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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Electronic consultation of the Bureau**

**20 to 23 January 2025**

**Item 1:**

**Election of the Chairperson of the twentieth session of the Committee**

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| **Decision required:** paragraph 6 |

1. According to Rules 12.1 and 13.1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee shall elect, at the end of each ordinary session, its Bureau, which consists of the Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. In electing the Bureau, the Committee shall have due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation and, in as much as possible, a balance among the various fields of intangible cultural heritage (Rule 13.4). However, no Chairperson was identified in time to be elected during the nineteenth session of the Committee.
2. Consequently, at the end of its nineteenth session, the Committee decided to suspend a part of Rule 13.1 to give the Bureau time to identify a Chairperson, and to elect the Chairperson of the Committee for its twentieth session from amongst the Vice-Chairpersons through electronic consultation by 31 January 2025 at the latest (Decision [19.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/19.COM/17)). With this process in mind, the Committee elected France, Slovakia, Barbados, India, Ethiopia and Mauritania as Vice-Chairpersons, as well as Ms Aysha Kamali (United Arab Emirates) as Rapporteur.
3. The Bureau is therefore requested to identify a Chairperson among the Vice-Chairpersons to be proposed to the Committee. The Committee will be asked to elect the Chairperson through an electronic exchange, taking into account the proposal of the Bureau.
4. On 18 January 2025, the Secretariat received an official communication from the national authorities of India proposing [H.E. Mr Vishal V. Sharma](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/67939-EN.pdf), Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO, as Chairperson of the twentieth session of the Committee. Consequently, the Bureau may wish to request that the Secretariat organize an electronic exchange of the Committee members in order to finalize the process in time for the above-mentioned deadline set by the nineteenth session of the Committee.
5. Pursuant to Decision [19.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/19.COM/16), the twentieth session of the Committee is scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India from 8 to 13 December 2025.
6. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 20.COM 1.BUR 1

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/25/20.COM 1.BUR/1 Rev.,
2. Recalling Decision [19.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/19.COM/17),
3. Decides to propose that the Committee elect H.E. Mr Vishal V. Sharma (India) as Chairperson of the twentieth session of the Committee, following the proposal by India, and understands that, with due regard to Rule 13.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the other members of the Bureau would include France, Slovakia, Barbados, Ethiopia and Mauritania as Vice-Chairpersons, as well as Ms Aysha Kamali (United Arab Emirates) as Rapporteur ;
4. Requests that the Secretariat organize an electronic exchange of the Committee members from 24 to 31 January 2025 to elect the Chairperson of the twentieth session of the Committee, taking into account the proposal of the Bureau.