

**Reports of the ICH NGO Forum**  
**Pre-14.COM and 14.COM Activities**  
**(Bogotá, 7–14 December 2019)**

The 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Bogotá from 9 to 14 December 2019, was attended by 72 accredited NGOs represented by 124 delegates (see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/preliminary-list-of-participants-01067>). Around 55 individuals (mainly representatives of ICH NGOs but also including other types of stakeholders) participated at the ICH NGO Forum’s capacity-building workshop on Saturday, 7 December, and around 90 individuals attended its symposium on Sunday, 8 December 2019.

This document includes reports of all sessions organized by the ICH NGO Forum – from capacity building on 7 December and a symposium on 8 December, to the Forum’s interventions at 14.COM, and meetings held from 9 to 14 December. Prepared by chairs, moderators or facilitators of the sessions; preparation coordinated by Naila Ceribašić; published in February 2020.

**Saturday, 7 December, 10–11:30, Group work** – Group A: newly accredited NGOs and newcomers to COM: **Introducing the Convention, its key terms, and the role of NGOs in its implementation on national, regional and international levels**; facilitator Jorijn Neyrinck (Werkplaats immaterieel erfgoed / Workshop Intangible Heritage Flanders)

This session employed training material developed by the global capacity-building programme of the Living Heritage Entity of UNESCO (notably units 2-4). The participants were introduced to the dynamics of the Committee’s sessions as well as the activities of the ICH NGO Forum.

At every IGC meeting, a number of newly accredited NGOs participate for the first time in the Convention’s statutory meetings. To accommodate our new colleagues, the ICH NGO Forum organized a capacity building workshop providing a general introduction to the Convention. The workshop was designed to enable participants to gain basic insights about the Convention and how its proceedings are conducted of at its statutory meetings.

In the 2019 seven newly accredited NGOs took part in this introductory workshop, facilitated by UNESCO trained facilitator and member of the ICH NGO Forum Jorijn Neyrinck from the NGO “Workshop Intangible Heritage Flanders”. The workshop enabled participants to understand and take part at 14.COM sessions in their capacity as observing NGOs. The Convention and its key terms were introduced, the role of diverse actors in the Convention clarified, and the role of NGOs at different levels explained. This session also introduced items to be discussed in the agenda of 14.COM, and participants were acquainted with the side events programme of 14.COM and the work and activities of the ICH NGO Forum. An accompanying PowerPoint presentation using UNESCO’s training material was emailed to all participants following 14.COM.

**Saturday, 7 December**, 10–11:30, 11:45-12:15, **Group work** followed by **Plenary session** – Group B: experienced NGOs: **Workshop on advisory functions of accredited NGOs**; chair Robert Baron (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, SIEF); facilitators Robert Baron (SIEF), Ananya Bhattacharya (Contact Base), Jorge Gustavo Caicedo (La Enciclopedia del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial, EPCI / The Intangible Cultural Heritage Encyclopedia) and Hanna Schreiber (Stowarzyszenie Twórców Ludowych / Association of Folk Artists)

*The Workshop on Advisory Functions of Accredited NGOs* discussed the various ways the ICH NGO Forum and our member NGOs might advise the Secretariat and Intergovernmental Committee about the Convention. It recommended priorities for advisory activities about the *implementation* of the Convention as well as *reporting, monitoring and critical reflection* about the *impact* of the Convention. The workshop discussed methods for NGOs to *share* and *disseminate* research and best practices about ICH impacts, safeguarding practices, marketing, tourism, marketing and inventorying.

Participants discussed a broad range of potential advisory functions of NGOs that would benefit the Secretariat as well as the Intergovernmental Committee, States Parties, communities and other NGOs. They envisaged new relationships with these stakeholders that would create ongoing *partnerships* as well as engage advice grounded in NGO experience and expertise. Development of these advisory functions and partnerships would also serve to strengthen networking among NGOs and the NGO Forum through providing new and expanded collaborations. Many of the advisory functions discussed in these small group, highly participatory sessions were revisited in subsequent sessions of the ICH NGO Forum at 14.COM along with additional recommendations of advisory functions. These discussions are described in other sections of this document.

Potential advisory functions emphasized during this session included:

- *Develop and expand both formal and informal ICH education initiatives.* Informal education would include the transmission of ICH among cultural practitioners as well as in primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions. Interdisciplinary degree programs in colleges and universities should be expanded and further developed, providing training for ICH practitioners. Research about ICH carried out in universities needs to be applied in an accessible manner designed to improve ICH practice.
- *Mentoring communities for inventorying and other dimensions of ICH.* Mentoring would draw from the experience and expertise of NGOs and would be designed to build the capacity of communities to carry out inventorying, documentation and other ICH activities on their own.
- *NGO capacity building.* A fund to be used for capacity building would equip NGOs to both strengthen their organizational structures and expertise, enhancing their abilities to provide advisory functions to ICH stakeholders. This fund would be directed towards NGOs in underrepresented region. The need for capacity building for responding to the Overall Results Framework was recognized as particularly important for all regions. Recognizing the variety of types of NGOs, their varying capacities and the disproportionately large number of NGOs in Western Europe relative to other regions, participants at this session and subsequent sessions recommended peer advisory among NGOs within and between regions.
- *Monitoring of Implementation of the Convention.* While there are varying points of view among NGOs about whether they should be involved in on-the-ground monitoring of implementation of the Convention, there was agreement that NGOs could advise evaluation of monitoring. Robust discussions of such evaluation occurred at a subsequent session of the NGO Forum focusing on reporting functions in the pre- and post-inscription process, described in another section of this document.
- *Sharing Best Practices.* NGOs have a large repertory of best practices and lessons learned that need to be more widely shared. These include practices for ICH in emergency

situations, including security protocols as well as safeguarding practices of all kinds. Existing platforms for sharing best practices need to be expanded and enhanced, and new types of platforms and mechanisms need to be created. Current successful platforms for sharing best practices include #HeritageAlive and Category 2 centers. The continued development and emergence of regional networks for collaborations and sharing best practices such as those in Asia and the Nordic/Baltic region is an important development that should be replicated elsewhere. Convenings, workshops and websites were all seen as effective means for sharing best practices.

