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Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS**

**Sixteenth Session
UNESCO Headquarters, Room I
7 – 10 February 2023**

**Item 11 of the provisional agenda: Report of the Committee on its activities and decisions
(2022-2023)**

In accordance with Rule 45.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, this document presents in Annex the report of the Committee on its activities and decisions to be considered by the Conference of Parties at its ninth session (June 2023).

Decision required: paragraph 3

1. Rule 45.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter "the Committee") stipulates that it shall submit a report on its activities and decisions to the Conference of Parties.
2. The period covered by this report extends from February 2022 to February 2023, in accordance with the work plan noted by the Committee at its fifteenth session (Decision [15.IGC 12](#)). The report annexed to this document has been revised by the Secretariat during the sixteenth session of the Committee, prior to its adoption.
3. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 16.IGC 11

The Committee,

1. *Having examined document DCE/23/16.IGC/11 Rev. and its Annex,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 15.IGC 12,*
3. *Adopts the report on its activities and decisions for the period 2022-2023;*
4. *Submits the report to the ninth session of the Conference of Parties.*

ANNEX

Report of the Committee to the Conference of Parties on its activities and decisions 2022-2023

I. Background

1. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter "the Committee") is composed of representatives of 24 States Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter "the Convention"), elected by the Conference of Parties for a term of four years, in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical distribution and rotation. The Committee shall meet once a year and may meet in extraordinary session at the request of at least two-thirds of its members to address specific issues, in accordance with Rule 2 of its Rules of Procedure.
2. The annual sessions of the Committee provide its members with forums for discussion and decision-making to guide the implementation of the Convention on an international level. These sessions allow them to translate the priorities set by the Conference of Parties into a biennial work plan and also to take decisions that guide the implementation of the Convention on a national level.
3. The report of the Committee on its activities and decisions thus enables the Conference of Parties to be informed of the progress made by the Committee in the implementation of its work plan, guided by the resolutions approved by the Conference of Parties as well as by the expected results of UNESCO's Programme and Budget (C/5), as adopted by the General Conference. This report describes the activities carried out by the Committee and the decisions it has taken since the last Conference of Parties in June 2021.

II. Composition of the Committee

4. At its eighth session (1-4 June 2021), the Conference of Parties elected 12 members of the Committee in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure. The 24 Member States of the Committee and their terms of office are as follows:

Group I	
Austria	2019-2023
Denmark	2019-2023
France	2021-2025
Norway	2021-2025
Group II	
Armenia	2019-2023
Azerbaijan	2019-2023
Georgia	2021-2025
Serbia	2021-2025
Group III	
Brazil	2019-2023
Cuba	2021-2025
Ecuador	2019-2023
Jamaica	2021-2025

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2019-2023
Group IV	
Bangladesh	2021-2025
Mongolia	2019-2023
Viet Nam	2021-2025
Group V(a)	
Burkina Faso	2019-2023
Burundi	2021-2025
Ethiopia	2019-2023
Madagascar	2021-2025
Senegal	2019-2023
Group V(b)	
Palestine	2021-2025
Qatar	2019-2023
United Arab Emirates	2021-2025

III. Committee Meetings

5. Since the eighth session of the Conference of Parties, the Committee has met twice in ordinary sessions (see table below). In accordance with Rule 12.1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee shall elect a Bureau at the end of each ordinary session, whose mandate shall continue until the next ordinary session. At its fifteenth ordinary session, the Committee decided to suspend the application of Rule 12.1 of its Rules of Procedure in order to elect the Chairperson and one of the Vice-Chairpersons of the sixteenth session (Decision [15.IGC 14](#)). The Bureau agreed that the sixteenth session of the Committee be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 7 to 10 February 2023.

Sessions	Members of the Bureau	Dates
Fifteenth session Online	Chairperson: H.E. Dr. Nasser Hamad Hinzab (Qatar)	8 to 11 February 2022
	Rapporteur: Ms. Namchin Munkhzul (Mongolia)	
	Vice-Chairpersons: Armenia, Burkina Faso, Denmark and Ecuador	
Sixteenth session UNESCO Headquarters	Chairperson: H.E. Christian Ter-Stepanian (Armenia)	7 to 10 February 2023
	Rapporteur: Ms. Aysha Kamali (United Arab Emirates)	
	Vice-Chairpersons: Cuba, Ethiopia, France and Mongolia	

6. The responsibilities and functions of the Committee are set out in Articles 18.4 and 23 of the Convention and notably include:
- promoting the objectives of the Convention and monitoring its implementation;
 - preparing operational guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;
 - transmitting the quadrennial periodic reports of the Parties, together with comments and summaries, to the Conference of Parties;

- establishing procedures and other mechanisms for consultation to promote the objectives and principles of the Convention in other international fora;
- decision-making on funding requests under the International Fund for Cultural Diversity;
- inviting at any time public or private organizations or individuals to participate in its meetings in order to consult them on specific issues.

