

ICH NGO Forum Symposium

The role(s) of NGOs in implementing the 2003 UNESCO Convention

INTRODUCTION

Jorijn Neyrinck
for the ICH NGO Forum

UNESCO 2003 Convention & NGOs

Convention Text and Operational Directives (OD)

Advisory roles at the international level

Article 9 accreditation of NGOs with ‘recognized competence’ in field of ICH (by GA on Committee proposal) to act in an ‘advisory capacity’ to the Committee

- > **OD 91-95, 97-99: criteria** and process for **accreditation of NGOs** (under review)
- > **OD 96:** advisory functions of accredited NGOs can **include INTER ALIA evaluation reports** on nominations, good practices, International Assistance requests, and effects of safeguarding plans on elements inscribed on USL
- > **OD 27:** representatives of 6 accredited NGOs and 6 individual experts **elected to the Evaluation Body** (4 year cycle) from candidates selected by Electoral Groups and appointed by the Committee
- > **OD 67(d)-(e): ICH fund** can be used to pay for NGOs and other bodies and persons giving advisory services to the Committee, and participation in its meetings

UNESCO 2003 Convention & NGOs Convention Text and (OD)

Advisory roles at the national level

Article 11(b): States Parties should identify and define the ICH in its territory with the participation of communities, groups and individuals **and ‘relevant’ NGOs**

- > OD 90: involvement of **‘relevant’ NGOs** in **identifying, defining and safeguarding ICH** in **cooperation** with other actors involved in implementation of the Convention
- > OD 93: Committee should pay attention to the principle of **equitable geographical representation** in putting NGOs forward for accreditation. Accredited NGOs should **abide by ‘applicable domestic and international legal and ethical standards’**
- > OD 123: **UNESCO Secretariat** shall **facilitate exchange of information among NGOs and other stakeholders** including communities and groups concerned, research institutes etc.
- > OD 151, 157, 160, 163: **States Parties** are encouraged to **include information from ‘relevant’ NGOs** and other actors aside from communities, groups and individuals concerned **in Periodic Reports, reports on the RL elements and report inter alia on their involvement in safeguarding, and preparation of the reports**
- > OD 175: **States Parties** encouraged to **foster scientific studies and research methodologies**, including those conducted by communities and groups concerned, and NGOs, **on the value of ICH safeguarding for sustainable**

Accreditation of NGOs

Starts in 2008 after Operational Directives for the Convention are launched (2.GA)

To date, the General Assembly has **accredited 202** such organizations

97 by 3.GA - 2010

59 by 4.GA - 2012

22 by 5.GA - 2014

24 by 6.GA - 2016

+ after first review of 1st cycle 10COM: 59 (of the 97) remained; 38 accreditations terminated

+ after review of 2nd cycle 12COM: 42 (of the 59) to remain; 17 accreditation to be

terminated > **147 total 2017 after 12.COM**

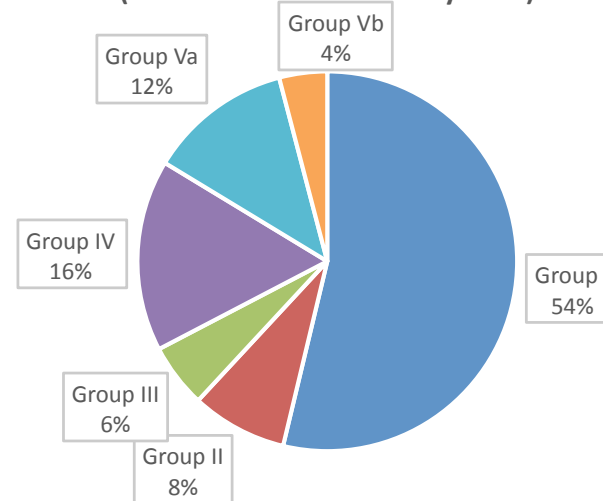
29 by 7.GA - 2018

TOTAL = 176 after 7.GA

geographical representation Groups

- I: 79
- II: 12
- III: 8
- IV: 24
- V(a): 18
- V(b): 6

Figure 1. Geographical distribution of accredited NGOs (147 in total as of February 2018)



accredited NGOs currently advisory function for the IGC (and related presence at statutory meetings) limited to:

- > **OD 96: evaluation reports** on nominations, good practices, International Assistance requests, and effects of safeguarding plans on elements inscribed on USL
- > **OD 27:** representatives of 6 accredited NGOs and 6 individual experts **elected to the Evaluation Body** (4 year cycle) from candidates selected by Electoral Groups and appointed by the Committee

