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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Tenth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**11 to 12 June 2024**

**Item 8 of the provisional agenda:**

**Use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

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| **Summary**Article 7(c) of the Convention provides that the Committee shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund. The document presents such a draft plan, as recommended by the Committee for the period 2024–2025 and for the first semester of 2026. **Decision required:** paragraph 33 |

**Background**

1. Article 7(c) of the Convention requests that the Committee ‘prepare and submit to the General Assembly for approval a draft plan for the use of the resources of the [Intangible Cultural Heritage] Fund [Special Account (hereafter ‘the Fund’)], in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention. The draft plan (hereafter the ‘Plan’), submitted by the Committee in accordance with its Decision [18.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/14) and annexed to the present document, was prepared in conformity with the guidelines found in Chapter II.1 of the [Operational Directives](https://ich.unesco.org/en/directives) and based on the experience of implementing the Plan during previous biennia. The narrative and financial report for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023, as required by Article 10 of the Financial Regulations of the Fund, is available in document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)
2. In accordance with Article 2 of the Financial Regulations of the Fund, ‘the financial period for budget estimates shall be two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even–numbered year’. However, the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention meets in ordinary session in even years, about six months after the start of the calendar year. The present session of the Assembly is therefore requested to approve a Plan for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025 and, on a provisional basis, for the first six months of the next financial period, i.e. from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026. The provisional budget for the first semester of 2024 adopted by the ninth session of the General Assembly (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/10)) will in turn be superseded by the present Plan once adopted by the current session of the General Assembly.
3. It is proposed that the General Assembly allocates funds in each line on the basis of percentages of the total resources available, rather than in absolute figures. This will allow, in case of need, for assessed contributions received during the biennium to be allocated to each budget line following the approved percentages. In this way, the Committee will be able to make use of any significant unrestricted voluntary supplementary contributions (as described in Article 27) that might be credited to the Fund during the biennium. At the same time, it is also suggested that the General Assembly, as it did during its previous sessions, authorize the Committee to make immediate use of any such contributions upon receipt, in conformity with the percentages established in the Plan.
4. Furthermore, the General Assembly is asked to authorize the Committee to make immediate use of contributions related to specific projects, provided that they are within the scope of the two funding priorities approved by the Committee for the period 2022–2025 (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)): ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi–modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ and ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non–formal education’. The list of such contributions, as well as other voluntary supplementary contributions and donors, can be found in the information document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)
5. The present document first provides an overview of the status of the Fund and of current trends, including an update on the Sub–fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat (Part I). The proposed plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 2024–2025 is then presented with a rationale for each budget line (Part II).

#### STATUS AND TRENDS

1. Based on the above-mentioned report for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 (document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)) and following the analysis of trends outlined in document [LHE/23/18.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-14_EN.docx), this section describes the evolution of the expenditure of the Fund and of assessed contributions until 31 December 2023.

**Expenditure**

1. The expenditure rate of the latest plan approved by the ninth session of the General Assembly represents the highest such rate of the Fund reaching 73.2% as of 31 December 2023 (52% on average between 2012 and 2023). The expenditure represented US$6.39 million in the 2022–2023 biennium compared to US$3.61 million in the 2020–2021 biennium (see Figure 1).
2. The graph below shows that the expenditure (US$6.39 million) largely exceeded the compulsory contributions assessed for 2022–2023 in the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 (US$3.96 million), which is the largest source of income for the Fund[[1]](#footnote-2). This significant increase in expenditure is mainly explained by a number of positive developments, such as: a) the improvement in the capacity of States Parties to request International Assistance combined with the increased ability of the Secretariat to respond to the needs of the States Parties and b) the full resumption of activities after a 2020–2021 biennium marked by the COVID–19 pandemic, including the organization of in-person statutory meetings which led to increased expenditure associated with financial assistance to participants from developing States (see documents [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx) and [LHE/24/10.GA/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-6_EN.docx)).



