

## **MINUTES of the 14th meeting of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee**

### **Zoom meeting, 17 November 2020, 15–17 (Paris time)**

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

**Absent:** Jorge Gustavo Caicedo (for family reasons)

### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome, opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Approval of minutes of the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee
4. Current issues
  - 4.a. ICH NGO Conference co-organized by ICHCAP and ICH NGO Forum
  - 4.b. Next *Newsletter* of the Forum
5. Preparation of programme for 15.COM
  - 5.a. Work of the Election Board
  - 5.b. ICH NGO Forum General Assembly
  - 5.c. ICH NGO Forum programme during 15.COM
  - 5.d. ICH NGO Forum report for 15.COM
6. Financial matters
  - 6.a. Financial report
  - 6.b. The issue of closing the Forum's account in France
7. Other business
8. Next meeting
9. Closing of the meeting

### **1. Welcome, opening of the meeting**

Nömgård opened and chaired the meeting. All members reported on their current local situation.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **3. Approval of minutes of the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee**

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

#### **4. Current issues**

##### **4.a. ICH NGO Conference co-organized by ICHCAP and ICH NGO Forum**

Sakr reported about the conference. It was successful. Presenters were from c. 15 countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Arab States. They exhibited a vast array of local case studies and opinions on the safeguarding of ICH during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating how ICH can be both under threat and a tool for recovery during emergencies. The conference was opened by Tim Curtis, the Secretary of the 2003 Convention, as well as KEUM Gi Hyung, the Director General of ICHCAP, and Nömgård on behalf of the ICH NGO Forum. It was very well attended – in addition to c.100 people who participated directly through Zoom, up to now c. 1,600 people viewed it on YouTube. More information about the outcome of the conference will be soon available on the ICHCAP website, and then also linked to our website.

##### **4.b. Next Newsletter of the Forum**

The previous day, Nyathi sent to the members of the Steering Committee a revised version of the Newsletter, summarized and updated on the basis of suggestions received at the previous meeting of the Committee. It is expected to be finalized in a few days, and distributed no later than at the beginning of the next week. Information about our programme connected to the 15.COM still needs to be added, as well as photographs that will illustrate certain topics included in the Newsletter.

#### **5. Preparation of programme for 15.COM**

##### **5.a. Work of the Election Board**

The Election Board has published its second call for candidates for the Steering Committee, which is open until 30 November. Up to now, they did not receive any candidacy from Africa, while there is sufficient number of candidates from Asian and Pacific states, Western Europe and North America, and International NGOs.

##### **5.b. ICH NGO Forum General Assembly**

The daily timetable of the 15.COM has changed in the meantime (it will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day), so that we once again need to adapt our timetable while taking care, as much as possible, of different time zones of our membership. As for the General Assembly, due to its importance for us, the Steering Committee decided to hold it from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 December, regardless of the fact that it will partly overlap with the session of the Committee. Until tomorrow morning at the latest, Caicedo is expected to draft our report on activities of the Steering Committee during 2020, while the rest of the material that needs to be distributed to the membership by tomorrow evening is ready (financial report by Choi, plan of activities for 2021 by Ceribašić, prolongation of a decision on exceptional basis concerning Art. 21 of the Bylaws by Ceribašić, and the final version of the agenda by Ceribašić and Nömgård). Nömgård will coordinate this final stage, and make sure that Desiderio receives the final version of the

whole material on time to be distributed by the end of 18 November. The French version will be distributed as soon as possible, after Choi make the translation, probably at the beginning of the next week.

The members also discuss whether to include in the plan of activities for 2021 a specific mentioning of the “Report on the state of safeguarding ICH in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the role of ICH NGOs in safeguarding processes”, which was initially planned for 2020. The members agreed to not to include it explicitly, while it is still surely possible for the new Steering Committee to carry out this important project. Another issue raised relates to the proposal of the “Code of conduct and ethics for Steering Committee members”, received a few days ago from the Working Group on Ethics, chaired by Antoine Gauthier. As this document includes a matter addressed in Art. 21 of the Bylaws, the members of the Steering Committee agreed it would be better to postpone the discussion on this document for the next year. In this regard, Nömgård will contact Gauthier, asking if the group agrees with the postponement. Otherwise, the Steering Committee will present the proposed Code to the membership, accompanied with its suggestion to postpone the discussion for the next year.

It has been confirmed that the English-French interpretation will be provided thanks to the support of the Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant. It is still not confirmed whether the Conseil will be able to secure interpretation for a mini-symposium on Sunday, 13 December. Nömgård is in contact on this matter with Gauthier.

### **5.c. ICH NGO Forum programme during 15.COM**

As mentioned above, due to new daily timetable of the 15.COM, we need to adapt our timetable once again. Nömgård will therefore contact all chairs of the planned sessions, and arrange with them the best time slots for their sessions. It is expected for the complete schedule to be defined by the end of this week.

### **5.d. ICH NGO Forum report for 15.COM**

Ceribašić reported on the final stage in the publication of the report. On 13 November the members of the ad hoc working group and the Steering Committee have received from the Secretariat, represented by Fumiko Ohinata, the draft working document inclusive of our report. The Secretariat did not touch upon our report, but simply integrated it as an Annex to the “Report of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum” (15.COM 6). As for the draft decision, however, although all the components were preserved (excluding the suggestion to develop capacity-building material intended specifically for NGOs), their emphases have been partially changed. All members of the ad hoc working group and the Steering Committee agreed with the version proposed by the Secretariat. The only corrections we requested concerned the inclusion of a check box in the re-accreditation form confirming the NGOs’ membership in the Forum (which was accepted by the Secretariat), and the issue of the title of the agenda item for the next, 16.COM – whether it would be again the “Report of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum” (in the version of the Secretariat) or “Report of the ICH NGO Forum” (as we requested). It has appeared that, for statutory reasons, the title needs to be generic, so that finally it

has remained as noted down by the Secretariat, but without capital letters (to indicate even more the generic nature of “NGOs forum”). Since 16 November, the report is available on UNESCO’s website (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/15com>, agenda item 6, document LHE/20/15.COM/6).

## **6. Financial matters**

### **6.a. Financial report**

Choi reported that we did not receive any new statement from the bank.

### **6.b. The issue of closing the Forum’s account in France**

Nikolov had no enough time to carry out the technical part of the process of closing the old account and opening of a new, wallet account. However, it has appeared that the change of members of the Steering Committee may pose a problem for the functioning of the new account, similarly as it was the case for the last two years with the old account. Apart from Nikolov, who will remain in the Committee, the only two additional alleged functionaries of the French subsidiary organization of the ICH NGO Forum, which exists only for the purpose of maintaining a bank account, are Ceribašić and Nömgård, who are actually the outgoing members of the Steering Committee. Therefore, after all, the Committee decided to not to close the old and open a new account, but to wait for the formation of a new Steering Committee, and then to resolve this long-lasting conundrum in the best possible way.

It means that the Forum currently cannot withdraw any money from the account, and therefore the expenses for the application for online voting, 19 USD will be covered by Nömgård’s NGO.

## **7. Other business**

No other business was raised.

## **8. Next meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 December. Nikolov will host it via Zoom.

## **9. Closing of the meeting**

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

Minutes drafted by Ceribašić on 19 November 2020; approved by the Steering Committee on 2 December 2020, followed by their publication on the ICH NGO Forum website; translation into French made by Choi.