- While NGOs are engaged in *sustainable development* that incorporates ICH along with other social and cultural priorities, participants felt that there is insufficient understanding about what specifically sustainable development means and encompasses. The Wheel Chart of Sustainability is a good vehicle for providing better understanding of ICH sustainability, and more such projects should be developed.

The initial session and subsequent sessions at the NGO Forum this year discussed many policy matters. Participants agreed that the NGO Forum should publish *position papers and white papers*, providing perspectives on ICH policies from the independent viewpoint richly based upon extensive experience that NGOs are uniquely equipped to provide.

**Saturday, 7 December, 14–15, 15–15.45, Group work** followed by **plenary session** – six regional groups: **Regional capacity-building needs, opportunities and challenges**; facilitators Meg Nömgård (Berättarnätet Kronoberg / The Storytelling Network of Kronoberg) – NGOs in Electoral Group I; Kaloyan Nikolov (Европейска Асоциация на Фолклорните Фестивали / European Association of Folklore Festivals) – NGOs in Electoral Group II; Jorge Gustavo Caicedo (EPCI) – NGOs in Electoral Group III; Donghwan Choi (무형문화연구소 / The Center for Intangible Culture Studies, CICS) – NGOs in Electoral Group IV; Léonce Ki (Association pour la sauvegarde des masques, ASAMA) – NGOs in Electoral Group V (a); Reme Sakr (الأمانة السورية للتنمية / Syria Trust for Development) – NGOs in Electoral Group V (b)

This session addressed developments following the last assessment of needs, opportunities and challenges carried out at the NGO Forum capacity-building workshop held in Jeju in 2017 (reports pertaining to regions I, The new assessment focused on different matters in each region, including relationships, networking, sharing knowledge and/or collaborations of various kinds among ICH NGOs in the region, and/or among NGOs and other key actors in safeguarding ICH – ICH bearers and their communities, civil society, state agencies, and other stakeholders. Participants agreed that the ICH NGO Forum has to find ways towards more balanced representation of ICH NGOs from six regions of the world, and each regional group discussed and proposed ways of how to overcome this ongoing imbalance.

**(i) Western Europe and North America** (Meg Nömgård)

*What kinds of networks exist in our region?*

The Nordic Safeguarding Practice has grown, expanding to the Baltic states. In October/November there was a Nordic-Baltic ICH conference in Finland. NGOs and States Parties attended., Susanna Schnuttgen from the Secretariat was also present.

Norway: there is a yearly meeting in Norway amongst the accredited NGOs; Scandinavians from other countries are also invited.

A Spanish-Portuguese network has been set up. Twelve accredited NGOs have attended. The purposes of the network include (i) reaching those who are not able to come to international meetings; (ii) sharing reflections about the Convention; (iii) networking for

the sharing of information. The network will organize a conference in 2020, which will be open to all accredited NGOs. The members would like to make its geographical area bigger, which may occur in the future.

The Netherlands and Belgium maintain a network of all accredited NGOs and state parties, and meet once a year.

The ICH and Museums Project (IMP) includes Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The ICH NG Forum is a partner in the project.

*How can we work towards a more equal representation of NGOs in different regions?*

We have to reflect on our colonial history, so that it does not seem like we are once again telling our colleagues around the world what to do. We can work more within the international networks pertaining to different domains of ICH, through which we would inform non-accredited ICH NGOs about the Convention and the procedures for accreditation.

### *Challenges*

ICH and tourism, including the issue of authenticity. Communities often recognize and present themselves as authentic, but oppose selling out their ICH to the tourism industry. It is risky to put resources into ICH interesting for tourism and not in the interest of host communities. An international conference on ICH and tourism will be held in the Netherlands on 29 May 2020.

### **(ii) Eastern Europe** (Kaloyan Nikolov)

The outcomes of this discussion include the following recommendations:

1. In order to achieve fast and accurate communication among NGOs in the electoral group 2, a common group on a social network would be created and a virtual monthly meeting held to coordinate common activities and to present practices;
2. Build a separate, active page within the official page of the ICH NGO Forum website to present upcoming events, capacity building, conferences, etc.;
3. Conduct mapping of NGOs working in the field of ICH and organize meetings to familiarize ICH NGOs with the principles and objectives of the 2003 Convention, with an objective of attracting them to apply for accreditation.
4. Use a virtual webinar platform for meetings and training of NGOs in the field of ICH.

### **(iii) Latin America and the Caribbean** (Jorge Gustavo Caicedo)

### **(iv) Asia and the Pacific** (Donghwan Choi)

Since the Asia-Pacific region has such a wide geographic range, naming it “Asia” is very vague. This is because cultural differences including language, religion, customs and economies, etc. are so important. The grouping of Asia plus the Pacific region, simply follows UNESCO frameworks. As far as NGOs are concerned, this grouping needs to be reconsidered.

There are only 26 accredited NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region. The accreditation percentage of NGOs is very low (15%) given that many NGOs are taking active roles in safeguarding practices in each country. How can they be attracted and invited to apply for accreditation to the Convention?

Furthermore, how can the safeguarding activities of accredited NGOs’ become more productive after accreditation? As a plausible solution to this, two methods have been proposed: (1) in order to build NGOs capacity and visibility in domestic and international arenas, UNESCO Category 2 centers, including ICHCAP, could support the NGOs in need

with good resources; (2) we could collect and share our common issues through ichngo.net, a newly established digital platform which is easily accessible to us for posting news, advertisements, inventories and more. We will use it to find ways to develop common projects for the safeguarding of ICH.

Since we are working for communities and practitioners, we believe that we are suitable for monitoring or making assessment reports for governments and UNESCO.

Like ICOMOS, we can develop and propose to UNESCO general principles for the safeguarding of ICH.

**(v.a) Africa** (Léonce Ki)

The challenges articulated were:

- (1) A lack of a sustainable environment for collaborative programs between state parties and accredited NGOs in most countries;
- (2) Lack of funds for ICH implementation for most state parties and NGOs;
- (3) Lack of logistics and effective network coordination for accredited NGOs;
- (4) Language difficulties in transmission;
- (5) Regular disruption of implementation programs as a result of widespread man-made and/or natural disasters and emergencies, such as war/terrorism;
- (6) Non-integration of traditional transmission methodology and content in curriculum and educational policy by state parties;
- (7) Lack of regular capacity building for accredited NGOs and other stakeholders on best practices;
- (8) Absence of a regional data basis for best practices.