**Figure 1:** Evolution ofexpenditures of the Fund

**International assistance**

1. During the previous 2022–2023 biennium, States Parties have been making a significantly higher use of the **International Assistance mechanisms**.Figure 2 (below) shows an increase in the use of funds dedicated to International Assistance mechanisms, corresponding to budget lines 1, 1.1 and 2. Expenditure rate under these three combined budget lines reached 71% compared to 44% during the 2020–2021 biennium. This is mainly due to:
	* 1. the increase in the number of International Assistance requests approved by the Committee and its Bureau: twenty–nine requests approved for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023. It includes thirteen projects in the Africa region (51% of total amount of funds granted during the biennium) and five projects involving six Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (21%of total amount of funds granted),
		2. the upstream work of the Secretariat notably by providing technical support to States Parties during the elaboration process (all requests examined by the Committee and its Bureau have been approved) and,
		3. the increased use of technical assistance by States Parties to develop and revise their requests (nine States Parties received the support of experts during the biennium).

A detailed report about the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms can be found in document [LHE/23/18.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-10_EN.docx).



**Figure 2:** Expenditure rate for International and Preparatory Assistance

**Assessed contributions**

1. It should be recalled that the **payment of contributions** is an obligation incumbent on all States Parties that have ratified the Convention, in accordance with its Article 26. As States Parties exercise rights and enjoy benefits conferred on them under the Convention, they are also expected to fulfil their corresponding commitments in return. The lack of cash availability caused by late payments of assessed contributions might delay and thus jeopardize the implementation of activities foreseen in the budget.
2. As shown in the [Statement of assessed contributions for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/63471-EN.pdf), the unpaid **compulsory assessed contributions** represented US$410,153 (against US$409,948 as of 31 December 2021), US$253,300 of which correspond to unpaid contributions for 2021 and preceding years. As at 31 December 2023, 73 States Parties[[2]](#footnote-3) (42% of States Parties bound by Article 26.1 of the Convention) had not paid their contributions for 2022–2023. Amongst them, 28 States Parties (16%) had also not paid their contribution for 2021 and preceding years. The payments of **voluntary assessed contributions** by States Parties in accordance with Article 26.2 of the Convention represents 92% of the assessed amount for the 2022–2023 biennium which is higher than the previous biennium 2020–2021 (76%).

**Prospects for future budget cycles**

1. While the Fund remains in a healthy state, it is worth noting that should the level of expenditure be maintained at such a high level (i.e. above the level of compulsory assessed contributions received each biennium), the approved budget is expected to decrease in future biennia. The situation of the Fund to be able to respond to the safeguarding needs of the States Parties as described in the Part II below, should not be taken for granted. A close monitoring is necessary beyond the short-term to ensure the sustainability of the 2003 Convention’s implementation, including the needs in terms of human resources.

**Update on the Sub–fund to enhance human resources 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 was set at US$950,000 per year by the General Assembly in 2020 (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). During the 2022–2023 biennium, eight voluntary contributions were received from France (twice), Lithuania (twice), Monaco (twice), Slovakia and Slovenia for a total amount of US$224,645. This amount corresponds to 12% of the biennial target endorsed by the General Assembly in 2020.
2. The Convention continues to experience (i) geographical expansion (181 States Parties as of 31 December 2023), (ii) the ongoing implementation of initiatives such as ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non–formal education’, (iii) the launch of new thematic initiatives on the ‘economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage’, ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change’ and ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts’, and, among other things, (iv) the implementation of the outcomes of the reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 and those of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention. These multiple developments demonstrate the strong relevance of the Convention for States and communities alike; they are positive for the present and future of its implementation. It should however be kept in mind that these initiatives require continuous support from the Secretariat. To this purpose, the General Assembly may wish to take into consideration implications in terms of human resources to ensure that the Secretariat is equipped to provide adequate support to these new actions. Otherwise, some of these initiatives will need to be put on hold based on priorities to be identified by the governing bodies. In this regard, it is important to recall that the target set by the General Assembly since the establishment of the Sub-fund in 2010 has never been reached. In fact, contributions to the Sub-fund declined over the last fourteen years from US$511,885 in 2010–2011 (23% of the target, the highest rate ever achieved) to US$224,645 during the last biennium.

