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

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

**Seventeenth session**

**Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco**

**28 November to 3 December 2022**

**Item 5 of the provisional agenda:**

**Report by the Secretariat on its activities (January to June 2022)**

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| **Summary**This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022.**Decision required**: paragraph 27 |

**Introduction**

1. The present report[[1]](#footnote-1) provides an overview of the Secretariat’s activities, its key achievements and challenges encountered from January to June 2022. The reporting period is aligned with UNESCO’s other statutory reporting processes, namely the [Director-General’s report](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000382589_eng) to the Executive Board on the execution of the first six months of the biennium 2022-2023 of the [41C/5 Approved programme and budget for 2022-2025](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000380868). In addition, Annex I demonstrates the contribution of the Secretariat’s work to the 41C/5 results framework and, more specifically, to the performance indicators under the Outcome 5.CLT4 (‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’) of Major Programme IV. Furthermore, references are made to the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf) of UNESCO’s action in the framework of the 2003 Convention (documents [LHE/21/16.COM/10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10_Rev.-EN.docx) and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf)).
2. The Living Heritage Entity serves as the Secretariat of the Convention. It is structured around two units and three teams: the Programme Management Unit (including the Statutory Support Team) and the Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit, as well as the Safeguarding, Implementation and Monitoring Team and the Knowledge Management and Outreach Team.

