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

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

**Eighteenth session**

**Kasane, Republic of Botswana**

**4 to 9 December 2023**

**Item 13 of the provisional agenda:**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund:   
voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues**

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| **Summary**  In accordance with Article 25.5 of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that these projects have been approved by the Committee. This document reports on these and other types of voluntary contributions received for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023.  **Decision required:** paragraph 19 |

1. Chapter VI of the Convention concerning the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Fund’) establishes that States Parties may wish to make voluntary supplementary contributions (Article 27) in addition to their assessed contributions (Article 26). In accordance with Article 25.5, these contributions may relate to specific projects ‘provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee’.
2. Voluntary supplementary contributions are primarily intended to support the funding priorities approved by the Committee. At its sixteenth session in 2021, the Committee approved two such funding priorities for the period 2022 – 2025, namely: (1) ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ and (2) ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/12)). The resource mobilization targets set for these two funding priorities are US$5 million and US$3.5 million respectively for the period 2022–2025 (see Annex II in document [LHE/21/16.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-12-EN.docx)).
3. The present document provides, in its Section A, an overview of the contributions received for the period from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 (Decision [17.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/12)). Contributions received between 1 July 2023 and the eighteenth session of the Committee will be presented orally, as per the practice for this item, at the eighteenth session; they will also be included in the Financial Report of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund covering the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 to be presented to the tenth session of the General Assembly in 2024. Furthermore, the Committee having noted that in addition to voluntary contributions, States Parties use other forms of support, financial or in kind, than voluntary contributions to the Fund (Decision [7.COM 20.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/7.COM/20.1)), Section B reports on these different forms of financial support received in support of the 2003 Convention.
4. **Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund**
5. In the first half of 2023, only two voluntary supplementary contributions[[1]](#footnote-1) were received for a total amount of US$48,528.78, as described below (see paragraphs 5 and 8). The current biennium (41C/5) is marked by a sharp drop in voluntary supplementary contributions: these amount to US$330,248.61 for the eighteen-month period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023, whereas they totalized US$757,267.76 for the same period during the previous 2020-2021 biennium.

**Funding priority 1: Capacity-building programme**

1. Priority 1 ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ aims to continue efforts to extend the scope and effectiveness of the global capacity-building programme, which was set up in 2009 and has provided support to States and communities in more than 140 countries since then. During the reporting period, only one contribution was made to the Fund, by ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region), as a follow-up contribution to an initial contribution made in 2022 to support the development of a ‘Practical handbook on periodic reporting with a self-learning tool on the Overall results framework for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’ (US$40,000, combined in the Annex to the present document with a previous contribution of US$81,271.23 received from ICHCAP in 2022). Furthermore, eight ongoing projects are currently supported by voluntary contributions received prior to 2023 (see paragraph 11).
2. From 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023, a total of US$196,046.80 was received in the form of voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund in support of Funding Priority 1 (see Annex for the full list of contributions). These represent 4% of the US$5 million mobilization target set for the 2022 – 2025 quadrennium.

**Funding priority 2: Intangible cultural heritage in education**

1. Since the seventeenth session of the Committee, no voluntary supplementary contribution has been made to the Fund to support funding priority 2, which aims to integrate intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education, in cooperation with UNESCO’s Education Sector.
2. While no new voluntary supplementary contribution has been made to this priority since January 2022, two ongoing projects are currently supported by voluntary contributions received in 2021, respectively in (i) the Latin America and Caribbean region and (ii) the Africa and Asia regions (see paragraph 11). In addition, the Convention receives support through other existing mechanisms such as Funds-in-Trust agreements or in the form of an additional contribution to UNESCO’s Regular Programme (see paragraph 15) to support projects and activities in this area.

**Strengthening the human capacities of the Secretariat**

1. The sub-fund, intended to enhance the human capacities of the Secretariat, was created by the General Assembly in June 2010 (Resolution [3.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/resolutions/3.GA/9)) in order to support the Secretariat on a sustainable basis, and to enable it to respond to the needs expressed by the States Parties. The annual target for the sub-fund is set since the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020 at US$950,000 per year (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/8.GA/7)).
2. During the first half of 2023, one new voluntary supplementary contribution was made to the sub-fund, by Slovakia for an amount of US$8,528.78. Furthermore, the Government of Chinahascontinued providing in-kind support (Loaned staff ) since May 2021. Taking into account the contributions received since January 2022 (see the Annex for the full list of contributions), the contributions to the sub-fund amount to US$134,201.81; that is 7% of the biennial target set by the General Assembly[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Ongoing activities supported by voluntary supplementary contributions**

1. The ten ongoing projects below related to funding priorities 1 and 2 are currently funded by voluntary supplementary contributions (see Annexes III and IV in document [LHE/23/18.COM/INF.14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-INF.14_EN.docx) for further budgetary information on each project):