#### BUDGET LINES AND ALLOCATIONS FOR THE 42 C/5 (2024–2025)

1. The draft plan proposed below is based on the fund balance available for programme activities as of 31 December 2023, excluding the Reserve Fund, i.e. US$8.19 million. This represents a decrease in comparison with the budget approved by the ninth session of the General Assembly, which amounted to US$8.73 million (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/10)).
2. The proposal for the allocation of funds for the 42C/5 (2024–2025) follows the structure based on budget lines, which has been used for the past equivalent exercises. These budget lines can be divided into three categories, namely expenditures related to: a) International Assistance; b) ‘other functions of the Committee’ in the sense of Article 7 of the Convention; and c) participation in the meetings of the governing bodies and advisory services to the Committee. However, a few adjustments are proposed between the different budget lines as described in the paragraphs below.

**International Assistance**

1. In line with the priorities set by the Guidelines for the use of the resources of the Fund in Chapter II.1 of the Operational Directives, it is proposed that the majority of the resources (65.1%) be allocated to providing International Assistance to States Parties to supplement their national efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (**budget lines 1, 1.1 and 2**).
2. As part of this combined percentage, funds allocated to **budget line 1** (50%) are foreseen for supporting States, through the International Assistance mechanisms, in the safeguarding of heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the preparation of inventories and other safeguarding programmes and projects. It is proposed to maintain the allocation of budget line 1 at the same level to enable States Parties to strengthen their safeguarding efforts, with a particular focus on the Africa region and SIDS. These substantial resources will be used to grant funds to as many safeguarding projects as possible, approved by the Committee and the Bureau, on condition that they meet the criteria for International Assistance.
3. Following the findings from the 2021 evaluation by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (see Recommendations 5 and 6 in document [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf)), the Committee authorized, on an experimental basis, the use of funds under budget line 1 in an amount not exceeding 10% of the approved budget of each approved International Assistance project, to finance the provision of expertise, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, for monitoring and evaluating ongoing and recently completed International Assistance projects (Resolution [9.GA 10](http://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/9.GA/10), Decision [16.COM 13](http://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/13) and Decision [18.COM.14).](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/14) Following the preparatory steps undertaken since the seventeenth session of the Committee with the establishment of a roster of consultants with experience in assessing projects in the field of culture (see document [LHE/23/18.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-10_EN.docx)), the pilot monitoring and evaluation activities are foreseen to be implemented during the current biennium. These additional funds under budget line 1, separated from the grants allocated to the beneficiaries, will be used, on an experimental basis, in an amount not exceeding 10% of the budget of each approved International Assistance project selected, to finance the provision of expertise.
4. At its seventh session in June 2018, the General Assembly approved the creation of three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (one P3, one P2 and one G5) to form a dedicated team to operationalize the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms (Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8)). The ‘Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) Team’ was established in February 2020. Some 12.3% of the resources of the Fund are proposed to be allocated to cover the costs of these three posts (**budget line 1.1**), against 10% in the 2022–2023 biennium.
5. Furthermore, it is proposed that 2.8% of the funds be budgeted for granting preparatory assistance (**budget line 2**). The slight increase compared with the present biennium (2.6%) is proposed in light of the potential additional costs that may result from the extension of the preparatory assistance mechanism to States Parties with no national elements inscribed on the Representative List and who wish to benefit from International Assistance in the preparation of a nomination file (see Decision [18.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/10)). Should the General Assembly endorse ‘the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention’ under Item 7, the proposed increased allocation would allow the provision of such assistance for an initial number of requests that the Secretariat may receive during the 2024–2025 biennium. In addition to the current preparatory assistance for nomination files[[3]](#footnote-4) and the abovementioned proposed possibility, this budget line also covers the costs incurred for the provision of technical assistance to States Parties for preparing International Assistance requests.

