



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Creativity
Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

Permanent Delegations of the States
Parties to the Convention for the
Safeguarding of the Intangible
Cultural Heritage

6 March 2018

Ref.: CLT/CRE/ITH/18/077

Dear Ambassador,

I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will hold its seventh session from 4 to 6 June 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters (Room II). An official invitation letter to this session will be sent under separate cover.

One of the tasks of the General Assembly will be to renew half of the States Members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Article 6.4 of the Convention). The twelve States whose mandates will expire in June 2018 are:

Group I: Turkey;
Group II: Bulgaria, Hungary;
Group III: Saint Lucia;
Group IV: Afghanistan, India, Mongolia, Republic of Korea;
Group V(a): Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia;
Group V(b): Algeria.

The remaining States Members of the Committee are:

Group I: Austria, Cyprus;
Group II: Armenia;
Group III: Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala;
Group IV: Philippines;
Group V(a): Mauritius, Senegal, Zambia;
Group V(b): Lebanon, Palestine.

Pursuant to paragraph (ii) of Rule 13.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, 24 Committee seats shall be distributed among electoral groups in proportion to the number of States Parties from each electoral group, provided that at least three seats are attributed to each group.

As you may know, in accordance with its Article 34, the Convention enters into force for a State Party three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. At the time of the election of the members of the Committee on 6 June 2018, 177 States will be party to the Convention.

The General Assembly will first have to agree on the distribution of the 24 Committee seats and, consequently, to determine the distribution of the twelve vacant seats. In conformity with Resolution 3.GA 12, the geographical distribution of seats in the Committee is determined by mathematical calculation on the basis of 177 States as follows:

Electoral group	States Parties	Seats	Vacant seat
I	22	2.98 (3)	1
II	24	3.25 (3)	2
III	32	4.34 (4)	1
IV	39	5.29 (5)	4
V(a)	42	5.70 (6)	3
V(b)	18	2.44 (3)	1
Total	177	24	12

In conformity with Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat by 23 April 2018 whether your country intends to stand for election to the Committee. Please note that all correspondence should be sent to the Secretariat of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: CLT/CRE/ITH, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07, France, email: ichmeetings@unesco.org.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the following two articles of the Convention. Article 6.6 stipulates that a 'State Member of the Committee may not be elected for two consecutive terms'. Article 26.5 provides that 'any State Party to this Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the Committee'; and according to that same article, 'the term of office of any such State which is already a Member of the Committee shall come to an end at the time of the elections'.

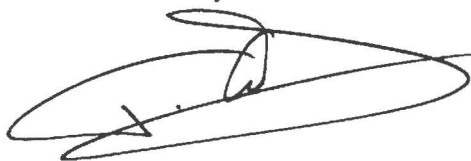
Moreover, in accordance with Rule 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, a provisional list of candidates, which will be revised as necessary, will be provided to all States Parties at least four weeks prior to the opening of the seventh session of the General Assembly. At the same time, updated information will also be provided on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage made by each of the candidates. In accordance with Rule 14.4, the list of candidatures will be finalized three working days prior to the opening of the General Assembly; and no candidature will be accepted in the three working days preceding the opening of the Assembly.

Please note, with reference to Rule 14.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, that no payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted later than a week before the opening of the Assembly.

If you have already submitted your candidature and received a confirmation of receipt from the Secretariat there is no need to act on this circular letter.

For all information related to the General Assembly, I invite you to consult the website of the Convention at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/7ga> that will be regularly updated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' with a horizontal line through it, and a smaller 'T' to the left.

Tim Curtis
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of
the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

cc: National Commissions of the States Parties concerned