

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

16 July 2025 - Online



Item 1: Opening



Objectives of the meeting

- 1 Share information on latest developments under the 2003 Convention
- 2 Update on the C2Cs status and renewal processes
- 3 Information sharing on recent activities and future plans by C2Cs
- 4 Reflect on the role of C2Cs in the periodic reporting mechanism of the 2003 Convention



Recent developments under the 2003 Convention

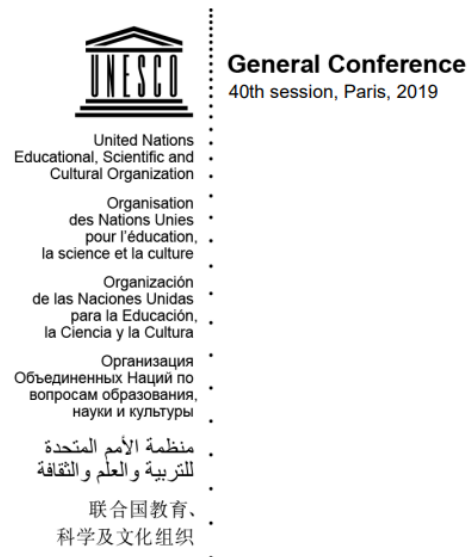
- New ratifications
- Training of facilitators
- Article 18 platform
- Thematic initiatives
- Naples 2 conference
- 20.COM



Item 2: Status of the evaluation process of category 2 centers and renewal of agreements between host countries and UNESCO



Global Strategy for C2Cs under the auspices of UNESCO (2019)



General Conference
40th session, Paris, 2019

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40 C/79
12 November 2019
Original: English

Item 5.35 of the agenda

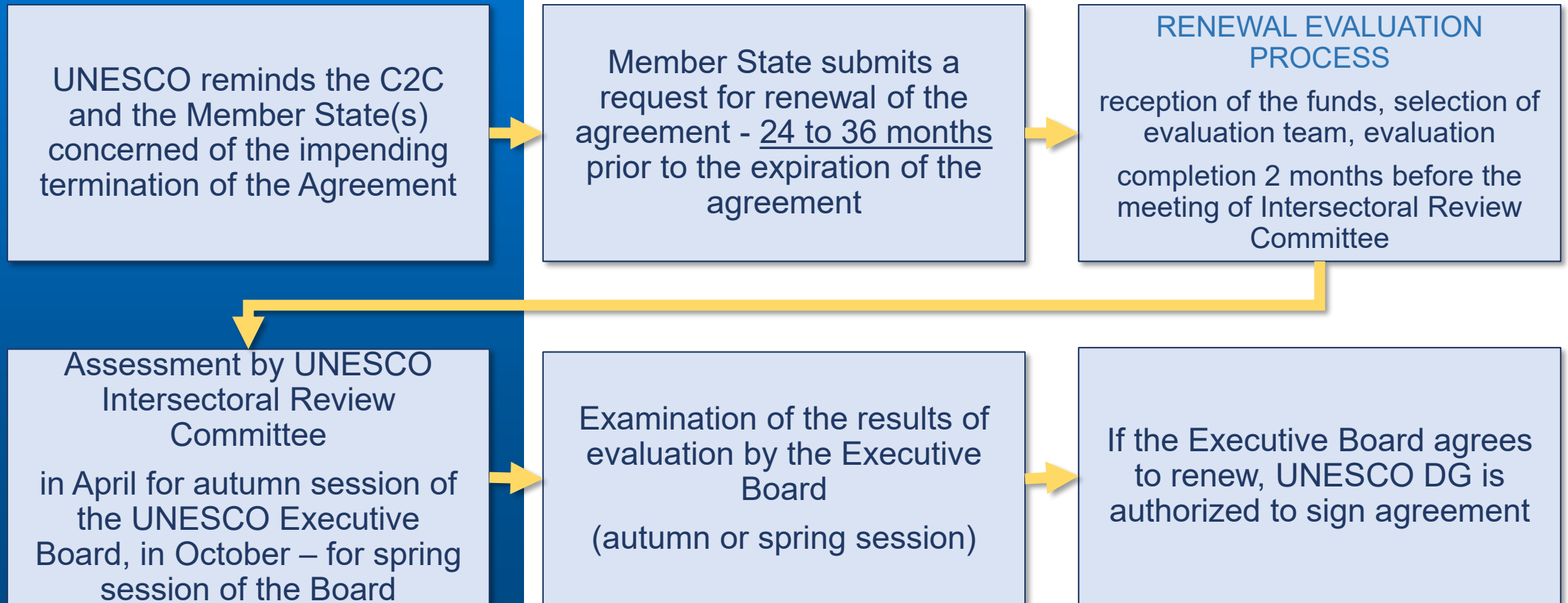
STRATEGY FOR CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (2019)