Numerous accredited NGOs present at UNESCO 2003 statutory meeting



observers

Organizing into ICH NGO FORUM



2009 - 2010 - 2011 starting to meet; NGO Statement
(Abu Dhabi - Nairobi - Bali)

From 2012 onwards: ICH NGO FORUM organization takes form



ICHNGO FORUM



ICH NGO FORUM

The ICH NGO Forum is **the platform for communication, networking, exchange and cooperation for NGOs accredited** by UNESCO to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee in the framework of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

NGOs are a pillar for the safeguarding of the World's living traditions, together with the holders of these traditions and the States. The Forum also welcomes NGOs that are active in the field of ICH and are in the process of accreditation.

Website: <http://www.ichngoforum.org/>

Developing a Forum

The ICH NGO Forum

Activities

- Symposium: since 2012 annual at .COM
- Working Groups (research, ethics, CAP, ...)
- Online journal HeritageAlive on safeguarding
- Conferences (2014 Jeonju, 2015 St Susanna)
- ...

International Networking & Cooperation

- Foster networking and cooperation
- Contact point for NGOs, information, ...
- Instigator and partner in international cooperation

Communication

- website, social media, newsletter, ...

Governance

- Start up ICH NGO Forum 2009-2011
- Annual General Meeting Forum at IGC since 2012
- Preliminary coordination group since 2012
- 1st Steering Committee prepared in Sta Susana Conference June 2015 and adopted at General Meeting – 2015 (10.COM)
- NGO founded in 2016 (11.COM) + Bank account
- Rules of Procedure adopted 2016
- 1st elections steering committee at 12.COM



Relation to UNESCO 2003 Convention

IGC, GA and other UNESCO 2003 meetings

- Formulate coordinated Statements NGOs
- Speech at opening of IGC since 2014 (+ GA from 2018)

Secretariat

- Coordination on NGO activity with follow up meetings with Secretariat (exchange, coordination, logistics,...)

Contact point for other stakeholders in Convention

- States parties
- Category II Centres
- Communities
- ...

Processes

- **Capacity Building**
- **Regional networking**

To be further elaborated:

- > Relation to **overall Results Framework**
- > **Reports** related to the Convention and its implementation
- > **Projects** within Convention framework
- > **Outreach and civil society involvement**
- > **Lighter ways for sharing safeguarding experiences**
- > Intermediary role accredited NGOs – Convention?

Drawing a roadmap for the way forward



- **CONTENT !**

Develop ICH practices, methods, insights on ICH Safeguarding and means for building experience and exchange

- **Proceed ORGANIZATION & GOVERNANCE**

- **Twofold approach:**

combine richness of numerous NGO experiences to needs of overview and coordination (relating to Convention's framework)

- > **CAPACITY BUILDING**

- > **REGIONAL NETWORKS**

- + link to organizational structure NGO Forum

- > + **Revision of accreditation formula in near future ?**

- (along which lines? International / evaluation / national + Implementation?)

- **UNESCO 2003 – the 2nd Decade – issues at stake**

Relate to Overall Results Framework, outreach and civil society involvement, Sustainable development, ethics, ...

accredited NGOs ?

NGOs ?

Ongoing reflection on UNESCO 2003 Convention and NGOs role, position, criteria for accreditation, ...

8 COM 2013

IOS Audit + Report on methods of 6 Cultural Conventions:

> **4 recommendations regarding NGOs**

“a further challenge relates to the consultation and involvement of communities and NGOs in developing policies, legislation, sustainable development plans, etc”.

+ **8COM debates on role of NGOs**, criteria for accreditation and evaluation

5GA 2014

no change in accreditation criteria so far > wait for evaluation 1st cycle(s) of NGOs

10 COM 2015

1st review 1st cycle of accredited NGOs

12.COM 2017

2nd cycle review + Roles of NGOs on the Agenda (12.COM17)

NGOs ?

Ongoing reflection on UNESCO 2003 Convention and NGOs role, position, criteria for accreditation, ...

- **affluence of NGOs**

expression of identification and involvement to the ICH Convention, and of the considerable -albeit geographically unbalanced- initiatives, commitment and presence of NGOs active in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage “in the field” all over the globe.

