**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 17 of the provisional agenda:**

**Establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2024 cycle**

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| **Summary**  The present document provides information in support of the establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2024 cycle, in conformity with Article 8.3 of the Convention.  **Decision required:** paragraph 12 |

**Introduction**

1. Article 8.3 of the Convention provides that ‘[t]he Committee may establish, on a temporary basis, whatever ad hoc consultative bodies it deems necessary to carry out its task’[[1]](#footnote-2). The present session of the Committee is requested to establish a consultative body, known as the Evaluation Body, for the 2024 cycle.

**Establishment of the 2024 Evaluation Body**

Mandate

1. With reference to Chapter I of the Operational Directives, the mandate of the Evaluation Body includes:

* The evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (hereafter, ‘the Urgent Safeguarding List’) and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (hereafter ‘the Representative List’), including nominations for the inscription on an extended or reduced basis of an already inscribed element.
* The evaluation of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention.
* The evaluation of requests to transfer an already inscribed element from one List to another.
* The evaluation of International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.
* The evaluation of International Assistance requests submitted in the context of a request to transfer an element from the Representative List to the Urgent Safeguarding List.
* The evaluation of an element placed under ‘enhanced follow-up’ status.
* The possibility, following its evaluation of a request for transfer, for the Body to recommend that the Committee include the successful safeguarding experience in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

1. The set of tasks entrusted to the Evaluation Body was adjusted by the ninth session of the General Assembly in July 2022, following the completion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)). This is the first cycle in which the revised mandate for the Evaluation Body has taken full effect, since the 2023 cycle was a transitional period for the evaluation of International Assistance requests (see document [LHE/22/17.COM/14 Rev.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-14_Rev._3-EN.docx)).

Composition

1. In conformity with paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives, ‘[t]he Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage’. Paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives further specifies that ‘[o]nce appointed by the Committee, the members of the Evaluation Body shall act impartially in the interests of all the States Parties and the Convention’.
2. Paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives also stipulates that ‘[t]he duration of office of a member of the Evaluation Body shall not exceed four years’ and that ‘[e]very year, the Committee shall renew one quarter of the members of the Evaluation Body’. The purpose of this system is to balance the need for continuity and institutional memory with the need for reinvigoration and fresh inputs. The principle of equitable geographic representation shall also be strictly respected.
3. Following on from the above and pursuant to Rule 20.2 of the Committee’s Rule of Procedure, the composition and terms of reference (including the mandate and duration of office) of the Evaluation Body for the 2024 cycle are set out in Annex 1 to the present document.

Vacant seats

1. Pursuant to the Committee’s Decision [17.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/14), the following three seats are to be newly elected by the present session of the Committee, to begin serving from the 2024 cycle, while the nine other members will remain in office to complete their terms between 2024 and 2027:

* Electoral Group I – non-governmental organization
* Electoral Group II – non-governmental organization
* Electoral Group V(a) – Expert

1. In conformity with paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat informed the States Parties on 4 September 2023 of the vacant seats to be filled from each Electoral Group. It should be recalled that the Committee encouraged States Parties, by its Decision [9.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/11), to ensure that at least two candidates for both experts and accredited non-governmental organizations for each Electoral Group are sent to the Secretariat by the Chairperson of the Electoral Group concerned.
2. The Chairperson of each Electoral Group concerned sent up to three candidacies to the Secretariat. Annex 2 to this document provides the names of 2 candidate non-governmental organizations from Electoral Group I, 3 candidate non-governmental organizations from Electoral Group II, and [xx] (pending) expert names from Electoral Group V(a), together with a link to the website and the request for accreditation in the case of non-governmental organizations, and to the curriculum vitae in the case of experts.
3. The Committee is therefore asked to name three new members in accordance with section B of Rule 39 (Rules 39.7 – 39.16) of the Rules of Procedures of the Committee, and to renew the appointments of the nine remaining incumbent members. It should be noted that, for future cycles, the Evaluation Body shall continue to be renewed according to paragraph 28 of the Operational Directives, whereby three seats are replaced annually as they become available. According to this system, twelve new members shall be elected over the next four years.

**Sequence in evaluating and examining files**

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| **Cycle** | **Letter chosen** | **Decision** |
| 2021 cycle | letter ‘X’ | [Decision 15.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/10) |
| 2022 cycle | letter ‘C’ | [Decision 16.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/16) |
| 2023 cycle | letter ‘N’ | Decision [17.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/14) |

1. At the fourteenth session of the Committee in 2019, a new system was introduced for determining the sequence in which files would be evaluated; this was designed to avoid the practice of constantly following the same order by always beginning with the files of those States whose names fall at the beginning of the English alphabet. The Committee decided that, for the following cycle, files would be evaluated by the Evaluation Body and subsequently examined by the Committee in alphabetical order starting with the files of States whose names begin with a letter drawn by lot. This practice was then followed for the subsequent cycles. The table below summarizes the letter of the English alphabet used in this regard for the three past cycles:
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 17

