

Expansion of the Global Network of Facilitators of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Call for Expression of Interest

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter 'UNESCO') is launching a call for expression of interest to become a member of the global network of facilitators to support the implementation of the capacity-building programme of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The General Conference of UNESCO adopted in 2003, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter 'the Convention'). Among UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture, the 2003 Convention is the first binding international instrument for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and a strong tool for promoting cultural diversity. Ratified by 180 States to date, the Convention has four primary goals: **safeguard** intangible cultural heritage (ICH) - or 'living heritage'; **ensure respect** for ICH of communities, groups, and individuals; **raise awareness** of ICH safeguarding at the local, national and international levels while ensuring mutual appreciation thereof; and, finally, **provide** international cooperation and assistance.

The Convention proposes a set of measures to be implemented by States Parties for the safeguarding of living heritage present on their territory. States that have ratified the Convention are expected to identify, define, and safeguard living heritage with the participation of communities, groups and individuals. They are also required to draw up and regularly update inventories of the intangible cultural heritage. Other safeguarding measures proposed by the Convention include awareness raising, capacity building, educational measures as well as strengthening institutional frameworks to help safeguard living heritage.

Capacity Building Programme and its Global Facilitators Network

To support States in building human and institutional capacities for safeguarding living heritage at national level, harness the potential of living heritage for sustainable development, and raise public awareness, UNESCO in 2009 put in place the [Global capacity-building programme](#). The Programme evolved over time and today aims to:

- DEVELOP community-based inventorying and safeguarding methods.
- SUPPORT States to effectively implement the Convention.
- INTEGRATE the safeguarding of ICH into sustainable development plans, policies and programmes at all levels.
- STRENGTHEN institutional frameworks to help safeguard ICH, and
- ENHANCE monitoring for the implementation of the Convention.

Under this Programme, UNESCO and its partners provide capacity building on the core actions for safeguarding living heritage and in various thematic areas. The core action include community-based inventorying, development of safeguarding plans, implementation of the Convention, nominations, international assistance, and periodic reporting. The number of thematic areas are closely linked to development challenges, such as gender, sustainable development, and disaster risk management. The Programme is demand driven, offering countries tailored capacity-building support through a combination of training, advisory services, stakeholder consultation, and pilot activities. These are being adapted to specific country needs and thematic areas, always with the view to ensuring the continued impact and sustainability of safeguarding measures in countries. The Programme delivery relies on UNESCO's [Global network of facilitators](#) - a network of experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage trained by UNESCO and familiar with the Convention and its capacity-building approaches and materials. The facilitators are recognized resource persons for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage under the Convention. They help make the link between the normative instrument and local actors to support the safeguarding of living heritage and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the ground. To know more about the Facilitators network and its mission, click [here](#).

With over 140 facilitators in the Network to date, the Programme has so far successfully supported over 350 capacity building processes in over 120 countries worldwide.

The next phase – expansion of the Global Facilitators Network

While the demand for capacity building in the core actions has been rising, the Programme has also made progress in developing and supporting new training needs. It has diversified its thematic scope to articulate linkages with development challenges and approaches as well as its delivery approaches to include online, hybrid and blended training formats.

As States Parties are requesting UNESCO to broaden the thematic scope to include more materials related to safeguarding ICH and sustainable development, there is also an equivalent need to strengthen the Facilitators Network to ensure that these new themes are effectively delivered, when requested by States. The Programme furthermore aims to provide countries with a choice of competent facilitators who have the geographic and country-specific knowledge on ICH safeguarding required to effectively contextualize and engage with the local stakeholders that request capacity-building services.

In order to meet the geographic and thematic needs of the Global capacity-building programme, UNESCO, through the current call for expression of interest, invites interested experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage to submit their application to join the Network based on the criteria and requirements detailed below. Following the selection process, shortlisted experts would then be requested to attend a series of trainings organized by UNESCO to get well versed with the Convention and its capacity-building programme and materials.

Aim of the Call

This call for expression of interest is issued by UNESCO to receive interest for joining the 2003 Convention's Global network of facilitators, perform, as required, technical assistance and deliver capacity-building activities in countries around the world.

Successful applicants should:

- be impartial and work for the interest of the Convention;
- be independent and work in their individual capacity, not as representatives of national governments or other groups;
- respect the Convention's Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- agree that their names, contact details and information concerning their professional profile and area of expertise, relevant to the capacity-building programme of the Convention, be included in a publicly available database managed by UNESCO;
- guarantee their availability to participate in an introductory online training workshop scheduled to take place in October 2022 and March 2023;
- ensure their commitment to undertake the necessary preparatory reading on topics related to the Convention and the global capacity building materials;
- confirm their availability to provide technical assistance/capacity-building services, if selected by a developing country in consultation with UNESCO.

Eligibility criteria

1 Background

Applicants have to have expertise and experience in the field of intangible cultural heritage. They may be independent experts/consultants, educators, university faculty, civil servants, governmental experts, cultural operators, members of cultural institutions or associations, researchers and/or exercise other relevant functions.

2. Educational profile

University degree in the social sciences, anthropology, education, international development, law or a field related to intangible cultural heritage OR a tertiary education diploma combined with extensive professional experience in the field of ICH (at least 8 to 10 years). Specialized training in issues related to intangible cultural heritage, community development or formal or non-formal education is an asset.

3. Professional experience

Applicants should comply with the following criteria:

Required

- at least 8 years of experience in the field of culture, development or in a relevant field
- at least 5 years of experience in supporting safeguarding ICH which may include providing: training, teaching, or advisory services

Desired

- experience in contributing to the implementation of the 2003 Convention
- experience in community-based approaches to safeguarding ICH
- involvement in supporting countries in integrating safeguarding of ICH into development policies, plans, or programmes
- experience of working in more than one country in the field of ICH

- experience of working at the junction of safeguarding living heritage and sustainable development

4. Language proficiency

Applicants should demonstrate good spoken and written knowledge of either English or French (UN working languages). Knowledge of additional languages, in particular languages of potential beneficiary countries and/or other UN official languages, is an asset.

Applications

- Application should be submitted electronically using the application form available at: <https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/56048-EN.pdf>
- If you experience difficulties downloading the application form, please contact the UNESCO Secretariat.
- On the application form, applicants must provide evidence that they possess the required skills and professional experience described in this call for expression of interest, and express reasons for their interest in being part of the Network.
- All application forms must be completed in either English or French, be accompanied by a Curriculum Vita (maximum 3 standard pages) and be sent via e-mail in PDF version to: ICH-capacity@unesco.org with a copy to g.joseph@unesco.org
- Applications must be received by the UNESCO Secretariat no later than **28 August 2022, midnight Paris time**.
- All applicants will be notified as to whether their applications have been approved.

Selection process

Experts, reflecting diverse profiles, experiences and geographical regions, will be selected to be included in the Facilitators Network, on the basis of the criteria outlined in this call for expression of interest and taking into account UNESCO's established priorities: Priority Africa, Gender Equality, SIDS as well as commitment to equitable geographical and gender balance.

Other information

The UNESCO Living Heritage Entity's Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit is in charge of this Global Call. If you have any questions, please contact us at ICH-capacity@unesco.org or g.joseph@unesco.org if you have any questions.

To know more about the 2003 Convention, visit: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/>