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| ITEM 7.C OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA |
| **Examination of requests for transfer of elements from one list to the other** |
| Nineteenth session, Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Asunción, Paraguay – 2 to 7 December 2024) |

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| **Summary**  The present document includes the recommendations of the Evaluation Body on the requests to transfer elements from one list to the other (Part A) and a set of draft decisions for the Committee’s consideration (Part B). An overview of the 2024 files and the working methods of the Evaluation Body is included in document LHE/24/19.COM/7.  **Decisions required**: paragraph 2 |

*The nomination files submitted by the States Parties are published by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention on its website in compliance with paragraph 54 of the Operational Directives regarding the nomination procedure; moreover, the information included in the nominations is reflected in working documents of the Committee in order to ensure transparency and access to information.*

*The sole responsibility for the content of each nomination file lies with the submitting States Parties concerned. The designations employed in the texts and documents presented by the submitting States Parties do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Committee nor UNESCO concerning a) the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, b) the legal status of its authorities, c) the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or d) references to specific historical events.*

1. **Recommendations**
2. The Evaluation Body recommends that the Committee transfer the following elements from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

| **Draft  Decision** | **Submitting State** | **Nomination** | **File No.** |
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| [19.COM 7.c.1](#_DRAFT_DECISION_19.COM) | China | Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering | [02153](https://ich.unesco.org/en/7c-transfer-01371#7.c.1) |
| [19.COM 7.c.2](#_DRAFT_DECISION_19.COM_1) | China | Qiang New Year festival | [02155](https://ich.unesco.org/en/7c-transfer-01371#7.c.2) |
| [19.COM 7.c.3](#_DRAFT_DECISION_19.COM_2) | China | Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges | [02156](https://ich.unesco.org/en/7c-transfer-01371#7.c.3) |

1. **Draft decisions**
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

## DRAFT DECISION 19.COM 7.c.1

The Committee,

* 1. Recalling the initial inscription of ‘Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering’ on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the fourth session of the Committee in 2009 (Decision [4.COM 14.04](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/4.COM/14.04)),
  2. Further recalling the latest periodic report submitted by China on the status of this element as examined by the seventeenth session of the Committee in 2022 (Decision [17.COM 6.a.12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/6.A.12)),
  3. Takes note of the request submitted by China to transfer **Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering** (No. 02153) from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

The traditional Li textile techniques of spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering are employed by women of the Li ethnic group of Hainan Province, China, to make clothing and other daily necessities out of cotton, hemp and other fibres. In the absence of a written language, the patterns used on the textiles record the history and legends of Li culture as well as aspects of worship, taboos, beliefs, traditions and folkways. They are therefore an indispensable part of the cultural heritage of the Li ethnic group, allowing communities to strengthen their shared historical memory and cultural identity. The techniques involved, including double-face embroidery and single-face jacquard weaving, were traditionally passed down from mothers to daughters from early childhood through verbal instruction and personal demonstration. In the inscription in 2009 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, it was noted that there were only 1,000 practitioners, mostly older people, and there were concerns about a reluctance among younger generations to acquire the traditional knowledge and skills, preferring modern fashion instead. Over time, the inter-generational transmission has been strengthened with the increased involvement of men. Li textile techniques provide a sustainable livelihood for families while improving their status and social recognition. They also promote mutual respect and dialogue among communities, which continue to grow, harvest and use the natural raw materials needed for the dyes and threads. The related techniques, knowledge and history have been integrated into formal education and are promoted through research and awareness-raising activities.

* 1. Considers that, from the information included in the request and the periodic report on the status of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the request satisfies the following criteria for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

R.1: The ‘Traditional Li textile techniques of spinning, dyeing, weaving, and embroidering’ represent a vital cultural heritage of the Li ethnic group in Hainan Province, China. These techniques, intertwined with the community's identity and history, have been passed down through generations, traditionally from mothers to daughters. The textiles they produce, adorned with patterns that convey legends, beliefs, and cultural traditions, symbolising the cultural identity of the communities. Initially inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding due to the declining number of practitioners, this element has since witnessed a remarkable revival. With increased efforts in safeguarding, the number of bearers has grown significantly from 1,000 in the original nomination in 2009, to nearly 20,000 bearers and over 1,000 mastering the full set of skills as indicated in the latest periodic report. The continued transmission of these skills has enhanced the viability of the element since it was first inscribed. The successful revitalization and sustainable management of this cultural practice, supported by the establishment of cooperatives and the integration of these techniques into formal education has revitalised and enhanced the element over time.

