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

**Expert meeting in the framework of the reflection for a broader implementation of Article 18 of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**BREAKOUT GROUP REPORT**

**(Version 4 May 2023)**

**Topic 2 – Group B**

**Stockholm, Sweden**

**19 to 21 April 2023**

**Members**

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| **Topic 2: Towards the creation of an ‘observatory’ for sharing good safeguarding practices** |
| Overall aim and purpose of an online platform for sharing safeguarding practices* Different names were suggested such as platform, hub, interface or clearinghouse, however platform will be used in the report for clarity.
* Communication and dialogue within and between communities and relevant stakeholders should be the main priority and end goal of the online platform. In addition, the platform should provide easily available information on good safeguarding practices for interested audiences.
* The platform should have an overall function as a means of promoting the Register and Article 18 in its entirety, and create a greater interest in involvement in the article for States parties and other stakeholders.
* An additional overall idea is to connect the online platform closer to other articles such as Articles 19-21, and other parts of the Operational Directives that are connected to cooperation, creating favorable conditions for safeguarding, etc.

Particular issues that need to be taken into consideration when setting up such a platform:* There are various existing resources, groups, category 2 centres and networks available today that allow communities to discuss and share safeguarding practices and knowledge.
* Gathering such resources of communication on an official UNESCO website gives them a certain mark of approval.
* However, if such resources are to be gathered, even if they are only linked to, on the Convention website, this may be sensitive in relation to States parties.
* Experts raise concerns of the sustainability of such platforms unless carefully planned and sustained.

Plan for setting up the online platform:* The platform can be developed in different steps.
* According to the priorities of what the platform should consist of, the idea of a plan A and a plan B was launched.
* Plan A is the full interactive platform, with easily available means of sharing knowledge and communicating among communities and different actors through formal and informal channels.
* Plan B is to gather the already available resources related to good safeguarding practices found through the USL, the periodic reports etc.
* In order to establish the full online platform of plan A, gradual steps need to be taken.
* Step 1 would be to establish a platform according to plan B. In step 2, plan A is established.

Step 1/Plan B:* Step 1 can be broken down into different milestones, such as the points presented below, and plan B can be implemented gradually.
* The initial focus would be on formal sharing and existing formal channels of communication.
* Going into more detail, the platform in plan B would gather existing good safeguarding practices already part of the framework of the Convention. Such as:
	+ Existing Register programmes
	+ New good practices to add to the Register (nominated by States Parties)
	+ Transferred USL nominations identified by the Evaluation Body
	+ Good safeguarding plans in other nominations (USL/RL) responding to Evaluation Body comments (follow up mechanisms)
	+ Examples from the periodic reports – identified by the analytical team
	+ International assistance projects
* The current forms for the register and the lists could be modified in order to easily access information on good safeguarding practices.
* A microsite on the Convention website could be used to present the platform.
* An advisory body would be set up consisting of representatives of actors within the framework of the convention such as:
* Community representatives,
* NGO forum,
* UNESCO chairs,
* Researchers, etc.
* The advisory board would have the responsibility to draw out guidelines and have an advisory capacity to the secretariat. They would also give additional credibility to the platform.
* The technical team would find the resources and organize them and tag them for search. They would be appointed in compliance with OD 6, representing the needs of developing countries. Category 2 centers may play a role in assisting the technical team.
* The option of tagging safeguarding practices combined with the overall results framework could form a basic structure for the platform.
* Survey stakeholders on how they would like to use such a platform, and what information should be available. Stakeholders are already used in UNESCO surveys and focal points for periodic reporting.
* Add a calendar of events linked to safeguarding which actors can apply to be part of.
* A global online ICH Forum would be available to discuss urgent issues and key problems that address the needs of developing countries such as climate change, over-commercialization and safeguarding of ICH in urban contexts.
* Formal updating of the safeguarding practices presented on the platform would be connected to the periodic reporting.

Step 2/Plan A:* If plan B and the initial steps are successful, plan A can be gradually implemented.
* In implementing plan A, the informal channels of communication would be developed further and additional information and safeguarding practices would be made available, such as:
	+ Other examples identified by community representatives relating to elements inscribed on the Lists (plus declaration of consent)
	+ Identified practices linking to the research database – summarized by the technical team.
	+ Case studies from capacity-building materials and other UNESCO studies
	+ Updates on safeguarding measures and programs (see below)
	+ Matchmaking for issues and solutions, and requests for support.
	+ Methodologies and tools for safeguarding
	+ Media: podcasts, interviews etc.
* The existing networks of communication of good safeguarding practices would be gathered and shared.
* More options to communicate in the local language of the community would be available at this step.
* Communities should be able to update practices in a more informal manner, however, this would not be obligatory but an option as needed.
* Overall, the platform should be user-friendly in order to invite and encourage communities to participate in different ways.
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