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Intangible Cultural Heritage

Information and exchange meeting

Twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for
the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

23 October 2025

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Room XI

PART I – Twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee



Women wearing regional variations of the chaniya-choli while performing Garba
Photograph : Malay Dalal
© Utpala Desai, India, 2017

Dedicated webpage:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/20com>



Date and place

- From Monday 8 to Saturday 13 December 2025
- Opening ceremony on Sunday 7 December 2025
- Venue: Red Fort, New Delhi, Republic of India

PART I – Twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee

Twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Accreditation of NGOs  Review of NGOs  Calendar of events  Press resources 

[[page:01391]] 

Meetings

20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee

 08/12/2025 - 13/12/2025

 New Delhi (India)

The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place **from Monday 8 to Saturday 13 December 2025 in New Delhi, India**. The session will be chaired by H.E. Mr Vishal V. Sharma, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO.

An **information and exchange meeting** will be held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on **23 October 2025** to present the working methods of the Committee as well as practical information concerning this session. This information and exchange meeting will also be broadcast live on the 20.COM webpage.

Registration:
[Click here to register](#) 



Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
[Read more on the element](#)

© West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur,
Rajasthan, 2009

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/20com>



20.COM Information and exchange meeting

Sessions and participants

- Daily sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (break between 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) except on Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
- General Information Document (INF.1) provides practical information on accommodation, visas and transportation
- Open to observers from States Parties, States not party, intergovernmental organizations, accredited NGOs, category 2 centres, etc.

Sessions and participants

- Participation costs for representatives from developing States, (Members of the Committee or not) and accredited NGOs from developing countries may be covered by the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (subject to availability of funds).
- One request for one expert per State Party or accredited NGO shall be considered for such assistance from the Fund: ‘...only for persons who are experts in intangible cultural heritage’ (Rule 5.4, Rules of Procedure of the Committee).

Working languages

- ‘The working languages of the Committee shall be English and French’ (Rule 41.1, Rules of Procedures of the Committee).
- Spanish interpretation provided through the support from the Kingdom of Spain

Role of the Committee

- Defined under Article 7 of the Convention
- Gives recommendations to the General Assembly on issues such as:
 - Drafting Operational Directives
 - Use of resources of the Fund
 - Accreditation of NGOs, etc.
- Inscribes elements on the Lists (Urgent Safeguarding List, Representative List), selects Good Safeguarding Practices and grants International Assistance when submitted with nominations.

The Intergovernmental Committee

- Composed of 24 States Parties.
- Elected by the General Assembly respecting the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- For a term of four years; every two years the General Assembly renews half of the members.

Committee Members

Group I

France	2024-2028
Germany	2022-2026
Spain	2024-2028

Group II

Slovakia	2022-2026
Ukraine	2024-2028
Uzbekistan	2022-2026

Group III

Barbados	2024-2028
Dominican Republic	2024-2028
Haiti	2024-2028
Paraguay	2022-2026

Committee Members

Group IV

Bangladesh	2022-2026
China	2024-2028
India	2022-2026
Malaysia	2022-2026
Viet Nam	2022-2026

Group V(a)

Angola	2022-2026
Burkina Faso	2022-2026
Ethiopia	2022-2026
Nigeria	2024-2028
Uganda	2024-2028
Zambia	2024-2028

Group V(b)

Algeria	2024-2028
Mauritania	2022-2026
United Arab Emirates	2024-2028

Bureau

- Chairperson: H.E. Mr Vishal V. Sharma (India)
- Vice-Chairpersons: France, Slovakia, Barbados, Ethiopia and Mauritania
- Rapporteur: Ms Aysha Kamali (United Arab Emirates)

Documents

- Working documents (LHE/25/20.COM/X): request a decision by the Committee
- Information documents (LHE/25/20.COM/INF.X): do not require any decision
- Numbered according to the item on the agenda
- Nominations, requests and reports are also available through the website

Will be published online by:

- 10 November (all items except 6.c, 8, 13, 14, 16)
- 24 November (items 6.c, 8, 13, 14, 16)

