

**Intervention 14.COM 5.a: Opening Statement of ICH NGO Forum after the Report by the Committee on its activities (Bogotá, 9 December 2019)**

Presented by Gustavo Caicedo (Intangible Cultural Heritage Encyclopedia) on behalf of ICH NGO Forum and its Steering Committee

Appreciated chair of the 14.com, Delegates of the states party and members of the Intergovernmental Committee, I direct this message as a member of the Steering Committee of the forum and in representation of 104 accredited organizations that are present at 14.com.

Culture is the dialogue between individuals and their environment, so particular and unique as the diversity of our earth, we are the heirs of these cultures, however our cultural heritage faces challenges as never before: climate change, migration and armed conflicts. We are here as organized citizens to share our experience and add with proposals to find the solution to these challenges together.

We have conducted on this Saturday a capacity building so that new actors can implement the convention in the local, national and international level, as well as a workshop on advisory functions of accredited organizations.

We held assessment of needs, opportunities and challenges for each region and we learned from safeguarding experiences of three Colombian organizations working with bearers of the intangible cultural heritage.

Yesterday, we had a symposium presenting six experiences from different parts of the world that shared the challenges that the ICH faces in urban contexts. We also talk about how NGOs can contribute to face multiple challenges on the listing mechanism for the local bearers.

Just to mention several outcomes of our capacity building and the symposium. We are working on a field toolkit that facilitates the work of promoters and bearers of the ICH and we are about to create an ethical code for tourism and its interaction with ICH. Also, we discussed extensively the challenges of the listing mechanism, and will come with our suggestion when this agenda item no. 14 comes to the floor, including our written working proposal that would be further elaborated and made publicly available with the view to include recommendations into the global reflection process on the reform of the listing mechanism

ICH NGO Forum is an association that is looking to add all the voices of the accredited NGOs, thus we are in a process to strengthen our governance by creating a code of conduct and operating rules that has been exposed to the present NGOs.

We invite you to participate in the events of the NGOs, today we have the presentation of the heritage alive book on traditional food that collects 17 examples of good practices worldwide.

And finally we want to thank the generous support of the governments of Sweden and Singapore that made the capacity building and the symposium such a great success, as well as the republic of Colombia for their hospitality.