Regional Conference on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Roseau, Dominica, 17-19 February, 2005)

Final Recommendations

We the participants in the Regional Conference on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Roseau, Dominica, 17-19 February 2005), mindful of the common circumstances and threats that intangible cultural heritage faces in the Region, and intervening in our personal capacity ¹, recommend:

A) to the UNESCO Member States of the Region

a. to ratify promptly and effectively implement, including through legislation, the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
b. pending the ratification process, to initiate and/or reinforce safeguarding measures in the field of the intangible cultural heritage in the spirit of the 2003 Convention;
c. in order to ensure the protection of communities vis-à-vis their intangible cultural heritage in the field of intellectual property law:
   i. to raise public awareness in general as well as within communities;
   ii. to develop, where necessary, cultural policies;
   iii. to consider enacting and implementing relevant legislation;
d. to initiate and/or reinforce regional and sub-regional cooperation for the proper safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, at the level of the concerned communities, education and research institutions, relevant national authorities and NGOs

B) to UNESCO

a. to reinforce financial and technical assistance in the region, particularly to small island states, for the proper safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
b. to reinforce human resources in the Culture sector in the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean (Kingston, Jamaica).

¹ The participants are from the following countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago