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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room VIII**

**11 June 2025**

**10 p.m. – 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 2

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-2-EN.docx) and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its third meeting as annexed to this Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Agenda of the third meeting of the 20.COM Bureau**

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| Agenda item | Document  |
| 1. Opening
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| 1. Adoption of the agenda
 | LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/2 |
| 1. Examination of an emergency request for International Assistance
 | LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/3 |
| 1. Examination of requests for preparatory assistance for nominations to the Lists of the Convention
 | LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4 |
| 1. Other business
	1. Statutory meeting dates in 2025
	2. Nominations under the 2025 and 2026 cycles
	3. Other issues
 | LHE/25/Schedule Rev. |
| 1. Closure
 |  |

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 3.1

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Articles 22 and 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-3-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02151 submitted by the State of Palestine,
3. Takes note that the State of Palestine has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Enhancing implementation of the 2003 Convention through community-based inventorying and urgent safeguarding measures in the State of Palestine**:

To be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Ramallah, in close coordination with the Directorate of Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the State of Palestine, this two-year project aims to support the implementation of the 2003 Convention through community-based inventorying and planning for urgent safeguarding measures focusing on three key objectives. The first objective is to strengthen national capacities by conducting training workshops on the 2003 Convention, inventory processes and the development of effective safeguarding plans. The training will target communities, civil society, academia, staff from the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Agriculture, Women’s Affairs and Industry, and other stakeholders. The second objective is to update the national inventory by identifying up to nine new elements of living heritage in need of urgent safeguarding and to include the information about these elements in an existing online database maintained by the Ministry of Culture of the State of Palestine. The third objective is to establish specific safeguarding plans for some of the identified living heritage elements. The main activities will take place in eleven governorates of the West Bank, grouped into three clusters to facilitate access, coordination and stakeholder engagement. In addition to enhancing national capacities to support safeguarding initiatives, the project will also highlight the role of communities and bearers in safeguarding cultural practices under challenging conditions, lay the foundations for cross-sectoral cooperation, and contribute to the creation of a decentralized, community-driven infrastructure for the safeguarding of living heritage.

1. Further takes note that:
2. This assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention;
3. The State Party has requested International Assistance that will take the form of services from UNESCO to the State; and
4. The assistance therefore takes the form of the **provision of services** from UNESCO (100 per cent of the financial transactions are to be managed by UNESCO), pursuant to Article 21 (b) and (g) of the Convention;
5. Also takes note that the request in question concerns an emergency International Assistance in the amount of US$100,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Ramallah, in close cooperation with the Directorate of Heritage of the Ministry of Culture;
6. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Ramallah will be responsible for the management of the total amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, while the requesting State will be responsible for co-managing the project by: (a) covering the costs of the IT specialist; (b) organizing the steering committee and stakeholder meetings; (c) arranging domestic travel and transportation for trainees; (d) providing stationery and event materials; and (e) managing venue and hospitality for the final event;
7. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02151, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: This project was initiated in response to a request from the State of Palestine for technical assistance to prepare an International Assistance request. Communities played a central role in the preparation of the request through a series of three meetings organized between June and July 2024 to reflect on the needs and to make recommendations on the request. Participants included practitioners, bearers, civil society organizations, and government representatives from various ministries. A multidisciplinary follow-up committee was established to oversee the elaboration of the project, ensuring that community voices remain central. The communities’ involvement in all aspects of the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is clearly described. They will also be represented in the project Steering Committee (which will include stakeholders from the initial consultation process). Finally, women, who play a central role in safeguarding the living heritage of the State of Palestine, are adequately represented, demonstrating that gender balance is ensured.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is presented in a clear, comprehensive and detailed manner. The amount requested adequately covers each of the proposed activities and can therefore be deemed appropriate.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are described in detail and presented in a logical sequence. The project will start with a pilot phase in the Northern cluster. This phase comprises two capacity-building workshops, followed by inventory exercises. The feedback from the communities in this cluster will contribute to improving the next two phases, which will follow the same sequence and take place in the Central and Southern clusters. In addition, the project includes coordination, management, monitoring, and awareness-raising activities.

