

**OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES OF THE FUND
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE RETURN OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY TO ITS COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OR ITS RESTITUTION IN
CASE OF ILLICIT APPROPRIATION**

I. Financial Contributions to the Fund

- a) The Fund is financed by voluntary contributions, either general or for specific activities, within the mandate and the objectives of the Committee.
- b) UNESCO Member States, United Nations Specialized Agencies, and intergovernmental organizations may contribute to the Fund. States Member to the United Nations not Member States of UNESCO, public or private organizations and individuals may contribute subject to prior agreement of the Committee or, if so authorized, by its Chairperson.
- c) Contributions may also be made in the form of services (technical assistance or training) and in kind (equipment).

II. Criteria for submitting Projects for Funding

Projects must:

- a) Be related to requests by a UNESCO Member State or Associate Member of UNESCO for the restitution or return of any cultural property which has a fundamental significance from the point of view of the spiritual values and cultural heritage of the people of such State and which has been lost as a result of colonial or foreign occupation or as a result of illicit appropriation (Art.3, Par.2, Statutes), and
- b) Be in conformity with the objectives and principles of the Statutes of the Committee, particularly with the mandate of the Committee set forth in Article 4 of its Statutes, and take into account the cultural identity, educational needs, and the policies of the countries or regions concerned, and
- c) Increase self-reliance or strengthen national capacities for facilitating the prevention of illicit trafficking or facilitating the restitution of cultural property or exchanges of information on it.

III. Conditions for submitting Projects for Funding

- a) Projects must be submitted by the UNESCO Member States' national authority responsible for relations with UNESCO, irrespective of whether the project concerns a public or a private body, or by international governmental organizations.
- b) Public bodies, international governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, similar foundations and institutions with which UNESCO has official relations may submit projects directly to the Committee if endorsed by a Member State, in conformity with these Guidelines.
- c) Pending the forthcoming session of the Committee, a project for emergency assistance may be submitted to the Secretariat, and the Chairperson of the Committee is authorized to approve such project up to the maximum amount of \$10,000 US dollars or to refuse it. The Chairperson will report on the matter to the next session of the Committee.

IV. Priorities of the Fund in Selecting Projects

Priority is given to Projects submitted by UNESCO Member States

- a) Aimed at the preparation and implementation of the return of cultural property to its countries of origin for those countries whose cultural heritage has been extremely dispersed. This may include, for example, transportation of objects and insurance costs during transportation, or arranging exhibition facilities; or,
- b) Ensuring the establishment or improvement of museum systems or other institutions, especially in developing countries for conservation purposes; public awareness campaigns; and the national and regional capacity for facilitating the restitution of cultural property.

V. Administration of the Fund

The Fund is administered by the Director-General of UNESCO who makes available to the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation a Secretariat and the necessary resources.