OUTLINE

Background: At its 207th session, the Executive Board adopted 207 EX/Decision 14 which requested the Director-General to further revise the Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (2019) taking into account the debates held during its 207th session, and the management proposals in Annex I to document 207 EX/14 Rev. and Corr., and to submit the draft revised Strategy and the associated model agreements to the General Conference at its 40th session for its consideration and adoption.



Renewal of C2Cs



Agreements and renewals

Category 2 centre in the field of ICH	Agreement			Renewal process		
	Latest agreement signed on	Date of entry into force	Date of expiry	Renewal evaluation	Assessment by intersectoral review Committee	<u>Targeted</u> Executive Board session for examination and approval
CRESPIAF	July 2025 (signing stage)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
RCSICH (Sofia Centre)	11 November 2023	28 May 2024	28 May 2032	2029/2030	May 2031	Autumn session 2031
CRIHAP	16 August 2018	16 August 2018	15 August 2024 (Extension granted until 31 December 2025)	2023	May 2025	Autumn session 2025
Tehran Centre	3 April 2021	19 July 2023	18 July 2029	2027/28	October 2028	Spring session 2029
IRCI	6 December 2018	6 Dec 2018	5 December 2024 (Extension granted until 31 December 2025)	2024	May 2025	Autumn session 2025
CRESPIAL	12 June 2024	30 December 2024	29 December 2032	2029/2030	May 2031	Autumn session 2031
ICHCAP	11 October 2019	3 Dec 2019	2 December 2025	2024	October 2025	Spring session 2026 [NB Autumn session 2025 request for extension 31 December 2026)
ICCBICH (Sharjah)	8 December 2021	8 Dec 2021	7 December 2027	2025/2026	May 2027	Autumn session 2027