**(v.b) Arab States** (Reme Sakr)

Only one NGO from the Arab States was able to take part in this session. As a result, there was a very limited exchange of ideas about the region. Nevertheless, the low representation of Arab NGOs in this session pointed to the region's most obvious challenge, and that is the issue of its low representation in sessions such as the Forum's capacity building programmes, international meetings and events in general. This leads to weak networking links among the region's NGOs due to a number of reasons, including:

1. Political issues affecting the obtaining of visas and travel permits;
2. Ongoing instability in the region posing a problem for NGOs to commit to projects;
3. Language barriers that restrict the free flow of information from international organisations, and therefore, a lag in awareness;
4. Low capacity of government frameworks that support the work and expansion of NGOs;
5. Limited value attributed to participation in international UNESCO events.

As mentioned above, these discussion points represent the opinions of one NGO and, therefore, do not encompass a wide variety of inputs. As a focus for the upcoming period, there must be extra effort put towards addressing the under-representation of Arab NGOs in the NGO Forum's activities.

**Saturday, 7 December, 16–17:30, The role of NGOs in the safeguarding of ICH in Colombia**, presentation and discussion; moderator: Martín Andrade Pérez (Fundación Erigaie); interpreter (from Spanish to English): María Fernanda Escallón (University of

Oregon); participants: Simona Pérez and Carolina Bermúdez (Fundación Etnollano), John Moreno (Fundación Cirpa), César Rozo and Juanita Vargas (Asociación Teje Teje)

NGOs are of great importance for the safeguarding of ICH in Colombia. Behind each one of the 23 elements inscribed on the Representative List of ICH of Colombia there was an NGO in charge of its safeguarding even before the inscription. Others work either at the regional level, with specific communities, in particular domains, or have expanded their range of action as a result of its positive impact on the ICH agenda. This session introduced work done by some of these NGOs, showing how their diversity has promoted innovation and successful safeguarding measures

The session began with a presentation by Fundación Cirpa, based at the Colombian Eastern Llanos and mainly focused on the traditional music of this region. Its projects range from pedagogy and support for educational processes; to support for music festivals and encounters; to cultural projects intended to improve community welfare through safeguarding of Llanos music. They devoted several years to prepare the file for inscription of Llanos work songs on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, which occurred in 2017. Since inscription they have been responsible for the implementation of its safeguarding plan.

The Asociación Teje Teje on the other hand, is based on the Colombian Caribbean Coast, working with vulnerable communities through sustainable development projects to improve their standards of living. Teje Teje's projects related to the safeguarding of ICH include successful practices for safeguarding traditional agricultural traditions, strengthening of traditional farming systems, support to the needs of displaced communities, legalization of land titles or acknowledgment and delimitation of indigenous territories.

Fundación Etnollano gave the final presentation. It has worked since 1985 with the indigenous communities in the Amazon and Orinoco regions with four missions: health, woman and gender; communitary economies; intercultural education; and governance and environmental management. It works towards supporting communities in sustainable processes, working hand to hand with them to improve their livelihoods. For the last decade Etnollano has also worked with the Ministry of Culture to implement safeguarding processes in these regions and to evaluate, design and improve its methodologies.

The experiences of these three organizations demonstrate the diversity of Colombian NGOs working with the safeguarding of ICH and how they have positioned themselves as an important support for the communities and the State. The State, at the national and local levels, develops most of its action-research projects through contracts or agreements with NGOs. However, the sustainability of these organizations is not easy, and they have to fulfill many administrative and tax requirements. Although there are around a hundred diverse NGOs working on ICH, many of them have ceased to exist. Other have persisted, currently working with their communities in innovative ways to safeguard ICH.

**Sunday, 8 December, 9:30–11, Symposium topic: *ICH in Urban Contexts***, organized in cooperation with the National Heritage Board Singapore; moderators Albert van der Zeijden (Kenniscentrum Immaterieel Erfgoed Nederland / Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage, on behalf of ICH NGO Forum) and Gerald Wee (on behalf of the National Heritage Board, Singapore). Participants: Yeo Kirk Siang (National Heritage Board, Singapore), Juliana Forero Bordam (Cultural Heritage Office, Ministry of Culture of Columbia), Frida Calderon, Mark Schep (Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage), Monalisa Maharjan, Ananya Bhattacharya (Contact Base), Léonce Ki (Association pour la sauvegarde des masques)

Over half of the population of the world is now living in urban areas – cities with millions of inhabitants and diverse communities. Cities such as Bangkok, Singapore, Bogota and Rotterdam are facing *multiple social and cultural challenges*, not the least of which is, due to processes of migration, the challenge of *superdiversity and social cohesion*.

The session addressed several key questions: While intangible cultural heritage is often presented as a mainspring for cultural diversity, what about intangible cultural heritage in an urban context? What is intangible cultural heritage in an urban context and how is it transmitted and safeguarded? How can it contribute to social cohesion and renewed dialogue among communities? Is there a role for city governments in adopting certain cultural policies?

The presentations highlighted that processes of urbanization, alongside processes of migration, present huge challenges for the safeguarding of intangible heritage in all continents. In her presentation about the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, Monalisa Maharjan showed the enormous changes that have occurred during the last century. Whereas in the 1920s the Kathmandu Valley was primarily rural in character, it is now transformed into a city of almost one million inhabitants. Rapid processes of urbanization are also visible in Africa. As argued by Léonce Ki, the main challenge is a frequent identification of ICH with a traditional rural way of life opposite to a more Western, “modernized” way of life in the cities, which is often interpreted as a threat to old rural traditions. In Europe, but also in a city such as Singapore, processes of migration have completely altered the ethnic composition of local city populations. Conurbations such as Paris, London and Rotterdam now harbor more than 160 ethnicities. Speaking about Paris, Frida Calderon introduced the concept of diasporic communities that experience their ICH in trans-local, global contexts. Mark Schep’s presentation drew from his research in the the Surinam-Hindustani community living in Arnhem. He noticed a lack of interest of a more Westernized new generation for ICH, but also explored possible safeguarding strategies involving youth. People of different ethnicities living together also creates possibilities for renewed dialogue among communities, as shown by the example of Singapore. Kirk Siang and Gerald Wee introduced Singaporian Hawker Culture as an integral part of everyday life in Singapore, involving hawkers who prepare hawker food and people who dine and mingle at hawker centres. These dining venues serve as community dining rooms where people from diverse age groups, genders, ethnicities and religions gather and interact over food.

