

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE
ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE**

Deadline: 30 April 2025
**for examination by the Committee in 2025 and accreditation by the
General Assembly in 2026**

Form may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

Please provide only the information and supporting documentation requested below.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this request

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. below).*

Foundation For Comfort of Senior Citizens in Nigeria

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Foundation For Comfort of Senior Citizens in Nigeria

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. The postal address should correspond to where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, provide the address of the headquarters.

Address: 4B, Otokiti Street, Off Uwelu Road, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

Telephone number: +2349074056778

Email address: focoscin@gmail.com

Website/social media: www.flickr.com/photos/focoscin/

Other relevant
information:

A.3. Contact person for the correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):	Mr.
Family name:	Owen
Given name:	Osawaru Raymond
Position in the organization:	Vice - President
Address:	No. 6, Egrenbide Street, Off Adolor Street, GRA, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.
Telephone number:	+2347060599916
Email address:	focoscin@gmail.com
Other relevant information:	

A.4. Country or countries in which the organization is active (Paragraph 91(b) of the Operational Directives)

Identify the country or countries in which your organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, indicate which one. If its activities are international, indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and list the primary countries in which it carries out its activities.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national
<input type="checkbox"/> international (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> worldwide
<input type="checkbox"/> Africa
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab States
<input type="checkbox"/> Asia and the Pacific
<input type="checkbox"/> Europe and North America
<input type="checkbox"/> Latin America and the Caribbean
Please list the primary country(ies) in which it is active: Nigeria

B. Organization's competence, expertise, and experience in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91(a) and (c) of the Operational Directives)

B.1. Objectives of the organization

Describe the objectives for which your organization was established, which should be in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. If the organization's primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.

Not to exceed 300 words

1. To harness the benefits of longevity and spread same to all succeeding generations (including cultural transmission).
2. To evolve, enhance and sustain the comfort of Senior Citizens and Older Persons in the community including cultural identity as indigenous people.
3. To attract the attention of relevant authorities to the plight and struggle (including cultural relegation) of Senior Citizens/Older Persons in the society with a view to ameliorating them.
4. To sustain the provision of information to Senior Citizens that will promote their cultural, spiritual, physical well being through leisure and recreation activities.
5. To promote and defend the Human Rights and Cultural Rights of Senior Citizens in the society.
6. To encourage the youths on cultural presentation and safeguarding of Cultural Heritage including Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

B.2. Domain(s) in which the organization is active

Tick one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, tick 'other domains' and indicate which domains are concerned.

- ☒ oral traditions and expressions
- ☒ performing arts
- ☒ social practices, rituals and festive events
- ☒ knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- ☒ traditional craftsmanship
- ☐ other domains - please specify:

Briefly describe your organization's work in relation to the domains chosen (if your organization covers all domains, explain how).

Not to exceed 250 words

Oral Traditions and Expressions: The Senior Citizens/Older Persons are repositories of traditions which they pass on to the young folks through Oral transmission to successive generations. As in customary with indigenous peoples, many traditions are preserved from loss through verbal transmission and expressions. Senior Citizens/Older Persons are adept in these. They have the time and the skills.

Performing Arts: The Senior Citizens/Older Persons are good in ancient theatre which they do perform from time to time during festivals. These include dance performances and recitations of cultural expressions that needed to be transmitted.

Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events: By virtue of their societal regards and estimation, Older Persons in indigenous communities have the custody of intangible cultural heritage

practices that need safeguarding. These include the rules and processes pertaining to rituals, festive events and social practices.

Knowledge and practices Concerning Nature and the Universe: The Senior Citizens/Older Persons in our indigenous environments have credible ancient traditional knowledge and folklores that are taught to the younger generations.

Traditional Craftsmanship: Old traditions and skills capturing and teaching remarkable events in wood carvings and brass works abound with the indigenous and Older Persons and Senior Citizens which are often times exhibited to excite the upcoming generations. A global acknowledged achievement of these skills are the Benin mask that was used as the symbol of the World Festival of Black Arts and Culture in 1977 and the relics taken to various parts of the world by the British Colonialists in the past.

B.3. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved

Tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, tick 'other safeguarding measures' and specify which ones are concerned.

- ☒ identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)
- ☒ preservation, protection
- ☒ promotion, enhancement
- ☒ transmission, formal or non-formal education
- ☐ revitalization
- ☐ other safeguarding measures – please specify:

Briefly describe your organization's work in relation to the primary safeguarding activities chosen (if your organization covers all primary safeguarding activities, explain how).

Not to exceed 250 words

Identification, Documentation, Researching, (including inventory – making): Foundation for Comfort of Senior Citizens in Nigeria (FOCOSCIN) is currently involved in the process of inventorying of many cultural elements by assisting the state party through identification and research in the Edo/Benin indigenous communities. This is done through confidence building and trust among the indigenous people.

Preservation, Protection: The NGO (FOCOSCIN) identifies threats to the selected elements and their transmission, devise and put safeguarding measures in place. FOCOSCIN also evaluates the viability of associated tangible and intangible elements.

Promotion, Enhancement: FOCOSCIN engages and encourages the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage through awareness – raising on the 2003 convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The NGO also involves concerned community owners of cultural elements by securing their consent and wholefully support extant cultural protocols in data gathering when engaged in inventorying. The NGO (FOCOSCIN) develops mutual relationship with the indigenous communities through the cooperation of the Senior Citizens/Older Persons. To enhance trust, the communities are encouraged to have audio-visual documentation of the process.

