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

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

**Nineteenth session**

**Asunción, Republic of Paraguay**

**2 to 7 December 2024**

**Item 12 of the provisional agenda:**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund:**

**voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues**

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| **Summary**In accordance with Article 25.5 of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee. The present document reports on these and other types of voluntary contributions received for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024.**Decision required:** paragraph 18 |

**Background**

1. Chapter VI of the Convention concerning the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Fund’) establishes that States Parties may wish to make voluntary supplementary contributions (Article 27) in addition to their assessed contributions (Article 26). In accordance with Article 25.5, these contributions may relate to specific projects ‘provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee’.
2. The present document provides an overview of the contributions received during the first six months of the biennium, from 1 January to 30 June 2024 ([Section A](#SectionA)). Contributions received between 1 July 2024 and the end of November 2024, if any, will be presented orally, as per the practice for this item, at the nineteenth session; they will also be included in the Financial Report of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025 to be presented to the twentieth session of the Committee. Furthermore, the present document reports, in response to the request by the Committee (Decision [7.COM 20.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.COM/20.1)), on the different forms of support to the Convention received, other than voluntary contributions to the Fund ([Section B](#SectionB)).
3. **Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund**
4. In the first half of 2024, two voluntary supplementary contributions were received for a total amount of US$64,055 as described below (see Annex I for the list of contributions). The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contributed US$63,982 to the Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, while Saint Vincent and the Grenadines made a contribution of US$73 to Programme activities. The latter contribution will be added to the resources of the Fund for which a plan was approved by the tenth session of the General Assembly in June 2024 (Resolution [10.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/10.GA/8)).

Funding priority 1: Capacity-building programme

1. At its sixteenth session in 2021, the Committee approved the first funding priority ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ for the period 2022–2025 (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/12)). The resource mobilization target set for the four-year period is US$5 million (see Annex II in document [LHE/21/16.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-12-EN.docx)).
2. Since January 2022, three earmarked contributions were received: one from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and two from ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region). These contributions total US$196,046.80 corresponding to 4% of the US$5 million mobilization target set for the 2022–2025 quadrennium. Furthermore, five additional ongoing projects are currently implemented thanks to voluntary supplementary contributions received prior to 2022 (see Annex II). During the reporting period, no contribution to the Fund was received for this funding priority.

Funding priority 2: Intangible cultural heritage in education

1. ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ is an area of growing interest and opportunities, adopted as the second funding priority by the Committee in 2021 for the four-year period 2022–2025 (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/12)). The resource mobilization target set for the four-year period is US$3.5 million (see Annex II in document [LHE/21/16.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-12-EN.docx)).
2. Since the start of this funding priority in 2022, one earmarked contribution[[1]](#footnote-2) amounting to US$82,236.84 has been made by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to support the integration of living heritage into education in two SIDS in the Caribbean. This contribution represents 2% of the US$3.5 million mobilization target set for the quadrennium. Furthermore, one additional ongoing project is currently supported in the Africa and Asia regions by a voluntary supplementary contribution received prior to 2022 (see Annex II). No contribution was received during the reporting period to further support this funding priority.