R.2: The nomination file explains how the ‘Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving, and embroidering’ contributes to sustainable development. The element is closely linked to the sustainable livelihoods of Li women, enhancing their income, improving their family status, and increasing social recognition, thereby promoting gender equality and inclusive development. The techniques also exhibit a deep connection to the natural environment, as the Li community continues to use natural raw materials for dyes and threads, linking their cultural practices to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the integration of these techniques – along with their associated knowledge, history and culture – into formal education provides valuable resources for the comprehensive education of youth and children, while also enhancing cultural identity.

R.3: In recent years, relevant policies and plans have been issued, further supporting the safeguarding of the element, which was once in need of urgent safeguarding. The expanded transmission of Traditional Li textile techniques is a testament to these efforts, with over 150 special training workshops on spindle spinning, pedal loom spinning, plant dyeing, and string dyeing serving as cornerstones for this revival. The number of practitioners has grown significantly, easing the previous pressure on inter-generational transmission and ensuring that these skills are passed down to future generations. Moreover, the establishment of Li textile cooperatives and enterprises has fostered social and economic growth, particularly by empowering women within the community. The element’s inclusion in formal education systems, combined with ongoing support from NGOs and local organizations, has created a framework for the continued practice of these techniques. These efforts have demonstrated the effectiveness of the safeguarding measures in enhancing the viability of the element since it was first inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and support the request to transfer the element to the Representative List. The efforts are also a recognition of the community’s successful safeguarding plans and the continued transmission of the element.

R.4: The transfer of the ‘Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving, and embroidering’ to the Representative List is supported by the participation of the community concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent. Additional documents about the community organizations or representatives concerned are submitted. Letters of consent from communities were submitted as part of the nomination file for the transfer of the element. These letters expressed the communities’ consent for the transfer of the element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

R.5: The element is maintained in the national inventory with the same details, including its reference number and name as stated in the original nomination file. The agency responsible for updating the element has continued to monitor its status, ensuring that it remains a vital part of China’s cultural heritage framework.

* 1. Decides to transfer **Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering** from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
  2. Commends the State Party for the success of the safeguarding measures, particularly in increasing the number of bearers and practitioners, and for the element’s contribution to gender equality and inclusive social development;
  3. Encourages the State Party to enhance efforts to safeguard the ethnic knowledge embedded in the traditional patterns and motifs of Li textiles, thereby preserving cultural diversity amidst increasing visibility through cooperatives and enterprises.

## DRAFT DECISION 19.COM 7.c.2

The Committee,

* 1. Recalling the initial inscription of ‘Qiang New Year festival’ on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the fourth session of the Committee in 2009 (Decision [4.COM 14.02](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/4.COM/14.02)),
  2. Further recalling the latest periodic report submitted by China on the status of this element as examined by the seventeenth session of the Committee in 2022 (Decision [17.COM 6.a.10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/6.A.10)),
  3. Takes note of the request submitted by China to transfer **Qiang New Year festival** (No. 02155) from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

Held on the first day of the tenth lunar month, the Qiang New Year Festival is an occasion for the Qiang people of China’s Sichuan Province to express their gratitude and reverence, reaffirm their harmonious and respectful relationship with nature, and promote social and family harmony. The festival is also a means of regulating community actions and individual behaviours while promoting intergenerational exchange and peace. In addition to uniting participants of all ages and genders, it has become a platform for dialogue and exchange between the Qiang people and other communities, thus contributing to inclusive social development. In 2009, the element was inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. At that time, participation in the festival had declined over time due to migration, declining interest in Qiang heritage among the young and the impact of outside cultures. In addition, the 2008 Sichuan earthquake destroyed many of the Qiang villages and devastated the region put the New Year festival at grave risk. Since then, the festival has played a key role in rebuilding faith and resilience after the 2008 earthquake, increasing people’s awareness of food security and environmental protection. Traditionally, the practice was transmitted informally within families. Over time, the related knowledge and skills, as well as the use of the Qiang language, have been integrated into formal education, stimulating young people’s interest in and identification with the related cultural traditions. The festival and safeguarding measures have been incorporated into local economic and social development planning. They have contributed to the sustainable livelihood of the communities, increasing employment and income while promoting inclusive economic growth.

