

MINUTES of the 9th meeting of the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee

Zoom meeting, 5 August 2020, 15–17 (Paris time)

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome, opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of the 8th 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 8.GA
6. Preparation of programme for 15.COM
 - 6.a. Establishment of the Election Board
 - 6.b. ICH NGO Forum report for 15.COM
7. Financial matters
 - 7.a. Financial report
 - 7.b. Possibility to close the Forum's account before members of the Steering Committee meet in person
8. Follow-up on each member responsibilities
9. Other business
10. Next meeting
11. Closing of the meeting

1. Welcome, opening of the meeting

Nömgård opened and chaired the meeting. All members reported on the situation with COVID-19, and its impact on cultural, social, political and economic life in their countries. The situation is especially difficult in Syria, especially after devastating explosion in Beirut, which is in multiple ways of great importance for the survival and regeneration of Syria.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of minutes of the 8th 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 is continuously in contact with ICHCAP concerning the online conference “ICH and resilience in crisis: Implication in the Era of B.C. (Before Corona) and A.C. (After Corona)”. The call for papers has been published, and is open until the mid August. The co-organizers currently discuss the selection of keynote speakers, and how to additionally motivate NGOs to submit their proposals. Members of the Steering Committee suggested few additional experts who could be considered to serve as keynote speakers, especially concerning the theme of resilience system analysis. As for the participation of ICH NGOs, it is important to motivate those that have been continuously involved in the activities of the Forum, but also to be as encouraging as possible to newcomers.

4.b. Next *Newsletter* of the Forum

The new issue of the *Newsletter*, dedicated to responses of ICH NGOs to the pandemic, will be published these days. It is quite extensive, probably the most extensive *Newsletter* in the history of the Forum, with editorial summaries and authorial papers on the impact of COVID-19, as well as very extensive section of announcements, and an elaborated proposal concerning the establishment of a new working group that would deal with the problem of regional imbalance of accredited NGOs. Members of the Steering Committee have agreed for the next *Newsletter* to be published in the mid November, a week or so after the conference on ICH and resilience, while before the start of the Forum’s programme attached to 15.COM. The central part will include reports from 8.GA, the conference on ICH and resilience and the IMP project, and also provide an overview of the Forum’s activities during 15.COM. In any case, it is planned to be less extensive than the issue that is coming out these days. Nyathi will again coordinate its preparation.

5. Preparation of programme for 8.GA

It is confirmed that 8.GA will be held from 8 to 10 September in Paris. None of the member of the Steering Committee will attend it in person. However, we hope that quite visible online presence of the Forum will be feasible. As agreed upon at the previous meeting, the Forum’s programme for 8.GA will consists of two online discussion sessions. One session will be held a few days in advance of 8.GA to discuss agenda and documents for 8.GA from the perspective of ICH NGOs, as well as the Forum’s statement at 8.GA. Another session will be held towards the end of 8.GA to discuss its deliberations and decisions. Caicedo will prepare the first draft of the material which will serve as a basis for the first session, including the draft of our statement at 8.GA. He will also facilitate the session. Nömgård will contact the Secretariat concerning the Forum’s statement.

6. Preparation of programme for 15.COM

6.a. Establishment of the Election Board

The Election Board is still in the process of formation. In a few days from now, it is expected to be completed, consisting of members from the US, Mexico and India. Caicedo, Choi and Sakr are involved in the correspondence with them, and Nömgård

is in charge to coordinate the work in order for the Election Board to be formed as soon as possible.

6.b. ICH NGO Forum report for 15.COM

As reported by Ceribašić, among the three thematic sub-groups that had been formed (A. on the history, organization, principles, roles, objectives of the NGOs accredited to the Convention and the ICH NGO Forum; B. on the reform of the listing mechanism; and C. on ICH in emergencies, including COVID-19), the one on ICH in emergencies, facilitated by Matti Hakamäki, has advanced the most in the preparation of an online discussion session, which is intended to enable the broadest possible participation of ICH NGOs in the drafting of the report. The session will be held towards the end of August, and it is expected from two other sub-groups (facilitated by Ceribašić and, respectively, by Hanna Schreiber) to follow suit.

7. Financial matters

7.a. Financial report

Choi reported that our current balance, as of 31 July, is 4,194.42 €.

7.b. Possibility to close the Forum's account before members of the Steering Committee meet in person

According to information received from Caicedo's acquaintance, a lawyer in France, it has appeared that it is impossible to close our bank account from a distance. This should be done in person, when all members of the Steering Committee meet in Paris.

8. Follow-up on each member responsibilities

Aside from above mentioned division of labour, this agenda item was not specifically addressed.

9. Other business

No other business was raised.

10. Next meeting

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

11. Closing of the meeting

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

Minutes drafted by Ceribašić on 6 August 2020; approved by the Steering Committee on 2 September 2020, followed by their publication on the ICH NGO Forum website; translation into French made by Choi.