**Criterion A.4**: Throughout the project, the Ministry of Culture and civil society organizations will work towards establishing a sustainable framework to safeguard living heritage in the State of Palestine. The project will contribute to: (a) the creation of a large network of resource persons equipped with knowledge and skills in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at local and national levels; (b) the inventory and documentation of up to nine elements in need of urgent safeguarding in eleven governorates; (c) increasing the visibility of living heritage through the dissemination of audiovisual and communication materials, fostering broader appreciation of cultural heritage; and (d) raising awareness and integrating intangible cultural heritage into school curricula with the involvement of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Finally, the Steering Committee established during the project will remain functional to continue the safeguarding activities in the future.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State Party will contribute 16 per cent (US$24,200) and UNESCO Office in Ramallah will contribute 18 per cent (in-kind contribution of US$27,994) of the total amount of the project for International Assistance (US$152,194). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 66 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6**:The project aims to build capacity at both institutional and community levels. It will help enhance the technical skills of government staff and strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation between ministries. At the community level, the project will train around fifteen people in each of the three clusters, thereby supporting the establishment of a network of local resource people across the country. These technical teams, which include bearers, practitioners, women and students, will oversee the community-based inventories and will contribute to the development of safeguarding plans. Finally, the project will enable the creation of community-driven, decentralized structures for safeguarding living heritage.

**Criterion A.7**: The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and involves partners such as Ministries of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Agriculture, Women’s Affairs and Industry, as well as civil society organizations and universities.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The community-based inventories and the communication tools developed will contribute to raising awareness among communities about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the project will serve as a model for similar initiatives both in the State of Palestine and in other regions of the world facing similar challenges.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from the State of Palestine for the project entitled **Enhancing implementation of the 2003 Convention through community-based inventorying and urgent safeguarding measures in the State of Palestine** and grants the amount of US$100,000 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 5 and 6;
2. Encourages the State Party to share its experiences and the results with the international community upon completion of the project;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.1

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02379 submitted by Gambia,
3. Takes note that Gambia has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$9,540 to prepare a nomination for **Palm wine tapping** to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding:

To be implemented by the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC), this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of Palm wine tapping to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Palm wine tapping entails using strong tree fibres to make a climbing belt, climbing the palm tree, using a knife to make small holes at the top of the tree, and using a gourd to collect the sap. Believed to have medicinal value, the palm wine is used in food and drink and during religious rituals. The practice is at risk due to deforestation, bush fires, the importation of less expensive liquor, and decreased transmission of the related knowledge and skills. The assistance will support activities to raise awareness on the importance of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding among community members, update the inventory and ensure broad community involvement in the preparation of the nomination file to the Urgent Safeguarding List.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02379, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The requesting State Party intends to organize a two-day consultation workshop with representatives of three communities and ethnic groups – Manjagos, Jola and Mansuankas – to ensure their widest possible involvement in the preparation of the nomination and to obtain their free, prior and informed consent to nominate the element to the Urgent Safeguarding List. In addition, the community members will be involved in updating the inventory and documentation related to the element.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will support the following main activities: (a) the consultation of the communities concerned in the nomination process; (b) the identification of community organizations and other stakeholders; and (c) the updating of the corresponding inventory and documentation. These activities will include research, the development of audio-visual materials and the translation of practitioner testimonies.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 12 per cent (US$1,380) and other partners will contribute 5 per cent (US$600) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$11,520). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 83 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** It is expected that the capacity of NCAC staff and communities will be strengthened through their participation in the inventory updating, documentation and the preparation of the nomination file. The project will also contribute to the establishment of a team of resource persons who will be able to prepare future nomination files for inclusion in the lists of the 2003 Convention.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one ongoing project.[[1]](#footnote-1) The work stipulated in the contract related to this project is being carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Gambia for the preparation of the nomination for **Palm wine tapping** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and grants the amount of US$9,540 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Encourages the requesting State Party to involve in the implementation of this preparatory assistance the resource persons who have benefited from capacity-building activities and training courses on the 2003 Convention, particularly those focused on the preparation of nomination files, organized within the framework of a recently completed project financed with earmarked funds;[[2]](#footnote-2)
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.2