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/23/18.COM/17 Rev. and its annexes,
2. Recalling Article 8.3 of the Convention, Chapter I of the Operational Directives and Rules 20 and 39 of its Rules of Procedure,
3. Further recalling its Decisions [9.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/11) and [17.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/14), as well as the General Assembly’s [Resolution 9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/9.GA/9),
4. Establishes a consultative body to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’ and adopts its terms of reference as annexed to this decision;
5. Appoints the following individual experts and accredited non-governmental organizations as members of the Evaluation Body for 2024:

**Experts representatives of States Parties non-members of the Committee**

1. EG I: Ms Evrim Ölçer Özünel (Türkiye)
2. EG II: Mr Rimvydas Laužikas (Lithuania)
3. EG III: Mr Nigel Encalada (Belize)
4. EG IV: Mr Kirk Siang Yeo (Singapore)
5. EG V(a): \*\*\* (Name/State Party)
6. EG V(b): Ms Nahla Abdallah Emam (Egypt)

**Accredited non-governmental organizations**

1. EG I: \*\*\* (NGO)
2. EG II: \*\*\* (NGO)
3. EG III: Daniel Rubin de la Borbolla Center
4. EG IV: Aigine Cultural Research Center – Aigine CRC
5. EG V(a): The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU)
6. EG V(b): Syria Trust for Development
7. Notes that for the purpose of elections at its future sessions, the twelve seats of the Evaluation Body shall be filled as follows:

Seats to be filled for the 2025 – 2028 cycles:

EG III: Expert

EG IV: Expert

EG V(b): NGO

Seats to be filled for the 2026 – 2029 cycles:

EG III: NGO

EG IV: NGO

EG V(b): Expert

Seats to be filled for the 2027 – 2030 cycles:

EG I: Expert

EG II: Expert

EG V(a): NGO

Seats to be filled for the 2028 – 2031 cycles:

EG I: NGO

EG II: NGO

EG V(a): Expert

1. Decides to examine the 2024 cycle files in English alphabetical order, starting with the files of States whose names begin with the letter XX, and requests that the Evaluation Body follow the same order when evaluating the files and that it present its report in that order.

**Annex 1: Terms of Reference of the Evaluation Body for the 2024 cycle**

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| The Evaluation Body | | |
| 1. | Shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of intangible cultural heritage representative of States Parties non-members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage; | |
| 2. | Shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur; | |
| 3. | Shall hold private meetings in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee; | |
| 4. | Shall be responsible for the evaluation in 2024 of nominations for inscription (including the transfer from one List to another, the extension or reduction of an already inscribed element) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, and of International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, in conformity with the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention. It shall, in particular, include in its evaluation: | |
|  | a. | An assessment of the conformity of nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding with the inscription criteria, as provided in Chapter I.1 of the Operational Directives, including an assessment of the viability of the element and the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan, and an assessment of the risks of it disappearing, as provided in paragraph 29 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | b. | An assessment of the conformity of nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity with the inscription criteria, as provided in Chapter I.2 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | c. | An assessment of the conformity of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention with the selection criteria, as provided in Chapter I.3 of the Operational Directives; |
|  | d. | An assessment of the conformity with the approval criteria, as provided in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives, of:   * International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; * International Assistance requests submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; |
|  | e. | Recommendations to the Committee:   * To inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated elements (including the transfer from one List to another, the extension or reduction of an already inscribed element) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nominations to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To select or not to select the proposed programmes, projects or activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, or to refer the proposals to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * To maintain or to remove the inscribed element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, in case of ‘enhanced follow-up’; * To include or not, following its evaluation of a request for transfer, the successful safeguarding experience in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. |
| 5. | Shall provide the Committee with an overview of all files and a report on its evaluation; | |
| 6. | Shall conduct a dialogue process with submitting States Parties during the evaluation process, as provided in Chapter I.15 of the Operational Directives; | |
| 7. | Shall cease to exist following the submission and presentation to the nineteenth session of the Committee of the report on its evaluation of the files to be examined by the Committee in 2024 and with the establishment of the next Evaluation Body. | |
| Once appointed by the Committee, the members of the Evaluation Body shall act impartially in the interests of all States Parties and the Convention. | | |

**Annex 2: List of candidates**

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| **Electoral Group I** | | | |
| **Accredited non-governmental organizations** | | | |
| Finnish Folk Music Institute | | Accredited in 2018  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/37594.pdf))  [Website](https://kansanmusiikki-instituutti.fi/en/) | |
| Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant | | Accredited in 2012  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/NGO-90243-ICH-09.pdf))  Renewed in 2021  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/52841-FR.pdf))  [Website](https://www.patrimoinevivant.qc.ca/) | |
| **Electoral Group II** | | | |
| **Accredited non-governmental organizations** | | | |
| Czech Ethnological Society | | Accredited in 2010  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/NGO-90140-ICH-09.pdf))  Renewed in 2019  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/43033-EN.docx))  [Website](https://www.narodopisnaspolecnost.cz/) | |
| Development Centre ‘Democracy through culture’ | | Accredited in 2020  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/42681.pdf))  [Website](https://demcult.org/en) | |
| Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE | | Accredited in 2016  ([Accreditation form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/NGO-90356-10.COM-ICH-09.pdf))  Renewed in 2021  ([Activity report](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/52869-EN.pdf)) | |
| **Electoral Group V(a)** | | | |
| **Expert** | | | |
| Pending |  | |  |
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1. The same provision also figures as paragraph 20.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)