

**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS IN PREPARATION OF THE REFLECTION YEAR ON
THE PERIODIC REPORTING MECHANISM OF THE 2003 CONVENTION**

Latin America and the Caribbean: 22 April 2025
Europe: 30 April 2025
Arab States: 13 May 2025
Africa: 20 May 2025
Asia and the Pacific: 27 May 2025

Concept note

1. Periodic reporting is one of the key safeguarding mechanisms under the 2003 Convention, requiring States Parties to regularly prepare reports about the measures taken for the implementation of this Convention. The mechanism itself has been reformed between 2017 and 2018 to enhance its quality, usefulness and timelines as well as to address the low submission rate experienced in its initial phase (Decision [12.COM 10](#)). In particular, the mechanism has been aligned with the overall results framework of the Convention in order to ensure that the process was clearly in line with the overarching goals of implementing the Convention (Resolution [7.GA 9](#)). A six-year regional reporting cycle was also established, including a year of reflection at the end (Decisions [13.COM 8](#) and [14.COM 8](#)).
2. For each region, the first cycle of periodic reporting took place or is taking place with the following schedule:
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 28 out of 32 States Parties (87.5%) submitted reports against the deadline of 15 December 2020; the Committee at its sixteenth session in 2021 examined them together with the preliminary '[analytical overview](#)' of these reports. At its seventeenth session in 2022 the Committee then examined the in-depth '[analytical report](#)' of periodic reports submitted from this region.
 - **Europe:** all 44 States Parties at that time (100%) submitted reports against the deadline of 15 December 2021; the Committee at its seventeenth session in 2022 examined them together with the preliminary '[analytical overview](#)' of these reports. At its eighteenth session in 2023 the Committee then examined the in-depth '[analytical report](#)' of periodic reports submitted from this region.
 - **Arab States:** all 18 States Parties at that time (100%) submitted reports against the deadline of 15 December 2022; the Committee at its eighteenth session in 2023 examined them together with the preliminary '[analytical overview](#)' of these reports. At its nineteenth session in 2024 the Committee then examined the in-depth '[analytical report](#)' of periodic reports submitted from this region.
 - **Africa (ongoing):** all 44 States Parties at that time (100%) submitted reports against the deadline of 15 December 2023; the Committee at its nineteenth session in 2024 examined them together with the preliminary '[analytical overview](#)' of these reports. At its session in 2025 the Committee will examine an in-depth '[analytical report](#)' of periodic reports submitted from this region.
 - **Asia and the Pacific (ongoing):** The periodic reports submitted against the deadline of 15 December 2024 will be examined by the Committee at its twentieth session in 2025 together with a preliminary '[analytical overview](#)' of these reports. At its twenty-first session in 2026 the Committee will examine an in-depth '[analytical report](#)' of periodic reports submitted from this region.
 - **Reflection year:** The year 2026 has been designated as a reflection year.
3. The overwhelmingly high submission rates across all regions were the results of the capacity building approach for periodic reporting. It involved a combination of online or presential meetings and trainings, as well as online follow-up sessions at the subregional and regional levels throughout the process until the submission deadline, complemented by a help desk support. Above all, Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO active in the field of intangible cultural heritage played a key role in all activities, as they facilitated or hosted the training in all regions.
4. As part of the preparation for the reflection year, a series of regional consultation meetings are planned in April and May 2025 in order to assess the outcomes, identify lessons learnt and address shortcomings of the periodic mechanism in general and its capacity-building approach in particular. These meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for country focal points for periodic reporting, as well as facilitators and Category 2 Centres under auspices of UNESCO who participated in the first regional cycle of reporting to share their experience and suggest

possible adjustments that could further improve the periodic reporting mechanism of the Convention.

5. In parallel, the Committee has endorsed that the periodic reporting mechanism move towards a single global submission system (starting on 30 June 2027 and every four years thereafter for all States Parties), common to the UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations, including to contribute to the development of the quadrennial Global Report on Cultural Policies as called for in the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration (Decision [18.COM 7.c](#) and Decision [19.COM 6.c](#)). The regional consultations in question are also meant to contribute to the preparation of these adjustments.
6. The calendar of the meetings is as follows:
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 22 April 2025 (3.00 – 6.00 p.m. Paris time)
 - **Europe:** 30 April 2025 (10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Paris time)
 - **Arab States:** 13 May 2025 (10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Paris time)
 - **Africa:** 20 May 2025 (10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Paris time)
 - **Asia and the Pacific:** 27 May 2025 (9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. Paris time)
7. Key components of the periodic reporting mechanism will be addressed during the consultation meetings along the following three topics:
 - a) **The capacity-building approach:**
 - Were the online training sessions useful/meaningful? What could be improved? What were the main positive points and challenges related to these sessions?
 - Was the presential training useful/meaningful? What could be improved? What were the main positive points and challenges related to the training?
 - Was the online subregional follow-up useful/meaningful? What could be improved? What were the main positive points and challenges related to these sessions?
 - b) **The periodic reporting form:** The form ICH-10 used during the first regional cycle of periodic reporting had been comprehensively reviewed to align it with the Convention's Overall Results Framework, its twenty-six core indicators and eighty-six assessment factors. The feedback gathered throughout the process points to the need of simplifying, adjusting and shortening the form by clarifying its vocabulary, as well as differentiating similarities and avoiding duplications in the questions asked.
 - What are the overall appreciations of the form ICH-10?
 - Are there any thematic areas of the form ICH-10 that were particularly challenging to fill in?
 - Did the types of questions offered by the questionnaire make it possible to fully reflect country's situation regarding the implementation of the 2003 Convention?
 - c) **The online platform:** periodic reports are completed and submitted in an online platform. Feedback will be sought on the accessibility and ease of use of the platform, its clarity, as well as on any technical issues that may have arisen.
 - Is the periodic reporting platform user-friendly?
 - What technical challenges experienced when drafting and submitting the online periodic reporting from through the reporting platform?
 - How to improve the access, understanding and use of the online platform?
8. Ahead of the regional consultation meetings, a short survey will be sent to the country focal points for periodic reporting, facilitators and Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO in

order to gather experiences and insights gained through the first regional cycle of periodic reporting.