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02386 submitted by Benin,
3. Takes note that Benin has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$9,373 to prepare a nomination for **Vodun, beliefs, social practices and ways of living** to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Culture, this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of Vodun, beliefs, social practices and ways of living to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Originating in West Africa and practised wherever enslaved people were deported, it combines beliefs in deities, social practices through rituals, and a way of life. Vodun deities are organized according to the natural elements, namely water (associated with the deity Tôhôssou), earth (associated with Sakpata), air (associated with Dan) and fire (associated with Hêbiosso). Ancestors also occupy a central place in Vodun, as they are believed to influence the lives of the living through blessings or curses. Ancestral worship is often tied to rituals to pay tribute to ancestors and communicate with the afterlife. This project will support the preparation of the nomination file for the element through consultations with various communities, with the goal of obtaining their consent and involvement in the process.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02386, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The communities concerned by Vodun will be involved in the preparation of the nomination file as well as during the inventory and documentation process. They include priests (Hounnon), practitioners, initiates (vodounsi), laypersons and various community members such as the artisans (tailors, blacksmiths and sculptors), who create the tools necessary for the practices. The request also includes consultation sessions with the community members to obtain their free, prior and informed consent and to present the nomination file for the element.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will be used to support the documentation and inventory of the element, the organization of community consultations, the production of the audiovisual materials, and the capacity building of the technical team in charge of elaborating the nomination file.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 24 per cent (US$2,907) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$12,280). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 76 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The project is expected to contribute to capacity building at two different levels: (a) at the community level through community participation in the inventory and documentation of the element; and (b) at the institutional level with the support of a regional expert who will train the technical team in the preparation of the nomination file, resulting in strengthened national expertise and skills for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Benin for the preparation of the nomination for **Vodun, beliefs, social practices and ways of living** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and grants the amount of US$9,373 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.3

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02389 submitted by Burkina Faso,
3. Takes note that Burkina Faso has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$9,900 to prepare a nomination for **Knowledge and skills associated with the manufacture of the Saponé hat** to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism, this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of Knowledge and skills related to the manufacture of the Saponé hat to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The element refers to the knowledge and techniques related to the production, research and manufacture of the Saponé hat, a conical hat typically made with straw and tanned leather. The production process involves all parts of society and entails two key stages: (a) the production of the basic hat, primarily the work of women and children; and (b) its decoration, primarily the work of men. There are three types of Saponé hats: the barma (made with straw and leather, with more refined embellishment), the tabdga (also made with straw and leather, but with less embellishment) and the djelbré (made only with straw). The element was inventoried and included in the list of national cultural heritage of Burkina Faso in 2023. The project also aims to encourage the element’s transmission and promote intercultural dialogue.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02389, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The request clearly indicates that the bearers, women and men, and the customary and traditional authorities of the department of Saponé will be broadly involved in the preparation of the nomination file. Artisans associated with the manufacture of the hat will also be included. The request underlines the importance of engaging all social groups in the preparation of the nomination file to highlight the role of each individual in safeguarding the Saponé hat, thereby ensuring its viability.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will be used for the following activities: (a) organization of meetings with communities to obtain their free, prior and informed consent; (b) collection of additional information necessary for the elaboration of the nomination file; (c) coordination of consultation meetings with decentralized authorities; (d) production of photos and a video; and (e) establishment of a working group to prepare the nomination file.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 46 per cent (US$8,520) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$18,420). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 54 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** Through the request, the State Party seeks to encourage the communities concerned to continue the transmission of the knowledge and skills related to the production of the Saponé hat, while maintaining the social relationships essential for intercultural dialogue. The project will also contribute to raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage at the national level and enhancing the visibility and viability of the element.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one completed and one ongoing project.[[3]](#footnote-3) The work stipulated in the contracts related to these projects was and is being carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Burkina Faso for the preparation of the nomination for **Knowledge and skills related to the manufacture of the Saponé hat** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and grants the amount of US$9,900 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.4

