**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Tenth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**11 to 12 June 2024**

**Item 6 of the provisional agenda:**

**Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January 2022 to December 2023)**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.**Decision required:** paragraph 22 |

**Background**

1. The present report focuses on the work of the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from January 2022 to December 2023 pursuant to Resolution [9.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/6). The reporting period is aligned with UNESCO’s other reporting processes, namely the [Director-General’s report](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000384853_eng) on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (EX/4). [Annex I](#AnnexI) demonstrates the contribution of the Secretariat’s work to the 41C/5 results framework and, more specifically, to the performance indicators under the Outcome 5.CLT4 of Major Programme IV. [Annex II](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/Annex_II_10.GA_6_EN.docx) provides a follow-up on the twelve recommendations of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention[[1]](#footnote-1). The report should also be read alongside the financial report of the Convention’s Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with the same reporting period (document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)).
2. The Secretariat’s core activities focused on the international cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the Convention (section I), operational activities (section II), thematic initiatives (section III), as well as partnerships, communications and outreach (section IV). The report also includes information and consultation points on the visions for the Convention, following the twentieth anniversary of the Convention celebrated in 2023 (section V).
3. **Governance of the Convention: Statutory support**
4. The Secretariat ensured administrative, logistical and substantive support for the governing bodies of the Convention by organizing thirty-three statutory meetings. The annual Schedule of statutory meetings was made available for [2022](https://ich.unesco.org/en/schedule-of-statutory-meetings-in-2022-01237) and [2023](https://ich.unesco.org/en/schedule-of-statutory-meetings-in-2023-01295), and updated regularly, through the website of the Convention. Furthermore, the reporting period saw the conclusion of the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention (Resolution [9.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/12)), according to which the present session of the Assembly will be convened. The report on the Committee’s activities from January 2022 to December 2023 is presented to the present session of the Assembly (document [LHE/24/10.GA/5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-5_EN.docx)).
5. The Secretariat provided substantial support to the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention. The primary workload concerned the processing of the nomination files under the 2022 and 2023 cycles for assessment by the Evaluation Body, while checking the technical completeness of nominations under the 2024 cycle. Furthermore, the Secretariat processed periodic reports, and accreditation and renewal requests from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These accreditation requests, following the recommendations by the eighteenth session of the Committee, are presented to the present session of the Assembly (document [LHE/24/10.GA/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-9_EN.docx)).
6. The reporting period saw the conclusion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (2018-2022), which resulted in amendments to the Operational Directives that established a set of new procedures (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)). The Secretariat revised existing forms and created new simplified forms in time for the 2024 cycle. As another outcome of the global reflection, a new reflection was launched in 2021 to explore the full potential of Article 18 of the Convention, in order to seek ways to bring the voices and aspirations of communities to the fore (Decision [17.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/17.COM/10)). Based on the results of a Category VI meeting of experts and an Open-ended intergovernmental working group, the Committee took note of the steps for establishing an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences, while reflecting on how to increase access to and the visibility of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (Decision [18.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/11)). On the latter aspect, the present session is requested to examine the proposed amendments to the Operational Directives aimed at simplifying the selection criteria for the Register (document [LHE/24/10.GA/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-7_EN.docx)).
7. While concluding the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention, the governing bodies of the Convention were mindful of the possible increase in the workload for stakeholders, in view of certain categories of nominations that have been placed outside the annual ceiling on an experimental basis. In line with Decision [17.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/15), it is to be noted that the Secretariat received for the 2024 and 2025 cycles: (a) five requests for the transfer of an inscribed element from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List (three under the 2024 cycle and two under the 2025 cycle, from two States Parties) and (b) twelve requests to inscribe elements on the Representative List on an extended basis (five under the 2024 cycle and seven under the 2025 cycle, submitted by sixteen States Parties, including three national extension requests, eight international extension requests and one combining national and international extensions). These nominations are being processed for examination by the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee in 2024 and 2025, demonstrating that the outcomes of the abovementioned global reflection are already operational. It is foreseen that the nineteenth session of the Committee in December 2024 will discuss the number of files submitted for the 2024 and 2025 cycles and the number of files that can be treated in the 2026 and 2027 cycles.
