MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE – NEW ZEALAND

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONVENTION: ISSUES FROM A NEW ZEALAND PERSPECTIVE
Background to New Zealand position on the Convention

- Convention adopted in 2003 - New Zealand abstained
- New Zealand strongly supportive of concept of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage
- But - concerns about provisions of the Convention
Issues for New Zealand

Definition of Intangible Cultural Heritage:

- Intangible and tangible heritage inextricably linked

- For Māori “language” is not simply a vehicle for transmission of cultural heritage
Definition of Safeguarding needs clarity

- “identification, documentation, research, preservation” implies access to knowledge without permission

- “protection” implies limitation on development of intangible heritage

Cultural Property of Indigenous Peoples

- Not referred to in Convention – importance of Māori heritage
The Inventory

- Māori sceptical about benefits of inventories
- Potential loss of control of information

Relationship to other international agreements

- Possible conflict with GATT, GATS
Costs versus benefits

- Benefits to New Zealand unclear at this stage

- There are costs:
  - Developing inventories
  - Supporting education, access, research etc
  - Membership fee
  - Reporting and representation
Current New Zealand Support for Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Archives New Zealand
- National Library of New Zealand
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Maori Language Commission
- Te Matatini
- Creative New Zealand / Te Waka Toi / Iwi radio
- TVNZ / Radio New Zealand / Maori Television
- Historic Places Trust
- Te Papa
- New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
- Kohanga reo / language nests / Kura kaupapa / wananga
- New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute
WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- New Zealand is not opposed to the Convention but is cautious

- Extensive public consultation required, particularly with Maori

- Broad agreement would need to be reached about how New Zealand approaches development of the inventory

- This work is planned but will require significant resources