

MINUTES of the 5th meeting of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee

Skype meeting, 8 April 2020, 15–17 (Paris time)

Present: Jorge Gustavo Caicedo, Naila Ceribašić, Donghwan Choi, Kaloyan Nikolov, Meg Nömgård, Butholezwe Kgosi Nyathi, Reme Sakr

(Sakr joined around 16:40, during agenda item 6)

Agenda:

1. Welcome, opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee
4. Current issues
 - 4.a. Work of ICH NGO Forum under Coronavirus epidemic
 - 4.b. Publication of the Newsletter
 - 4.c. Invitation from NEMO
5. Preparation of programme for 8.GA – follow-up and update
6. Preparation of programme for 15.COM
 - 6.a. Follow-up and update
 - 6.b. Establishment of the Election Board
7. Financial matters
8. Follow-up on each member responsibilities
9. Other business
10. Next meeting
11. Closing of the meeting

1. Welcome, opening of the meeting

Meg Nömgård opened and chaired the meeting. All members reported on their local situation under Coronavirus epidemic.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of minutes of the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee

The minutes were approved. Donghwan Choi will make translation into French. Naila Ceribašić will send the English version to Gabriele Desiderio, who will publish it at the Forum's website.

4. Current issues

4.a. Work of ICH NGO Forum under Coronavirus epidemic

Members of the Steering Committee agreed to contact membership, asking about their experiences in safeguarding ICH under the epidemic, particularly about good practices in using ICH as a resource to cope with such a globally unprecedented situation of emergency. A similar call was launched recently by the Secretariat of the Convention. An announcement of our call will be included in the Forum's Newsletter that will be distributed on 9 or 10 April, along with the Secretariat's call. A draft of the Steering Committee's complete call will be prepared by Jorge Caicedo in a few days. It will be then specified in view of regional differences, and send to each regional group of ICH NGOs (if needed, Kaloyan Nikolov will help in checking the accuracy of all addresses belonging to regional groups). It is considered that regional approach will turn out as more fruitful. The deadline for responses will be until 15 May.

As members of the Committee also agreed upon, the topic of emergency under Coronavirus epidemic (including the mechanisms of ICH resilience, evidences of solidarity as never before, probable profound changes of the world in a long run, etc.) also needs to make a substantial part of the Forum's report for the Intergovernmental Committee at the 15.COM.

4.b. Publication of the Newsletter

The current Newsletter will be distributed on 9 or 10 April. The next Newsletter was initially planned to be published in June after the GA. In the meantime, the GA is postponed for the late August, and it could happen that it will be postponed once again, as well as that its duration will be significantly shortened and without any side events. The Committee decided to stick to the plan of issuing the next Newsletter at the end of June or the beginning of July, with the focus on ICH in the context of Coronavirus epidemic, based on responses of our membership to the above mentioned call for sharing experiences and good practices.

4.c. Invitation from NEMO

As agreed at the previous meeting of the Steering Committee, Meg Nömgård prepared and sent our Letter of Intent to join the international advisory board of the project proposal "Culture Beyond Borders" guided by the Network of European Museum Organizations (NEMO). The proposal was submitted on time, and the results are expected in September 2020.

5. Preparation of programme for 8.GA – follow-up and update

Meg Nömgård, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo and Naila Ceribašić had on 6 April a Skype meeting with Tim Curtis, Elena Constantinou and Leandro Peredo from the UNESCO Secretariat of the Convention. The main subject was the report of the Forum for the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee, but the plans for 8.GA were also addressed. It has appeared that at the moment nobody can be completely sure about the date, format and agenda of 8.GA. It may happen that it will be shortened, that no side events will be organized, and/or that it will be postponed once again. Nevertheless, the Committee decided to continue with preparation of the programme for 8.GA as if it would be organized in August, last for three days, and include side events. Butholezwe Kgosi Nyathi will prepare applications for the two side events co-organized by the Forum: a session dedicated to the outcomes of the IMP project (the application is already prepared

on the part of IMP project, represented by Jorijn Neyrinck), and a session on the wheel chart of sustainability and ICH (co-organized with Finland). In coordination with Meg Nömgård, these two applications will be sent in due time to UNESCO Secretariat. Kaloyan Nikolov will continue with the preparation of the Forum's information desk. At the moment, it is uncertain whether it will be possible to organize previously planned panel presentation and discussion on the role of NGOs in safeguarding ICH in Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared in collaboration with the CRESPIAL. Donghwan Choi informed the Committee that ICHCAP expressed its willingness to arrange a meeting between Forum's Steering Committee and Category 2 centers during 8.GA.

6. Preparation of programme for 15.COM

6.a. Follow-up and update

At the moment, due to Coronavirus epidemic, the preparation of the programme for 15.COM is at a standstill. However, the important exception relates to the preparation of the Forum's report for the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee, first of its kind in the Forum's history. Therefore, even more, it needs to be prepared with utmost care. As noted down above, Meg Nömgård, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo and Naila Ceribašić discussed the format and contents of the report with Tim Curtis, Elena Constantinou and Leandro Peredo from the UNESCO Secretariat at the Skype meeting held on 6 April. It is expected for the report to be no longer than 5 pages; in formal terms it may use as a model the reports of *ad hoc* working groups; the greatest attention should be given to the draft decision as the binding part of the agenda item, while overall contents of the report is up to the Forum to decide. The deadline for completing the English version of the report is the end of September. The Secretariat will translate it into French, and both versions needs to be available at the UNESCO website by 2 November (i.e., a month in advance to 15.COM). As with 8.GA it may, however, happen that 15.COM will be postponed and/or that it will change location.