8. The Secretariat continued to implement pilot projects in line with the Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies (Resolution [8.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/9)). New capacity-building materials on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in situations of conflict and forced displacement were prepared for pilot implementation in a refugee camp in Cameroon, through the support of an earmarked contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund from Azerbaijan. Likewise, the multi-year project ‘Capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and the Caribbean,’ funded by the Japan Funds-in-Trust, advanced its implementation in five States Parties (The Bahamas, Belize, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu). In the context of the war in Ukraine, the Secretariat organized several coordination meetings to monitor the evolving safeguarding needs for intangible cultural heritage. These meetings led to the development of (a) a project, supported by UNESCO’s Heritage Emergency Fund, aimed at integrating living heritage in education, (b) two International Assistance requests approved by the Bureau of the Committee in 2023 to address the safeguarding needs of Ukrainian populations temporarily displaced in Romania and Slovakia, and (c) a joint initiative by UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine for the development of the Action Plan for the Protection of Culture in Ukraine, which includes a thematic focus on ‘Strengthening resilience through culture,’ covering a broad range of initiatives related to living heritage.
9. The Convention’s ongoing cycle of periodic reporting continues to demonstrate high submission rates of reports, at 100 per cent for Europe in 2022 (all forty-four reports expected were submitted and examined by the seventeenth session of the Committee[[2]](#footnote-2)), 100 per cent for the Arab States in 2023 (all eighteen reports expected were submitted and examined by the eighteenth session of the Committee[[3]](#footnote-3)), and 97 per cent for Africa in 2024 (43 out of 44 expected reports were submitted and they will be examined by the nineteenth session of the Committee). The Secretariat supported these three regions closely with a tailored capacity-building approach, in cooperation with UNESCO Category 2 Centres in the field of living heritage.
10. The International Assistance mechanism was further systematized during the reporting period, following the strategy approved by the Committee at its seventeenth session (Decision [17.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/11)). This has led to the creation of a roster for evaluators of International Assistance projects, a map of projects to be evaluated, as well as regular awareness-raising initiatives, including the updating of the [Toolkit](https://ich.unesco.org/en/toolkit-for-requesting-international-assistance-01294) and online information sessions on the mechanism. In tandem, the Secretariat continued to support national safeguarding efforts, with particular attention to Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and thirteen States Parties receiving financial assistance for the first time (documents [LHE/24/10.GA/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-8_EN.docx) and [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)).
11. **Operational activities**
12. Operationally, the Secretariat’s capacity-building initiatives have widened in both scope and reach under the first funding priority under the Convention, with support provided to 114 Member States, including 32 in Africa and 25 SIDS, to develop new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage.
13. The programme continues to undergo transformation to a hybrid modality, combining online learning with in-person training, and drawing on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the first [massive online open course (MOOC) on intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development](https://ich.unesco.org/en/massive-online-open-course-mooc-01228), which confirmed the centrality of the programme and highlighted the need to adapt to evolving demands. The MOOC has been accessible since January 2022, with more than 3,500 learners from 160 countries enrolled to date. The Secretariat has also designed and established the Learning Management System (LMS) for the capacity-building programme. The conversion of three modules (equivalent to more than thirty-five thematic units) of capacity-building materials for online learning courses and multimodal delivery formats on the LMS is ongoing, through a partnership agreement with the International Labour Organization’s International Training Centre (ITC-ILO).
14. The Secretariat further enlarged and strengthened its global network of facilitators, which now counts ninety-five new members (60% of which are women) from all regions, and for whom four global orientation webinars were organized. This extension was based on a new strategy for regional, contextualized training on the implementation of the Convention for incoming facilitators and is being implemented in all regions in cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices and UNESCO Category 2 Centres in the field of living heritage. The capacity-building programme also broadened its thematic expertise by developing training materials in new areas, such as intangible cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction, which were tested through online workshops and pilot activities.