**Other functions of the Committee**

1. **Budget line 3** (‘other functions of the Committee’) will be maintained at 20% to strengthen the work initiated during the current biennium. Such functions are listed under Article 7 of the Convention, and the Secretariat makes use of these funds to assist the Committee in performing these functions, as required by Article 10 of the Convention. In other words, these funds will primarily be used for upstream and cross-cutting actions aiming to promote the objectives of the Convention and encourage and monitor its implementation (Article 7[a]), as well as provide guidance on measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 7[b]). It is important to note that if the allocation in percentage remains unchanged, the nominal amount of budget line 3 decreased due to the general reduction in the amount available for 2024–2025.
2. In accordance with this Decision [14.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/7), the proposed Plan presented to the Committee includes a percentage breakdown under budget line 3 in terms of Expected Results (ERs) in line with the Outputs approved in the C/5, with a view to presenting it for approval by the following session of the General Assembly. The Plan proposes to divide budget line 3 into two ERs – instead of four ERs in the previous biennium – to better align the activities to be carried out by the Secretariat with the two performance indicators defined in the approved [42 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000388394&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_acf5fe7c-5678-4b8c-8aa2-0efe82cf5256%3F_%3D388394eng.pdf&updateUrl=updateUrl6226&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000388394/PDF/388394eng.pdf.multi&fullScreen=true&locale=en#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A96%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C771%2C0%5D) (Major Programme IV Culture, Outcome 5, Output 5.CLT4 ‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’). The budget allocation repartition between the two proposed ERs is based on the repartition approved for the previous biennium, the allocation of the new ER 1 (52%) representing a combination of the former ERs 2 and 3 (respectively 33% and 19%), while the allocation of the new ER 2 (48%) is equivalent to the combination of the former ERs 1 and 4 (respectively 25% and 23%) in the previous biennium:

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| **Expected Result** | **2022–****2023** | **Expected Result** | **2024–****2025** |
| ER 1: Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services | **25%** | ER 1: Implementation of the Convention encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme and the integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes[[4]](#footnote-5)  | **52%** |
| ER 2: Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme  | **33%** |
| ER 3: Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported | **19%** | ER 2: Sound governance of the Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring, knowledge management services and awareness-raising associated with international cooperation mechanisms[[5]](#footnote-6) | **48%** |
| ER 4: Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach | **23%** |

1. In accordance with [42C/Resolution 80](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388394/PDF/388394eng.pdf.multi) (paragraph 3) adopted by the General Conference at its 42nd session in November 2023, authorizing the Director–General to make transfers between appropriation lines of UNESCO’s regular programme up to an amount of 5% of the initial appropriation under the 42 C/5, the Committee authorized the Secretariat to make transfers between activities included within the specific allocation for budget line 3 up to a cumulative amount equivalent to 5% of the initial total allocation (Decision [18.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/14)). Based on the indicative amount of the budget indicated in Annex, this would be equivalent to US$81,896. The Secretariat would inform the General Assembly and Committee in writing, at the session following such action, of the details and reasons for these transfers, should they occur.

**Expected Result 1: Implementation of the Convention encouraged through a strengthened capacity–building programme and the integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes**

1. The Secretariat will continue providing upstream guidance and support, drawing from the results of the reflection undertaken on the occasion of the Convention’s twentieth anniversary, notably the [Seoul Vision for the Future of Safeguarding Living Heritage for Sustainable Development and Peace](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/61291-EN.pdf) (2023), and in line with the [2022 MONDIACULT Declaration on cultural policies and sustainable development](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-world-conference-cultural-policies-and-sustainable-development-mondiacult-2022). It will further (a) strengthen the global capacity–building programme to respond to the evolving needs of countries in safeguarding living heritage and (b) continue the thematic initiatives on living heritage and sustainable development, in particular in priority areas identified by the Committee. To ensure maximum reach of the capacity-building programme efforts will be made to continue developing training content and tools adapted to hybrid modalities, broadening the outreach of the programme to new audiences, and bolstering networking and knowledge exchange through the utilization of the learning management platform. It will notably strengthen the thematic expertise of the facilitators network to be equipped to respond to demand for capacity building in thematic areas. The Secretariat will furthermore work on living heritage safeguarding in the digital environment, including the implications of artificial intelligence for living heritage safeguarding, to build more knowledge and expertise in this area and continue capacity-building support to States and communities (Recommendations 8 and 9 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf)).
2. Responding to Recommendation 3 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf) to tackle priority thematic initiatives of the Convention and address current challenges for sustainable development and peace, the Secretariat intends to continue its work on ‘[Economic dimensions of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding](https://ich.unesco.org/en/livelihoods-01315)’ based on the Category VI expert meeting held in September and October 2023, ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change’ and ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts’ (see document LHE/23/18.COM/12). Furthermore, efforts will be put towards pursuing the work on ‘[Living heritage in emergencies](https://ich.unesco.org/en/emergency-situations-01117)’ and ‘[Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education](https://ich.unesco.org/en/education-01017)’. Actions in the biennium will involve expert meetings, development of guidance materials and provision of training, while strengthening synergies with other cultural conventions, programme sectors as well as relevant international organizations, frameworks and mechanisms.