* 1. Considers that, from the information included in the request and the periodic report on the status of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the request satisfies the following criteria for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

R.1: The Qiang New Year Festival is an annual event of Qiang ethnic group in China. Originally inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List due to concerns about its viability, the festival faced numerous challenges, including rural-urban migration, difficulties in engaging younger practitioners, and the devastating impact of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. However, significant strides have been made since the initial inscription in 2009. For example, efforts to enhance inter-generational transmission have borne fruit, as evidenced by the increasing number of practitioners and the festival's growing importance within the community. The element’s viability has improved, attracting greater participation from dancers, singers, youth, craftspeople, and musicians, despite ongoing challenges such as globalization and urbanization. These positive developments reflect the festival’s strengthened role as an integral part of the Qiang cultural heritage and the improved viability of the element.

R.2: The element contributes significantly to various aspects of sustainable development, including food security, quality education, gender equality, inclusive economic development, and environmental sustainability. It promotes intergenerational exchange, enhances domestic peace and social harmony, and plays a crucial role in rebuilding the faith and resilience of communities, particularly after the 2008 earthquake. The element, including the Qiang language, has been successfully integrated into formal education, inspiring young people’s interest in and identification with their cultural traditions. The practices and safeguarding of the element have also been incorporated into the overall planning of local economic and social development, leading to increased employment, income and inclusive economic growth within the communities. The Qiang New Year festival has become an open platform for dialogue and exchange, fostering social cohesion and inclusive social development. It has heightened community awareness of food security and environmental protection, further linking the element to aspects of sustainable development.

R.3: The safeguarding measures for the Qiang New Year festival have been developed with active contributions from communities, groups, and individuals within the submitting State. These efforts have significantly bolstered the intergenerational transmission of the element, with more Qiang teenagers participating in education programs offered at local schools. The periodic report provides detailed insights into how the element's viability is monitored and assessed across various regions. Overall, the viability of the element has improved over the years, and efforts have been sustained with the involvement of communities. An updated safeguarding plan has been developed, incorporating lessons learned from previous efforts, with a clear timetable and budget allocation. The proposed measures are designed to address identified risks and promote the element’s continued vitality. The updated plan was formulated by a working group established by the Sichuan Academy of Arts, under the coordination of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, with participation from various stakeholders.

R.4: As mentioned in the nomination file, the communities, groups, and individuals involved have played an active role in the planning and implementation of safeguarding measures for the Qiang New Year festival. The periodic report further details the involvement of the communities, noting that surveys were conducted to gather information on the element’s transmission and to update the safeguarding strategies. The submission includes letters of consent from the communities, clearly indicating their support for the transfer of the element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List. These letters confirm the communities’ free, prior, and informed consent, demonstrating their commitment to and approval for the transfer.

R.5: The Qiang New Year festival is included in the national inventory of the submitting State. The submitting State confirms that the element is listed in the inventory with the same data, including the name, the entity responsible for its maintenance and updating, its reference number, and the date of its inclusion.

* 1. Decides to transfer **Qiang New Year festival** from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
  2. Commends the State Party for the level of inclusion of practitioners in the nomination process and for integrating the element into formal education.