15. The programme on Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education remains a key attention area of the Secretariat’s work, as the second funding priority under the Convention (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)). Since 2022, the Secretariat has reinforced its collaboration with the Education Sector, leading to the integration of living heritage into key international standard-setting instruments and frameworks, such as the [Culture and Arts Education Framework](https://www.unesco.org/en/frameworkcultureartseducation?hub=71580) adopted in February 2024 and the new Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development adopted by the 42nd session of the General Conference. The emphasis on integrating living heritage into education extended into several pilot projects (see [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)).
16. **Thematic initiatives**
17. The Secretariat advanced its efforts in three thematic initiatives, aiming to develop guidance on how to practically and conceptually engage stakeholders and leverage living heritage for sustainable human development (Decisions [16.COM 5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/16.COM/5.B), [17.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/13) and [18.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/12)). The three initiatives have been following a similar approach, including a desk study, global survey and expert meeting, accompanied by a peer review process.
* On the theme of economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage[[4]](#footnote-4), the eighteenth session of the Committee examined the guidance note developed through the Category VI expert meeting held in 2023. The guidance note addressed the importance of developing heritage-sensitive approaches that are flexible and rights-based, bearing in mind that safeguarding measures for economic contexts should always be tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the communities concerned, as well as to their living heritage.
* With regards to the thematic initiative on intangible cultural heritage and climate change, a desk-based study was undertaken and peer-reviewed by a group of experts coming from diverse fields, including climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and cultural rights. The findings from the desk-based study will inform the development of a guidance note that will be discussed during a Category VI expert meeting in June and September 2024.
* Concerning the initiative on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts, a background document has been developed to explore a methodology for incorporating living heritage in urban planning. The initiative aims to formulate recommendations for policy makers, urban planners and practitioners by highlighting the role of living heritage in sustainable urban development. A draft guidance note is currently being developed and will be discussed at an expert meeting.
1. Linkages were sought and strengthened with other Culture Conventions, most notably with the World Heritage Convention. In November 2023, the UNESCO Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21stCentury was held in Naples, Italy, in light of the fiftieth (1972 Convention) and twentieth (2003 Convention) anniversaries of both Conventions, to discuss holistic approaches to safeguard both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The Conference led to the [‘Spirit of Naples’ Call for Action](https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/11/UNESCO_CALL_FOR_ACTION_NAPLES.pdf), which is an appeal to all UNESCO Member States and stakeholders to enact public policies and strategies anchored in the Call for Action’s principles. The thematic initiative on the economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage also provided an opportunity for collaboration, with the joint implementation of operational projects[[5]](#footnote-5), aiming to support communities through sustainable tourism and heritage safeguarding in World Heritage cities.
2. **Partnerships, communications and outreach**
3. The Secretariat continued to strengthen its collaboration with the ICH NGO Forum, particularly in the mapping of the domains of competencies of accredited NGOs, with the results of the exercise visualized on the dedicated webpage (Decision [14.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/15)). Furthermore, in line with Resolution [9.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/7), the Secretariat launched a survey[[6]](#footnote-6) to collect the views of States Parties on the development of a ‘plan, strategy and clear mechanisms aimed at ensuring geographical balance among accredited NGOs under the Convention’.
4. As regards Category 2 centres, the tenth annual coordination meeting was held at UNESCO Headquarters in July 2022, while the eleventh annual meeting was hosted by the Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe in September 2023 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In addition, the Secretariat coordinated renewal evaluation processes with five Category 2 centres: the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL), the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF), the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (RCSICH), the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI).
5. The reporting period also included the evaluation of twelve proposals for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO Chairs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the UNITWIN network on living heritage safeguarding in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. An exchange session with UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs and regional university networks was organized by the Secretariat at the margins of the seventeenth session of the Committee.
