Call for Expressions of Interest

The Living Heritage Entity of the UNESCO Culture Sector is looking for a research institution to contribute to the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the periodic reports that were submitted by States in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is 16 June 2021 (the expected starting date for the work is 1 July 2021, with all the tasks to be completed by 24 September 2021).

Context

In the framework of the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter ‘the 2003 Convention’), a new periodic reporting mechanism has been launched in 2020 for the reporting on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and on the status of elements of intangible cultural heritage that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (hereinafter ‘the Representative List’).

The reformed periodic reporting system is now aligned with the Overall results framework for the 2003 Convention and follows a system of regional rotation. According to the calendar for the first regional cycle of reporting, States Parties to the 2003 Convention belonging to Latin America and the Caribbean region (a total of 32) were the first to submit their periodic reports through an online reporting form, which includes around 100 questions related to safeguarding at the national level. To date, 27 periodic reports have been submitted (out of a total of 32 expected).

These reports, in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, will be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter ‘the Committee’), which will take place between 13 and 18 December 2021 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. To this end, the Living Heritage Entity will be undertaking a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the periodic reports that were submitted, in collaboration with a research institution that is specialized in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Work Assignment

In close consultation with the Programme Management Unit of the Living Heritage Entity, the contractor shall:

1. Set up a research team with members who have the required experience, competence and skills to undertake the assignment (see below, ‘Qualifications required’);

2. Assess the data and information from the twenty-seven (27) periodic reports submitted by States Parties in the Latin America and Caribbean region (considered as the periodic reports of the 2021 cycle) – a total number of around 3500 pages of reports;
3. Cross-analyze the reports, in accordance with the 26 core indicators and the 84 assessment factors that were established under the Overall results framework of the 2003 Convention;

4. Conduct an in-depth analysis of the reports and provide general observations and key analytical findings across the reports of the 2021 cycle, as well as the common trends and challenges among the States Parties in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage;

5. Draft an analytical report ensuring accuracy, quality and coherence that presents the key findings, outlined according to the eight thematic areas in the Overall Results Framework of the 2003 Convention, as follows:
   i) Institutional and human capacities; ii) Transmission and education; iii) Inventorying and research; iv) Policies as well as legal and administrative measures; v) Role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society; vi) Awareness raising; vii) Engagement of communities, groups and individuals as well as other stakeholders; viii) International engagement;

6. The report should also include findings on the relevance and alignment of the safeguarding actions/measures in the reports with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their specific targets, as well as recommendations on the effectiveness of the periodic reporting mechanism as a monitoring and reporting tool for the 2003 Convention.

Qualifications required

The applicant shall have the following qualifications:

- Excellent knowledge about the 2003 Convention and its periodic reporting mechanism;
- Demonstrated strong research experience in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation in the fields of cultural heritage, cultural policies, and other related fields, including knowledge of different methodologies, data analysis, report writing and data visualization (basic tables, graphs and charts);
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English.

How to apply?

Interested candidates should send their expression of interest to carry out these tasks, including the following information:

- A brief letter of intention referred to the above-mentioned activity, with a description of the institutional set up/ team environment relevant for undertaking the consultancy work
- An indication of expectations regarding the fees to carry out the consultancy work

All documents have to be sent with the institution’s heading letter.

Expressions of interest should reach UNESCO by 16 June 2021.

Please send your proposals to ich-reports@unesco.org, with a copy to Ms Doyun Lee (d.lee@unesco.org), UNESCO Living Heritage Entity.