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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
 SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room VIII**

**3 October 2017, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

**DECISION 12.COM 4.BUR 2**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/2 and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its meeting as annexed to that Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Provisional agenda of the fourth meeting of the 12.COM Bureau**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda item | |  | Document |
| 1. | Opening |  |  |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda |  | ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/2 |
| 3. | Adoption of the provisional timetable of the twelfth session of the Committee |  | ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/3 |
| 4. | Examination of an emergency assistance request for International Assistance |  | ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/4 |
| 5. | Examination of a request for preparatory assistance for nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List |  | ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/5 |
| 6. | Other business |  |  |
| 7. | Closure |  |  |

**DECISION 12.COM 4.BUR 3**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/3,
2. Takes note of the provisional agenda of the twelfth session of the Committee;
3. Submits to the Committee the provisional timetable of its work at its twelfth session, as annexed to this Decision.

**ANNEX**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday, 4 December 2017** | | | |
| As of 8.30 a.m. | Registration of participants | | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 1. | Opening | |
|  | 2. | Adoption of the agenda | |
|  | 3. | Observers | |
|  | 4. | Adoption of the summary records of the eleventh session of the Committee | |
|  |  | Report of the Chairperson of the Committee on the Bureau activities | |
|  |  | Report of the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum | |
|  | 5.b | Report by the Secretariat on its activities | |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m | 6. | Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund | |
|  | 7. | Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2018–2019 | |
|  | 8.a | Reports of States Parties on the use of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund | |
| **Tuesday, 5 December 2017** | | | |
| 9 – 9.30 a.m. |  | Meeting of the Bureau | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 8.b | Examination of the reports of States Parties 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 | |
|  | 8.c | Examination of the reports of States Parties on the current status of elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding | |
|  | 9. | Draft overall results framework for the Convention | |
|  | 10. | Draft amendments to the Operational Directives on periodic reporting | |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 11. | Report of the Evaluation Body on its work in 2017 | |
|  | 11.a | Examination of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding | |
|  | 11.b | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity | |
| **Wednesday, 6 December 2017** | | | |
| 9 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 11.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 11.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| **Thursday, 7 December 2017** | | | |
| 9 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 11.b | | Examination of nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 11.c | | Removal of an element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and its transfer to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity |
|  | 11.d | | Examination of requests for International Assistance |
|  | 11.e | | Examination of proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices |
| **Friday, 8 December 2017** | | | |
| 9 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 12. | | Procedures to facilitate dialogue between the Evaluation Body and the submitting State(s) |
|  | 13. | | Report of the informal ad hoc working group |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 14. | | Reflection on the removal of an element from a List and the transfer of an element from one List to the other |
|  | 15. | | Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies |
|  | 16. | | Follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's 'Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities' (Document 38C/23) |
| **Saturday, 9 December 2017** | | | |
| 9 – 9.30 a.m. |  | | Meeting of the Bureau |
| 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | 17. | | Accreditation of new non-governmental organizations and review of accredited non-governmental organizations |
|  | 18. | | Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2018 cycle |
|  | 19. | | Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee |
|  | 20. | | Election of the members of the Bureau of the thirteenth session of the Committee |
| 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. | Lunch | | |
| 2.30 – 5.30 p.m. | 21. | | Other business |
|  | 5.a | | Report by the Committee to the General Assembly on its activities  (January 2016 to December 2017) |
|  | 22. | | Adoption of the list of decisions |
|  | 23. | | Closure |

**DECISION 12.COM 4. BUR 4**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Further recalling paragraph 50 of the Operational Directives and in particular the definition of ‘emergency’ for the purposes of International Assistance,
3. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request No. 01412,
4. Takes note that Niger has requested emergency assistance for the project entitled **Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Niger in a situation of emergency and for the resilience of displaced populations - pilot project in Tillabéry and Diffa**:

Since 2012, Niger has seen the rise of religious fundamentalism in the region, and particularly of Boko Haram. This crisis is combined with increasing poverty and internal ethnic tensions, exacerbated by mass displacements of populations within the country, particularly in the border provinces. In this context, this project aims to raise awareness among the communities, decision-makers, persons in charge and national and local stakeholders about the importance of safeguarding living heritage, as well as to identify the elements of intangible cultural heritage affected by the crisis situation in the two pilot regions, the provinces of Diffa and Tillabéry. By mobilizing living heritage as an instrument for unity, integration, peace and cohesion among communities, the project will involve carrying out a participatory needs assessment to review the impact of the security crisis on the viability of intangible cultural heritage. A set of capacity building training workshops and an awareness-raising campaign and activities to support dialogue among the communities will also be implemented. Such activities will result in the establishment of an inventory of twelve elements with the participation of the communities. The project thereby aims to contribute to the safeguarding and revitalization of the intangible cultural heritage of the displaced populations and host communities, highlight its role as a source of resilience and contribute to dialogue and social cohesion between displaced populations and host communities. The project will be implemented by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of Leisure within the Ministry of Culture, supported by a national coordination committee and two regional branches, including representatives from the communities concerned, traditional leaders, local authorities, research institutions and humanitarian actors;

1. Further takes note that this assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with Article 20(c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the provision of a grant, pursuant to Article 21(g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Niger has requested assistance in the amount of US$257,829.11 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information contained in file no. 01412, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** While the request was prepared and submitted by the organization responsible for implementing the Convention at the national level (the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of Leisure), the needs and points of view of the communities concerned in the provinces of Diffa and Tillabéry were taken into account during the preparation of the request and will be so throughout the project through their involvement in the project coordination committee and the implementation of a participatory needs assessment. The local and national authorities, as well as the communities concerned, will receive training on community-based inventorying methods and representatives of the communities will participate in the inventorying work on-site and the various public awareness-raising activities.

**Criterion A.2**: Though the total amount of assistance requested and the budget by activity seem appropriate for the scope of the project and its expected results, the level of detail provided for certain budget items is insufficient to determine whether all the budgeted amounts are justified.

**Criterion A.3**: Although the timetable of activities still needs to be fine-tuned, the activities proposed are described in detail and presented in a logical sequence, covering awareness raising through information missions, a participatory needs assessment in cooperation with humanitarian actors active in the targeted provinces, the preparation of a strategic inventorying plan, strengthening the capacities of the communities and authorities in relation to the participatory inventorying techniques, the establishment of a pilot inventory in the two provinces concerned and a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of living heritage through the establishment of spaces for dialogue, the production of radio and television programmes and video and written information materials, and the revitalization of two festive cultural events.

**Criterion A.4**: With the support of a network of people trained in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the equipment acquired during the project, the communities of the provinces of Diffa and Tillabéry will be able to ensure the regular updating of the inventories set up during the project, supported by the local authorities and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of Leisure, whose capacities will have been strengthened. Moreover, despite the difficult context established by the situation of emergency, the State Party’s commitment to safeguarding living heritage to foster coexistence and facilitate the recovery of the communities affected offers a reasonable guarantee as to its durability and long-term impact.

**Criterion A.5**: The State will contribute no less than 14 per cent of the total budget of the project for which International Assistance is being requested.

**Criterion A.6**: Through specific training activities, the project aims to develop the communities’ capacities to identify, define and revitalize the expressions of their living heritage, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the national and local authorities responsible for safeguarding living heritage to inventory intangible cultural heritage through a participatory method. The technical capacities of the national authorities will also be strengthened, allowing for the establishment and regular updating of a database gathering the information collected during the inventorying process.

**Criterion A.7**: Niger has never benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, but did benefit from technical assistance in 2017 for the preparation of this request.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and will be implemented by local and national partners.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The interest that the project could generate around the links between intangible heritage, social cohesion and the consolidation of peace, as well as its role in combatting violent extremism, could stimulate financial support from bilateral development agencies or multilateral institutions. Moreover, the project has the potential to be replicated in other regions of the State Party and could inspire other States affected by situations of emergency, mass displacements of populations and social tensions.