**Expected Result 2: Sound governance of the Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring, knowledge management services and awareness-raising associated with international cooperation mechanisms**

1. Sustaining good governance remains a priority to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. To continue providing adequate support to the Convention’s governing bodies and States, actions will be taken to strengthen the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention, notably periodic reporting, International Assistance and the listing mechanisms, in line with Recommendations 2, 5 and 6 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf). As part of the UNESCO Culture Sector’s initiative to produce a quadrennial Global report on cultural policies and the anticipated move towards a single global submission system, the analysis of information collected through the periodic reporting mechanisms will be carried out and presented to the related sessions of the governing bodies, recognizing the key role of data to guide the efforts of authorities and communities in safeguarding living heritage. In addition, the Secretariat will carry out upstream actions to continue raising awareness about the Lists and Register of the Convention, notably to better understand the impact of inscriptions on elements and their associated communities, as well as on the preparation of multinational nominations. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue its efforts to promote International Assistance including the potential expansion of preparatory assistance (see document [LHE/24/10.GA/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-7_EN.docx)), so as to encourage the submission of requests and contribute to increasing geographical representation on the Lists of the Convention. In view of strengthening the implementation of Article 18 of the Convention following the reflection on its broader implementation, support could be provided for the implementation of the possible coming decisions of the governing bodies, including to kickstart the initial operations of an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences after its set-up (see paragraph 31).
2. Pursuant to actions initiated during the previous biennium, the Secretariat will continue enhancing its knowledge management services, which are crucial in light of the geographical (181 States Parties as of 31 December 2023) and thematic expansions of the Convention, notably with thematic initiatives, the ongoing periodic reporting mechanisms and the reflections launched by the Committee on the listing mechanisms and Article 18 of the Convention. Specific efforts will be pursued in the coming biennium to streamline data production and management, as well as facilitate the access to information through user-friendly and open formats, as prescribed by the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf) (Recommendations 10 and 11). The Convention’s knowledge management will be improved to implement the outcomes of the recent reflections and reforms resulting in a rapidly increasing mass of information coming from a broader range of States and communities and raising the interest of a wider scope of stakeholders. Furthermore, based on the successful experience of the [platform](https://ich.unesco.org/en/anniversary) launched for the twentieth anniversary of the Convention, the Convention’s website will remain a key repository of information for States representatives and experts, and will continue its revamp to provide thematic approaches, offer transversal navigations – including through the regular update of ‘[Dive into intangible cultural heritage!](https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive)’ – and highlight content such as data-visualization, high–quality photos and audio-visual materials depicting living heritage in action.

**Participation of experts in the meetings of the governing bodies**

1. The participation of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States Parties in statutory meetings is covered either by **budget line 4** when they are members of the Committee or by **budget line 5** when they are not. The participation of experts representing accredited NGOs from developing countries in the sessions of the Committee is covered by **budget line 6**. It is proposed that 2.5%, 2.7% and 2.7%, respectively, be dedicated to the above-mentioned lines. It represents a slight decrease of each line, which would however still allow the Fund to respond to all requests from Committee members and most, if not all, requests submitted by States Parties not members of the Committee and accredited non-governmental organizations.

