

# WORKING GROUP FOR MORE BALANCED GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF NGOS

MONDAY, **28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022** / 12:30 – 14:30, RABAT, MOROCCO

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL POUR UNE REPRÉSENTATION  
GÉOGRAPHIQUE PLUS ÉQUILIBRÉE DES ONG

LUNDI **28 NOVEMBRE 2022** / À 12:30 – 14:30, RABAT, MOROCCO

# AGENDA



- 12:30 – 12:35 Welcome / Agenda
- 12:35 – 13:00 Summary & results of the year's activities
- 13:00 – 13:30 Next step ideas and proposals for discussion
- 13:30 – 14:00 Election of new chair and secretary
- 14:00 – 14:15 Q&A
- 14:15 – 14:30 Adoption of the meeting statement and closing of the meeting
- 12:30 – 12:35 Bienvenue / ordre du jour
- 12:35 – 13:00 Résumé et résultats des activités de l'année
- 13:00 – 13:30 Idées pour la prochaine étape et propositions de discussion
- 13:30 – 14:00 Élection du nouveau président et du nouveau secrétaire
- 14:00 – 14:15 Questions-réponses et clôture de la réunion
- 14:15– 14:30 Adoption du procès-verbal de la réunion et clôture de la réunion



# SUMMARY & RESULTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

12:35 – 13:00



## WHAT & WHY

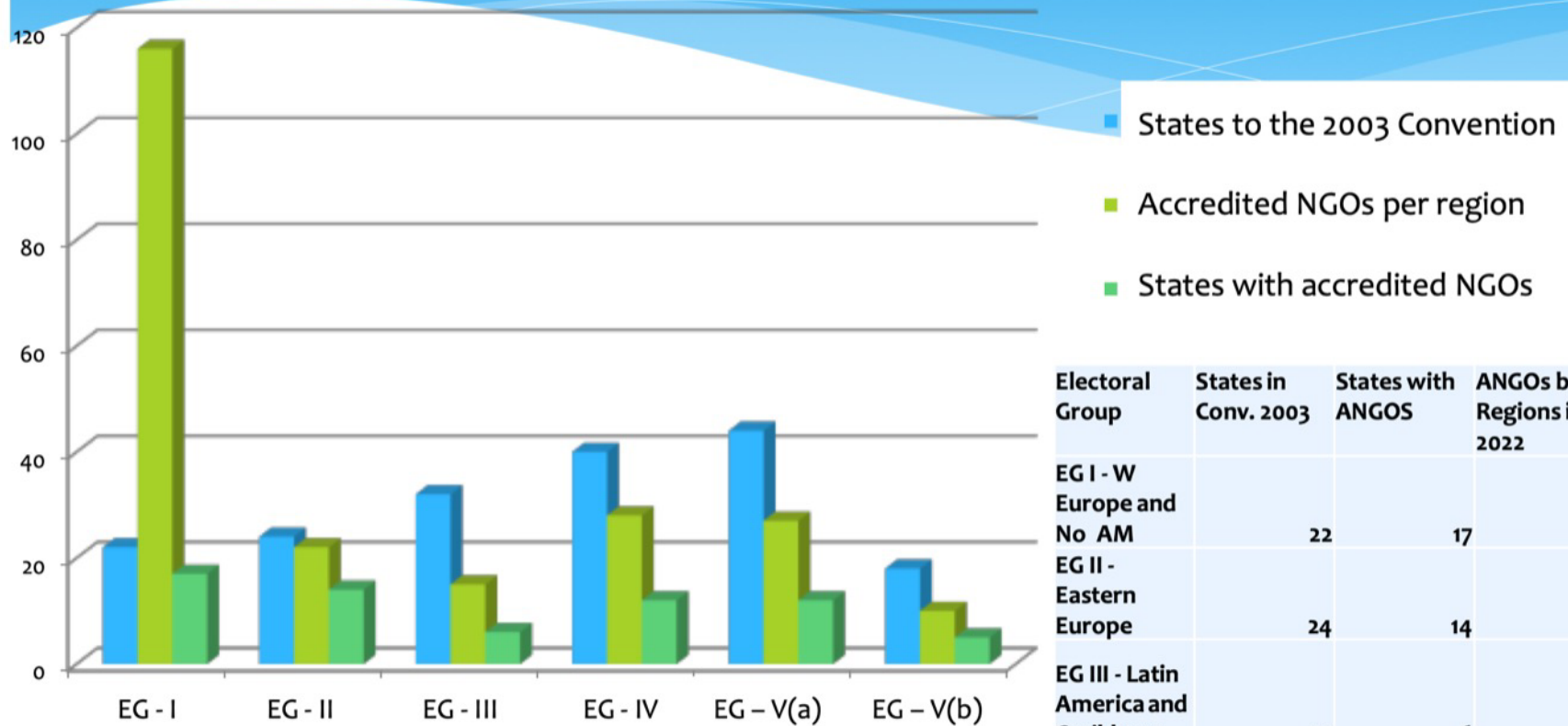


- A community of accredited NGOs from different geographical regions with an **aim to understand, address and overcome the issue of ongoing geographical imbalance of the NGO representation** in the ICH NGO Forum and the UNESCO 2003 Convention;
- Unbalanced distribution of accredited NGOs across six electoral regions and total lack of representation from many countries;
- Established on December 19, 2020 during the 15.COM and officially launched during the 16.COM in 2021.

# WHY IS

As of 17. State Par functions Committee follows

## Geographic distribution of NGOs accredited to the Convention in 2022



22/116/17 24/22/14 32/15/6 40/27/12 44/27/12 18/10/5

Electoral Group	States in Conv. 2003	States with ANGOS	ANGOs by Regions in 2022
EG I - W Europe and No AM	22	17	116
EG II - Eastern Europe	24	14	22
EG III - Latin America and Caribbean	32	6	15
EG IV - Asia and Pacific	40	12	28
EG Va - Africa	44	12	27
EG Vb - Arab states	18	5	10

# ACTIVITIES IN 2022

**Official launch of the WG, 16.COM** on December 13, 2021:

- *Chair and the secretary were elected by consensus;*
- *Mission and activity plan was developed*

**Online meetings**

- *5 meetings planned for January, March, May, July, September;*
- *4 meetings conducted with 1 cancellation in July;*
- *Annual meeting during the 17.COM*

# ACTIVITIES IN 2022

## Understanding challenges that NGOs face:

- *One of the primary tasks of the WG in addressing the existing imbalance was to understand the challenges and needs that NGOs face in different regions. Thus, presentations of NGOs from different regions were initiated during the WG meetings.*