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| **Project** | **Latest report issued** |
| **Priority 1: Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development** | |
| Strengthening capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in disaster contexts | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-disaster-contexts-00458?projectID=00458) |
| Practical handbook on periodic reporting with a self-learning tool on the Overall results framework for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/practical-handbook-on-periodic-reporting-with-a-self-learning-tool-on-the-overall-results-framework-for-the-implementation-of-the-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-00484?projectID=00484) |
| Support of the development and implementation of capacity building activities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in conflict-related situations, including situations of forced displacement | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/support-of-the-development-and-implementation-of-capacity-building-activities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-related-situations-including-situations-of-forced-displacement-00474?projectID=00474) |
| Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00475?projectID=00475) |
| Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Dominica | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-at-the-national-and-local-levels-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-dominica-00477?projectID=00477) |
| Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development in Kenya | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-national-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-in-kenya-00480?projectID=00480) |
| Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the United Republic of Tanzania and contributing to sustainable development | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-at-the-national-and-local-levels-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-united-republic-of-tanzania-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00481?projectID=00481) |
| Strengthening capacities for preparing nomination files for the Lists of the 2003 Convention in Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) in Latin America and the Caribbean | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-for-preparing-nomination-files-for-the-lists-of-the-2003-convention-in-small-island-and-developing-states-sids-in-the-caribbean-00502) |
| **Priority 2: Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education** | |
| Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education in Latin America and the Caribbean | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/learning-with-intangible-cultural-heritage-for-a-sustainable-future-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-00473?projectID=00473) |
| Living heritage and the sustainable development goals: safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education in the Asia and the Pacific Region and in Africa | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/living-heritage-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-formal-and-non-formal-education-in-the-asia-and-the-pacific-region-and-in-africa-00476?projectID=00476) |

1. **Projects and activities supported by other types of voluntary contributions[[3]](#footnote-3)**
2. In addition to the voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund mentioned in the first section of this document, UNESCO has received other forms of support earmarked for projects and activities aimed at safeguarding and promoting living heritage. In order to provide a comprehensive overview of the support received by the Convention through different modalities and to reflect the diversity of projects supported by donors, this section presents the different projects considered as ‘active’[[4]](#footnote-4) during the period from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.
3. During this period, nineteen new projects and activities were launched; these are indicated by an asterisk (\*) below. The number and geographical scope of these initiatives testify to the breadth of actions underway to enhance the implementation of the Convention by States Parties and communities, and to the generous support provided by a wide range of donors to UNESCO’s work at the global, regional and national levels.
4. While voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund have remained relatively low during the present biennium, the capacity-building programme (priority 1) continues receiving significant support through other funding modalities. These twenty-nine projects and activities, often implemented directly by UNESCO Field Offices in cooperation with national authorities, complement upstream activities at the global level:
   1. Self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreements have been allowing the implementation of four projects through contributions from Benin (Abuja Office), Brazil (Brasilia Office) and Morocco (Rabat Office, two projects);
   2. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements have been established with Japan (Headquarters, Beirut Office), Saudi Arabia (Headquarters\*, two projects), the United Nations University (Bangkok Office) and the private sector of the People’s Republic of China (Headquarters, two projects). These contributions support the implementation of seven projects;
   3. Additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) were received from Brazil\* (Headquarters), Italy (Venice Office), Kazakhstan\* (Almaty Office, two activities), Qatar (Doha Office), Saudi Arabia\* (Doha Office), United Arab Emirates (Beirut\* and Doha Offices), the International Training Centre on Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region – CRIHAP (Headquarters, Almaty\* - two activities - and Bangkok Offices), ICHCAP (Headquarters, Bangkok and Delhi Offices - two activities each) and the Sharjah Institute for Heritage (Headquarters). These contributions support the implementation of eighteen activities as part of the global capacity-building programme.
5. While initiatives promoting the integration of intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education (priority 2) have not received any support from voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund, new activities have emerged with support from Category 2 Centres to Field Offices in Asia, in addition to two ongoing projects in Africa and Asia:
   1. Funds-in-Trust agreement with Flanders, Belgium (Harare Office);
   2. Three new additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) were received by the Bangkok Office from the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding\* (APCEIU), CRIHAP\* and ICHCAP\*. Finally, one activity is supported by ICHCAP and is being implemented by the Kathmandu Office.
6. In addition to projects that contribute to the two funding priorities, donors also support a wide range of projects that establish a direct link between the safeguarding of living heritage or other forms of heritage (movable heritage) and/or specific areas of sustainable development such as improving social protection, supporting the safeguarding of indigenous knowledge, developing creative industries and entrepreneurship, promoting heritage sensitive tourism, consolidating peace, strengthening human security in general or supporting upstream reflections in the implementation of the Convention:
   1. Self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreements have been supporting five projects through contributions from Brazil (Brasilia Office), India (Delhi Office, two projects) and Morocco (Rabat Office, two projects);
   2. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements have been established with France (Quito Office), Saudi Arabia\* (Headquarters), Switzerland\* (Juba Office) as well as two private sector contributions from Mexico (Mexico City Office) and the People’s Republic of China (Bamako Office). In addition, the United Nations contributes to several UNESCO projects through the United Nations – UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (Kabul Office, three projects), the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund\* (Quito Office), the United Nations Joint SDG Fund (Libreville Office) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (Rabat Office). These contributions support UNESCO Field Offices in the implementation of eleven projects;
   3. In addition, additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) were received from Algeria, Botswana\*, Brazil\*, Bulgaria, China, France\*, Japan, Sweden, as well as CRIHAP to support the work of the Secretariat at the global level (Headquarters). Furthermore, five contributions from the private sector of China (Bangkok Office), India\* (Delhi Office), Peru\* (Lima Office, two activities) and Thailand\* (Bangkok Office) were made to support activities carried out by UNESCO Field Offices. In total, fourteen activities were financed thanks to these contributions.