**I. Enhanced international cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the 2003 Convention**

1. **Support to governing bodies:** During the reporting period the Secretariat has provided continued support for the work of the governing bodies of the Convention through the organization of twelve statutory meetings[[2]](#footnote-2). This was the first year that the Secretariat had published a full [Schedule of statutory meetings in 2022](https://ich.unesco.org/en/schedule-of-statutory-meetings-in-2022-01237) on the website of the Convention; the schedule was updated throughout the year and was intended to serve as a helpful tool for States Parties to organize their participation in the various meetings. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the operations of the Secretariat, who could take stock of the experience gained over the past two years with the introduction of new technological support, tools, interfaces and meeting modalities to ensure that the statutory life of the Convention remained uninterrupted: ten meetings were held online. While the impacts of the pandemic remain extensive in many parts of the world, the Secretariat made the necessary arrangements to plan for the progressive return to in-personmeetings; the ninth session of the General Assembly took place at UNESCO Headquarters from 5 to 7 July 2022.
2. **Outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms:** The reporting period saw the conclusion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms which was initiated in 2017 by the twelfth session of the Committee, and supported by Japan. Pursuant to the decision by the sixteenth session of the Committee (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)), which endorsed the recommendations made by the Open-ended working group in 2021 (Part I and Part II) and extended its mandate to conclude on additional issues, a Part III meeting of the working group was organized (Online, 25 and 26 April 2022). The final recommendations of the Part III meeting addressed issues related to the annual number of files, the composition and working methods of the Evaluation Body and other technical issues. The recommendations were presented in the form of draft revisions to the Operational Directives to the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee (Online, 1 July 2022), which endorsed them and recommended that the General Assembly revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of the working group ([Decision 5.EXT.COM 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/5.EXT.COM/4)). The ninth session of the General Assembly approved the revisions to the Operational Directives (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)).
3. The outcomes of the global reflection constituted a landmark for the Convention, reinforcing the credibility of the listing mechanisms while underlining the continued importance of community participation throughout existing and new processes. The amended Operational Directives consequently reflect new procedures, including for the transfer of inscribed elements between the Lists, the inscription of elements on an extended or reduced basis, the removal of elements, and the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for inscribed elements, amongst others. The completion of the global reflection requires the revision and development of new forms to reflect the latest amendments to the Operational Directives – all of the new Forms will be made available as soon as they are ready in both working languages, and at the latest before the end of 2022. Furthermore, the reflection gave rise to a new line of reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention, with financial support from Sweden. An update on this initiative is brought to the attention of the present Committee under Item 10 (see document [LHE/22/17.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-10-EN.docx)).
4. **Harmonization of the Rules of Procedures with other Conventions**: Another achievement of the reporting period was the revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the 2003 Convention’s General Assembly, undertaken as part of UNESCO-wide long standing effort to improve its governance ([38 C/Resolution 101](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000243325/PDF/243325eng.pdf.multi.page%3D85%26zoom%3Dauto%2C-16%2C144), [39 C/Resolution 87](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000260889/PDF/260889eng.pdf.multi)[[3]](#footnote-3)) and in response to recurrent requests by the governing bodies of the Convention (Resolutions [6.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/r%C3%A9solutions/6.GA/11?dec=resolutions&ref_decision=6.GA), [7.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/r%C3%A9solutions/7.GA/12?dec=resolutions&ref_decision=7.GA) and [7.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/13), [8.GA 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/15) as well as Decisions [13.COM 17](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/13.COM/17?dec=decisions&ref_decision=13.COM) and [14.COM 19](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/19)). The Secretariat of the 2003 Convention participated in the preparation of the model rules of procedure for the assemblies of Parties to UNESCO’s culture conventions (or ‘the Model Rules of Procedure’), which was examined by the 41st session of the General Conference ([41C/Resolution 74](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000380399&highlight=41%20C%2FResolution&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_2662b8f8-b83f-4490-be3c-ffb66eaed78c%3F_%3D380399eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000380399/PDF/380399eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A197%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C341%2C0%5D)). The revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the 2003 Convention’s General Assembly were proposed in alignment with the Model Rules of Procedure (meaning that the number of Rules increased from nineteen to forty). Given the volume and technical complexity of the process, the Secretariat invited States Parties to the Convention to an online information and exchange meeting on 31 May 2022. The proposed revisions were approved by the ninth session of the General Assembly and, as such, the 2003 Convention was the first of the seven culture Conventions to spearhead the harmonization of the rules of procedure of its assembly (Resolution [9.GA 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/12)).
5. **Support to the Evaluation Body:** The Secretariat also undertook tasks to support the Evaluation Body in its evaluation of the nomination files, notably through the administration of fifty-six files under the current 2022 cycle, as well as the registration of eighty-two nomination files newly received by the deadline of 31 March 2022, and the verification of the technical completeness of sixty files, including thirteen multinational files, included in the forthcoming 2023 cycle. All these tasks were performed within the statutory requirements defined by the text of the Convention and its Operational Directives, while allowing for some leniency given the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. **International Assistance**: The Secretariat continued to support national safeguarding efforts through the International Assistance mechanism. Between January 2022 and June 2022, the Secretariat administered five new International Assistance requests approved by the Bureau, while continuing to support the implementation of forty-two active projects. In line with Recommendation 11 in the 2021 IOS Evaluation, activities were undertaken to increase the visibility of the mechanism. A series of three global webinars was organized in March 2022, in different time zones, to present the International Assistance mechanism to several stakeholders involved in the safeguarding of living heritage. In addition, a side-event on International Assistance was organized during the ninth session of the General Assembly. On these occasions, the [Toolkit](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/53724-EN.pdf) for requesting International Assistance prepared by the Secretariat in three languages was widely disseminated. Reports of States Parties on the use of International Assistance, presented to the present session of the Committee under the Item 6.d, includes activities implemented with the backstopping of the Secretariat, both at Headquarters and in Field Offices (see document [LHE/22/17.COM/6.d](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-6.d-EN.docx)). Furthermore, the Secretariat’s proposal for the monitoring, evaluation and identification of lessons learnt from International Assistance projects is presented for examination by the present session of the Committee under Item 11 (see document [LHE/22/17.COM/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-11-EN.docx)).
7. **Accredited non-governmental organizations** : The ninth session of the General Assembly accredited 33 new non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee, bringing the total number of accredited NGOs to 217 (Resolution [9.GA.7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/7)). The ICH NGO Forum and the Secretariat strengthened their collaboration by conducting a mapping of the domains of competencies of accredited NGOs. This exercise helps to identify the ways in which accredited NGOs could provide advisory services to the Committee, while facilitating potential cooperation between accredited NGOs and States Parties. A report by the ICH NGO Forum (document [LHE/22/17.COM/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-9-EN.docx)), which will be examined by the present session of the Committee under Item 9 of the provisional agenda, provides further details on the initiative.
8. **Thematic initiatives** : In line with UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 (41C/4), the Operational Directives of the Convention (Chapter VI) and the Committee’s previous decisions, the Secretariat continued to develop a comprehensive approach to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and sustainable development and identified three thematic areas for action: i) the economic dimension of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage; ii) safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change; and iii) safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts. An update on these initiatives is presented to the present session of the Committee under Item 13 of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/22/17.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-13-EN.docx)).
9. **Anniversary of the Convention**:Preparatory activities to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2023 continued during the reporting period, in line with the proposed themes which were noted by the ninth session of the General Assembly (Resolution [9.GA 13](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/13); document [LHE/22/9.GA/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-13_EN.docx)). The identification of partnerships and financial support for the campaign and the organization of events and activities are underway.
10. **Knowledge management services** continued to play a critical role in ensuring ‘business continuity’, notably through the organization of numerous online meetings of the Evaluation Body. The positive experience gained in the evaluation of files through the online interface indicates that the gradual return of in-person meetings will not imply the discontinuation of this working method. In fact, the working methodology for the in person June meeting of the Evaluation Body largely followed the same approach as the online meetings in previous years, involving intense preliminary work carried out by the members through the online interface, which they highlighted as a particularly useful and well-designed tool to facilitate their work. Furthermore, access to the online reporting platform continued to be provided to the designated focal points responsible for coordinating the periodic reporting exercise in each State Party. Given the increased usages, the knowledge management system needs to continue to be optimized so as to maintain the webpage and store the large amount of data produced.
11. **Communications and outreach**:As the 2021 IOS evaluation pointed out, the webpage of the Convention is an important tool to showcase the breadth of information related to the safeguarding of living heritage. However, further avenues for communication and outreach are needed to improve engagement with new audiences, including non-expert members of the public, youth, and bearers of living heritage. Building on the conclusions of the external company contracted in 2021 to review the user-experience of the 2003 Convention’s website, the alignment of the webpage of the Convention with UNESCO’s new graphic charter will be launched imminently. As a side event to the ninth session of the General Assembly, an exhibition on the MOOC on ‘Living heritage and sustainable development’ was organized. The visibility of the Convention has also been enhanced in UNESCO communications, through more social media posts (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) featuring living heritage, weekly news items on the webpage tackling different themes in all regions, and International Days’ related to the different domains of the Convention. A brochure on Living Heritage in emergency situations was published in three languages. Furthermore, during the reporting period, intersectoral and joint coordinated work was pursued in preparation for the launch of the 2022–2032 International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

