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 5 of the provisional agenda:**

**Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January 2022 to June 2023)**

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| **Summary**  This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023.  **Decision required**: paragraph 26 |

**Introduction**

1. The present report[[1]](#footnote-1) provides an overview of the Secretariat’s activities, its key achievements and challenges encountered from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023. The reporting period is aligned with UNESCO’s other statutory reporting processes, namely the [Director-General’s report](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384853_eng) on the execution of the first year of the biennium 2022-2023 of the [41C/5 Approved programme and budget for 2022-2025](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380868) – as endorsed by UNESCO’s Executive Board at its 216th session ([216 EX/SR.4](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000385627&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_d1a7e6d3-5d01-48c1-9605-66ec20793ce8%3F_%3D385627eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000385627/PDF/385627eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A9%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C275%2C0%5D)). Annex I demonstrates the contribution of the Secretariat’s work to the 41C/5 results framework and, more specifically, to the performance indicators under the Outcome 5.CLT4 (‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’) of Major Programme IV. Furthermore, references are made to the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention (documents [LHE/21/16.COM/10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10_Rev.-EN.docx) and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf)).

**I. International cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the Convention**

1. **Support to governing bodies**:Twenty-four statutory meetings were organized to support the continued work of the governing bodies of the Convention (of which thirteen meetings were held online). Moreover, for the second consecutive year, the annual [Schedule of statutory meetings](https://ich.unesco.org/en/schedule-of-statutory-meetings-in-2023-01295) was made available, and updated regularly, through the website of the Convention. Furthermore, the reporting period saw the conclusion of the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention (Resolution [9.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/12)), as part of a harmonization effort ([41C/Resolution 74](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000380399&highlight=41%20C%2FResolution&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_2662b8f8-b83f-4490-be3c-ffb66eaed78c%3F_%3D380399eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000380399/PDF/380399eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A197%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C341%2C0%5D)).
2. **New forms and nomination procedures**: The completion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (2018-2022) established new procedures for a) transferring inscribed elements from one List to the other, b) inscribing elements on an extended or reduced basis, c) applying a follow-up process for inscribed elements, including the potential removal of elements, and d) introducing new modalities for International Assistance. The Secretariat revised existing forms and created new simplified forms in time for the 2024 cycle. The online information and exchange session organized on 17 February 2023 was attended by some 250 participants from 100 countries. As another outcome, eighty-one files that had been in the ‘backlog’ for more than four years were removed from the ‘backlog’ in March 2023.
3. **Capacity building on nominations**: Taking into account the request from the Committee (Decision [17.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/7)), the existing training materials on the preparation of nomination files were revised to reflect the results of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms. Thanks to a voluntary contribution from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the new training materials were piloted in an online sub-regional capacity-building course, which benefitted more than 70 participants from sixteen Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and territories.
4. **Reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention**: As another outcome of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)), a new reflection was launched to explore the full potential of Article 18 of the Convention beyond the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. With the financial support by the Kingdom of Sweden and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, a category VI expert meeting and Open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting provided opportunities to discuss the three reflection topics identified by the Committee ([Decision 17.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/17.COM/10)). The recommendations proposed by the working group and the corresponding proposals for their implementation are presented for examination by the present session of the Committee (see document [LHE/23/18.COM/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-11_EN.docx)).
5. **Support to the Evaluation Body**:Pursuant to Decision [15.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/15.COM/9), which establishes the total number of files to be examined for the 2022 and 2023 cycles as at least 110 (fifty-five in 2022 and fifty-five in 2023), the Secretariat continued undertaking tasks to support the Evaluation Body in its evaluation of nomination files. This assistance notably comprised the administration of sixty files initially included under each of the 2022 and the [current 2023 cycle](https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2023-under-process-01248)s. In addition, the Secretariat registered 141 newly submitted nomination files by the deadline of 31 March (sixty-nine files by 31 March 2022 and seventy-four by 31 March 2023), and conducted the technical completeness check of seventy-one files included in the [forthcoming 2024 cycle](https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2024-under-process-01303). The reporting period saw the submission of the first ‘harvest’ of extension requests of inscribed elements, in line with the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms.
6. **International Assistance**: The Secretariat administered twenty-three new International Assistance requests approved by the Bureau of the Committee, while overseeing the implementation of fifty-five active projects from a total of fifty-one countries. In line with Recommendation 5 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf), outreach activities were undertaken to increase the visibility of the International Assistance mechanism, which included a series of global webinars. The overview of the implementation of the mechanism is presented to the present session of the Committee (see document [LHE/23/18.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-10_EN.docx)).
7. **Safeguarding living heritage in emergencies**:The Secretariat continued to implement pilot projects in priority regions in line with the ‘Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’ (Resolution [8.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/9)). New capacity-building materials on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in situations of conflict and forced displacement were prepared for pilot implementation in a refugee camp in Cameroon, through the support of an earmarked contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund from Azerbaijan. Likewise, the multi-year project ‘Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and the Caribbean,’ funded by the Japan Funds-in-Trust, advanced its implementation in five States Parties (Belize, The Bahamas, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu). In the context of the war in Ukraine, the Secretariat organized several coordination meetings to monitor the evolving safeguarding needs for intangible cultural heritage. These meetings led to the development of (a) a project, supported by UNESCO’s Heritage Emergency Fund, aimed at integrating living heritage in education, (b) two International Assistance requests approved by the Bureau of the Convention in 2023 to address the safeguarding needs of Ukrainian populations temporarily displaced in Romania and Slovakia, and (c) a joint initiative by UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine for the development of the Action Plan for the Protection of Culture in Ukraine, which includes a thematic focus on ‘Strengthening resilience through culture,’ covering a broad range of initiatives related to living heritage.
8. **Periodic reporting**: The Secretariat undertook an assessment of thirty-nine reports submitted on the current status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. This included the twenty-four reports examined by the seventeenth session of the Committee and the fifteen reports presented to the present session of the Committee (see document [LHE/23/18.COM 7.a](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.a_EN.docx)). The Secretariat provided tailored capacity-building support to country focal points for periodic reporting from the reporting States in the Arab States (see document [LHE/23/18.COM 7.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.b_EN.docx)) and prepared an analytical report of the reports received from States Parties in Europe (see document [LHE/23/18.COM/INF. 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.c_EN.docx)). Furthermore, the Secretariat is providing capacity-building support to reporting States in Africa as well as in Asia and the Pacific, ahead of their upcoming reporting obligations due in 2023 and 2024, respectively (see document [LHE/23/18.COM/7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.c_EN.docx)).
9. **Thematic initiatives on living heritage and sustainable development**: The Secretariat advanced the three thematic initiatives (Decisions [16.COM 5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/5.B) and [17.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/13)) related to living heritage and sustainable development. These efforts included launching global surveys, identifying experts for the establishment of peer review panels and developing case studies. Significant progress was achieved towards an enhanced understanding of ‘the economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage’, notably through the organization of a category VI expert meeting. Steady progress was also made in the area of living heritage and climate change, including through the development of a concept note that will provide an important basis for an expert meeting planned for 2024. Similarly, ongoing work on ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts’ was complemented by the development of new capacity-building materials to be piloted in three cities in Latin America with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. An update on the thematic initiatives is presented to the present session of the Committee (document [LHE/23/18.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-12_EN.docx)).
10. **Non-governmental organizations**: The Secretariat treated seventy-three accreditation requests submitted by applicant NGOs for the 2024 accreditation cycle, and processed the quadrennial renewal of ninety-one NGOs that were accredited in 2010, 2014 and 2018, and whose accreditation is due for review by the present session of the Committee. In line with Resolution [9.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/7), the Secretariat sought the cooperation from UNESCO Field Offices in the assessment of the new accreditation requests and quadrennial reports. The outcome recommendations are presented for examination by the present session of the Committee (document [LHE/23/18.COM/16](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-16_EN.docx)).
11. **Knowledge management services**: Access to online platforms were provided to the designated country focal points for periodic reporting, and new workflows were updated and improved to reflect the statutory possibilities introduced as a result of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, including on both the webpage and the online monitoring interface of the Evaluation Body. Moreover, ongoing efforts to enhance the visualisation of accredited NGOs on the webpage are underway to reflect the results of the mapping exercise (Decision [14.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/15)). The Secretariat continued to work closely with UNESCO’s Bureau of Digital Business Solutions (DBS) to improve the performance and functionality of existing digital tools.
12. **Twentieth anniversary**: In line with Resolution [9.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/13) by the ninth session of the General Assembly, the **‘We Are #LivingHeritage’** global campaignwas launched in early 2023 to celebrate the anniversary of the Convention. The anniversary was also celebrated through over 120 activities organized at local, national and regional levels. As regards the initiatives by the Secretariat, the celebration was supported by social media campaigns, exhibitions and other outreach initiatives such as photo exhibitions. A highlight was a global meeting that resulted in the ‘[Seoul Vision for the Future of Safeguarding Living Heritage for Sustainable Development and Peace](https://ich.unesco.org/en/seoul-vision-01330#:~:text=Outlined%20during%20the%20celebration%20of,living%20heritage%20to%20ensure%20sustainable)’, outlining the potential future directions of the Convention. Further details are brought to the attention of the present session of the Committee (see document [LHE/23/18.COM/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-6_EN.docx)).