6. Strategic communications remain a key element of the Convention’s efforts to increase its visibility and reach diverse stakeholders. Since 2021, the Secretariat has enhanced its collaboration with UNESCO’s Division for Communications and Public Engagement (CPE), particularly in the use of social media. As a result, the visibility of the Convention has been enhanced on UNESCO’s general social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) through increased social media posts featuring living heritage.[[7]](#footnote-7) These messages helped to promote international days related to living heritage, such as Nowruz, International Day of Yoga, and International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, among others. During the reporting period, extensive work was undertaken to adapt all communication materials of the Convention to UNESCO’s new logo and design, including the new revamped website in November 2022.
7. In terms of knowledge management services, the Secretariat continued to work closely with UNESCO’s Bureau of Digital Business Solutions (DBS) to improve the performance and functionality of existing digital tools. A case in point is the improved workflows to reflect the statutory possibilities introduced following the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, on both the webpage and the online monitoring interface of the Evaluation Body. In terms of periodic reporting, access to online platforms was provided to the designated country focal points. Efforts are also underway to enhance the visualization of accredited NGOs on the webpage and develop a new online tool for sharing safeguarding measures following the reflection on Article 18. A dedicated directory for UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks focusing on living heritage has also been made available on the Convention’s website. Additionally, the Secretariat is developing digital tools to support the safeguarding and transmission of foodways as living heritage.[[8]](#footnote-8)
8. **Twentieth anniversary of the Convention and visions for the future of the Convention**
9. The present report reflects how intense the Secretariat’s operations have been, covering numerous areas to support the decision-making process of the governing bodies of the Convention, while at the same time administering different international cooperation mechanisms, carrying out operational projects, as well as expanding the capacity-building approach, responding to emergency situations, and developing new thematic areas. The reporting period was particularly marked by the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2023, which was celebrated through over 120 activities organized at local, national, regional and international levels – the report of the anniversary year is presented to the present session (document [LHE/24/10.GA/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-10_EN.docx)). Building on the progress made over the two decades as affirmed through the anniversary celebrations, the General Assembly is invited to take note of and provide inputs on the following points relevant for the further development of the Convention.
10. **The Seoul Vision**: One of the main outcomes of the twentieth anniversary is the [Seoul Vision](https://ich.unesco.org/en/seoul-vision-01330#:~:text=Outlined%20during%20the%20celebration%20of,living%20heritage%20to%20ensure%20sustainable) statement which outlines the main areas of action[[9]](#footnote-9) where living heritage can make positive contributions to both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2030 agenda. These include domains such as living heritage safeguarding and livelihoods, climate action and urban contexts, as well as living heritage in emergencies, integration of culture in education, and living heritage in the digital environment.
11. **Contribution to the post-2030 agenda**: The ways forward indicated through the twentieth anniversary closely echo the directions to be taken in the field of culture highlighted in the landmark [Final Declaration](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-world-conference-cultural-policies-and-sustainable-development-mondiacult-2022) at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022, which called for culture to be firmly anchored as a global public good and integrated as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda. The contribution of living heritage to intersectoral themes and initiatives shall be sought in the coming years by enhancing cooperation and partnerships with other Conventions and development frameworks, within UNESCO and in the wider UN system.
12. **Contribution to the Global Report on Cultural Policies**: The MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration also called on UNESCO to produce a Global Report on Cultural Policies on a quadrennial basis, building on information, data and existing indicators provided by its Member States, starting with the first edition in 2025. While the ongoing periodic reporting system of the 2003 Convention, with its results-based focus and accompanying capacity-building approach, has proved effective in increasing submission rates, a single global reporting system will allow stakeholders to monitor the impact of the Culture Conventions in totality, and enable the Global Report on Cultural Policies to serve as both a functional tool and a resource for the international development agenda.