**Concluding remarks**

1. Compared to the same period in the previous biennium, the level of support from voluntary supplementary contributions in the period from January 2022 to June 2023 has been halved (US$330,249 against US$757,278 between January 2020 and June 2021). This corresponds to the trend observed since 2012 of a constant decrease of the level of voluntary supplementary contributions to the Convention, which now represents less than one-fifth of the level reached ten years ago during the 2012 – 2013 biennium (US$1.9 million). However, support for the Convention remains strong through other forms of voluntary contributions, notably with four new Funds-in-Trust agreements established and fifteen new additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) received in the reporting period, as listed in section B above.
2. To meet all the needs expressed by communities and Member States, the Fund would benefit from receiving more substantial contributions that would offer sufficient flexibility to be directed towards the most pressing issues. Needless to say the Secretariat must be provided with adequate human resources to carry out these actions. The Committee could therefore encourage donors to support the achievement of the objectives defined in the two funding priorities through voluntary supplementary contributions for earmarked projects (in addition to Funds-in-Trust agreements or other earmarked modalities) and to the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat.
3. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 13

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/23/18.COM/13 and its annex,
2. Recalling Article 25.5 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling its previous decisions concerning voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and most recently its Decision [17.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/12),
4. Thanks all the contributors who have generously supported the Convention and its Secretariat since the last session, namely France, Monaco, Slovakia, Slovenia and the International Centre for Information and Networking on Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), as well as the People’s Republic of China for its in-kind contribution;
5. Takes note that in addition to voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, the Convention has received other types of financial support through the Funds-in-Trust and other earmarked modalities, and expresses appreciation to all contributors who generously support the Convention;
6. Encourages potential contributors to support the Convention, in particular within the framework of the two funding priorities defined for the period 2022 – 2025 and the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat;
7. Further encourages the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Convention and to respond positively to the needs expressed by States Parties in accordance with the two funding priorities;
8. Requests the Secretariat to report to it at its nineteenth session on progress made in implementing any voluntary supplementary contributions received since the eighteenth session.

**ANNEX**

**Financial and in-kind contributions in support of the 2003 Convention**

**for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023**

**Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

**Funding priority 1: Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development**

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| Netherlands | US$74,775.67 |
| ICHCAP | US$121,271.23 |

**Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat**

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| France | US$105,596.62 |
| Lithuania | US$5,056.00 |
| Monaco | US$9,689.92 |
| Slovakia | US$8,528.78 |
| Slovenia | US$5,330.49 |

**Loans and secondments**[[5]](#footnote-5)

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| China | 18 months at P-2 level  5 months (sponsored trainee) |

1. Between the seventeenth session of the Committee in November/December 2022 and the beginning of the period covered by the present document (1 January 2023), five voluntary contributions were received from Lithuania, Monaco, Slovakia and Slovenia for the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, as well as from the Netherlands to support the project ‘Strengthening capacities for preparing nomination files for the Lists of the 2003 Convention in Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) in Latin America and the Caribbean’ (Funding priority 1). These five contributions are included in the Annex of the present document. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. After the reporting period, two contributions to the sub-fund to enhance the human capacities of the Secretariat were received from Monaco (US$10,741.14 in September 2023) and France (EUR 75,000 in October 2023). These will be reflected in the next report as of 31 December 2023 to be presented to the tenth session of the General Assembly in 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The present section does not include any budgetary information, as meaningful data cannot be provided due to the many different implementation periods associated with the projects and activities mentioned. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This includes projects that fall under Output 5.CLT4 of the [41 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380868): ‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’. Projects that were initiated, under implementation or completed during the reporting period are considered as active. Donor contributions may have been partially or fully received before or during the period under consideration. Field Offices – or Headquarters in the case of global activities – responsible for implementing each project are shown in brackets after the name of the donor. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Information provided by the Living Heritage Entity [↑](#footnote-ref-5)