- **? Convention use of distinction national - international**

- **Types of NGOs related to UNESCO 2003 Convention seem to be as varied as their working contexts:**

- for **their positioning between governments and bearers (practitioners)** of ICH
- their **cultural-territorial scope** varies from very local to worldwide organizations.
- **the scope of aims and activities**
- in terms of **what kind of expertise** predominates

➤ *Current Criteria of accreditation offer no tools to gain insight, refine or differentiate among the group of accredited NGOs*

Reflection on role of NGOs and accreditation

UNESCO

2013

IOS - Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-setting Work of the Culture Sector - Part I – 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/evaluations-audits-and-governance-00717>

ICH NGO Forum

2013:

- <https://www.slideserve.com/pomona/ich-ngo-forum-december-1-2013-jorijn-neyrinck>
- <http://www.ichngoforum.org/call-for-papers-ich-ngo-forum-symposium-8-com/>
- <http://www.ichngoforum.org/documents-and-texts-for-the-ich-ngo-forum-in-baku/>
- <http://www.ichngoforum.org/wp-content/uploads/8COM-Baku-NGO-STATEMENT-ENG.pdf>

2014:

<http://www.ichngoforum.org/ich-ngo-forum-2014-symposium-world-cafe-report/>

2016:

<http://www.ichngoforum.org/statement-ich-ngo-forum-declaration-du-forum-des-ong-pci-a-loccasion-de-6-ga/>

NGOs ?

Ongoing reflection on UNESCO 2003 Convention and NGOs
role, position, criteria for accreditation, ...

e.g. statemen BAKU 8.COM

(...) some actions by which the NGOs are contributing to the implementation of the Convention:

- *capacity building, education and training*
- *Informing on the Convention*
- *enriching documentation on ICH*
- *mediating between the States and the communities*
- *developing networks to foster exchange of safeguarding experiences*

*9. Therefore: NGOs may help **develop alternate, more 'light touch' ways of sharing safeguarding experiences** to complement the register of best safeguarding practices. NGOs may **contribute to the definition of policies, legislation, and to the elaboration of safeguarding plans** that contribute to sustainable development.*

*NGOs may **complement the data** gathered by State parties on the implementation of the Convention through **the periodic reports** to the Secretariat.*

Decision 12.COM 17

7. Acknowledges **the need to take stock of the current situation and challenges as regards the participation of NGOs to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee;**

8. Invites the Secretariat and the informal ad hoc working group to reflect, in consultation with accredited NGOs, on the **possible ways in which the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention could be further enhanced** and how this would be reflected in the **accreditation and renewal mechanisms of NGOs**, as well as to report the results of such reflection to the Committee for examination at its **thirteen session;**

9. Encourages non-governmental organizations from **under-represented Electoral Groups** that meet the criteria for accreditation to submit their requests for **accreditation at the earliest opportunity** so as to improve the geographical distribution of accredited NGOs and invites States Parties from those Electoral Groups to make this call widely known among NGOs operating within their territories.

6. (...) take stock of its experience related to the accreditation of NGOs at a time when the governing bodies of the Convention are engaging in important **reflections on the overall impact of the Convention and its future directions.**

7. (...) the Committee acknowledged that it had not yet elaborated on **what other advisory functions – mentioned as inter alia – it wished to request of the accredited NGOs.** This in turn means that the majority of the accredited NGOs have not been concretely involved in the work of the Committee, notwithstanding their *enthusiasm to contribute to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.* In addition, the Committee **also took note of a wide range of issues,** including the **need to assess the relevance of current accreditation and renewal criteria, the role of the ICH NGO-Forum, the imbalance in terms of the geographical representation of the accredited NGOs and the workload of the governing bodies and of the Secretariat.**

8. (...) **possible ways in which the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention could be further enhanced and how this would be reflected in the accreditation and renewal mechanisms of NGOs.** **The overall purpose of such reflection** may be to move **towards a system that is flexible** enough to allow the Committee **to benefit from the diverse sets of expertise and services of NGOs** in the field of intangible cultural heritage, since this is **key for linking the Convention to communities and grass-roots organizations** and at the same time **for ensuring that the Convention can continue to evolve in line with the experiences of the international community at large.**

The progress of these reflections will be discussed by the Committee at its thirteenth session in 2018

[> ITH/18/13.COM/13](#) [> ITH/18/13.COM/16](#)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Creativity
Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

To the Steering Committee of the
ICH NGO Forum

27 April 2018

Ref.: CLT/CRE/ITH/18/132

Subject: Reflection on the advisory functions of accredited non-governmental organizations within the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to contact you in order to inform you of the launch of the reflection process on the advisory functions of accredited non-governmental organizations within the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

As you are aware, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage decided at its twelfth session in 2017 to continue the informal ad hoc working group, now open-ended to all interested States Parties. As part of its mandate in 2018, the informal ad hoc working group was tasked, amongst others, 'to reflect, in consultation with accredited NGOs, on the possible ways in which the participation of NGOs under the 2003 Convention could be further enhanced and how this would be reflected in the accreditation and renewal mechanisms of NGOs' (Decision 12.COM.13). At the same session, the Committee requested the Secretariat and the informal ad hoc working group to undertake this reflection with the ICH NGO Forum and to report to the Committee at its thirteenth session in 2018 (Decision 12.COM.17).

Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat proposes to facilitate the reflection process on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations through the following multi-step consultation process leading up to the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2019:

- May-June 2018:** Preliminary consultations between the representatives of the informal ad hoc working group, the ICH NGO Forum and the Secretariat
- 2 July 2018:** Launch of electronic consultation by the Secretariat on potential advisory functions to be fulfilled by accredited NGOs and possible ways forward for the accreditation system.

The Secretariat sends to the co-Chairpersons of the informal ad hoc working group and the ICH NGO Forum a background document presenting the current situation of accredited non-governmental organizations and challenges identified by the Secretariat based on its and the Committee's experience since the establishment of the current accreditation system in 2010.

- 10 September 2018:** Deadline by which the Secretariat will have collected comments from the informal ad hoc working group and the ICH NGO Forum on potential advisory functions to be fulfilled by accredited NGOs and possible ways forward for the accreditation system.
- November 2018:** Report to the thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on the outcomes of the electronic consultation.
- March-April 2019:** Consultation meeting between the informal ad hoc working group, the ICH NGO Forum and the Secretariat to be organized at UNESCO Headquarters (pending on examination by the Bureau of the Committee of the utilization of the funds allocated for 'other functions of the Committee' under the Plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund)
- November 2019:** Report to the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on the outcomes of the reflection process.

Beyond the abovementioned steps and considering the extent of the reflection to be undertaken, it is expected that a number of informal consultations be also undertaken among the informal ad hoc working group, the ICH NGO Forum and the Secretariat over the coming two years.

My colleague Mr Julien Nakata (k.nakata@unesco.org; +33 (0)1 45 68 24 27) is in charge with the planning of this reflection process and will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. I should also appreciate it if you would indicate the name of the contact person(s) from the ICH NGO Forum with whom the Secretariat should communicate concerning this process.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Curtis
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of
the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

In 2018 already 3 NGO meetings will be especially devoted to the INTER ALIA process:

1. Open NGO meeting at 7.GA, 6th of June, 2018, Paris (France):

introduction & exchange on the meaning and motivation of accreditation to NGOs, expectations as well as contributions NGOs may offer to the Convention

2. working group session at 7.GA, 7th of June, 2018, Paris (France):

Brainstorm on possible working methods to address the INTER ALIA Reflection, followed by a first mapping of possible roles of NGOs

3. International Symposium of the ICH NGO Forum at 13.COM 2018, Port Louis:

“Role of accredited NGOs in the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention”

+ **first consultations**

✓ **Informal meeting co-chairs of informal ad hoc working group & Secretariat & SC ICH NGO Forum on 5 June 2018**

✓ **electronic consultation Autumn 2018**

1. Open NGO meeting at 7.GA, 6th of June, 2018, Paris :

a/ what was their motivation to request accreditation back in time?

b/ what did they expect from being accredited (what does being accredited under the Convention bring to the NGO)?

c/ what did they consider their NGO could offer to the Convention?

NGOs:

- ✓ **important value of recognition by the accreditation**
- ✓ **international networking of fellow NGOs and other actors around the Convention on ICH safeguarding**
- ✓ **Share expertise and knowledge**

2. working group session at 7.GA, 7th of June, 2018, Paris :

proposals for further elaboration:

- **Overview mentions NGOs in Convention documents (OD, GA, IGC, ORF, ...)**
- **Functions Committee > NGOs advisory functions**
- **Map capacities of NGOs (survey? Database?)**

- **Reinforce the role of the ICH NGO Forum as umbrella organization and focal point**
 - strengthen governance in transparency of the Forum
 - strengthen communication on the work of NGOs and the Forum implementing the Convention
 - strengthen capacity building processes for and with NGOs and outreaching to civil society
 - set up an ethics program with NGO Forum responding to ethical principles of the Convention

- **Cherish and foster the precious position of non-governmental organizations**
 - Multiple voices, inclusive involvement
 - contribute beyond formal frameworks for safeguarding ICH (ORF 21)
 - Studies & monitoring on ICH safeguarding programmes and measures (ORF 22)
 - laboratory, research, development, innovative capacity ...