Challenges of urbanization create the need for “reimagining ICH”, in Kolkata, the topic of the presentation by Ananya Bhattacharya, as well as in other cities. She talked about possible changes in lifestyles and the loss of traditions due to urbanization processes. She also showed opportunities for ICH in discussing the Chitpur Craft Collective, which she described as a community of crafts people, artists, designers and entrepreneurs who are collectively building a new imagination of its historic locality.

The final presentation, by Juliana Forero, discussed urban development in Colombia. She showcased the “ICH in urban contexts programme of Colombia” as an example of innovation in ICH, where safeguarding public policy deals with how to best face the challenges of urban life, dynamics and crisis. She showed how safeguarding ICH in urban contexts could become a part of public policies programmes.

**Sunday, 8 December, 11:30–13, Symposium topic: *Reform of the Listing Mechanism – How NGOs Can Contribute to Addressing Old and New Challenges?*, moderator Hanna Schreiber (Stowarzyszenie Twórców Ludowych / Association of Folk Artists)**

The background documents relevant for this panel session include: *Reflection on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations within the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Report of the consultation meeting*, LHE/19/NGO/3.; Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda: *Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention*, LHE/19/14.COM/14; Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda: *Reflection on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention*, LHE/19/14.COM/15. Participants were encouraged to read these documents before the Symposium.

At its thirteenth session in 2018, the Intergovernmental Committee launched a global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (Decisions [13.COM 6](#) and [13.COM 10](#)). At the same session the Committee requested that the Secretariat continue reflection with accredited non-governmental organizations on the definition of the advisory functions; this reflection was initiated in 2017 (12.COM). Taking these two processes into account, this session was dedicated to discussion about old and new challenges encountered by diverse bodies and organs of the 2003 Convention: the Committee, the Secretariat, the General Assembly and evaluation bodies in relation to the listing mechanisms.

The overall aim was reflection on the nature and purposes of the Lists (Representative List and Urgent Safeguarding List) and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices as well as on the relevance of the various criteria for these mechanisms. The panel focused on possible enhancement of the methodology for the evaluation and examination of nominations with reference to the performance of advisory functions of accredited NGOs. Although it is important to note that concrete ways in which accredited NGOs would fulfil these functions have been not identified yet, at the same time it is high time to make an attempt of its identification.

The session addressed the following questions: How NGOs can best assist the governing bodies of the Convention; and how NGOs can contribute to solving identified problems in the listing mechanisms of the Convention?

Symposium participants worked in multiple groups according to the metaplan methodology, based on shared understanding of the problem, shared commitment, dialogue process (peer-to-peer discussions) and dialogue mapping through visualization and structure of arguments, leading to the creation of consensus.

Their discussion focused on three identified areas where NGOs may play an important role and pursue their potential advisory functions (in the sense of Article 9 of the Convention and paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) as, *inter alia*, information & expertise brokers, bringing to the system of the 2003 Convention their field expertise, knowledge and understanding of diverse contexts.: 1) NGOs reporting functions in pre and post-inscription process; 2) NGOs expertise in helping to assess level of urgency in safeguarding ICH element and 3) NGOs role in sharing good safeguarding practices, including providing suggestions concerning revision of the existing criteria for inscription in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

All NGOs taking part in the Symposium provided their views regarding these three areas and concrete recommendations were presented in the plenary.

Regarding *pre-inscription monitoring* NGOs underlined that the involvement of communities and NGOs shall be increased and made obligatory, as their inclusion into the ICH element selection processes to be nominated to UNESCO lists varies widely and lies fully in hands of States Parties now. Regarding *post-inscription monitoring* the observation was made that this is not happening as the existing mechanisms support inscription but nothing is available at hand to monitor elements after inscription, e.g. whether safeguarding plans are implemented and whether communities benefit from them. It was recommended



that the perception of the meaning of post-inscription monitoring shall be changed and adequate mechanisms involving NGOs and communities in this process shall be proposed.

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. If the assessment is made, however, the self-evaluation of communities connected with an ICH element shall be principal and should govern any action. In this regard the Framework of Ethical Principles was discussed and the need to obtain at any stage of free, prior and informed consent of the communities was underlined.

Regarding *the discussion about the Register of Good Practices* it was claimed that the way it is constructed now makes it simply not attractive and the criteria are hard to meet. It was advised that either criteria should be transformed into more concrete terms or there should be fewer criteria. There is also no available aide-memoire that would guide States in preparing their nominations. Register is now secondary in relation to the Rep. List and USL. The need to establish Capacity Building Training focused on the Register was also communicated.

Regarding *the alternative ways of sharing good practices* the huge amount of ongoing initiatives were mentioned. However, though a lot is happening the existing initiatives are not connected, as it is also not clear now who should do it and who is responsible for it. Among recommendations NGOs suggested are to keep initiatives practical, use the enthusiasm of people interested in it - which is huge - and focus efforts on clustering and coordinating on the level of the Convention upon the networks and initiatives that already exist.

The NGO Forum plans to prepare a written report presenting all conclusions elaborated during the held discussion and make it available to the Secretariat before the global reflection process on the reform of the listing mechanisms starts in March 2020.

**Sunday, 8 December, 15–16:30, *ICH NGO Forum Bylaws and ICH NGO Forum Code of Conduct***, discussion on the draft proposals prepared by the working group and the Steering Committee; moderator Naila Ceribašić (International Council for Traditional Music, ICTM)

The drafts of these documents were initially prepared by Robert Baron, Naila Ceribašić and Antoine Gauthier, and then amended and endorsed by the Steering Committee. UNESCO's Secretariat of the Convention also gave its feedback before the final drafts were sent to all accredited ICH NGOs for their review. They are available at the ICH NGO Forum website. The purpose of this session was to discuss comments and suggestions for revisions received through the reflection process, as well as those made on the spot, with the aim to come to agreement on the final versions of the two documents for adoption by the General Meeting of the ICH NGO Forum on 11 December 2019.

