAR), PLACE OF REGISTRATION, REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

(scientific expedition, passportisation)

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*(registration conditions)*

24. PASSPORT DATA

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25. RESPONSIBLE BODY

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**Chief of Staff of the Government  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**D. Sargsyan**

UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database  
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