7. ARTICLE 7 – FUNCTIONS of IGC

- a **promote the objectives of the Convention, and to encourage and monitor the implementation thereof;**
- b **provide guidance on best practices and make recommendations on measures for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;**
- c prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund, in accordance with Article 25;
- d seek means of increasing its resources, and to take the necessary measures to this end, in accordance with Article 25;
- e prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval operational directives for the implementation of this Convention;
- f examine, in accordance with Article 29, the reports submitted by States Parties, and to summarize them for the General Assembly;
- g examine requests submitted by States Parties, and to decide thereon, in accordance with objective selection criteria to be established by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly for:
 - i inscription on the lists and proposals mentioned under Articles 16, 17 and 18;
 - ii the granting of international assistance in accordance with Article 22.

7. ARTICLE 7 – FUNCTIONS of IGC

a **promote the objectives of the Convention, and to encourage and monitor the implementation thereof;**

Convention - Article 1:

The purposes of this Convention are:

- (a) to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage;*
- (b) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned;*
- (c) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, and of ensuring mutual appreciation thereof;*
- (d) to provide for international cooperation and assistance.*

b **provide guidance on best practices and make recommendations on measures for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;**

Possible contribution of NGOs

1. **promote the objectives of the Convention**
2. **encourage implementation of the (objectives of) the Convention**
3. **monitor implementation of the (objectives of) the Convention**

which may include (cfr. article 1 Convention):

- safeguarding ICH
- ensuring respect for CGIs
- awareness raising of the importance of ICH,
- ensuring mutual appreciation of ICH
- providing cooperation and assistance in international framework
- ...

- A. provide guidance for good or best practices
- B. contribute to lighter ways of sharing safeguarding experiences
- C. make recommendations on safeguarding measures for ICH

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| c | prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund, in accordance with Article 25; | _ <i>Not applicable</i> |
| d | seek means of increasing its resources, and to take the necessary measures to this end, in accordance with Article 25; | <p>A. possible contribution of NGOs seeking means of increasing resources for the implementation of the convention, through e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crowdfunding, friendsraising - raising funds through private sector and sponsorships - advocating for policies including resources and funding for ICH safeguarding ... |
| e | prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval operational directives for the implementation of this Convention; | ✓ deliver and inspire proposals regarding operational directives to the IGC |
| f | examine, in accordance with Article 29, the reports submitted by States Parties, and to summarize them for the General Assembly; | ✓ Complement the data gathered on the implementation of the Convention through Periodic Reports submitted by State Parties with information provided by NGOs. (> IOS report 2013 - Recommendation 23). |
| g | examine requests submitted by States Parties, and to decide thereon, in accordance with objective selection criteria to be established by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly for: | |
| i | inscription on the lists and proposals mentioned under Articles 16, 17 and 18; | ✓ NGO contribution in the Evaluation Body |
| ii | the granting of international assistance in accordance with Article 22. | ✓ NGO contribution in the Evaluation Body |

Boundary Conditions and sensibilities

HOW to

- ✓ to **reduce the administrative burden for the Secretariat** as an effect of the NGOs activity in the 2003 Convention?
- ✓ to improve the **governance structure**, the **institutional continuity** as well as the **visibility** of **the Forum** as to be able to act as focal point and building connection with **the states parties**?
- ✓ to elaborate incentives aiming to **spur accreditation** from within regions where NGO accreditation is relatively underrepresented (e.g. via networking, via capacity building initiatives...) ?
- ✓ to set up **a code of conduct** for accredited NGOs taking part in the Convention and its bodies ?

3. Symposium of the ICH NGO Forum at 13.COM:

TODAY !

The role(s) of NGOs in implementing the 2003 UNESCO Convention

10:30 - 11:00 - The role of NGOs in Research

11:00 - 11:30 - The role of NGOs in Capacity Building

11:30 - 12:00 - The role of NGOs relating to Ethical Principals

12:00 - 12:30 - The role of NGOs in sharing safeguarding experiences

12:30 - 13:00 - The role of NGOs in ICT for ICH

13:00 - 14:00 - LUNCH

14:00 - 14:30 - The role of NGOs related to the Overall Results Framework

14:30 - 15:00 - General discussion on the role of NGOs

15:00 - 15:30 - Conclusions of the Symposium

Reflection is open!

Suggestions

Remarks

Scenario's

...

Contact
ICH NGO Forum

ichngoforum@gmail.com
www.ichngoforum.org

ICHNGO FORUM