**Advisory services to the Committee**

1. **Budget line 7** is proposed to be slightly decreased from 7.7% to 7% to cover the cost of the advisory services provided at the request of the Committee from January 2024 to December 2025, in particular those associated with the work of the Evaluation Body. Under this proposal, it is expected that this line will continue being able to cover the costs of the advisory services provided by the Evaluation Body in 2024 and 2025, even taking into account the increasing number of files for the two corresponding cycles following the decision of the Committee to treat requests for the transfer of elements from one List to another, the inclusion in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of the successful safeguarding experience resulting from a transfer from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List, requests for inscriptions on an extended or reduced basis, as well as the follow-up of inscribed elements, outside of the annual ceiling (Decision [17.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/15)).
2. Furthermore, this budget line is foreseen to cover the costs associated with the initial set-up of an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences, including IT developments, content preparation and the initial testing of the system, to fully implement Article 18 of the Convention (Decision [18.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/11)). Should the General Assembly endorse ‘the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention’ under Item 7, the proposed allocation would allow the Secretariat to initiate the establishment of the online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences.
3. At its ninth session, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretariat be authorized to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, for up to 30% of their initial total allocation (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/10)). During the 2022–2023 biennium, the Secretariat made two transfers under these budget lines to cover the costs of participants attending the eighteenth session of the Committee (see document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)). In order to be able to continue to respond to as many requests for financial assistance as possible across the different categories of participants, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly continue authorizing the Secretariat to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, up to an equivalent of 30% of their initial total (Decision [18.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/14)). Should such a transfer be necessary, the Secretariat would inform the General Assembly and the Committee in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers.
4. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 10.GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined documents LHE/24/10.GA/8 and [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx) and their respective annexes,
2. Recalling Article 7(c) of the Convention and Chapter II.1 of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling the UNESCO General Conference’s Appropriation resolution for 2024–2025 ([42 C/Resolution 80](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388394)),

**Status and trends of the Fund**

1. Takes note of the statement of assessed contributions of the Fund for 2022–2023, recalls that the payment of compulsory and assessed voluntary contributions is, per Article 26 of the Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention, and calls upon all States Parties which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary assessed contributions, to ensure that their contributions are paid in due course;
2. Further takes note of the donors that have provided during the 2022–2023 biennium (a) voluntary supplementary contributions for specific activities approved by the Committee, namely the Netherlands and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), as well as (b) voluntary supplementary contributions to the Sub–fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, namely France, Lithuania, Monaco, Slovakia and Slovenia;
3. Thanks all the contributors that have supported the Convention and its Secretariat, since its last session, through different forms of support, financial or in-kind, such as voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund including the Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, Funds-in-Trust, or loaned personnel, and encourages potential contributors to consider the possibility of supporting the Convention through the modality of their choice;
4. Reiterates the need to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat on a lasting basis to allow the Secretariat to better respond to the needs of the States Parties and invites States Parties to provide voluntary supplementary contributions to the Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat;

**Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund**

1. Approves the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025 as well as for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. Understands that, at the time of its eleventh session in 2026, it may readjust the budget plan from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026; if the General Assembly is unable to meet prior to 30 June 2026, the Secretariat is authorized to continue operations until such a time that the General Assembly is able to meet;
3. Also takes note of the authorization granted by the Committee to the Secretariat to use on an experimental basis an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of each International Assistance project, in addition to the amount granted by the Committee or its Bureau for each project, to monitor and assess the impact of projects supported by the Fund;
4. Further welcomes the adjustments in allocations foreseen to operationalize the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, in particular on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention;
5. Takes note furthermore of the authorization granted by the Committee to the Secretariat, when utilizing the funds allocated under budget line 3 of the Plan, to make transfers between activities included under budget line 3 up to a cumulative amount equivalent to 5 per cent of the initial total allocation proposed to the General Assembly for this purpose;
6. Authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any voluntary supplementary contributions that might be received during these periods, as described in Article 27 of the Convention, in accordance with the percentages laid out in the Plan;
7. Further authorizes the Committee to make immediate use of any contributions that it might accept, during these periods, for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee prior to the receipt of the funds, as described in Article 25.5 of the Convention;
8. Also authorizes the Secretariat to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, up to an equivalent of 30 per cent of their initial total allocation, and requests that the Secretariat inform the Committee and the General Assembly in writing, at the session following such action, of the details of and reasons for these transfers.