IV. Committee Activities

7. Since the eighth session of the Conference of Parties (June 2021), the main activities and decisions of the Committee have been guided by the priorities and requests addressed to it by the Conference of Parties in Resolution [8.CP.13](#) and on the basis of which it established its work plan for the period 2022-2023 (Decision [15.IGC.12](#)). They are namely to:

- support the good governance of the Convention, as well as broaden and diversify the range of stakeholders involved in its governance at an international level, in particular by encouraging and supporting the participation of civil society in the work of its governing bodies, through the effective implementation of its operational guidelines on the role and participation of civil society, and by considering the establishment of a regular consultation mechanism with micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises involved in the implementation of the Convention, taking into account possible synergies with existing participatory mechanisms (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/4](#), [DCE/22/15.IGC/9](#), [DCE/22/15.IGC/11](#), [DCE/23/16.IGC/4](#), [DCE/23/16.IGC/8](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/10](#));
- ensure the implementation of Articles 9 and 19 of the Convention by taking advantage of all available monitoring tools to assess the implementation and impact of the Convention, including the quadrennial periodic reports of the Parties, the quadrennial survey on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and the Parties' national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, with a view to informing policy-making and stimulating knowledge creation and dissemination through the publication of research papers, policy briefs and the further development of the Convention's Policy Monitoring Platform (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/4](#), [DCE/22/15.IGC/5](#), [DCE/23/16.IGC/4](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/5](#));
- ensure the effective implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, notably through the implementation of its communication and fundraising strategy (2021-2023) and the updating and revision of the Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, in order to effectively integrate considerations of common interest, such as digital issues (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/6](#), [DCE/22/15.IGC/7](#), [DCE/22/15.IGC/8](#), [DCE/23/16.IGC/6](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/7](#));
- support and promote the development and implementation of international cooperation and assistance programmes as part of the Convention's global capacity-building strategy, especially its capacity-building programme for participatory policy monitoring, its programme on the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks in the field of cultural and creative industries, its technical assistance programme for the elaboration or updating of legislation and regulations to improve the status of the artist, its programme for the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, including in an intersectoral manner, as well as its programmes to support the structuring of cultural and creative industries, taking into account pressing transversal needs such as gender equality, the protection and promotion of artistic freedom, youth, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and post-crisis situations (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/4](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/4](#));
- devote particular attention to the implementation of preferential treatment measures for developing countries and to the promotion of the objectives and principles of the Convention in other international fora, including in the context of the negotiation and implementation of cultural cooperation agreements and multilateral, regional or bilateral

trade frameworks, involving one or more Parties of the Convention (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/4](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/4](#));

- undertake a reflection with a view to recognising and encouraging the particular efforts made by cultural organizations and institutions that are committed to providing access to diverse cultural expressions from their territory as well as from other countries of the world and/or to promoting the representation of diversity in cultural content (see documents [DCE/22/15.IGC/10](#) and [DCE/23/16.IGC/9](#));

8. The table hereafter provides a detailed overview of the progress made in implementing the activities and decisions of the Committee at its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions, in accordance with its work plan for the period 2022-2023.

V. Conclusion and perspectives

9. Overall, the Committee has implemented the priorities set by the Conference of Parties in Resolution [8.CP.13](#) as it has taken decisions and issued calls for action, both from the Parties and the Secretariat, that have led to the implementation of the Convention at all levels. Despite the Committee's efforts, however, it should be recalled that among the actions in its work plan (2022-2023), several should be considered as medium- and long-term investments for which the ongoing work will require the identification of appropriate financial and human resources, as follows:

- i) While the International Fund for Cultural Diversity has seen a diversification of donors in recent years, it still needs more involvement from Parties through regular voluntary contributions. The Secretariat will also need to continue its ongoing efforts to ensure that the Fund is able to support the needs and priorities of beneficiary developing countries, and to make a greater and lasting impact in the operationalisation of the Convention on the ground. The implementation of the communication and fundraising strategy has enabled greater proximity to the Parties and to make them aware of the importance of making their voluntary contributions regularly. Nevertheless, the number of Parties contributing to the Fund, while growing in recent years, remains very small compared to the amount that could be raised annually, and relies on regular collaboration and dialogue with the Parties. In addition, the Committee could consider strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of funded projects, which would help increase the impact and visibility of the Fund. It will also be important to examine the recommendations that will be made in the framework of the Fund's evaluation in 2024 in order to find courses of action that would make the Parties' voluntary contributions more regular and sustainable.
- ii) Regarding the actors associated with the work of the governing bodies at the international level, the expansion and diversification of partners with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and cultural organizations and institutions is well underway. It will be important, however, to make additional efforts to fully integrate these important actors into the work of the Convention and the activities of the Committee in future meetings, using existing cooperation mechanisms. At the same time, reflection and efforts continue to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations in the work of the governing bodies by optimising the participation process of civil society representatives in meetings. Through these concerted actions, it will thus be possible to bring together these multiple actors and ensure that constructive dialogue can be strengthened with the Convention's governing bodies, in order to better support the good governance of the Convention and achieve a more inclusive and participatory implementation of the Convention.
- iii) After 10 years of implementation, the quadrennial periodic reporting process of the Parties has become significantly out of sync, which has a critical impact on the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention. With a view to ensuring effective and sustainable monitoring of the Convention, the Committee is examining at this session concrete proposals for rationalizing the periodic reporting cycles in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. Following its review, any significant changes to the periodic reporting cycle will require the continued support of the Committee and the Parties in the years to come in

order to be able to monitor the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels, and to be able to exchange good practices. It will also be important to ensure that developing countries, Parties to the Convention, that have never submitted their periodic report will be able to do so, with the support of the Secretariat.

- iv) While the pilot phase of the digital technical assistance programme was launched in September 2022, thanks to a voluntary contribution from France, the Secretariat has so far received only four national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment. It is therefore important to reflect on the next steps and to see how the Secretariat could better accompany the Parties in this process, in particular during the preparation of their quadrennial periodic report. This reflection is also important for strengthening synergies between the different monitoring tools of the Convention, as well as for dynamic and effective knowledge sharing on policies and measures through the Policy Monitoring Platform.

41 C/ 5 - OUTPUT 5.CLT 5: Member States' and civil society' capacities strengthened to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions through dynamic and inclusive cultural and creative industries		
1. Number of Member States with new or revised policies, regulatory frameworks, measures and/or initiatives to strengthen their cultural and creative industries, including in the digital environment, in line with the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	2. Number of Member States with new or revised policies, regulatory frameworks, measures and/or initiatives to improve the working conditions and the social and economic rights of artists and cultural professionals, including through the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist with particular attention to women artists and cultural professionals	3. Number of Member States that have implemented policies, measures and programmes to support gender equality in the culture and creative sectors with particular attention to closing the gender gap and empowering women artists to create, produce, distribute and access cultural goods and services
<i>Targets for 2023: 35, including 15 in Africa and 2 SIDS</i>	<i>Targets for 2023: 25, including 10 in Africa and 2 SIDS</i>	<i>Targets for 2023: 30, including 12 in Africa and 3 SIDS</i>

Work plan for the Committee's activities (2022-2023)	
Priorities defined by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 8.CP 13)	Activities and Decisions of the Committee
Support the good governance of the Convention by broadening and diversifying the range of stakeholders involved in its governance at the international level, in particular encourage and support the participation of civil society in the work of its governing bodies, and consider the establishment of a regular consultation mechanism with micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises involved in the implementation of the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of two ordinary sessions of the Committee (15 IGC and 16 IGC) and meetings of the Bureau for the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions - Civil society meetings with the Bureau of the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee - Strengthening of the cooperation with civil society in the work of the governing bodies, in line with the Operational Guidelines on Article 11 (Decisions 15.IGC 11 and 16.IGC 10) and the consultations with civil society organizations through written contributions (Decision 16.IGC 10) - Review and adoption of concrete ways to improve consultations with micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises within existing mechanisms (Decisions 15.IGC 9 and 16.IGC 8) - Networking meetings for UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO operating in the fields covered by the Convention, in the margins of the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee - Diversification, support and strengthening of the networking of the

