

Meeting Minutes – Steering Committee of ICH NGO Forum

Date: 12/12/2018

Time: 15:00 (GMT +1)

Attendance

Meg Nömgård, Naila Ceribasic, Dong Hwan Choi, Kaloyan Nikolov, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo, Reme Sakr (and Laurier Turgeon)

Agenda Items

1. Clarification on statutory and alternate candidates for the Steering Committee
2. ICH NGO Forum website
3. Payment for Heritage Alive
4. ICH NGO Forum account in France, and legal figure
5. Regional networks
6. Governance of ICH NGO Forum
7. International events proposed by NGOs "Traditional Art Association" (Turkey) and "Oral Traditions Association" (Indonesia)
8. Preparations for 14COM
9. Other business

Action Items

1. According to rules pertaining to the election of members of the Steering Committee, "NGOs presenting a [statutory] candidate can also present the candidature of an alternate member. Only persons who are present at the Forum General Meeting can be elected Committee members. In case of the absence of the statutory candidate at that meeting, the alternate candidate will be the candidate for his NGO to be elected as a member of the Committee, if he/she is present at the meeting".
As clarified by Laurier Turgeon, member of the Electoral Board, this means that the actual elected candidate becomes the only eligible member of the Committee, no matter an alternate status he/she might have in the nomination. This also pertains to Reme Sakr from the NGO Syria Trust for Development, who was elected at the Forum General Meeting during 12.COM.

2. ICH NGO Forum website needs to be improved concerning the organization of sections, the availability, quality and quantity of information, and the process of its updating. All members of the Steering Committee will work on this in collaboration with Gabriele Desiderio who maintains the website. In addition, NGOs affiliated with the Forum will be encouraged to use the new website developed by CISC (ichngo.net), and the two websites will link to one another.
3. An unpaid invoice (total of 416,25 EUR) remains outstanding for the transportation of copies of Heritage Alive from the Republic of Korea to Norway. Meg Nömgård will process the payment and clarify details with Eivind Falk.
4. For operational reasons, ICH NGO Forum bank account was established through an organization called "Association Forum des ONG du PCI – ICH NGO Forum" located in Paris, and the members of the Association are members of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee. For the same reasons, the Association has to have a President, a Secretary and Treasurer, and at least one of them should be located in Europe in order to have access to the bank account. Therefore the Committee decided to fulfil the roles of previous President (Jorijn Neyrinck), Secretary (Léonce Ki) and Treasurer (Ananya Bhattachary) by new ones who are all located in Europe: Kaloyan Nikolov as a President, Naila Ceribašić as Secretary, and Meg Nömgård as Treasurer. While necessarily accepting the current way of operation, the Committee agreed that an important task for all members is to consult legal advisors, including those at UNESCO that will be approached by Dong Hwan Choi, on how to transform the ICH NGO Forum into the entity that itself can have a bank account, avoiding a parallel organization, even more so because in the current composition of the Steering Committee no member is located close to Paris.
5. All main parties involved in statutory developments on the international scale agree that regional networks of NGOs involved in safeguarding ICH should be further enhanced and better inter-regionally balanced. Each member of the Committee will work on developing the network in his/her electoral region, while in particular in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Arab States which are currently insufficiently represented. Therefore, Kaloyan Nikolov, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo Trevilla and Reme Sakr will contact all already accredited NGOs with the aim to involve them more actively into the work of ICH NGO Forum, and in consultation with them approach other relevant NGOs which may wish to request accreditation.
6. An important task for the SC during 2019 is to improve its governance model, in particular in regards to its rules of operation, transparency, code of ethics, relationship between the Steering Committee, working groups, regional networks and each and all NGOs accredited to the Convention, as well as the relationship between ICH NGO Forum as a whole, State Parties and the Secretariat, along with legal issues touched upon in item 4 above. On the basis of the existing document – "ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee: Mission and tasks of the Committee [and] General profile of members of the

Committee and election process”, Naila Ceribašić will work on creating a preliminary draft of amendments that would address these mentioned aspects.

7. The Steering Committee was approached during 13.COM by representatives of the NGOs “Traditional Art Association” from Turkey and “Oral Traditions Association” from Indonesia, which proposed to organize during 2019, in collaboration with the ICH NGO Forum, international events of relevance for the capacity building and cross-border cooperation among ICH NGOs. In both cases, it is envisioned that funding will be secured locally, while programmes of the events need to be additionally elaborated in collaboration with the SC. The SC decided that Jorge Gustavo Caicedo Trevilla will engage in the creation of the programme for the meeting of the “Oral Traditions Association”, and Naila Ceribašić and Meg Nömgård in the program for the meeting of the “Traditional Art Association”.

8. The SC has deemed it necessary to begin general preparations of ICH NGO Forum programme for 14.COM in Bogota, Colombia. Therefore Jorge Gustavo Caicedo will contact the UNESCO Secretariat to enquire about the expected steps and timetable.

Other business

- 1- The Electoral Board will be consulted for the likeability of developing the electoral rules.
- 2- SC members are aware that only some NGOs present at 13.COM, including some of those supported by UNESCO, attended activities by the ICH NGO Forum. The SC shall discuss the topic of creating more active participation by NGOs at 14.COM.

Next meeting

Wednesday 9th January- 15:00 (GMT +1)