

Intervention 14.COM 14: Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (Bogotá, 13 December 2019)

Presented by Hanna Schreiber (Association of Folk Artists) on behalf of the ICH NGO Forum and its Steering Committee

Dear Madame Chair, Distinguished Members of the Committee,

In the name of the whole NGO Forum I would like to forward to you an information that during its Symposium on Sunday the ICH NGO Forum addressed the upcoming process on global reflection on the listing mechanisms with the view to reflect on the advisory functions of NGOs. All NGOs provided their views along with concrete recommendations that were then presented in the plenary.

- 1. Regarding pre-inscription monitoring**, it was underscored that the involvement of communities, groups and individuals and NGOs should be increased since their inclusion in the ICH element selection processes for nomination to UNESCO lists varies widely and now lies fully in the hands of States Parties. The need to introduce bottom-up strategies in pre-inscription monitoring as well as creating a space for this dialogue was raised.
- 2. Regarding post-inscription monitoring**, participants agreed that such monitoring is not happening because there are no concrete procedures available to monitor elements after inscription. Such procedures would include whether and how safeguarding plans are implemented and whether and how communities benefit from it. NGOs hope that a new periodic reporting system will be more inclusive for NGOs.
- 3. Regarding the assessment of the urgent need to safeguard an ICH element** it was felt that there is no methodology to evaluate the level of urgency available at hand at the moment. There is little understanding of what “urgent” safeguarding means, and a need for more specific criteria for determining **whether** an element requires urgent safeguarding, and **when** it should be removed.
- 4. The importance of the application of Twelve Ethical Principles** was also highlighted in this regard. Ethical principle 4 states that “all interactions with the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should be (...) contingent upon their free, prior, sustained and informed consent.” The notion of empathy was also suggested when embarking on urgent safeguarding projects.
- 5. Regarding the discussion about the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices** participants agreed that the register is not given the visibility it deserves and is not perceived as important. They agreed that it is now constructed in a manner that makes it not attractive, with criteria that are difficult to meet. Existing criteria should either be revised and transformed into more concrete terms or fewer criteria should be provided. Aide-memoire need to be created to guide States in preparing their nominations. There is also a need to establish Capacity Building Training focused upon the Register.

6. **Regarding alternate, lighter ways of sharing good practices**, participants mentioned the substantial number of ongoing inspiring initiatives. However, they are often not connected. There is a lack of clarity about who is to take an initiating or coordinating role for sharing a best practice. Participants recommended concentrating efforts on clustering and coordinating the networks and initiatives that already exist.

The NGO Forum plans to prepare a written report presenting all conclusions elaborated during these discussions and make it available via its website to all NGOs as well as to the Secretariat before the global reflection process on the reform of the listing mechanisms begins in March 2020.

Thank you Madame Chair and thank you Japan for supporting the process.