Strengthening the human capacities of the Secretariat

1. The Sub-fund intended to enhance the human resources 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)) to support the Secretariat on a lasting basis and to enable it to meet the needs expressed by States Parties. The annual target of the Sub-fund, initially set at approximately US$1.1 million in 2010, was reassessed by the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020 at US$950,000 per year (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/8.GA/7)).
2. During the first six months of 2024, one contribution was received from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the amount of US$63,982 (see Annex I), representing 7% of the annual target set by the General Assembly. Additionally, the Government of China has continued providing in-kind support through loaned staff since May 2021 and the Government of Germany has committed to funding a two-year assignment in the framework of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme from September 2024.
3. Taking into account the contributions received since January 2022 from six donors (France, Lithuania, Monaco, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Sub-fund has received a total of US$288,627.39. This amount represents 8% of the quadrennial target of US$3,800,000 set for the Sub-fund[[2]](#footnote-3).
4. **Projects and activities supported by other types of voluntary contributions**
5. In addition to the voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund mentioned in the first section of the document, UNESCO has received other forms of support for projects and activities aimed at safeguarding and promoting living heritage. This section of the document aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the support received by the Convention through different modalities, such as Funds-in-Trust agreements or in the form of an additional contribution to UNESCO’s Regular Programme. In order to reflect the diversity of projects supported by donors, this section presents the different projects considered as ‘active’[[3]](#footnote-4) during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024.
6. During this reporting period[[4]](#footnote-5), thirty initiatives have been under implementation, including ten new projects and activities launched between January and June 2024; these new projects and activities are indicated by an asterisk (\*) below. The variety and geographical scope of the thirty ongoing initiatives highlight the extensive efforts made to enhance the implementation of the Convention by States Parties and communities. This also reflects the generous support provided by a wide range of donors to UNESCO’s work at the global, regional and national levels, beyond contributions made to the Fund.
7. The capacity-building programme (funding priority 1) received support through other funding modalities for eight ongoing projects and activities, often implemented directly by UNESCO Field Offices in cooperation with national authorities, in complement to upstream activities at the global level:
	1. A self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreement has been allowing the implementation of a project through a contribution from Morocco (Rabat Office);
	2. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements with Japan (Headquarters, supporting one new project\* and one ongoing project) and Saudi Arabia (Headquarters, three projects) facilitate the implementation of five projects;
	3. Additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) have been received from the United Arab Emirates\* (Doha Office), as well as the Sharjah Institute for Heritage\* (Doha Office), support the implementation of two capacity-building activities.
8. Three initiatives promoting the integration of intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education (funding priority 2) are currently being implemented through:
9. One contribution from Flanders, Belgium, with a Funds-in-Trust arrangement (Harare Office),
10. Two additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) from ICHCAP (Pacific and Jakarta\* Offices).
11. In addition to projects that contribute to the two funding priorities, donors also support a wide range of initiatives that establish a direct link between the safeguarding of living heritage and specific areas of sustainable development which include supporting the safeguarding of indigenous knowledge, promoting sustainable systems related to foodways, development of cultural and creative industries, promotion of heritage sensitive tourism, consolidation of peace and strengthening human security, among others. These nineteen initiatives increasingly use digital tools, emphasize youth involvement and gender inclusivity:
12. Self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreements have been supporting five projects through contributions from Brazil (Brasilia Office), India (Delhi Office, two projects) and Morocco (Rabat Office, two projects);
13. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements have been established with Saudi Arabia (Headquarters), Switzerland (Juba Office) as well as one contribution from the private sector in Mexico (Mexico City Office). China\* provided funding in the framework of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme (Cairo Office). In addition, the United Nations contributes to UNESCO projects through the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (Kabul Office, three projects) and the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund (Quito Office). These contributions support UNESCO in the implementation of eight projects;
14. Additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) were received from Brazil\* and ICHCAP\* to support the work of the Secretariat at the global level (Headquarters). Furthermore, four activities implemented by UNESCO Field Offices received support from International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP), ICHCAP\* (Bangkok Office and Jakarta Office respectively), the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research-Asia and Pacific (WHITRAP)\* (Beijing Office) and the private sector in Indonesia\* (Jakarta Office) making a total of six activities funded by this type of contributions.

Concluding remarks

1. Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund remain essential to support States Parties and communities in various initiatives, such as building capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and for contributing to sustainable development as well as integrating intangible cultural heritage into education. To ensure the continued success and expansion of these initiatives, the Secretariat will pursue its efforts to mobilize funds for the two funding priorities. At the same time, it noted an increasing interest from potential contributors to support initiatives that go beyond the funding priorities, in particular to foster the contribution of living heritage more specifically to sustainable development, which may be reflected in future proposed funding priorities to be presented to the twentieth session of the Committee in 2025.
2. The expanded interest from States Parties for an increasingly broader range of initiatives, projects and activities, both at the global and national levels, should go hand-in-hand with the provision of adequate human resources. The Committee could therefore encourage donors to support the achievement of the objectives defined in the two funding priorities through voluntary supplementary contributions for earmarked projects (in addition to Funds-in-Trust agreements and additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget) and to the Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat.
3. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 19.COM 12