**II. Implementation of funding priorities of the Convention**

1. **Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage**: Within the scope of the first funding priority ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)), capacity-building and technical support were provided to 114 Member States, including thirty-two in Africa and twenty-five SIDS to develop new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage. Of these, thirty-four countries (eight in Africa and eleven SIDS) initiated new programmes with the support of the Secretariat, focusing on the core safeguarding measures and thematic areas under the Convention.
2. **Global network of facilitators**: In response to Recommendation 7 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf), the global network of facilitators of the capacity-building programme was extended to include ninety-five new experts (60% women), bringing the regional representation of network members into balance. The Secretariat organized four global orientation webinars for the new facilitators with the support of the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP), which kicked off a training programme for the new members in December 2022. The new programme is based on a new strategy for regional, contextualised training on the implementation of the Convention for incoming members and is being implemented in all regions in cooperation with the Field Offices and with the support of the category 2 centres.
3. **Learning Management System**: The Living Heritage Entity continued the work on reorienting the capacity-building programme for multimodal delivery and has completed the design of the Learning Management System (LMS). The work of converting and updating capacity-building materials into online learning courses and multimodal delivery formats on the LMS is ongoing under the partnership agreement established with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) and senior facilitators. An important achievement during the reporting period was the roll-out of the first [MOOC on intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development](https://ich.unesco.org/en/massive-online-open-course-mooc-01228), accessible since January 2022 with more than 3,500 learners from 160 countries enrolled to date.
4. **Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education**: Under the second funding priority on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)), twenty-eight initiatives from twenty-five Field Offices were included in the Culture work plans for the present biennium. Collaboration with the Education Sector resulted in the elaboration of a joint theory of change to guide a new project on living heritage and basic education in Namibia and Zimbabwe, funded through the Flanders Funds-in-Trust. Both Sectors worked together on the conversion of the instructor-led training course on living heritage and education into an online modality on the LMS, and a paper on Global Citizenship Education and Intangible Cultural Heritage. The integration of living heritage into key international standard-setting instruments and frameworks, such as the [Culture and Arts Education Framework](https://www.unesco.org/en/frameworkcultureartseducation?hub=71580) and the revised ‘Recommendation on Education for Peace and Human Rights, International Understanding, Cooperation, Fundamental Freedoms, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development’ has advanced through intersectoral dialogue. Furthermore, the [Clearinghouse on living heritage and education](https://ich.unesco.org/en/clearinghouse-education) was updated, and a partnership was developed with a university in Africa to design and test tools to assess the impact of learning with living heritage in formal education.