At the session, Naila Ceribašić and Antoine Gauthier presented the purpose and the importance of the two documents, followed by reading of the Bylaws section by section in English and French, and discussion on each of the section. The draft was amended in articles 10, 16, 23 and 35, and, to a lesser degree, in several other articles. Consensus was not reached regarding article 20, dealing with the election of the members of the Steering Committee in cases of the absence of candidates from NGOs with headquarters in the region concerned. Therefore it was decided to offer three variants to vote on at the General Meeting on 11 December: (i) continuation of service of a former member, (ii) appointment of a new member from the region, or (iii) eligibility of candidates from NGOs with headquarters elsewhere but with main activities and office in the region concerned, and, in the absence of such candidates, from international NGOs active in the region concerned.

Article 21, dealing with cases when a member of the Steering Committee serves at the same time in the official delegation of a state party, also provoked discussion, but did not result in specific alternative proposals to vote on at the General Meeting on 11 December. Due to lack of available time, the discussion on the draft Code of Conduct was postponed for 10 December in the evening.

**Monday, 9 December, around 11, Report of ICH NGO Forum on its activities at the opening of 14.COM;** presented by Jorge Gustavo Caicedo on behalf of ICH NGO Forum and its Steering Committee.

Appreciated Chair of the 14.COM, delegates of the States Parties 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 *#HeritageAlive* 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.

**Monday, 9 December, 13–14:30, Launching of #HeritageAlive’s and ICHCAP’s new book on traditional food (presentation and snack supported by ICHCAP)**

The accredited ICH NGOs online journal #HeritageAlive has been sharing experiences from the field among NGOs and experts since 2012. In cooperation with ICHCAP it presented its new publication – *Traditional food, sharing experiences from the field*, with presentations by Weonmo Park (ICHCAP), Eivind Falk (Editor-in-Chief of #HeritageAlive) and the four authors. Following the presentations the audience was invited to enjoy a snack of traditional food addressed in the book.

Since 2017, #HeritageAlive and ICHCAP joined forces in to publish the Living Heritage Series biannually. In 2019, *Traditional Food – Sharing Experiences from the Field* was published as part of the series. The book-launching event was organized to share the experience, achievements, and outcomes of the past two years and commemorate the recent publication.

About 150 people involved in the ICH field joined the event to celebrate the publication. The event was kicked off with congratulatory speeches by Mr. Weonmo Park, Director of the Cooperation and Networking Office of ICHCAP, and Susanne Schnüttgen, Chief of Unit from UNESCO Paris.

Then, Eivind Falk, Editor-in-Chief of #HeritageAlive, introduced the new book. During the following presentations, four of the authors – Reme Sakr, V. Jayarajan, Gabriele Detschmann, and Laura Lopez – shared their experience and knowledge from transmission and safeguarding of traditional food as intangible heritage.

The event paid special attention to traditional food in Colombia. Laura Lopez introduced the audience to *chicha*, a traditional Colombian fermented drink, which is one of the subjects highlighted in the book. The participants also had a wonderful chance to meet *chicha* practitioners who were present at the event. Right after the event, the audience was invited to enjoy tastes of traditional Colombian food.

In order to make the publication easy accessible, it available as a pdf, which can be downloaded [here](#).

**Monday, 9 December, around 16:15, Intervention on agenda item 14.COM 7: Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2020–2021 ; presented by Reme Sakr on behalf of ICH NGO Forum and its Steering Committee.**

Thank you Madam Chairperson for the opportunity for the ICH NGO Forum to intervene within this agenda item.

I would like to begin by expressing the ICH NGO Forum’s appreciation for the resources provided out of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support the participation of NGOs from developing countries in these meetings. This has had a direct and strengthened impact on the collaboration among NGOs that are accredited to UNESCO, and their networking activities which are positively reflecting on the current and potential advisory functions that accredited NGOs provide to the Committee.

Beginning at the 12.COM meeting in Jeju, the ICH NGO Forum has established a framework for its annual meeting sessions which are held prior to the kick-off of the

Intergovernmental Committee meetings, and continue during the course of the Committee's meetings. And so while the official 14.COM sessions have started today, the ICH NGO Forum on yesterday and the day before has held largely successful capacity building and concept developing meetings which were directly focused on the topic of the current and potential advisory functions that NGOs provide under the 2003 Convention, and regional needs, opportunities and challenges. While on Sunday the Forum held its annual Symposium on the topics of ICH in Urban Contexts, The Reforming of the Listing Mechanisms, and the Development of The Forum's bylaws and code of conduct.

Madam Chair, the ICH NGO Forum considers these meetings of great benefit to the work of NGOs, their own capacity development and how they are operating under the Convention, and therefore, we would kindly request that the assistance provided to NGOs from developing countries from the Fund be extended to cover both days of the Forum's activities, which is the Saturday and Sunday before the Intergovernmental Committee Meetings, and not only one day as it currently is now. At the same time, we recommend for NGOs who benefit from the Fund to be formally requested to not only be present during the Committee meetings as they are currently requested to, but during the ICH NGO Forum's activities also, pre-Committee meetings and during.

Furthermore, the ICH NGO Forum continues to strengthen its organizational framework, and with this its Steering Committee take on an increasing scope of activities and responsibilities in the pursuit of a more active Forum in support of the Committee, and therefore, we request that support from the Fund is extended to the ICH NGO Forum's seven Steering Committee members, to ensure their active and full participation in the Committee and General Assembly meetings, regardless of their regional groups belonging to developing countries or not.

And lastly, the regional imbalance within the ICH NGO Forum is an ongoing challenge which is frequently discussed, to help counter this challenge we recommend to the Committee to make increased use of funds to support capacity-building activities to sustain and develop NGOs in under-represented regions.

