**WHAT IS IT?**

Intangible cultural heritage includes practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills, as well as they are transmitted from generation to generation, as part of the cultural heritage. Passed down from generation to generation, it is constantly recreated by communities in response to environmental, social, and cultural changes. It provides them with a sense of identity and continuity.

**UNESCO’S ROLE**

Since it was adopted by the 31st session of the General Conference in 2003, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has undergone an extremely rapid ratification, with over 120 States Parties to the text of the Convention. In line with the Convention’s primary objective—to safeguard intangible cultural heritage—the UNESCO Secretariat has deployed a global support system, building capacity and helping states, and NGOs, to undertake projects, as well as to develop public awareness and support for the Convention’s concepts and principles. This strategy involves a long-term, multidimensional approach that involves many different stakeholders. UNESCO provides assistance in revising national policies and legislation, developing inventories and systems, and fostering the technical skills required to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

**THE INSCRIPTIONS**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) invites countries to nominate their intangible cultural heritage to be included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Convention’s primary objective— to safeguard intangible cultural heritage— is updated every year by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section.

**SUPPORTING THE CONVENTION**

The list of elements of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity can contribute financially and technically to State Parties in their efforts to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO provides assistance in revising policies and legislation, developing inventories and systems, and fostering the technical skills required to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION**

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund enables the UNESCO Secretariat to undertake projects that involve many different stakeholders, UNESCO provides assistance in revising policies and legislation, developing inventories and systems, and fostering the technical skills required to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

**THE FUND**

The Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is open to contributions individually or through financial institutions. In addition, contributions may be made by any individual or organization, from any country, and in any currency accepted by UNESCO. Contributions are used to undertake projects that involve many different stakeholders, UNESCO provides assistance in revising policies and legislation, developing inventories and systems, and fostering the technical skills required to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**

By supporting the Convention, you can help promote and safeguard the intangible cultural heritage. The Convention's primary objective— to safeguard intangible cultural heritage— is updated every year by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section.

**WHERE TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

All contributions should be made to UNESCO in one of the following ways:

- By cheque drawn on a bank in any of the 19 Member States of the International Monetary Fund.

**WHERE TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

If you would like to participate, please send a contribution.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

Swift code: SOGEFRPPAFS

10, rue Thénard

Paris Seine Amont

30003-03301-00037291909-97

Swift code:...

**United States of America**

4 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn

International Money Transfer Division

949-1-191558

**About the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is a legal instrument that affirms the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. It is a tool for the protection of cultural diversity, which is seen as a vital component of human rights. By adopting the Convention, States Parties commit to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and, second, to promote the arts and its contribution to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage.
The List of Intangible Cultural Heritages in Need of Urgent Safeguarding was inscribed on this list in 2012 by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity aims to ensure better visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and to raise awareness of its importance while encouraging dialogue that respects cultural diversity.

Twenty elements of intangible cultural heritage were inscribed on this list in 2012 by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.