**III. Partnership and outreach**

1. **ICH NGO Forum:** Collaboration with the ICH NGO Forum was strengthened during the reporting period. As an outcome of the mapping of the domains of competencies of accredited NGOs (Decision [14.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/15)), summary infographics were produced for each of the sixty-five organizations covered by the exercise for presentation on the website of the Convention. Finally, pursuant to the practice set up by the Committee since 2020, a stand-alone report by the ICH NGO Forum is presented under Item 15 of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/23/18.COM/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-15_EN.docx)) of the Committee.
2. **Category 2 centres**: The tenth annual coordination meeting was held at UNESCO Headquarters in July 2022, while the eleventh annual meeting was hosted by the Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe in September 2023 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In addition, the Secretariat coordinated renewal evaluation processes with five category 2 centres: the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL), the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF), the Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (RCSICH), the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI).
3. **UNESCO** **Chairs**: The reporting period also included the treatment and evaluation of twelve proposals for the establishment or renewal chairs of in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the UNITWIN network on living heritage safeguarding in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. An exchange session with UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs and regional university networks was organized by the Secretariat at the margins of the seventeenth session of the Committee.
4. **Communication**:During the reporting period, extensive work was undertaken to adapt all communication materials of the Convention to UNESCO’s new logo and design, including the new revamped website in November 2022. Weekly news items on the webpage are continuously produced, highlighting successful achievements, activities and projects under the Convention, intersectoral and joint coordinated work with other UNESCO programmes and frameworks, as well as contributions to International Days and Decades. The visibility of the Convention has also been enhanced on UNESCO’s general social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) through increased social media posts featuring living heritage[[2]](#footnote-2).

**IV. Ways forward**

1. The eighteen months of the reporting period covered by the present report reflect the broad range of the Secretariat’s operations, covering numerous areas, including the support to decision-making processes of the governing bodies of the Convention, administration of international cooperation mechanisms, expansion of capacity-building activities, response to emergency situations, and development of thematic initiatives. The twentieth anniversary of the Convention celebrated in 2023 provided a unique opportunity to take stock of the achievements made over the two past decades, while reflecting on the future directions for the Convention. Going forward, the following areas of work seem worth highlighting, in line with the Draft programme and budget [42 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385136).
2. The Secretariat will continue to contribute to UNESCO wide advocacy for the full recognition of culture as a global public good and as a key pillar of sustainability on its own, to respond to the global challenges addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the definition of the post-2030 agenda. Efforts will be made towards the continued strengthening of capacities of States in integrating living heritage in national development plans and heritage policies at large, in view of supporting community-based initiatives and heritage-sensitive approaches to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding. The positive contributions of living heritage safeguarding to sustainable development will be reinforced in the areas of action outlined in the [Seoul Vision statement](https://ich.unesco.org/en/seoul-vision-01330#:~:text=Outlined%20during%20the%20celebration%20of,living%20heritage%20to%20ensure%20sustainable), with specific reference to thematic work on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and livelihoods, urban contexts, climate change, education, emergencies and the digital environment.
3. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue mobilizing the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention to strengthen the safeguarding of living heritage at the international, national and local levels. While the implementation of the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms – and the monitoring of their impact on the state of safeguarding and on the geographical and thematic balance of the Lists and Register – will be pursued, the reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 is foreseen to be completed in 2024, opening new possibilities for the sharing of safeguarding experiences and an active involvement of States, communities and other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. Furthermore, as the ongoing regional cycle of periodic reporting advances, the regional in-depth analyses on the implementation of the Convention produced will be brought yearly to the Committee, with a view to nurture the reflection year and contribute to the Global Report on Cultural Policies from 2025 onwards.
4. The contribution of living heritage safeguarding to the priorities identified in the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, including cultural rights, integration of culture in education, the cultural dimensions of climate action, culture in the digital era, cultural economics, and heritage in crisis, will be pursued through enhanced synergies with other conventions and development frameworks. In a similar manner, the thematic initiatives open the Convention to new areas, create avenues for intersectoral cooperation and partnerships, and orient the future work of the Convention. To this end, States Parties will be encouraged to share their experiences and ensure pooled funding through voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support initiatives within the scope of the two funding priorities and the thematic initiatives.
5. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 5