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02455 submitted by Saint Kitts and Nevis,
3. Takes note that Saint Kitts and Nevis has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$9,926 to prepare a nomination for **The Masquerade traditions of Saint Kitts and Nevis** to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Small Business, Entrepreneurship, Cooperatives and Creative Economy, this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of The Masquerade traditions of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The centuries-old Masquerade traditions traditionally mark the start of the Christmas season. They feature dance performances accompanied by the rhythmic sounds of the kettle drum, bass drum and fife, highlighting the lived experiences of the practising communities. Colourful costumes sparkle, chime and flow with the movements of their wearers, who perform dances influenced by both African and European ancestors. The Masquerade traditions of Saint Kitts and Nevis, featuring various performers and bands, reflect the social, cultural and historical fabric of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The preparatory assistance will support the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders from across the country, including knowledge bearers, practitioners, community members, nongovernmental organizations, business professionals and government officials.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02455, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The request clearly outlines the active role of the communities in the project. They will participate in all the project activities, including updating the inventory, documenting the element, and validating the final draft of the nomination file. Three consultation meetings are planned, involving a wide range of stakeholders. The project adopts an inclusive and participatory approach and will engage communities on the two islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis, ensuring their free, prior and informed consent.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will support three main activities: (a) a workshop to update the information about the element and build capacity for inventorying; (b) three meetings with communities, bearers, practitioners and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the nomination process, obtain free, prior and informed community consent, identify threats and viability of the element, and facilitate the final review of the nomination file; and (c) prepare the nomination file and a short documentary using the materials gathered through the stakeholder consultations.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 56 per cent (US$12,411) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$22,337). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 44 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** Community members will be directly involved in the inventory and documentation process, which is expected to strengthen their capacities. The organization of consultation meetings will raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding the element, ensuring its viability and visibility. These meetings will also foster collaboration among diverse community members.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for two completed projects.[[4]](#footnote-4) The work stipulated in the contracts related to these projects was carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Saint Kitts and Nevis for the preparation of the nomination for **The Masquerade traditions of Saint Kitts and Nevis** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and grants the amount of US$9,926 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.5

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02456 submitted by Saint Lucia,
3. Takes note that Saint Lucia has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$10,000 to prepare a nomination for **The Flower Festivals of Saint Lucia (The ‘La Rose’ and ‘La Marguerite’ Festivals)** to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

To be implemented by the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO, this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of The Flower Festivals of Saint Lucia to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Celebrated annually on 30 August and 17 October, the Flower Festivals date back more than 250 years and have become a symbol of community resilience, particularly in the face of slavery. In addition to being an integral part of the local history and cultural identity, the festivals have strong religious and social significance for the practising communities. The Flower Festivals are divided into two flower societies – Lawòz (the rose festival) and La Magéwit (the marguerite festival) – each of which is comprised of several community groups. The preparatory assistance requested will support activities to facilitate the preparation of the nomination file, such as the organization of consultations with community members and other stakeholders to obtain their free, prior and informed consent for the nomination file.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02456, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The communities of the ‘Lawòz’ and ‘Magéwit’ flower societies will be involved in the preparation of the nomination file. These communities comprise more than twenty groups across the island. They will play an active role in the identification and inventory of the Flower Festivals. The request also includes meetings with stakeholders and community members to obtain their free, prior and informed consent and to present the nomination file for the element.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will be used to support for the following activities: (a) the organization of a series of meetings to plan, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of project activities; (b) the organization of stakeholder meetings to obtain their free, prior and informed consent; (c) research and documentation; and (d) the production of audiovisual material for the nomination file.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 33 per cent (US$5,000) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$15,000). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 67 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The project is expected to strengthen national capacities by raising awareness among community members about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and by involving them in the inventory and documentation process. Furthermore, the project will facilitate the dissemination of knowledge concerning the organization of the Flower Festivals.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Saint Lucia for the preparation of the nomination for **The Flower Festivals of Saint Lucia (The ‘La Rose’ and ‘La Marguerite’ Festivals)** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and grants the amount of US$10,000 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 20.COM 3.BUR 4.6

