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

**Training programme for the Global facilitators’ network**

**Information Webinar**

**27 February 2025  
Online**

**Session I: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (Paris time)**

**Session II: 3.00 – 5.00 p.m. (Paris time)**

**Concept note**

1. **Context**

The Global facilitators network is the backbone of the capacity-building programme, established in 2009, under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. According to the 2021 Internal Oversight Service’s (IOS) evaluation (document [LHE/21/16.COM/10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10_Rev.-EN.docx)), the network is well regarded for its expertise, its ways of operating, facilitator’s in-depth understanding of the 2003 Convention and its mechanisms, as well as the network’s contributions to teaching, research, and community engagement in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The network has been instrumental in delivering capacity-building workshops, providing preparatory assistance, and supporting national initiatives.

At the same time, the IOS evaluation highlighted several challenges, including uneven geographical coverage, difficulty addressing emerging thematic areas, and limited availability of some facilitators due to other professional commitments. The network is facing growing demands for expertise in areas such as education, climate action, urban contexts, disaster risk reduction, and artificial intelligence. These gaps emphasize the need to strengthen the network further and adopt innovative approaches to ensure it remains responsive to evolving needs and priorities of the 2003 Convention.

Since 2022, the network experienced significant growth when the 2003 Convention Secretariat through a call for expressions of interest, identified a new cohort of specialists, expanding the network to 248 members across all regions (see document LHE/25/TRA GLO/1). The incoming members benefitted from training-of-trainers sessions in their respective regions. To build on this momentum and address the new thematic demands, the next critical step is to sustain meaningful engagement, facilitate exchange of experiences, and further develop the competencies of network members.

In this regard, it is essential to keep network members updated on the latest developments of the 2003 Convention and provide opportunities for them to enhance their knowledge in the core actions and thematic areas of the Convention. At the same time, network members should be encouraged to share their expertise and experiences with all facilitators and the Secretariat. This two-way approach will ensure that facilitators are better equipped to play their role effectively while also enabling the Secretariat to benefit from their expertise and the on-the-groundwork.

1. **Purpose and objectives**

In light of the above, the 2003 Convention Secretariat plans to launch starting in early 2025 a training programme for the Global facilitators network. It will take the form of online webinars on key topics, such as – for 2025 – living heritage and disaster risk reduction (DRR), nominations, and living heritage and education. The sessions will also offer updates on recent developments under the 2003 Convention.

This training series aims at:

* Enhancing facilitators’ knowledge and skills, equipping them with the latest tools and methodologies for capacity-building.
* Facilitating dialogue and exchange with the network to support UNESCO’s priority programmes and gather examples from facilitators for potential inclusion in the new dedicated UNESCO platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences.

Additionally, the training programme will provide an opportunity to test and refine innovative online learning modalities through the UNESCO learning platform for safeguarding living heritage for sustainable development.

The 2025 training plan thus serves a multilayered objective: to enhance thematic expertise, strengthen peer exchange, and integrate innovative multimodal learning strategies. This plan positions the network as a dynamic resource, fostering mutual growth for facilitators and the Secretariat while advancing the Convention's global capacity-building goals.

1. **Organization of work**

The 2025 Global Training Series for the Facilitators’ network will cover three topics, and one introductory session as follows:

* + - 1. Introduction, 27 February 2025
      2. Living heritage and disaster risk reduction (DRR), 27 and 28 March 2025
      3. Nominations – Updated training materials following the global reflection on the listing mechanisms (2018 – 2022), 10 June 2025 (Part I) and 26 June 2025 (Part II)
      4. Living heritage and education, 10 July 2025.

The working languages will be English and French.

1. **Participants and observers**

All members of the Global facilitators network are invited to participate in the Global Training Series.

Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO active in the field of intangible cultural heritage and UNESCO field office colleagues are welcome to follow the sessions as observers.