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/23/18.COM/5 and its annex,
2. Appreciates the timely operationalization of the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, including the introduction of new simplified procedures for nominations to the Lists of the 2003 Convention, as well as capacity-building initiatives on the preparation of nomination files with a view to supporting countries in their safeguarding efforts for geographically balanced lists, and appeals to States Parties to provide further extrabudgetary support to capacity-building projects in this regard;
3. Acknowledges the successful expansion of the global facilitators network, and taking note of the increasing demand for projects under the first funding priority, ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’, calls upon States Parties to provide funding support for the design and implementation of multi-year projects to respond to such requests, notably in Africa and Small Island Developing States;
4. Further appreciates the steady progress made in the implementation of the second funding priority, ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education’, and encourages States Parties to provide support for intersectoral collaboration with the education sector with a view to anchoring the integration of living heritage safeguarding in education policies and systems at the local, national and international levels;
5. Welcomes the efforts to strengthen synergies with other conventions and further encourages the Secretariat to pursue work in this regard.

**Annex I**

**Assessment by performance indicator**

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| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Number of Member States with new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage, including within sustainable development plans and frameworks, in line with the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2022 to 30/06/2023** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 60, including 20 in Africa and 10 SIDS | 60, including 30 in Africa and 10 SIDS | | * 114 Member States benefitted from the capacity-building programme (including 32 in Africa and 25 SIDS); * 18 countries received support for the periodic reporting exercise in the Arab States; * 41 countries received support for the periodic reporting exercise in Africa; * 95 new experts selected to join the global network of facilitators of the Convention; * 3 regional training-of-trainer workshops organized for incoming network members from Europe, Africa, Arab States, and Asia and the Pacific; * One sub-regional training workshops on nominations organized in cooperation with three Field Offices, training more than 70 participants from 16 SIDS; * 12 proposals processed for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO Chairs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the UNITWIN network on intangible cultural heritage. | | |
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| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of Member States sustainably safeguarding living heritage through enhanced international cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2022 to 30/06/2023** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 80, including 25 in Africa and 15 SIDS | 90, including 40 in Africa and 17 SIDS | * Global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention concluded and subsequent amendments to the Operational Directives approved; * 23 new International Assistance requests processed and granted by the Bureau, including 8 from Africa and 5 from SIDS; * 120 nomination files treated under the 2022 and 2023 cycles, including one file treated on an accelerated basis (case of extreme urgency in the sense of Article 17.3), and 71 nomination files treated for the 2024 cycle; * 141 nomination files newly submitted in 2023 and 2024 registered; * 39 reports on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List analysed; * 42 reports on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List by States Parties in Europe analysed; * 17 reports on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List by States Parties in the Arab States analysed; * 24 statutory meetings organized. |

1. The present report should be read together with the report ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues’ (document [LHE/23/18.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-13_EN.docx)), the ‘Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2024 and 2025’ (document [LHE/23/18.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-14_EN.docx)) and the ‘Report on the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2022 - 2023’ (document [LHE/23/18.COM/INF.14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-INF.14_EN.docx)), brought to the attention of the present session of the Committee under Items 13 and 14 of the provisional agenda. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Between March and June 2023, 95 social media posts published on the English channel, 44 posts on the French channel, and 21 posts on the Spanish channel, featured living heritage. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)