**Tuesday, 10 December, 13–14:30, Exchange of information about the activities and plans of ICH NGO Forum working groups and regional groups; moderator Naila Ceribašić (ICTM)**

The following Working Groups described and discussed their ongoing activities: (i) *WG on alternate, lighter ways of sharing safeguarding experiences*, engaged in important current activities relating 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 der Zeijden); (vi) *WG on information and technology communication* (chaired by Jorge Gustavo Caicedo). Reports of their meetings held during 14.COM are included at respective places within this document. The *WG on capacity building* will cease to exist because capacity building is a systematic, overarching topic for the entire Forum (yet the information on its past activities should be archived). Several new working groups may be established following the consultations and discussions during 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 Article 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. Therefore, it is up to interested members

representing five or more accredited NGOs to submit their proposals to the Steering Committee.

Albert van der Zeijden proposed selecting tourism as the topic of the next ICH NGO Forum Symposium, to be held during 15.COM. This topic has been widely discussed at the Committee's meetings, and, even more importantly from the perspective of the Forum, it is a topic in which different Working Groups could participate, with coordination by the WG on Research.

The work of regional groups was not specifically addressed at the meeting. It was discussed at the session held on 7 December in the afternoon.

**Tuesday, 10 December, 14:30–15:30, Meeting of ICH NGO Forum Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies; chair Jorge Gustavo Caicedo (EPCI)**

*Our vision* is to take ICH to the future with the help of information and communication technologies (ICT). *Our mission* is to use ICT as a comprehensive tool for safeguarding ICH. *Our goal* is to improve, with the help of ICT, the work of 176 accredited NGOs, the Steering Committee and the working groups.

Actions:

1. Share all online inventory initiatives
2. Share tools to improve communication among all accredited NGOs
3. Share digital experiences to help or improve safeguarding measures for ICH and its bearers
4. Develop a communication portal for the Steering Committee and the working groups, easily accessible and with updated information.

Work programme:

1. Launch an online survey to the ICH NGO Forum mailing list;
2. Establish a contact person for each accredited NGO;
3. Inventory active programs and events;
4. Identify people and organizations involved in safeguarding ICH;
5. Enable big data analytics (shared through your feedback to <https://goo.gl/forms/DuEPgbqXEiaPuq9B3>);
6. Strengthen *ichngoforum.org* as the official contact point of accredited NGOs with the Steering Committee and the working groups;
7. Strengthen *ichngoforum.org* as the official web-ich-inventory and communication system for accredited NGOs.

Members of the Working Group: Gustavo Caicedo, Shrinivas P. Deshpande, Gabriele Desiderio, Kaloyan Nikolov, Soon Cheol Park, and Laurier Turgeon.

**Tuesday, 10 December, 18–20, Presentation of candidates for the Steering Committee; ICH NGO Forum Code of Conduct, discussion on the draft proposal**

The letter of the Electoral Board to candidates and members of the ICH NGO Forum was

made available on the ICH NGO Forum website. Discussion of the draft Code of Conduct and draft Bylaws was supposed to take place on 8 December (see the summary), but due to lack of available time it was postponed to this session.

Five candidates presented their nominations: Kaloyan Nikolov (European Association of Folklore Festivals, Electoral Group II), Jorge Gustavo Caicedo (La Enciclopedia del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial, EPCI, Electoral Group III), Sekou Berte (Mali Cultural Heritage Agency, Electoral Group Va), Butholezwe Kgosi Nyathi (Amagugu International Heritage Centre, Electoral Group Va) and Reme Sakr (Syria Trust for Development, Electoral Group Vb). Neither the second candidate for Electoral Group III (Gloria Lopez Morales, Conservatorio de la Cultura Gastronómica Mexicana), nor her alternate candidate (Sol Rosa Trina Miriam Judith Rubin de la Borbolla Arguedas) attended this session.

The second part of the session was dedicated to discussion of the draft Code of Conduct. Following the same procedure as the discussion of the draft Bylaws discussed two days earlier, Naila Ceribašić and Antoine Gauthier read the Code section by section in English and French, followed by discussion on each of the sections. Only some minor amendments were proposed and included in the version to vote on at the General Meeting on 11 December. There was no time to discuss ICH NGO Forum Statement at 14.COM, as initially planned.

**Wednesday, 11 December, 13–14:30, Meeting of ICH NGO Forum Working Group on Research: *Towards a more formal organization of the group*; chair Albert van der Zeijden (Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage)**

Building on our earlier discussions in Jeju and Mauritius, the purpose of the organizational meeting in Bogota was to decide on the role and function of the Working Group on Research within the ICH NGO Forum, and also to formalize the organizational structure and to establish a small working committee that can prepare future activities. About the role and function of the Working Group on Research, see the introductory discussion paper below.

**Albert van der Zeijden: *The Role and Function of the Working Group on Research of the ICH NGO Forum***

The Working Group on Research was established in Windhoek, Namibia, December 2015 (see: [www.ichngoforum.org/wg/ich-ngos-research/](http://www.ichngoforum.org/wg/ich-ngos-research/)) to function as a platform for the NGOs to exchange information about specific topics on which we want to deepen our understanding. In Mauritius we also discussed future plans of the Working Group and the way into which the Working Group should develop.

What must be clear is that the ICH NGO Forum is not a community of researchers. It is a community of NGOs involved in safeguarding ICH, with a clear interests in participatory research involving the communities. What we have done so far is to select a topic and invite speakers from within the Forum to do short presentations during the Intergovernmental Committee meetings, sharing experiences, sharing research. The topics selected so far were “inventorying” (in Jeju) and “participatory research” (in Mauritius).

In practice the Working Group on Research has functioned as a platform for exchange for applied ICH research. The idea is to build on this, and – for the Working Group on Research to decide – to select themes for further discussion, such as safeguarding ICH and tourism, safeguarding ICH and sustainable cities, etc. A further idea might be to use the website of the Forum more intensely, e.g. by establishing an interactive database on articles and publications on specific research topics (in this we should not double the recently established website <https://ich.unesco.org/en/news/research-on-the-2003-convention-an->

[interactive-bibliography-for-all-stakeholders-13238](#)). Last but not least we might decide to prioritize research directly done by NGO Forum members over university, private consultants or independent researchers, even if they are associated with (or member of) an NGO Forum member.