**ANNEX**

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| **Draft plan for the use of the resources of the Fund** |  |   |
| For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, as well as for the period 1 January to 30 June 2026, the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund may be used for the following purposes: | % applied during previous biennium2022–2023 | % of the total amount proposed 2024–2025 [1] | Indicative amounts2024–2025 | Indicative amountsJan–Jun 2026 |
| 1. | International Assistance, comprising the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the preparation of inventories and support for other safeguarding programmes, projects and activities, including the monitoring and evaluation of requests approved; | 50,00% | 50,00% | *$4 094 789* | *$1 023 697* |
| 1.1 | Enhancing human resources to improve the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms through three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (one P3, one P2 and one G5); | 10,00% | 12,30% | *$1 007 318* | *$251 830* |
| 2. | Preparatory assistance for International Assistance requests, nominations and proposals to the Lists and Register of the Convention;  | 2,60% | 2,80% | *$229 308* | *$57 327* |
| 3. | Other functions of the Committee, as described in Article 7 of the Convention, aimed at promoting the objectives of the Convention and encouraging and monitoring its implementation, in particular by strengthening capacities to effectively safeguard intangible cultural heritage, raising awareness of the importance of such heritage, providing guidance on good safeguarding practices and updating and publishing the Lists and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices:  | 20,00% | 20,00% | *$1 637 916* | *$409 479* |
|  | ***ER 1: Implementation of the Convention encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme and the integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes;*** | *6,60%* | *10.4%* | *$851 716* | *$212 929* |
| *(ER 2: 33% of line 3)* |
| *3,70%* | *(52% of line 3)* |
| *(ER 3: 19% of line 3)* |
|  | ***ER 2: Sound governance of the Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring, knowledge management services and awareness-raising associated with international cooperation mechanisms*** | *5,00%* | *9.6%* | *$786 199* | *$196 550* |
| *(ER 1: 25% of line 3)* |
| *4,70%* | *(48% of line 3)* |
| *(ER 4: 23% of line 3)* |
| 4. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and subsidiary bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Members of the Committee; | 3,10% | 2,50% | *$204 739* | *$51 185* |
| 5. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee and its consultative bodies of experts in intangible cultural heritage representing developing States that are Parties to the Convention but not Members of the Committee; | 3,30% | 2,70% | *$221 119* | *$55 280* |
| 6. | Participation in the sessions of the Committee, its Bureau and consultative bodies of public or private bodies, private persons, notably members of communities and groups, that have been invited by the Committee to advise it on specific matters, as well as experts in intangible cultural heritage representing accredited NGOs from developing countries; | 3,30% | 2,70% | *$221 119* | *$55 280* |
| 7. | The costs of advisory services to be provided at the request of the Committee | 7,70% | 7,00% | *$573 270* | *$143 318* |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100,00%** | **100,00%** | ***$8 189 578*** | ***$2 047 394*** |
| [1] Percentages are applied to the balance of the Fund as of 31 December 2023. This balance does not include the Reserve Fund (US$1,000,000). |
| Funds that have not been committed at the end of the period of this Plan are carried over to the next financial period and shall be allocated in accordance with the Plan approved by the General Assembly at that time. |
| For the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 one–fourth of the amount established for the twenty–four months of the financial period 2024–2025 shall be allocated on a provisional basis, except for the Reserve Fund, whose amount was set by the Committee at US$1 million (Decision [10.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/10.COM/8)). |

1. In addition to compulsory assessed contributions, the Convention also received voluntary assessed contributions of US$0.5 million during 2022–2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. One new State Party not included in the Statement of assessed contributions for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 has also not paid its prorated contribution for 2023 (US$70). This has already been taken into account in the monthly Statement of assessed contributions published on the Member States Portal at the following link: [ICH-Status-of-Contributions](https://unesco.sharepoint.com/sites/ms/en-US/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fms%2Fen%2DUS%2FShared%20Documents%2FMember%20States%20Assessed%20Contributions%2FICH%2DStatus%2Dof%2DContributions%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2Fms%2Fen%2DUS%2FShared%20Documents%2FMember%20States%20Assessed%20Contributions). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. ‘Preparatory assistance’ refers to the assistance that States Parties can request for developing nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, for the transfer of elements between the Lists and Register of the Convention and for the inscription of elements on an extended or reduced basis (paragraph 21 of the [Operational Directives](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/2003_Convention_Basic_Texts-_2022_version-EN_.pdf)). ‘Technical assistance’ refers to the provision of experts, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, to States Parties wishing to develop requests for International Assistance ([Decision 8.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/7.c)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The proposed Expected Result 1 is aligned with 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’ in the approved 42 C/5 for Output 5.CLT4. It merges the former ERs 2 (‘Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme’) and 3 (‘Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported’) in the Plan for 2022 – 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The proposed Expected Result 2 is aligned with 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’ in the approved 42 C/5 for Output 5.CLT4. It merges the former ERs 1 (‘Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services’) and 4 (‘Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach’) in the Plan for 2022 – 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)