Webpage

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/20com>

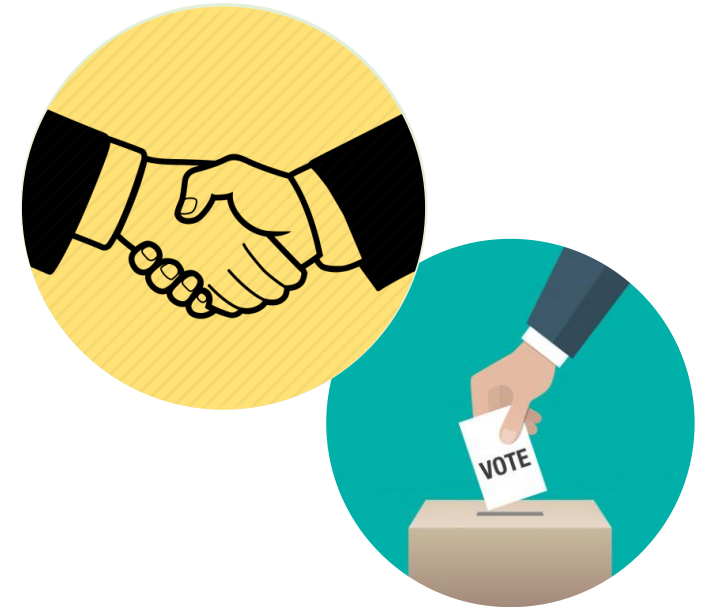
- Working documents
- Information documents
- Reports on the status of the elements inscribed on the USL
- Reports on the implementation of the Convention by States Parties in Asia and the Pacific
- Nominations, requests and proposals
- NGO accreditation requests and reports

Order of debate

- Only speakers recognized by Chairperson may have the floor.
 -  Speakers are asked to limit their interventions.
The Chairperson has the right to use a timer if he deems it necessary.
- Only Committee Members may intervene during the adoption of decisions.
- Representatives of a State Party, whether or not a Member of the Committee, shall not speak to advocate the inclusion in the Lists, but only to provide information in reply to questions raised (Rule 22.4, Rules of Procedure of the Committee).

Decision-making

- Consensus is privileged
- In case of voting:
 - Each State Member has one vote
 - Decisions by a simple majority (13 out of 24)
 - Some by a two-third majority (16 out of 24)
 - Amendment or suspension to the Rules of Procedure
 - Convening an extraordinary Committee session
 - Amending, deleting or adding items to the agenda



Amendments

- To be submitted by Committee members to ICH-amendments@unesco.org
- Please indicate the name of your country.
- The form will be available on the 20.COM webpage.

PART II – Agenda and timetable of the twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee



A traditional chaniya-choli (skirt and blouse) worn by women for Garba
© Moving Pixels Pvt. Ltd., India, 2022

Monday, 8 December 2025

MORNING

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|---|---------|
| 1 | Opening |
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| 2 | Adoption of the agenda |
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| 3 | Observers |
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| 4 | Adoption of the summary records of the nineteenth session of the Committee |
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| | Report by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Bureau activities |
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| 5 | Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January 2024 to June 2025) |
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Monday, 8 December 2025

AFTERNOON

5

Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January 2024 to June 2025)

6

Periodic reporting

6.a

Examination of the reports by States Parties on the current status of elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

Tuesday, 9 December 2025

MORNING

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- 6.b** Examination of the reports of the regional cycle of periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by States Parties in Asia and the Pacific
-
- 6.c** Update on the regional cycles of the Convention's periodic reporting and proposal for related amendments to the Operational Directives
-
- 7.** Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2025 (Part I)
-

Tuesday, 9 December 2025

AFTERNOON

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- 7.a** Examination of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
-
- 7.b** Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
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Wednesday, 10 December 2025

MORNING AND AFTERNOON

7.b Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Thursday, 11 December 2025

MORNING

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| 7.b | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
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| 7.c | Examination of requests for transfer of elements from one list to the other |
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| 7.d | Examination of proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices |
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Thursday, 11 December 2025

AFTERNOON

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- 7** Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2025 (Part II)
 - 8** Treatment of files for the listing mechanisms of the Convention
 - 9** Follow-up on elements inscribed on the Lists of the Convention
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Friday, 12 December 2025

MORNING

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| 10 | Report on International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund |
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| 11 | Broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention |
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| 12 | Thematic initiatives on living heritage and sustainable development |
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Friday, 12 December 2025

AFTERNOON

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| 13 | Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues |
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| 14 | Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2026 and 2027 |
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| 15 | Report of the non-governmental organizations forum |
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Saturday, 13 December 2025

MORNING

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| 16 | Accreditation of new non-governmental organizations and review of accredited non-governmental organizations |
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| 17 | Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2026 cycle (Part I) |
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| 18 | Date and place of the twenty-first session of the Committee |
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| 19 | Election of the members of the Bureau of the twenty-first session of the Committee |
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Saturday, 13 December 2025

AFTERNOON

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| 20 | Report by the Committee to the General Assembly on its activities (January 2024 to December 2025) |
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| 17 | Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2026 cycle (Part II) |
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| 21 | Other business |
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| 22 | Adoption of the list of decisions |
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| 23 | Closure |
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Working methods

- Adoption of decisions for nominations without debate if no amendment (Item 7)
- ‘Working agreement’ (Item 7)
- Distribution of amendments via a mailing list (for all items)



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