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention, as well as Chapters I.4, I.7 and I.14 of the Operational Directives relating to International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/25/20.COM 3.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-25-20.COM-3.BUR-4-EN.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02454 submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania,
3. Takes note that the United Republic of Tanzania has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$10,000 to prepare a nomination for **Khanga – a symbol of Tanzanian identity and cultural heritage** to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, this preparatory assistance request concerns the nomination of Khanga – a symbol of Tanzanian identity and cultural heritage to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Khanga is a rectangular cloth that is deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of the practising, primarily coastal, communities. The cloth is characterized by its three parts: the decorative border (pindo), the central design (mjt), and an inscribed Swahili message or proverb (Uina) reflecting the wearer’s sentiments and cultural values. Initially associated with slavery, Khanga became a symbol of cultural pride after the abolition of slavery. It is used in ceremonies, religious practices and everyday life. Beyond its functional uses, Khanga is a means of communication and a symbol of social cohesion, tradition and national identity. The objective of the project is to safeguard Khanga and promote its cultural significance within the country. It also seeks to ensure that the cultural, historical, and social values embodied in Khanga are transmitted to future generations.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02454, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The request clearly describes the role of the communities, who will be involved through consultations, workshops and community-based inventorying activities. Community members, including bearers, women and religious leaders, will share their knowledge and practices related to Khanga, participate in documenting its cultural significance, and contribute to the preparation of the nomination file for the element. The project will also ensure the active involvement of traditional leaders, practitioners, and the local artisans who design and produce Khanga in the nomination process. This participatory approach will ensure their ownership of the safeguarding process and promote intergenerational transmission of this living heritage.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will support the following activities: (a) the organization of community consultations in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar to obtain their free, prior and informed consent; (b) community-based inventorying to document the element; (c) the preparation of the nomination file; and (d) the preparation of audiovisual materials.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The submission is expected before 31 March 2026 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-second session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2027 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 7 per cent (US$767) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance (US$10,767). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 93 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The request foresees the organization of workshops for community leaders, local authorities and practitioners to enhance their understanding of intangible cultural heritage and the mechanisms to safeguard the element. In addition, it will contribute to building the capacities of communities and other stakeholders by engaging them in the inventorying and documentation activities, as well as the production of audiovisual materials. The project will also contribute to the establishment of a team of resource persons who will be able to prepare future nomination files for inclusion in the lists of the 2003 Convention.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Tanzania for the preparation of the nomination for **Khanga – a symbol of Tanzanian identity and cultural heritage** in view of its submission for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and grants the amount of US$10,000 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
3. Encourages the requesting State Party to involve in the implementation of this preparatory assistance the resource persons who have benefited from the capacity-building activities and training courses on the 2003 Convention, particularly those focused on the preparation of nomination files, organized within the framework of a recently completed project financed with earmarked funds;[[5]](#footnote-5)
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.
1. ‘[Building capacities on intangible cultural heritage inventorying, safeguarding and awareness raising activities in The Gambia’](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/building-capacities-on-intangible-cultural-heritage-inventorying-safeguarding-and-awareness-raising-activities-in-the-gambia-02344) (US$99,930; February 2025 to April 2027). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The project, entitled ‘[Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00475)’, was funded by France (US$135,722; December 2021 to December 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. (a) ‘[Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-burkina-faso-00678)’ (US$262,080; March 2013 to March 2018) and (b) ‘[Capacity building for stakeholders involved in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-for-stakeholders-involved-in-safeguarding-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-burkina-faso-01501)’ (US$387,770; October 2020 to July 2025). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. (a) ‘[Strengthening inventory preparation capacity for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Saint Kitts and Nevis](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-inventory-preparation-capacity-for-implementing-the-2003-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-saint-kitts-and-nevis-01426)’ (US$99,443; May 2019 to April 2021) and (b) ‘[Safeguarding Saint Kitts and Nevis Intangible Cultural Heritage: developing a National Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-saint-kitts-and-nevis-intangible-cultural-heritage-developing-a-national-intangible-cultural-heritage-policy-01930)’ (US$91,252; December 2022 to December 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ‘[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’](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), funded by the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region  (US$81,271; October 2022 to December 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)