13. **Rationalization of the periodic reporting system**: The Executive Board’s decision [219 EX/Decision 13](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000389517) invited the Director-General to submit the [evaluation of UNESCO’s periodic reporting on the Culture Sector’s Conventions and Recommendations](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388995?posInSet=1&queryId=bac1614c-87af-439e-8f80-730dd0527608) to the relevant governing bodies of the Culture Conventions for their consideration. This evaluation, which was conducted by UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Services and completed in March 2024, recommends the alignment of the periodic reporting mechanisms of the UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations. Accordingly, the present session of the General Assembly is invited to conduct a preliminary discussion on the roadmap that was endorsed by the eighteenth session of the Committee (Decision [18.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/7.C) and Document [LHE/23/18.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.c_Rev_EN.docx)). This roadmap outlines a timeline by which the submission cycles of the 2003 Convention’s periodic reporting mechanism will be rationalized, working towards a single global submission system of periodic reports common to the UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations.
14. **Contribution to the preparation of the 43 C/5**: With reference to Recommendation 74 of the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance (Document [39 C/70](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000260089)) and in light of [42 C/Resolution 81](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388394), the present session of the Assembly is also invited to contribute in the process of the strategic reflection on future programmatic directions and priorities for the next quadrennium, namely the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5). The discussion may be guided by the proposed areas of reflection as contained in document [42 C/7](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000387426/PDF/387426eng.pdf.multi) (Section II) of the General Conference of UNESCO. A synthesis report of the discussion, to be prepared by the Secretariat after the present session, will be reflected in the Sector’s contribution to the Director-General’s preliminary proposals on the draft 43 C/5, scheduled to be presented to the 220th session of the Executive Board in October 2024.
15. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 10.GA 6

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document LHE/24/10.GA/6 and its annexes,
2. Recalling Resolution [9.GA 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/6), as well as Decisions [17.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/15) and [18.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/7.C),
3. Further recalling [42 C/Resolution 81](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388394) of the General Conference and [219 EX/Decision 13](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000389517) of the Executive Board of UNESCO, as well as the 2021 IOS Evaluation of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention and the 2024 IOS Evaluation of UNESCO’s periodic reporting on the Culture Sector’s Conventions and Recommendations,
4. Commends the Secretariat for the continued support provided for the sound governance of the Convention, through the efficient organization of statutory meetings and management of international cooperation mechanisms;
5. Further commends the Secretariat for the implementation of the revised Operational Directives following the completion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention, including its support to the Evaluation Body, and takes note of the progress made in the reflection on a broader implementation on Article 18;
6. Acknowledges the further systemization of the International Assistance mechanism, and welcomes its expansion to a wider group of countries which have received assistance;
7. Notes with satisfaction the substantially improved submission rates of periodic reports from Europe, the Arab States and Africa;
8. Appreciates the continued implementation of the global capacity-building programme and its reorientation to a multi-modal and intersectoral approach, and encourages the Secretariat to continue enhancing its synergies within UNESCO and the wider UN system, with the aim of integrating living heritage in the post-2030 international development agenda;
9. Further appreciates the progress made under the thematic initiatives of the Convention, particularly in relation to its economic dimensions, climate change and urban contexts, and invites the Secretariat to continue pursuing these efforts, and in other domains the Committee may request in line with the areas of action highlighted in the Seoul Vision for the Future of Safeguarding Living Heritage for Sustainable Development and Peace;
10. Acknowledges the progress accomplished as regards the twelve recommendations made by the 2021 IOS evaluation on UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention;
11. Takes note of the following as regards the further development of the Convention:
12. The Seoul Vision for the Future of Safeguarding Living Heritage for Sustainable Development and Peace as well as the inputs provided by States Parties through the survey, and calls upon the stakeholders of the Convention to take into account the proposed main areas of action in their safeguarding efforts for the further development of the Convention;
13. The final declaration of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022, as well as the 2024 IOS Evaluation of UNESCO’s periodic reporting on the Culture Sector’s Conventions and Recommendations, and endorses the transitional measures to rationalize the periodic reporting towards the single global submission system, including in preparation for the UNESCO Global Report on Cultural Policies, as endorsed by the eighteenth session of the Committee;
14. An invitation extended by the General Conference of UNESCO to contribute to the process of the strategic reflection on future programmatic directions and priorities for the quadrennium 2026-2029, affirms the strategic importance of living heritage for sustainable human development in the fields of competence of the Organization, and requests that the Secretariat reflect the discussions undertaken during the present session in the Culture Sector’s contribution to the Director-General’s preliminary proposals on the draft 43 C/5;
15. Further requests that the Secretariat report on its activities for the period between January 2024 and December 2025 for examination by the General Assembly at its eleventh session.