Item 3: Information sharing on recent activities and future plans



5-minute Break

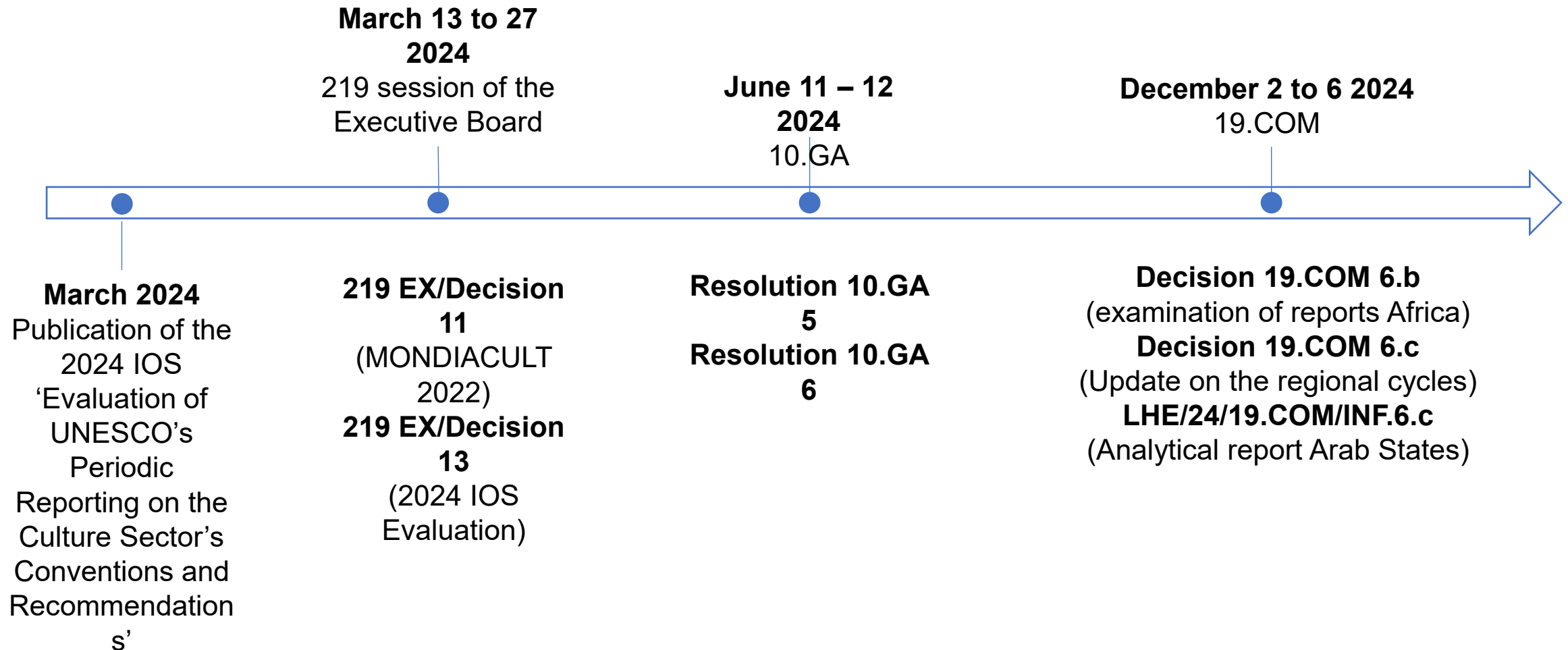


Item 4: The role of category 2 centres in the periodic reporting mechanism of the 2003 Convention

