

**Minutes of the ICH NGO Forum General Meeting, Bogotá, 11 December 2019,
18:15–21 (GMT-5)**

Draft

Agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Steering Committee on its work from December 2018 to December 2019
3. Financial report of the Steering Committee
4. Elections of four new members of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee: Electoral groups II, III, Va, Vb
5. Adoption of the ICH NGO Forum Bylaws and ICH NGO Forum Code of conduct
6. ICH NGO Forum Plan of activities for 2020: Steering Committee, Working Groups, *#HeritageAlive*, regional groups, main projects
7. Other business

1. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda was adopted by a show of hands

2. Report of the Steering Committee on its work from December 2018 to December 2019

Jorge Gustavo provided the SC's annual report including:

- Listing the SC members for 2019
- SC is using the “Zoom” app instead of Skype to restrictions on Skype in Syria
- Thanking Gabriele Desiderio for his assistance with website and technical issues
- Financial report
- Working Groups: proposals for new ones, but commitment to these Groups is necessary in order to realise real results within the year
- Participation in IMP: SC was representing the Forum through Meg Nomgard. Info on the IMP meeting is shared in the report

– Consultation Meeting in Paris on April 18: the Forum is invited to comment on this item which was a positive move on behalf of UNESCO since its online consultations carried out. 40 state parties and 60 NGOs attended. Two presentations on behalf of the Forum were made.

– Expert Consultation Meeting on safeguarding ICH in emergencies

– 14.COM: a very broad list of activities and a comprehensive programme designed by the SC from logistics, meetings and working documents. Capacity Building meetings and preparing official Forum reports, Symposium and developing the governance of the Forum. Also, the *Heritage Alive* book launch

– Working Groups were encouraged to have monthly Skype meetings to develop their progress

A question as raised regarding the number of meetings held with the Secretariat. The Forum was informed that the SC did not request for extra meetings following the Consultation meeting in April because there is a perceived change within the Secretariat, as they have changed their NGOs focal point. However, the SC will keep in mind that contact with the Secretariat must be maintained.

Another question indicated that the work of the *HeritageAlive* Editorial Board continued all throughout the year with a high-level of communication maintained online, which is a good example for NGOs to follow. Where face-to-face contact isn't necessary in light of online communication.

An intervention requested there be more “NGO visibility” as in previous years through displays, which was noted by the SC.

An intervention pointed to that the Secretariat may be hesitant to impose specific cooperations on the NGO Forum. However, from previous experience and during 14.COM they were helpful and willing to participate in activities when requested by the NGOs.

SC activity report was adopted by the Forum.

3. Financial report of the Steering Committee

Dong Hwan Choi presented the financial report of the NGO Forum's Association where the account balance was a total of 4,286.22 Euros, and expenses during 2019 amounted to 131.07 Euros (bank fees).

The Forum was presented with donations from the Government of Sweden to cover the Forum's Capacity Building activities on 7th December. A donation from the Republic of Singapore was also presented to cover the day of the ICH NGO Forum's Symposium on 8th December. The Forum was also presented with various financial assistance from ICHCAP to cover lunch during 14.COM, as well as the printing and distribution of the *HeritageAlive* Book.

Financial report was adopted by the Forum.

4. Elections of four new members of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee: Electoral groups II, III, Va, Vb

Electoral Board members presented themselves to the Forum. Electoral Board open the election for the African Region seat due to the unfortunate and sudden passing of the elected member, Seraphine Boute. The EB provided a brief of the general electoral rules and the application to the 2020-2021 SC. Three applications sent from Africa, one was rejected. Arab states sent three application, two were rejected. Eastern Europe sent one application. Latin America and the Caribbean sent two applications which were both accepted. The EB provided a brief on the voting procedure. NGOs not yet accredited but present in the meeting are not permitted to vote. Only one person per NGO shall submit a vote.

Latin America candidate (Ms. Gloria Lopez Morales) did not present herself at the meeting and therefore her candidacy was terminated.

Arab States (Reme Sakr) and Eastern Europe (Kaloyan Nikolov) and Latin America (Jorge Gustavo) were elected to their respected regional seats by default and were congratulated by the Forum.

A vote will be held only for the African region with two candidates. Butholezwe Kgosi Nyathi from Amagugu International Heritage Centre, Zimbabwe, was elected to the African seat.

5. Adoption of the ICH NGO Forum Bylaws and ICH NGO Forum Code of conduct

Articles 20 and 21 of the Bylaws concerning the eligible candidates to represent regional groups, and the issue of participation of a SC member in a State Delegation were brought forward as a topic of concern. Out of three options concerning art. 20, which were discussed at the meeting on 8 December, one was adopted by majority votes. As for art. 21, Steering Committee member, Naila Ceribašić, presented an amended version and called for a vote on the amendment in the absence of a consensus within the Forum, and because the Bylaws document is important to be adopted by the Forum to display progress associated with the Forum's organizational development. A majority voted in favour of terminating a SC member should they participate in a state delegation. Further on, the Bylaws were adopted as a whole, as well as the Code of conduct.

It was followed by the SC members for Arab States and Latin America cited discriminatory repercussions associated with Article 21, especially concerning developing countries, and therefore announced their resignation from the SC. This was followed by the announcement of the resignation of the International NGO SC member due to discontent with these precedings.

7. Other business

Two member NGOs attended the expert UNESCO meeting held in May (Laurrier

Turgeon and Christiane Gradis) to discuss ICH safeguarding in crisis. A report will be provided to the Forum in order to comment and elaborate on behalf of the Forum if necessary. This subject was presented at the beginning of the meeting as Christiane Gradis had to leave the meeting earlier.

Next meeting

Undefined.

(NOTE: The General Meeting was not formally closed due to a wide display of discontent among member NGOs.)

Minutes drafted by Reme Sakr on 22 December 2019; confirmed by the Steering Committee on 5 February 2020, followed by their publication on the ICH NGO Forum website; proposed for approval to the General Assembly to be held in December 2020; translation into French made by Dong Hwan Choi.