As to cooperation with others we might think of seeking cooperation with the leading Internet magazine on applied ICH Research, the magazine *Memoriamedia Review*. Some kind of partnership could be beneficial to the both of us.

If we want to evolve to a platform for applied ICH research, it is for the Working Group as a whole to decide on possible options. This includes the selection of a steering group of three or four persons, that can prepare future meetings of the Working Group and relevant other activities.

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During the Working Group session, the discussion focused on short- and long-term objectives. The focus of the group was defined as sharing reflections on working in the field, working on participatory research to the benefit of the communities, developing toolkits, etc.

As for the short-term objectives, the group discussed tourism as an important possible topic for the next ICH NGO Forum Symposium attached to 15.COM. Several attendees of the meeting (among them Laurier Turgeon and Robert Baron) volunteered to participate in the preparation of the symposium (however, this working committee is, of course, open to others to join in), starting with preparing a call for presentations open to all NGOs wanting to do a presentation. It has appeared that two main focuses could be: how could ICH safeguarding benefit from tourism; and what are the challenges in connection with what UNESCO calls “the threat of over-commercialization”? In close collaboration with the Steering Committee of the ICH NGO Forum and preferably also in cooperation with other Working Groups of the Forum, Albert van der Zeijden will take the initiative, preparing and sharing a call for presentations.

Another group (including Valentina Zingari and Amélia Frazão Moreira) will prepare a mission statement for the Working Group as a whole, which will explore long-term policies of the group, exploring ways of communication within the group (perhaps by creating a mailing list), contemplating possible projects and selecting interesting topics to address, as well as exploring possible ways of collaborating with the *Memoriamedia Review*, an online magazine working in the same field.

**Wednesday, 11 December, 13–14:30, Meeting of ICH NGO Forum Working Group on Gender and Intellectual Property Rights; chair Ani Casimir (Center for Peace Building and Poverty Reduction among Indigenous African Peoples, CEPPER)**

The meeting was attended by Ani Casimir, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo, Bagagana Abubakar, Laurier Turgeon, Ravi Sahu, Monalisa Maharjan, Rafer Majid, Norov Urtnasan, Emily Drani, Ahmet Akcan and Hanna Schreiber. As presented by the chair, we propose three activities in the year 2020 to increase awareness and integration of gender principles, ethics, values and mainstreaming into the implementation activities of the ICH of humanity in the context of the 2003 Convention. The sustainable development goals make it compelling that the stakeholders working under the ICH of mankind recognize the role and place. The proposed programs and activities will take place under *four streams* in the following areas: (i) NGO Forum Symposium on gender and ICH (or considered as the topic of the next edition of *#HeritageAlive*); (ii) Workshop in a Latin American country, possibly Mexico; (iii) Book publication (an outcome of the above workshop); (iv) Internationalizing the NGO Forum as a professional association.

The NGO Forum Symposium on gender and ICH can be titled “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Gender – Moving towards the Sustainable Development Goals”. Action plan: Members assigned to work out full symposium sub-themes, speakers and date with the Steering Committee members; to be chosen as the symposium, workshop or seminar. It could also be the cover title of the next *#HeritageAlive*, discussed with the Editor-in-Chief. As a title of the *#HeritageAlive*, it will be “The Place of Women in ICH Safeguarding worldwide”.

A two-day workshop on ICH and gender in Mexico can be titled “Embedding Gender Balance and Values in the ICH and the SDGs: Tools and Recommendations”; sub-theme titled “Traditional Practices That Encourage Women’s Participation in ICH Safeguarding Worldwide”; facilitated by Ani Casimir, Jorge Gustavo Caicedo and the Chair of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee in collaboration with the UNESCO Secretariat. Action plan: Meetings held with the Secretary of the ICH Secretariat who will contact interested States Parties to sponsor presenters who will present their country narratives on gender and ICH. Some countries have already expressed interest. Proceedings of the presentations can be published in collaboration with the Institute for Women (Mexico) and the Mexican Ministry of Culture and/or some state parties.

As for internationalizing the NGO Forum as a professional association, one has to bear in mind that challenges have faced the ICH NGO Forum in reaching out to state parties in different countries, arising from the non-professionalization of the expert work of the ICH practitioners in our midst. The Forum needs an international instrument and legal entity which will break down diplomatic protocols and boundary barriers to freely act and operate seamlessly as an international operator and professional ICH facilitator in the implementation of the 2003 Convention. With the establishment of the ICH NGO Forum and other administrative processes, the need and urgency to start the modalities for the international institution building of the activities of accredited NGOs has arrived and need not be delayed further. This will quicken the dynamics and will add international clout, leverage, penetration, resources, access and stability to the work of the Forum. To be controlled by the NGO Forum, it will give us access into different countries and enable us to contact and empower civil society in those countries with the permission of the state parties to the Convention.

This will help us to establish a professional association with members coming from all interested parties and stakeholders in ICH worldwide, through the agency of the institution, to be called the *International Association for the Promotion of ICH* (IAPIC, pronounced as ‘ahyaapeek’). Members are to be drawn from the academia, community ICH bearers, field workers, state party officers in culture. It has the power to go into contract with universities, ministries of culture, parastatals in safeguarding with a code of ethics drawn from the Forum’s working code. It will have the authority to act as the last clearing house for recognition and approval of NGOs, FBOs, CBOs and INGOs engaged in ICH world with a data set on best practices on innovation and creative sustainable ICH safeguarding and economy. It will give the Forum the power to influence state education policies, curriculum and programs with the integration of ICH traditional methodologies of education and transmission into formal education.

Action plan: The chairman is to set up a special committee with legal practitioners and experts from our midst who will submit a working plan for its establishment and operational take-off. The Committee will be given a terms of reference with a dateline which is to be submitted to the Steering Committee. The draft documents for the Association will be submitted to the UNESCO ICH Secretariat for final approval and take-off.

**Wednesday, 11 December, 18–20:30, General Meeting of the ICH NGO Forum (first part)**

**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

Minutes of the Meeting are available at the ICH NGO Forum website. The Meeting was continued on 12 December at 18.