The Steering Committee discussed the contents of the report, and decided that it would be advisable for the report to encompass the following parts: (i) report on the Forum's activities prior and during 14.COM and on activities prepared for 15.COM, and their contextualization in relation to the role of NGOs in safeguarding ICH in general; (ii) Forum's views and suggestions pertaining to three important ongoing topics in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee, namely (a) the reform of the listing mechanism, (b) the role of NGOs and possible reform of the accreditation system, and (c) ICH in emergencies; (iii) resilience of communities and their ICH against Coronavirus epidemic (this last topic representing a special, currently burning example of ICH in emergencies in general terms). In order to secure the broadest possible participation of ICH NGOs in the preparation of the report, the Steering Committee decided to launch an invitation to all accredited NGOs to join a working group that will be directly and actively involved in the preparation of the report. A draft of the invitation letter will be prepared in due time by Jorge Caicedo, and once the working group is established Naila Ceribašić will coordinate its activities on behalf of the Steering Committee.

At the meeting on 6 April, the Secretariat of the Convention also brought up the question of approval of membership in the NGO Forum. Legally, as they emphasized, the membership cannot be almost automatic, as it is implied by Article 5 of the Forum's Bylaws ("Any NGO accredited to the Convention shall be considered a

member of the ICH NGO Forum after being informed in this regard, unless it declines membership in the ICH NGO Forum”). Instead, the Secretariat deems that membership should be confirmed in the form of direct approval. The Steering Committee is well aware of this issue, and there are arguments pros and cons one and the other option. After discussion, the Committee decided to include this topic and proposal for revision of Art. 5 of the Bylaws in the agenda of ICH NGO Forum General Assembly to be held during 15.COM. It also decided to ask Secretariat whether requests for accreditation could be amended to include question regarding the applicant’s willingness to become a member of the Forum. If Intergovernmental Committee is in charge of such a change in the application form, then consequently this issue will be brought to the General Assembly of the ICH NGO Forum to decide. Otherwise, if the change is a minor one and therefore does not need to be brought to the attention of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Steering Committee can consequently take responsibility to decide on this minor novelty, without approval of the General Assembly of the ICH NGO Forum. Meg Nömgård will communicate our position to the Secretariat. In addition, related to this topic, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo emphasized a need to prepare a welcome kit to newly-accredited NGOs to clarify advantages of the membership in the Forum.

6.b. Establishment of the Election Board

Since the Election Board was not nominated at the General Meeting held in Bogotá last year (as stipulated in Article 24 of the Bylaws), the Steering Committee, following the procedure up to the last year, needs to launch a call for expression of interest among accredited NGOs to serve in the 2020 Election Board. Kaloyan Nikolov will find the call from the last year, Naila Ceribašić will check its contents in relation to the existing Bylaws, and Reme Sakr will consult members of the 2019 Election Board concerning the procedure in the establishment of the Board. In 2019, the first deadline for the expression of interest was until the end of May.

7. Financial matters

Donghwan Choi informed the Committee that according to the Forum’s “Société Générale” bank account statement, the balance as of 29 February 2020 is € 4,245.42. The 2019 annual summary received on 1 April 2020 shows that the total amount of withdrawals for 2019 is € 200.40 (including €78 for two cards membership and €122.40 for bank fees), and the total amount of deposits is € 69.33. The members of the Committee agreed that bank charges are too high, and therefore as soon as possible the account at “Société Générale” should be closed. This, however, can be done only after all members of the Committee sign the documents needed for closure of the account, what can happen at earliest during 8.GA. Once again, Donghwan Choi and Kaloyan Nikolov will examine whether it would be possible to close the account before we meet in person at 8.GA.

Donghwan Choi also informed the Committee that CICS is under review as follow to find ways to fund-raise for the Forum. CICS is considering whether it is possible to put advertisements of companies/organizations on the ichngo.net website and fund advertisement fees to the Forum. In this case, perhaps, companies/organizations will be willing to sponsor the Forum through advertising fees only if they are able to receive tax exemptions from their sponsorship for the Forum. When companies/institutions sponsor UNESCO, they may be eligible for tax exemption, but when they sponsor the ICH NGO Forum, they will not. Accordingly, although CICS is not registered as a tax-profitable

NGO from the Korean Finance Ministry, we will further examine whether companies/organizations may be eligible for tax exemptions benefits under Korean law if they sponsor the Forum through CICS. Another means to secure funds, as also suggested by Donghwan Choi, would be through the introduction of the membership fee. The members of the Committee agreed that Forum is currently not sufficiently organized and strong to take this direction.

8. Follow-up on each member responsibilities

All current responsibilities are noted down above, related to agenda items 4–6.

9. Other business

Donghwan Choi informed the Committee that the third bi-annual Asia-Pacific ICH NGO Conference hosted by ICHCAP will be held in South Korea in November 2020 under the theme of ICH and education. ICHCAP will invite one representative of the Steering Committee and the travel expenses will be borne by the ICHCAP.

Donghwan Choi also notified that the deadline for applications for the Jeonju International Awards for Promoting ICH has been extended until 1 May 2020.

10. Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May.

11. Closing of the meeting

Meg Nömgård thanked all members and closed the meeting at 17:15.

Minutes drafted by Naila Ceribašić on 9 April 2020; approved by the Steering Committee on 6 May 2020, followed by their publication on the ICH NGO Forum website; translation into French made by Donghwan Choi.