**Annex I**

**Assessment by performance indicator**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Number of Member States with new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage, including within sustainable development plans and frameworks, in line with the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 60, including 20 in Africa and 10 SIDS | 60, including 30 in Africa and 10 SIDS | * 114 Member States benefitted from the capacity-building programme (including 32 in Africa and 25 SIDS);
* 18 countries received support for the periodic reporting exercise in the Arab States;
* 44 countries received support for the periodic reporting exercise in Africa;
* 95 new experts selected to join the global network of facilitators of the Convention;
* 3 regional training-of-trainer workshops organized for incoming network members from Europe, Africa, Arab States, and Asia and the Pacific;
* One sub-regional training workshop on nominations organized in cooperation with three Field Offices, training more than 70 participants from 16 SIDS;
* 12 proposals processed for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO Chairs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the UNITWIN network on intangible cultural heritage.
 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of Member States sustainably safeguarding living heritage through enhanced international cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 80, including 25 in Africa and 15 SIDS | 90, including 40 in Africa and 17 SIDS | * Global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention concluded and subsequent amendments to the Operational Directives approved;
* 30 new International Assistance requests processed and granted by the Bureau, including 13 from Africa and 5 from SIDS;
* 120 nomination files treated under the 2022 and 2023 cycles, including one file treated on an accelerated basis (case of extreme urgency in the sense of Article 17.3), and 71 nomination files treated for the 2024 cycle;
* 141 nomination files newly submitted in 2023 and 2024 registered;
* 39 reports on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List analysed;
* 42 reports on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List by States Parties in Europe analysed;
* 18 reports on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List by States Parties in the Arab States analysed;
* 33 statutory meetings organized.
 |

1. . Documents [LHE/21/16.COM/10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10_Rev.-EN.docx) and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf); the follow-up is provided with reference to Decision [16.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/16.COM/10) by the sixteenth session of the Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. .  Decision [17.COM 6.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/6.B) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Decision [18.COM 7.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/7.B) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. .  See the [dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/livelihoods-01315) for updates. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. .  Examples include ‘[Latin America and the Caribbean: Strengthening Capacities for Resilient Communities through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Safeguarding’](https://core.unesco.org/en/project/505RLA4000) which started in June 2023, as well as ‘[Heritage and creativity for AlUla’s sustainable development,’](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/heritage-and-creativity-alulas-sustainable-development-integrated-initiative-culture) which started in November 2023, both financed through the Saudi Arabia Funds-in-Trust cooperation. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. .  The Secretariat launched a survey (26 April – 15 May 2024) to consult States Parties on how to ensure the geographical balance amongst accredited NGOs; the results will be presented to the General Assembly at its present session during the examination of item 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . Between March and June 2023, 95 social media posts published on UNESCO’s English channel, 44 posts on the French channel, and 21 posts on the Spanish channel, featured living heritage; these posts were issued in addition to those related to the twentieth anniversary of the Convention (see document [LHE/24/10.GA/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-10_EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. . Through the project ‘International Food Atlas and Digital Platform for safeguarding, promoting and transmitting foodways to future generations’, funded through the Saudi Arabia Funds-in-Trust cooperation. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. . To follow up on the announcement of the Seoul Vision, the Secretariat launched a survey (26 April – 15 May 2024) to consult States Parties on the possible areas that the Convention and its stakeholders should focus on; the results will be presented to the General Assembly at its present session during the examination of the present item. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)