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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**Online**

**8 March 2021**

**1 p.m. – 4 p.m. (UTC+2)**

**Item 4:**

**Election of the Chairperson of the sixteenth session of the Committee**

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| **Decision required:** paragraph 4 |

1. In accordance with Rules 12 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the Committee shall elect its Bureau, which consists of a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur at the end of each ordinary session. Yet, the particular circumstances related to the fifteenth session of the Committee, which took place online due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meant that the necessary consultations to identify a Chairperson could not be undertaken in time.
2. Consequently, the Committee at the end of the fifteenth session agreed to suspend part of Rule 13.1 to give the Bureau time to identify a Chairperson. The decision was to ‘elect the Chairperson of the Committee for its sixteenth session from amongst the Vice-Chairpersons through electronic consultation by 15 March 2021 at the latest’ ([Decision 15.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/12)). With this process in mind, the Committee elected Sweden, Czechia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee.
3. The Bureau is therefore requested to identify a Chairperson and propose him or her to the Committee. The Committee will then be asked to elect Chairperson through an electronic consultation, taking into account the proposal of the Bureau.
4. On 1st March 2021, the Secretariat received an official letter from the national authorities of Sri Lanka proposing Mr Punchinilame Meegaswatte, Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, as Chairperson for the sixteenth session of the Committee.
5. The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

**Draft Decision 16.COM 1.BUR 4**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/21/16.COM 1.BUR/4,
2. Recalling [Decision 15.COM](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/12)12,
3. Decides to propose that the Committee elect Mr Punchinilame Meegaswatte (Sri Lanka) as Chairperson of the sixteenth session of the Committee, following the proposal by Sri Lanka;
4. Requests that the Secretariat organize an electronic consultation with the Committee members from 9 to 15 March 2021 to elect the Chairperson of the sixteenth session of the Committee, taking into account the proposal of the Bureau.