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/24/19.COM/12 and its annexes,
2. Recalling Article 25.5 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling its previous decisions concerning voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and most recently its decision [18.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/13),
4. Thanks all the contributors who have generously supported the Convention and its Secretariat since the last session, namely France, Monaco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as Germany in the framework of the JPO programme and the People’s Republic of China for its in-kind contribution;
5. Takes note that in addition to voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, the Convention has received other types of financial support, and expresses appreciation to all contributors who generously support the Convention;
6. Encourages potential contributors to support the Convention, in particular within the framework of the two funding priorities defined for the period 2022–2025 and the Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat;
7. Further encourages the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Convention and to respond positively to the needs expressed by States Parties in accordance with the two funding priorities;
8. Requests the Secretariat to report to it at its twentieth session on progress made in implementing any voluntary supplementary contributions received since the nineteenth session.

ANNEX I

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

**for the period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024**

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

**Funds received for Programme activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | US$73 |

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

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| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | US$63,982 |

loans and secondments[[5]](#footnote-6), [[6]](#footnote-7)

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| China | 6 months at P-2 level |

**ANNEX II**

**Activities supported by voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (ongoing for the period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024)**

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| **Project** | **Latest report issued** |
| **Priority 1: Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development** |
| *Projects supported by voluntary supplementary contributions received since January 2022* |
| Practical handbook on periodic reporting with a self-learning tool on the Overall results framework for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/practical-handbook-on-periodic-reporting-with-a-self-learning-tool-on-the-overall-results-framework-for-the-implementation-of-the-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-00484?projectID=00484) |
| Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the United Republic of Tanzania and contributing to sustainable development | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-at-the-national-and-local-levels-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-united-republic-of-tanzania-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00481?projectID=00481) |
| Strengthening capacities for preparing nomination files for the Lists of the 2003 Convention in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Latin America and the Caribbean | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-for-preparing-nomination-files-for-the-lists-of-the-2003-convention-in-small-island-and-developing-states-sids-in-the-caribbean-00502)  |
| *Projects supported by voluntary supplementary contributions received prior to January 2022* |
| Strengthening capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in disaster contexts | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-disaster-contexts-00458?projectID=00458) |
| Support of the development and implementation of capacity building activities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in conflict-related situations, including situations of forced displacement | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/support-of-the-development-and-implementation-of-capacity-building-activities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-related-situations-including-situations-of-forced-displacement-00474?projectID=00474) |
| Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00475?projectID=00475) |
| Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Dominica | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-at-the-national-and-local-levels-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-dominica-00477?projectID=00477) |
| Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development in Kenya | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-national-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-in-kenya-00480?projectID=00480) |
| **Priority 2: Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education** |
| *Project supported by voluntary supplementary contributions received since January 2022* |
| Integration of living heritage into education in two Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/integration-of-living-heritage-into-education-in-two-small-island-developing-states-sids-in-the-caribbean-00504) |
| *Project supported by voluntary supplementary contributions received prior to January 2022* |
| Living heritage and the sustainable development goals: safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education in the Asia and the Pacific Region and in Africa | [See the project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/living-heritage-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-formal-and-non-formal-education-in-the-asia-and-the-pacific-region-and-in-africa-00476?projectID=00476) |

1. This voluntary supplementary contribution was received from the Kingdom of the Netherlands after the eighteenth session of the Committee in December 2023 and before the beginning of the period covered by the present document. It was included in the Report on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 presented to the tenth session of the General Assembly in June 2024 (document [LHE/24/10.GA/INF.8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-INF.8_EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. After the reporting period, two contributions to the Sub-fund to enhance the human capacities of the Secretariat were received/signed from France (EUR 100,000 in August 2024) and Monaco (EUR 10,000 in October 2024). These will be included in the financial report to be presented to the Committee at its twentieth session in December 2025. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This includes projects that fall under Output 5.CLT4 of the [42 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000389188): ‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’. Projects that were initiated, under implementation or completed during the reporting period are considered as active. Donor contributions may have been partially or fully received before or during the period under consideration. Field Offices – or Headquarters in the case of global activities – responsible for implementing each project are shown in brackets after the name of the donor. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. After the reporting period, two additional contributions to UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5) were received from Slovakia and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage to support activities, respectively at the global level (Headquarters) and implemented by the Doha Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Information provided by the Living Heritage Entity. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. After the reporting period, the Government of Germany has been providing support to the Secretariat through a two-year assignment in the framework of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme, starting from September 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)