- *Based on these meetings and presentations, the WG prepared an outreach plan to recruit NGOs with potential for accreditation.*

## Outlining and developing an outreach plan:

- *Carrying out separate online meetings with regional groups of accredited NGOs **explaining our purpose and goals** and **collect data on their partner NGOs** working in the field of ICH with a potential for accreditation. Focus – to look for partner NGOs in neighboring countries;*
- *Encouraging and rendering support to potential NGOs from underrepresented regions/countries.*

# ACTIVITIES IN 2022

## **The Electoral Group V(a) Africa & the outreach plan**

- The WG compiled a database of accredited NGOs in the EG V(a) and carried out two (2) online meetings;
- To overcome the language barrier, these meetings were accompanied with simultaneous French<>English interpretation to enable more participation;
- The main focus was to look for partner NGOs in neighboring countries;
- ANGOs also shared some common challenges that the NGOs in African region face when it comes to accreditation – language barrier, lack of knowledge of the Convention and the process of accreditation, lack of expertise and experience – overcoming which was suggested might assist in overcoming the ongoing imbalance



# ACTIVITIES IN 2022

## **Challenges:**

- Small number of active NGOs;
- Lack of proactive participation;
- Connectivity issues



# NEXT STEP IDEAS AND PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION

13:00 – 13:30



## **List of possible soft measures targeted at underrepresented regions:**

- *to create short infographic videos on the basic texts and concepts of the Convention;*
- *to create short videos on how ANGOs have benefited from the accreditation and how it enriched their activities in the field of ICH;*
- *to prepare leaflets on the accreditation process.*

# MEASURES

Recommend the Forum to start a reflection and discussions on the possible hard measures along with soft measures in addressing the present unbalance in representation of NGOs. For example, to consider:

- *a mechanism when priority for accreditation is given to underrepresented regions to reach certain percentage and put accreditation from other regions on hold;*
- *a rotation-based accreditation, when maximum efforts for accreditation is given to a certain underrepresented region in one cycle;*
- *one country-one voting system during ICH NGO Forum's GA – when all NGOs of the country can cast only one vote no matter the number of accredited NGOs the country has.*



# ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND SECRETARY

13:30 – 14:00





# Q&A

14:00 – 14:15



---

# ADOPTION OF THE MEETING STATEMENT AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING

14:15 – 14:30