1. Approves the request for emergency assistance for the project entitled **Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Niger in a situation of emergency and for the resilience of displaced populations - pilot project in Tillabéry and Diffa** and grants the amount of US$257,829.11 to the State Party to this end;
2. Also takes note of the experience concerning the technical assistance received by the State Party for the revision of this request and appreciates that it resulted in the realignment of its objectives and scope;
3. Commends the State Party for its initiative in submitting an emergency request and notes with appreciation its commitment to mobilizing intangible cultural heritage to consolidate peace and social cohesion among the communities, including displaced populations, in accordance with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Agenda 2063 for Africa;
4. Encourages the State Party to implement the project in close cooperation with UNESCO and the humanitarian actors present on site and with the widest possible participation of the communities concerned;
5. Also encourages the State Party, particularly in light of the situation of emergency in the country, to keep the Secretariat informed throughout the project of any difficulties encountered that could delay the implementation of the activities;
6. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the submitting State on the technical details of the assistance, ensuring, in particular, that the detailed work plan, the timetable and the budget of activities to be financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are sufficiently precise to justify the amounts allocated and so that the real expenses can be effectively compared to the amounts foreseen;
7. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.

**Decision 12.COM 4.BUR 5**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 4.BUR/5 as well as preparatory assistance request No. 01418, submitted by Namibia,
3. Takes note that Namibia has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$10,000 to prepare for the nomination of **Aixan (gâna/ōb ǂans tsî//khasigu), ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills** to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Aixan /gâna/ōb ǂans tsî //khasiguancestral musicis performed by theNama and Damara communities, who mainly reside in Hardap, Karas, Erongo, Kunene and Otjozondjupa, situated in the northern and southern regions of Namibia. The music is practised as a means of entertainment at social events, such as during the dance to welcome the rainy season and wedding ceremonies, and also as a medium of instruction in girl’s education during their initiation into womanhood. The Namibia National Commission for UNESCO is responsible for preparing the nomination file in close collaboration with the Directorate of Heritage and Culture Programmes within the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Technical support from a professional videographer and an expert is also foreseen;
4. Decides that, from the information provided in file No.01418, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in Paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The communities concerned were consulted during the preparation of the request and have provided their consent to the nomination of the element to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. An ongoing consultation process with the communities will take place through existing structures such as regional councils, traditional authorities, local development committees, community meetings and civil society organizations. The State Party also intends to ensure the direct engagement of community members in the documentation of the ancestral musical practice.

**Criterion A.2:** Despite a minor discrepancy in the estimation relative to the ‘communication cost’, the amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the activities proposed for the preparation of the nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List.

**Criterion A.3:** Although more detailed information on the proposed activities would have been helpful to have a better understanding of the implementation process foreseen by the State Party, the activities are concise and feasible given the timeframe proposed for the activities.

**Criterion A.4:** By this request, the State Party commits to submitting a nomination for possible inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2020. The direct involvement of community members in the fieldwork is expected to raise their capacity to safeguard living heritage and should therefore contribute to short- and medium-term results.

**Criterion A.5:** The State Party proposes sharing 33 per cent of the costs of the activities for which preparatory assistance is requested.

**Criterion A.6:** As the community members will be fully involved in the inventorying and documentation process, their capacities will consequently be reinforced. In addition, the State Party is committed to strengthening the capacity of the Directorate of Heritage and Culture Programmes to safeguard intangible cultural heritage through a coordinated effort with other institutions at the national level such as the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

**Criterion A.7:** Namibia has not previously benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

1. Approves the preparatory assistance request from Namibia for the project entitled **Aixan (gâna/ōb ǂans tsî//khasigu), ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills** and grants an amount of US$10,000 to the State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the State Party on the technical details of the preparatory assistance, including a revised timetable and detailed budget;
3. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.