	<p>Convention's stakeholders, in particular the UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO</p>
<p>Ensure the implementation of Articles 9 and 19 of the Convention by the Parties' quadrennial periodic reporting, the quadrennial survey on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, and Parties' national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, with a view to informing policy-making and stimulating knowledge creation and dissemination through the publication of research papers, policy briefs and the further development of the Convention's Policy Monitoring Platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of 23 quadrennial periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention (Decisions 15.IGC 5 and 16.IGC 5) - Sharing and dissemination of information and data collected through the quadrennial periodic reports that fed into the 3rd edition of the Global Report launched at the fifteenth session of the Committee (Decision 15.IGC 5) - Review of proposals to rationalize the quadrennial periodic reporting cycle of Parties and recommendation to the Conference of Parties (Decision 16.IGC 5) - Consideration of the preparation, launching and follow-up of the quadrennial survey on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, the results of which will be presented at the 42nd session of the General Conference (2023) (Decisions 15.IGC 4 and 16.IGC 4) - Consideration of the low number of national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment transmitted by the Parties (Decision 15.IGC 4) - Review of the updating of the Policy Monitoring Platform (Decisions 15.IGC 5 and 16.IGC 5)
<p>Ensure the effective implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) through the implementation of its communication and fundraising strategy (2021-2023) and the update and revision of the Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, in order to effectively integrate considerations of common interest, such as digital issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the revised draft Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD for transmission to and approval by the Conference of Parties at its ninth session in June 2023 (Decision 15.IGC 7) - Adoption of the provisional budget (2022-2023) of the IFCD in the amount of US\$2,986,653, including US\$200,000 for technical assistance to SIDS in the preparation of their periodic reports (Decision 15.IGC 8), - Approval of 9 projects to be funded by the IFCD within the framework of the twelfth call (total amount of US\$736,129) (Decision 15.IGC 6) and 11 projects under the thirteenth call (total amount of US\$897,213) (Decision 16.IGC 7) - Renewal by half the members of the Panel of Experts responsible for evaluating funding requests from the IFCD and preparing recommendations on the projects to be financed, for the adoption of the Committee (Decision 15.IGC 6) - Postponement of the third external evaluation of the IFCD for two years with the presentation of the result of this evaluation at the eighteenth session of the Committee in 2025 (Decision 15.IGC 6)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the implementation of the IFCD communication and fundraising strategy for the period 2021-2023 (Decision 16.IGC 6) - Request to the Director-General to launch the annual call for voluntary contributions to the IFCD (Decisions 15.IGC 8 and 16.IGC 6)
<p>Support and promote the development and implementation of international cooperation and assistance programmes as part of the Convention's global capacity-building strategy (capacity-building programme for participatory policy monitoring, programme on the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks in the field of cultural and creative industries, technical assistance programme for the elaboration or updating of legislation and regulations to improve the status of the artist, programme for the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, and programmes to support the structuring of cultural and creative industries), taking into account pressing transversal needs such as gender equality, the protection and promotion of artistic freedom, youth, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and post-crisis situations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of the implementation and recognition of the impact of international cooperation and technical assistance programmes in more than 75 developing countries through, among others: i) capacity building for participatory policy monitoring, ii) support to peer-to-peer learning to strengthen regulatory frameworks in the sectors of cultural and creative industries, iii) technical assistance for the protection and promotion of the status of the artist and cultural professionals, iv) capacity building in the digital environment, and v) support to cultural policies in the region of Asian and Pacific States (Decisions 15.IGC 4 and 16.IGC 4) - Online training workshop offered to 15 SIDS as well as technical assistance and monitoring of the first results from its implementation deployed to 4 SIDS to accompany them in the preparation of their quadrennial periodic report (Decision 16.IGC 4)
<p>Devote particular attention to the implementation of preferential treatment measures for developing countries and to the promotion of the objectives and principles of the Convention in other international fora (negotiation and implementation of cultural cooperation agreements and multilateral, regional or bilateral trade frameworks involving one or more Parties to the Convention)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouragement given to Parties to take appropriate preferential treatment measures to effectively address imbalances in the global flow of cultural goods and services and facilitate the mobility of artists and cultural professionals from developing countries (Decisions 15.IGC 4 and 16.IGC 4)
<p>Undertake a reflection with a view to recognising and encouraging the particular efforts made by cultural organizations and institutions that are committed to providing access to diverse cultural expressions from their territory as well as from other countries of the world and/or to promoting the representation of diversity in cultural content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of proposals aiming to improve the engagement of cultural organizations and institutions to promote access to a diversity of cultural expressions and recommendation to the Conference of Parties (Decisions 15.IGC 10 and 16.IGC 9)