Updates on the move towards a global single submission system



Towards the reflection year: milestones 2024

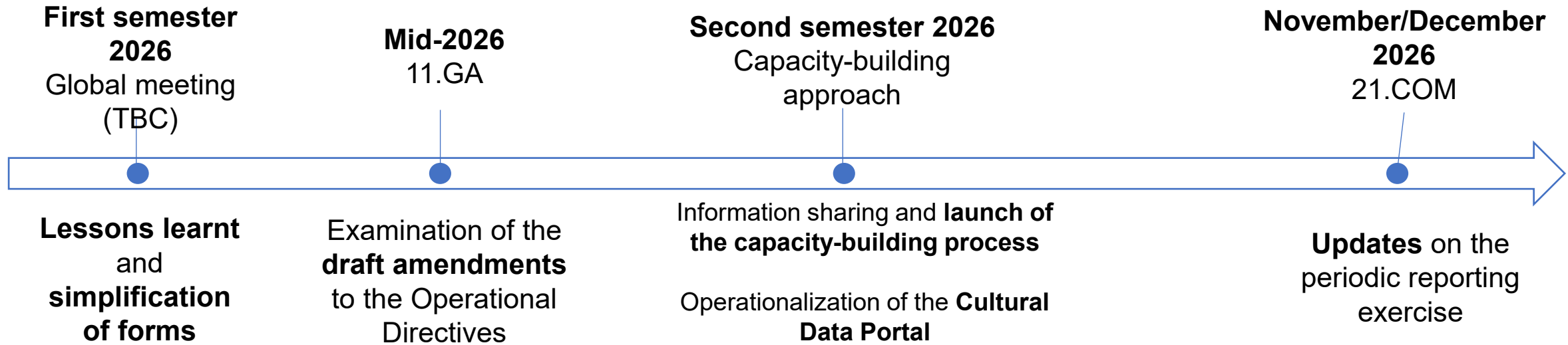


Towards the reflection year: milestones 2025

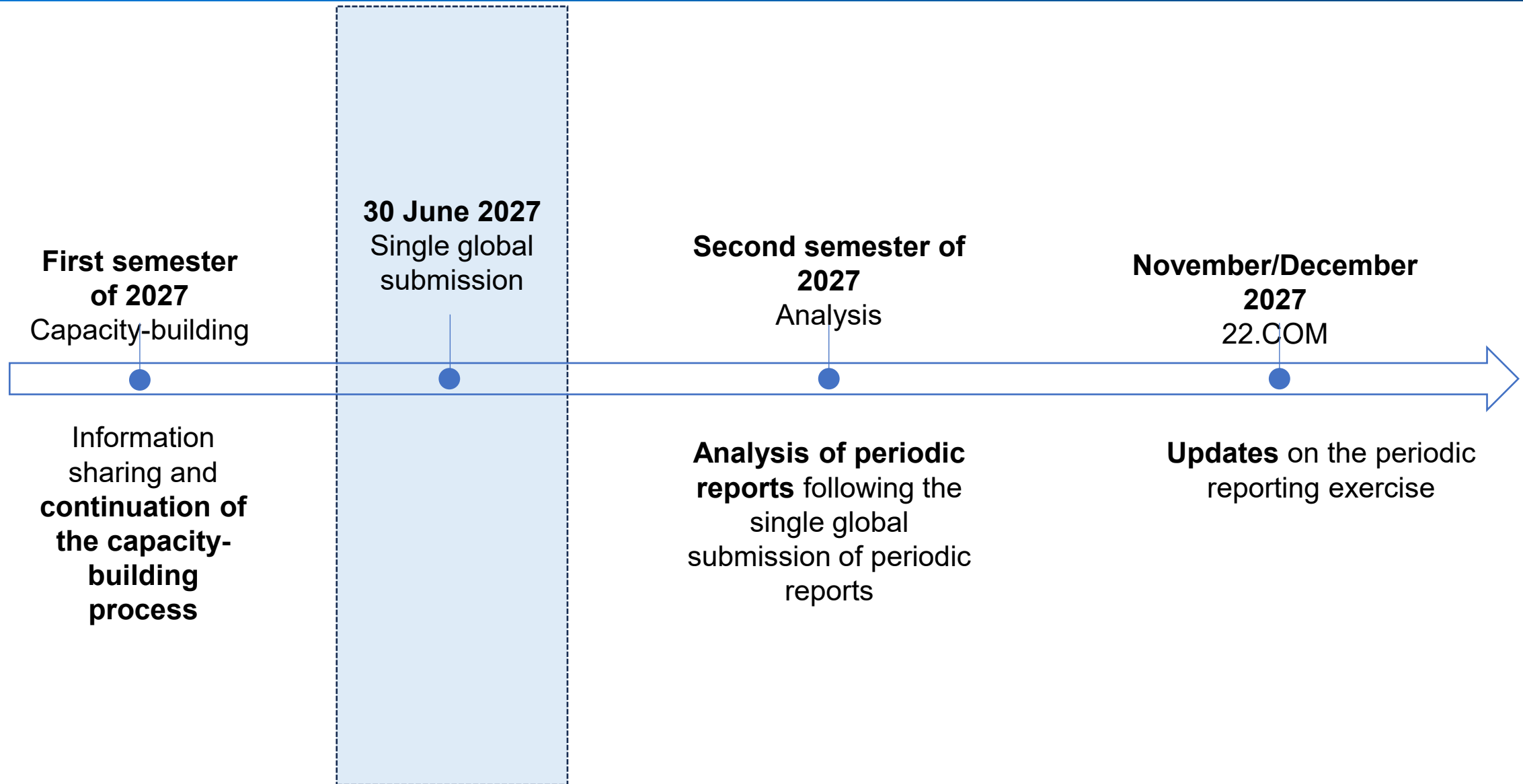


Reflection year: milestones 2026

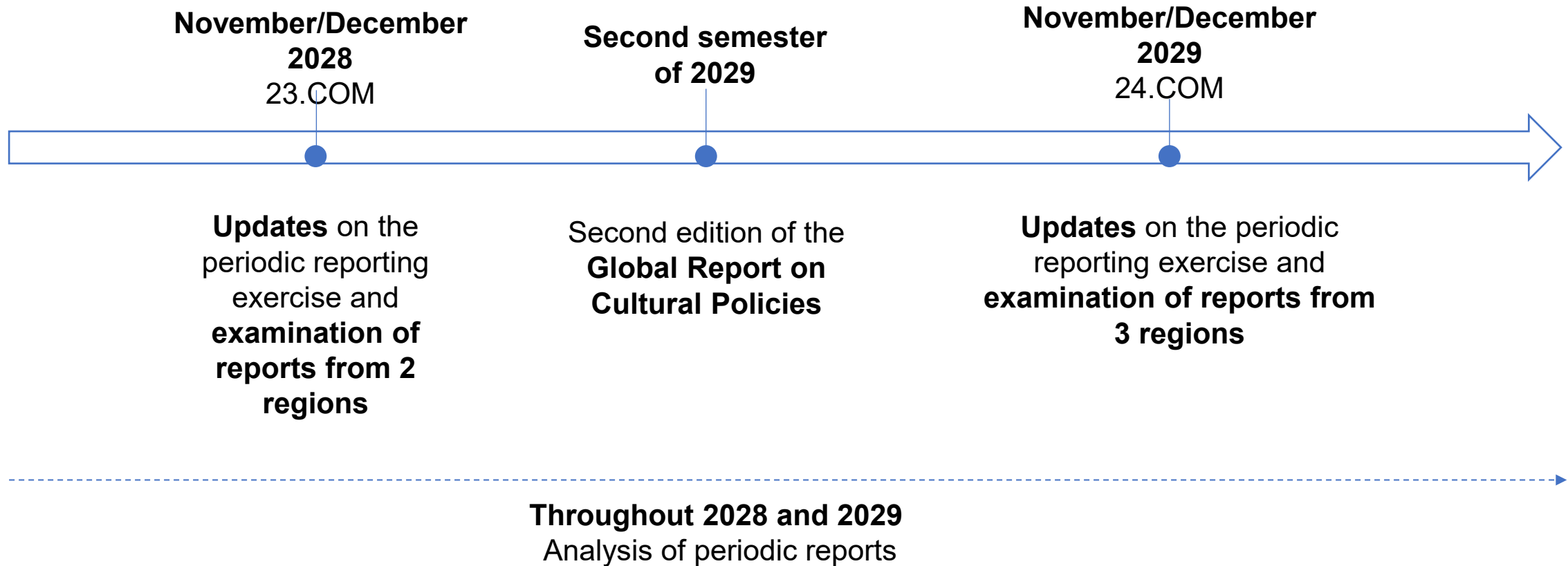
- The results of the work conducted in 2025 (regional consultations and review of the periodic reporting form) will provide valuable inputs for the reflection year (2026), during which a **global face-to-face meeting** is foreseen to review proposed changes to the periodic reporting form ICH-10.
- The rationalization process will conclude with the **examination of the draft amendments** to the Operational Directives by the eleventh session of the **General Assembly in mid-2026**, following their examination by the twentieth session of the Committee.



New cycle: 2027



New cycle: 2028 and 2029



Preliminary results of the regional consultation meetings on periodic reporting in preparation for the reflection year



Objectives and overview

Between April and May 2025, the Secretariat organized **five regional consultations** to gather feedback from focal points, Category 2 Centres and living heritage experts on the implementation of the first regional cycle of reporting.