Transmission, Formal and Non-Formal Education: The Foundation for Senior Citizens in Nigeria collaborates with universities and research institutions in the environment on ways to preserve our cultural heritage. These include languages research and anthropology.

B.4. Description of the organization's activities

Briefly describe the organization's recent activities and relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including those demonstrating the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee. Relevant documentation may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 550 words

The organization featured in the celebration of the World Tourism and Cultural Day organised by the Edo State Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism on 27th September, 2023. At the occasion it raised awareness on the 2003 convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). The NGO (FOCOSCIN) is in constant collaboration with Edo State Government to identify cultural sites and take inventory of the abundant cultural elements in the state. The organisation in the preceding years and recently organised workshops and seminars at various times on Intangible Culture Heritage (ICH). The NGO participated actively in the drafting and review of Edo State Government Heritage Protection and Promotion Policy. FOCOSCIN collaborates and is mentored by the West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People's Rights (WACIPR) a UNESCO, ICH accredited and United Nations ECOSOC accredited NGO, towards safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the peoples of Nigeria.

B.5. Description of the organization's competence and expertise

Provide information on the personnel and members of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those that demonstrate the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee, and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such competences and expertise may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 200 words

i. Owen, Osawaru Raymond (Acting President / Chairman)

Curator, Inventorying Expert

ii. Frank Ehondor (Programme Officer)

Oral Tradition and Folklore

iii. Olumide Akinfolarin (Programme Officer)

Traditional Craftsmanship / Curator

iv. Ogieriakhi Emmanuel (Programme Officer)

Community Relations and Festivals

v. Justin Ladipo (Programme Officer)

Performing Arts / Local Theatre

vi. Rotimi Eke (Programme Officer)

Research / Identification

vii. Eseosa Omorodion (Programme Officer)

Curator and Inventorying

viii. Favor Oriotor (Programme Officer)

Curator

ix. Moses Okem (Programme Officer)

Curator

x. Evbaziegbere Uwadiae (Programme Officer)

Curator

xi. Jude Agbaje (Programme Officer)

Curator

xii. Patience Aitokhuehi (Programme Officer)

Curator

xiii. 25 other Curators

The above listed experts acquired experience through capacity building, mentorship, practice and regular training.

C. Organization's experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners (Paragraph 91(d) of the Operational Directives)

Briefly describe how your organization collaborates with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practise and transmit intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 350 words

NGO (Foundation for Comfort of Senior Citizens in Nigeria FOCOSCIN) collaborates with the West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People's Rights and ICH UNESCO accredited NGO to conduct community based inventorying and organize awareness – raising workshops on the 2003 convention on the safeguarding for Intangible Cultural Heritage. It participates in online discussions on best practices from time to time. The NGO has developed expertise in the identification of cultural elements for nomination.

D. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization (Paragraph 91(e) of the Operational Directives)

D.1. Members and personnel

Provide proof of the participation of the members of your organization. It may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, a list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of the members; a comprehensive membership roster usually need not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.1.'

D.2. Recognized legal personality

If your organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing documents, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, your organization has a legal personality recognized through some means other than an establishing document (for instance, through a published notice in an official gazette or journal), please provide documentation showing how that legal personality was established.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.2.'

D.3. Duration of existence and activities

State your organization's date of founding as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. above).

Incorporated 2023 but has existed for Eight (8) years.

If it is not already clearly indicated in the documentation provided under section D.2., submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section B.4. Supplementary materials such as books, audiovisual materials or other publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.3.'

E. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate whether your organization wishes to join the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the accreditation of your organization by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

F. Signature

The request must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Osawaru Raymond Owen

Title: Vice - President

Function: Advising and Assisting the CEO

Date: 28th March, 2025

Signature:



EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- i. Owen, Osawaru Raymond (Acting President / Chairman)
Curator, Inventorying Expert
- ii. Frank Ehondor (Programme Officer)
Oral Tradition and Folklore
- iii. Olumide Akinfolarin (Programme Officer)
Traditional Craftsmanship / Curator
- iv. Ogieriakhi Emmanuel (Programme Officer)
Community Relations and Festivals
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- vi. Rotimi Eke (Programme Officer)
Research / Identification
- vii. Eseosa Omorodion (Programme Officer)
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- viii. Favor Oriotor (Programme Officer)
Curator
- ix. Moses Okem (Programme Officer)
Curator
- x. Evbaziegbere Uwadiae (Programme Officer)
Curator
- xi. Jude Agbaje (Programme Officer)
Curator
- xii. Patience Aitokhuehi (Programme Officer)
Curator
- xiii. 25 other Curators



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

REGISTRATION NUMBER 6994889

The Registrar - General of Corporate Affairs Commission

hereby certifies that

**OSAWARU OWEN CELESTINA LADIPO PHILEMON OGIERIAKHI
OSARUIGIEMWIN OGIERIAKHI**

the duly appointed Trustees of

FOUNDATION FOR COMFORT OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN NIGERIA

have this day been registered as a corporate body.

Given under my hand at Abuja this 31st day of May, 2023



A. G. Abubakar
Registrar - General