**Thursday, 12 December, 13–14:30, Meeting of #HeritageAlive, moderated by Eivind Falk (Norsk håndverksinstitutt / Norwegian Crafts Institute), Editor-in-Chief**

At the meeting of the #HeritageAlive Editorial Board, *traditional instruments* were selected as the next theme for a new publication. A call for articles will be announced in the first half of 2020, while the publication of the volume is planned for 2021.

**Thursday, 12 December, 13–14:30, Meeting of ICH NGO Forum Working Group on Ethics; chair Antoine Gauthier (Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant)**

The Working Group on Ethics was established in 2015 in Windhoek (Namibia) to work, *inter alia*, on the proposal of twelve ethical principles for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, which were endorsed by the Intergovernmental Committee and then by the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention. The working group then produced, notably, the “Declaration of the ICH NGO Forum in the Republic of Mauritius on Ethical Principles for the Safeguarding of ICH”, endorsed by the General Meeting of the Forum in 2018. In view of the 14.COM session in Colombia, some members of the working group have worked on a proposal for the Code and Bylaws of ICH NGO Forum.

The aim of this meeting was to start thinking about policies, charters or regulations that can be used for the NGO Forum and/or serve as a tool for all accredited NGOs and Forum partners, for example:

- Harassment Policy with Resolution Mechanism
- Director Integrity Policy (including some form to sign)
- Environmental policy
- Free, prior, informed and sustainable consent forms
- Wage policy

At the Bogotá meeting, the group also discussed the organizational structure of the Working Group on Ethics, and, if needed, the creation of a subgroup to begin working on concrete policy proposals for the ICH NGO Forum based on our reflections.

The plan for 2020 is to work on policies and documents that can be used for the NGO Forum and/or serve as tools for accredited NGOs and Forum partners:

1. Integrity form to be signed by the members of the Steering Committee, as provided for in the Bylaws and the Code of Conduct;
2. Harassment policy with resolution mechanism;
3. Environmental policy;
4. Free, prior, informed and sustainable consent forms examples.

**Thursday, 12 December, 14:30–15:30, Meeting of the ICH NGO Forum Working Group on Overall Results Framework; chair Ananya Bhattacharya (Contact Base)**

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss roadmap for the Working Group and invite NGOs to join the group. We discussed that in next few months we will identify up to five indicators from the Overall Result Framework and try to report on our own work (respective NGO) on those. We will do a round table or a session at 15.COM presenting these reports. Those of you who could not join but would like to participate in this, please write to Ananya Bhattacharya.

**Thursday, 12 December, 18-20:30, General Meeting of the ICH NGO Forum (continuation)**

**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

Minutes of the Meeting are available at the ICH NGO Forum website.

**Friday, 13 December, around 16, Intervention on agenda item 14.COM 14: Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention; presented by Hanna Schreiber on behalf of 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.*

**Saturday, 14 December**, around 10, **Intervention on agenda item 14.COM 15: Reflection on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention**; presented by Naila Ceribašić on behalf of ICH NGO Forum and its Steering Committee.

Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving us the floor.

Let me first to address the issue of *advisory functions* that the Committee wishes accredited NGOs to fulfill. Apart from serving in the Evaluation Body, the ICH NGO Forum has identified seven additional groups of functions. They have been listed in the Art. 3 of the Forum’s Bylaws adopted three days ago, on 11 December at our General Meeting. The adopted Bylaws, as well as the Code of Conduct have been delivered to the Secretariat and through this channel are available for your consideration.

Let me to mention just one of these seven groups of functions that we have identified. It is “to advise the Intergovernmental Committee on specific thematic issues, and participate in reporting and monitoring on inscribed ICH elements and safeguarding practices”. We already work on such topics. For instance, ICH in urban context was addressed last Sunday at our symposium, and currently we work on the preparation of the next symposium on ICH and sustainable tourism, including also the creation of guidelines and a toolkit for all

stakeholders, especially communities. We also plan to produce a report on the state of safeguarding ICH in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on the role of NGOs in safeguarding processes. This will contribute to the overall report on the safeguarding in the region, which will be at the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

So, speaking from the perspective of ICH NGO Forum, in the period from April this year, when the Consultation meeting took place, until now, we may conclude that a “clear consensus emerged” (cf. Document LHE-19-14.COM-15, para. 9) within the Forum regarding the identification of *inter alia* advisory functions.

We have also created and adopted the Code of Conduct, as expected from us following the Consultation meeting in April.

As for the “*disparity in size and capacities of accredited NGOs*”, addressed in paragraph 9 of the Secretariat’s report, we consider it as a direct and necessary reality in response to the variety and diversity of communities, groups and individuals that we serve; yet keeping in mind complications that such variations may present in the assessment of NGOs’ contributions, and consequently in the accreditation system.

Since the Consultation meeting in April until now, the Forum has not reach any particular proposal concerning the *accreditation and re-accreditation system* and its possible revision.

Further on, referring to paragraph 15 of the report, the ICH NGO Forum is *an already existing umbrella association* that encourages plurality of expertise, and fair and equal participation among different NGOs and regions, in contrast to the concerns expressed at the Consultation meeting in April and in the related report. Therefore, we wish to reaffirm that the Forum advocates and operates in favour of plurality, diversity and participation.

We completely share the concern of the General Assembly, the Committee and the Secretariat regarding “*the unbalanced geographical distribution of accredited NGOs*” (para. 16). We also agree that the way out is “to foster the accreditation of NGOs based in under-represented regions”. On how to accomplish this, we are of the opinion that capacity-building workshops in such regions would be of crucial importance, as pointed out in our intervention on the agenda item 7.

Therefore, we very much appreciate the proposed draft decision, paragraph 6, related to the organization of capacity-building activities.

As well, we appreciate the proposed draft decision, paragraph 5, related to the request to the Secretariat to develop a *mapping of NGOs’ domains of competence and their capacities*. We hope the ICH NGO Forum will also be invited to take an active role in that process.

(The above statement was followed by response to questions raised by the members of the Committee in their debate on this agenda item, in particular as regards the issues of geographical imbalance and the introduction of the Forum’s report as a separate agenda item at the Committee’s sessions.)