

Minutes of the ICH NGO Forum General Meeting (continuation), Bogotá, 12 December 2019, 18–20:30 (GMT-5)

Draft

Agenda:

6. ICH NGO Forum Plan of activities for 2020: Steering Committee, Working Groups, *#HeritageAlive*, regional groups, main projects
7. Decision on exceptional basic regarding article 21 of the Bylaws
8. Other business

6. ICH NGO Forum Plan of activities for 2020: Steering Committee, Working Groups, *#HeritageAlive*, regional groups, main projects

The plan was presented by Naila Ceribašić. As for the activities of the Steering Committee, on its first meeting, scheduled for 13 December, it has to decide on who will serve during 2020 as a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer (as stipulated in art. 27 of the adopted Bylaws). However, regardless of selected officers, the division of labour between the members of the Committee should be better balanced, and the following aspects were identified as deserving greater attention of the Committee during the next year: (i) more intensive work to enhance regional network, pertaining especially to members of the Committee from under-represented regions II, III, Va and Vb; (ii) improvement of contact with the Secretariat of the Convention, pertaining especially to the Chair of the Committee; (iii) improvement of contact with the chairs of the Working Groups; (iv) improvement of contact with Category 2 centres; (v) availability of all official texts in both English and French, and general communications preferably in both languages (as stipulated in the General principles of the Code of Conduct and art. 15 of the Bylaws); (vi) updating and adequacy of information available on ICH NGO Forum website and social media platforms; (vii) adequate solution for the Forum's bank account.

On the basis of information received at the meeting dedicated to the exchange of information on the activities and plans of ICH NGO Forum working groups (held on 10 December) and the meetings by individual groups held during 14.COM, the following Working Groups will continue their activities: (i) *WG on alternate, lighter ways of sharing safeguarding experiences*, nowadays important especially in reference to the ongoing reform of the listing mechanism (chaired by Jorijn Neyrinck); (ii) *WG on gender and intellectual property*, with its very ambitious plan for 2020 (chaired by Ani Casimir); (iii) *WG on overall results framework* (chaired by Ananya Bhattacharya); (iv) *WG on ethics* (chaired by Antoine Gauthier); (v) *WG on research* (chaired by Albert van den Zeijden); (vi) *WG on information and technology communication* (chaired by Jorge Gustavo Caicedo). Reports of their meetings held

during 14.COM are included in the “Reports on ICH NGO Forum pre-14.COM and 14.COM Activities”, available at the ICH NGO Forum website. The *WG on capacity building* will cease to exist because capacity building is a systematic, overarching topic for the whole Forum (yet the information on its past activities should be archived). Several new working groups may be established following the consultations and discussions during the 14.COM: on overcoming geographical imbalance, on public policy and regional development, on tourism, on emergency situations, on translocal heritage, and on traditional sports and games. According to art. 33 of the Bylaws, new working groups may be recognized by signed petition of five or more accredited NGOs submitted to and confirmed by the Steering Committee. It is currently therefore up to the interested members representing five or more accredited NGOs to submit their proposals to the Steering Committee.

During 2020, the main projects will include:

(i) ***ICH NGO Forum Capacity-building and Symposium on Saturday and Sunday prior to 15.COM.*** The symposium will thematize ICH and sustainable tourism, and the elaboration of the programme will be realized through the collaboration between the Working Groups and in partnership with Category 2 centres. Albert van den Zeijden will serve as the coordinator on behalf of the Forum. Same as this year, the Steering Committee will try to cover organizational costs (facilities, two lunches and coffee/tea-breaks) through voluntary contributions of State Parties. As for costs of interpretation in both English and French, it is expected to be covered by UNESCO Secretariat – surely for Sunday and possibly also for Saturday (otherwise, the Steering Committee will try to secure funding from other sources). All delegates will need to secure funding for their accommodation on their own, including delegates from developing countries whose participation, if covered from the Committee’s Fund, encompasses Sunday but not Saturday. (The ICH NGO Forum suggestion concerning this matter within its intervention on agenda item 14.COM 7 was not accepted.). Pertaining to activities during 15.COM, the plan is also to increase the scope of ICH NGO Forum interventions on Committee’s agenda items that are of specific relevance to the Forum and/or to which the Forum can significantly contribute (as it was the case this year with the intervention on items 7, 14 and 15).

(ii) ***ICH NGO Forum Report on the state of safeguarding ICH in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the role of ICH NGOs in safeguarding processes.*** It is known that the first cycle of regional reports, to be presented at 15.COM, will encompass Latin America and the Caribbean. The Forum will also create a report, paying particular attention to diverse, extensive and important work of ICH NGOs in the region (the great majority of which are not accredited to the Convention; from the perspective of the Convention, this is one of under-represented regions), thus demonstrating and helping further elaboration of advisory functions and other roles that NGOs may play in the safeguarding projects under the Convention, as well as helping the improvement of collaboration between NGOs, States Parties and Category 2 centre CRESPIAL as major stakeholders in the region. The coordinator on behalf of the Forum and its Steering Committee will be Jorge Gustavo Caicedo.

(iii) Programme attached to the ***General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention*** in June 2020 in Paris. The Steering Committee should appoint its

member responsible for the coordination of the programme. As for the contents of the programme, one proposal was to organize a presentation of ICH NGO Forum Working Groups, their ongoing activities and plans for future.

(iv) ***Participation of ICH NGO Forum in the mapping of NGOs.*** According to the draft decision 14.COM 15 (which is expected to be endorsed on 13 December), the Committee will request the Secretariat to “gather relevant information from accredited non-governmental organizations in order to develop a mapping of their domains of competence, taking into consideration their capacities”. The Forum expects to be invited to take an active part in the mapping, and its intervention on 14.COM 15 will address this issue accordingly.

(Note after the debates and decision 14.COM 15: The Forum is not specifically mentioned in decision pertaining to the mapping, but the Committee decided to include NGO report as a separate agenda item of 15.COM. The preparation of this report will surely be one of the Forum’s major project in 2020).

(v) Continuation of a successful work of ***#HeritageAlive***, Editor-in-Chief Eivind Falk. Its plan for 2020 see in the “Reports on ICH NGO Forum pre-14.COM and 14.COM Activities”, available at the ICH NGO Forum website.

7. Decision on exceptional basic regarding article 21 of the Bylaws

This agenda item was co-chaired by Dong Hwan Choi and Kaloyan Nikolov. Due to discontent raised within the Forum and its Steering Committee in reference to the adoption of article 21 of the Bylaws, the proposal, presented by Hanna Schreiber, was for the General Meeting to decide “on an exceptional basis to suspend the application of art. 21 of the Bylaws until the next General Assembly of the ICH NGO Forum”. Jorge Caicedo suggested to add to the decision the “understanding of particular needs of underdeveloped countries and regions”. Several delegates opposed the suggested addition. Another one asked if this proposal meant the reopening of the adoption of the art. 21 of the Bylaws, and asked to vote on it. The majority decided to not to open the discussion on the art. 21 of the Bylaws (20 in favour, 12 against). Further on, the majority decided to adopt the decision on exceptional basis to suspend the application of art. 21 of the Bylaws until the next General Assembly of the ICH NGO Forum (28 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstained).

8. Other business

No other business was raised.

Minutes drafted by Naila Ceribašić on 6 January 2020; 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.