290 participants attended the meetings,

sharing experiences in view of enhancing the capacity-building approach for periodic reporting, the form ICH-10 and the online reporting platform.

A **survey** was shared prior to the meetings, through which **66 responses** were collected.

Participation breakdown

- **61 participants** from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **80 participants** from Europe.
- **37 participants** from the Arab States.
- **51 participants** from Africa.
- **61 participants** from Asia and the Pacific.

Preliminary results: capacity-building approach

The **capacity-building approach** for country focal points and facilitators **was acknowledged to be useful** to prepare them undertaking the periodic reporting exercise. The assessment of the combination of different **capacity-building formats** (online and face-to-face) was also positive (particularly the online training sessions).

Key insights include:

1. The usefulness of both **online and face-to-face training**, underlining the importance of **practical exercises**.
2. The development of additional training materials, such as **materials to raise awareness** on the importance of the periodic reporting exercise at the national level, as well as **tutorials and examples** to fill the form ICH-10 and how to use the online reporting tool.
3. The organization of **national capacity-building activities** and **tailored online follow-up sessions**, to fill **knowledge gaps**, encourage **wider stakeholders' participation** and **foster advocacy**.
4. The creation of **regional networks of peers**.



Preliminary results: form ICH-10 and online reporting platform

The **complexity and length** of form ICH-10 has been highlighted in multiple occasions. These features have sometimes unveiled the **limited availability** of information and **measurable data** on living heritage and **limited inter-ministerial dialogue** at the national level. At the same time, the form was recognized as a **valuable tool** to **encourage data gathering** and **cross-sectoral cooperation**, as well as to **conduct research** on intangible cultural heritage.

Key insights include:

1. The **simplification and/or deletion** of redundant questions, including through a **reorganization of the questions** in the form.
2. The use of a **clearer and simpler language**, and the development of a specific **glossary**.
3. The absence of a space to **update nomination files** and to report on the practices proposed for the **Register of Good Safeguarding Practices**.
4. The inclusion in Section C of a specific section to encourage collaboration between States Parties to **report jointly on multinational nominations**.
5. The inconsistencies of the **automatic baseline calculator**.



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Preliminary results: engagement of Category 2 Centres

Category 2 Centres active in the field of intangible cultural heritage have played a key role in supporting capacity-building activities on periodic reporting throughout the cycle. However, the regional consultations have underlined the need for a **better coordination** with and a **strengthened engagement of Category 2 Centres** before, during and after the submission of periodic reports.

Key insights include:

1. The willingness to provide **tailored technical assistance** and **mentoring programmes**, as well as to organize **workshops to share experiences**.
2. The need to **reinforce communication channels** with UNESCO to improve coordination.
3. The possibility to put in place **peer review mechanisms** to strengthen reporting.
4. The possibility to contribute to the **analysis of periodic reports** or develop **thematic studies**.



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Way forward: towards a strengthened role of Category 2 Centres

The ongoing move towards a single global submission date of periodic reports, starting from **30 June 2027** and every four years thereafter, requires the **careful planning of financial and human resources** to enable the implementation of **targeted capacity-building activities** and **relevant periodic reports analysis**.

In this process the **networks and contacts** built during the first regional cycle of reporting **shall be privileged** as well as collaboration with the other Culture Conventions.

Category 2 Centres could play, once again, a vital role in the different phases of the periodic reporting process.

Capacity building and networking

Co-design, organize and host regional and subregional training activities

Contribute to updating existing capacity-building materials

Develop additional tools and guidelines to support training and awareness raising

Encourage the creation of regional and subregional networks and dialogue spaces for peer learning

Analysis of periodic reports and thematic studies

Support the qualitative and quantitative analysis of periodic reports

Develop thematic studies in line with regional and subregional trends

Promote the dissemination of analytical findings at the regional and subregional level



Item 5: Closing