## DRAFT DECISION 19.COM 7.c.3

The Committee,

1. Recalling the initial inscription of ‘Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges’ on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the fourth session of the Committee in 2009 (Decision [4.COM 14.03](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/4.COM/14.03)),
2. Further recalling the latest periodic report submitted by China on the status of this element as examined by the seventeenth session of the Committee in 2022 (Decision [17.COM 6.a.11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/6.A.11)),
3. Takes note of the request submitted by China to transfer **Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges** (No. 02156) from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

Wooden arch bridges are found in Fujian Province and Zhejiang Province, along China’s southeast coast. The traditional design and practices for building these bridges combine the use of wood, traditional architectural tools, craftsmanship, the core technologies of ‘beam-weaving’ and mortise and tenon joints, and an experienced woodworker’s understanding of different environments and the necessary structural mechanics. The wooden arch bridges respond to the needs of local communities while taking into consideration the environment and the management of natural resources. They are a reflection of the value of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. The element was first inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as the tradition had declined over the years due to rapid urbanization, scarcity of timber and lack of available construction space, all of which combine to threaten its transmission and survival. Today, the element remains a source of livelihood for woodworkers, the bridges – and the traditional techniques and knowledge used to build them – are also an integral part of the cultural ecosystem of local villages. They serve as communication channels and cultural spaces, thus enhancing community harmony and cultural identity. Local communities and woodworkers of all genders participate in the construction, maintenance and use of the bridges, as well as in the related folk practices. The associated skills, knowledge, history and culture have been integrated into formal education as valuable resources for local cultural development. This has helped to spread awareness of the practice among youth while promoting local traditions and living heritage in general.

1. Considers that, from the information included in the request and the periodic report on the status of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the request satisfies the following criteria for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

R.1: The ‘Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges’ represent a comprehensive system of intangible cultural heritage, encompassing a range of skills, techniques, and knowledge developed in response to local environmental conditions. The bearers of the element construct bridges that have been integral to local communities for centuries. These practices are primarily transmitted within families or through apprenticeship systems, ensuring the continuity of knowledge across generations. The bridges also play a significant cultural role, with ritual ceremonies held during festivals like the Dragon Boat Festival and Qixi Festival, where community participation, especially by women, is central to the events. These ceremonies are not only cultural expressions but also reinforce the social fabric of the communities. The periodic report further explains that the viability of the element has improved since the inscription in 2009, and the population of bearers and the frequency of practice of the element has increased, and the transmission of the element has been strengthened. This was achieved due to the joint efforts of multiple actors, especially due to the contributions of the communities.

R.2: The element contains traditional techniques, practices and knowledge systems created by local communities in response to the natural environment, production needs, and resource management. This reflects a deep understanding of the principle of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, providing sustainable livelihoods for craftspeople. The skills, knowledge and history related to the element have been integrated into formal education as valuable resources for local cultural education, aimed at raising young people’s awareness of the element and of intangible cultural heritage in general. The submitting State affirms that the communities involved recognize the element’s contributions to quality education, gender equality, inclusive economic development, and environmental sustainability. The information provided is sufficient and convincing, demonstrating that the inscription of the element will enhance visibility and awareness of the significance of intangible cultural heritage.

R.4: Various letters of consent from the communities have been submitted, confirming their agreement to transfer the ‘Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges’ from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The nomination for the transfer was conducted with the free, prior, and informed consent of the communities concerned, as evidenced by additional documentation provided by the community representatives and organizations.

R.5: The submitting State confirms that the element remains included in the national inventory as described under the original criteria U.5, with no changes to its status. The inventory name, the entity responsible for maintaining it, the reference number of the element, and the date of its inclusion in the inventory remain consistent with the original listing.

1. Further considers that, from the information included in the request and periodic report on the status of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and the information provided by the submitting State through the dialogue process, the request satisfies the following criterion for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

R.3: During the reporting period, the communities, groups, and individuals involved actively engaged in various safeguarding activities in collaboration with governments at all levels and other stakeholders. The periodic report emphasises the proactive involvement of communities in both planning and implementing these safeguarding measures, with clear timetables and budgets established. The updated safeguarding plan in Section C of the report highlights various initiatives, such as promoting the transmission of essential skills and knowledge by master craftspeople, discovering creative methods to engage younger generations, and increasing awareness through diverse media channels. These initiatives reflect a strong commitment to safeguarding the element and enhancing its viability. The dialogue process provided an opportunity for the submitting State to clarify and explain the effectiveness of the safeguarding measures. This additional information demonstrated that the element’s viability has been sufficiently strengthened.

1. Decides to transfer **Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges** from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.