**II.** **Safeguarding living heritage in emergencies**

1. The Secretariat continued to work on the implementation of the ‘**Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’**, approved by the eighth session of the General Assembly (Resolution [8.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/9)). During the reporting period, a project on the safeguarding of living heritage during emergencies in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and the Caribbean was launched. Under this three-year initiative, an online interregional workshop was organized in cooperation with the UNESCO Field Offices in Apia and Kingston in April 2022. Gathering some forty participants, the training session allowed for the sharing of experiences between stakeholders in the field of heritage safeguarding and disaster risk reduction and provided insights into specific needs related to the safeguarding of living heritage in countries prone to natural disasters. The training session used the material training of the curricula of the global capacity-building programme, with guidance on the integration of disaster risk reduction into community-based inventories of intangible cultural heritage. This year, the Secretariat also launched the production of new capacity-building materials on the topic of intangible cultural heritage in the context of armed conflict.
2. In response to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Secretariat has made a concerted effort to support the **safeguarding of Ukrainian living heritage**. The Secretariat called for a coordination meeting in March 2022 to gather more than forty stakeholders to discuss priority areas for action. As a follow-up, the Secretariat launched a community-based needs identification, between March and July 2022, in five countries neighbouring Ukraine which had received a large influx of displaced Ukrainian people (Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia). A set of International Assistance requests are being developed to address the safeguarding needs identified, to be submitted as soon as possible for examination by the Bureau of the Committee. Furthermore, the Secretariat launched a project through UNESCO’s Heritage Emergency Fund to support the resilience of Ukrainian school children by enhancing their awareness of their living heritage. This involves adapting the existing resource kit on ‘Teaching and learning with living heritage’ to the Ukrainian context and developing ten additional case studies to be piloted in a select number of primary and secondary schools, both inside and outside of Ukraine.
3. A landmark of the reporting period was the **accelerated inscription of ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’** on the Urgent Safeguarding List through the application of Article 17.3 of the Convention. In the context of the ongoing war, Ukraine made a request on 21 April 2022 for this nomination to be treated as a case of extreme urgency. The Secretariat supported the procedure throughout, starting with the Bureau’s meeting on 6 May 2022 to consider the request and establish a step-by-step procedure to treat it (Decision [17.COM 3.BUR 3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%203.BUR/3?dec=decisions-bureau&ref_decision=17.COM+3.BUR)); the Secretariat then consolidated the additional information received from Ukraine on 14 and 15 June before organising the evaluation of the nomination by the 2022 Evaluation Body; the recommendation of the Evaluation Body was transferred to the Bureau for its meeting on 23 June 2022 (document [LHE/22/17 COM 4.BUR 5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_4.BUR-5-EN.docx)). After an electronic exchange with the Committee members on procedural matters, the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee decided to inscribe the element on the Urgent Safeguarding List (Decision [5.EXT.COM 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/5.EXT.COM/5?dec=decisions&ref_decision=5.EXT.COM)). Overall, the Secretariat ensured an expeditious treatment of the nomination, within ten weeks of its submission by the State Party, demonstrating an effective first use of Article 17.3 of the Convention to treat a nomination on a fast-track basis.

**III. Implementation of operational priorities on capacity building as well as on living heritage and education**

1. **Capacity building**: The Secretariat continued to provide support to countries within the scope of the first funding priority ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’, approved by the Committee at its sixteenth session (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)). Capacity building and technical support was provided to ninety-six Member States, including sixteen in Africa and nine in SIDS to develop new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage. Of these, twenty- two countries (seven in Africa and nine in SIDS) initiated new programmes with the support of the Secretariat, focusing on the core actions under the Convention (inventorying, safeguarding plans, policy development) and in different thematic areas, notably emergencies, education and urban contexts. As demand for the capacity-building programme is on the rise, the Secretariat launched a call for expressions of interest to expand the global network of facilitators of the capacity-building programme. The call also responds to Recommendation 7 of the IOS 2021 Evaluation, which confirmed the centrality of the Global capacity-building programme and highlighted the need to adapt to evolving geographic and thematic demands. With the pool of additional facilitators, the Convention will be better equipped to respond to such needs and to ensure that the emerging thematic needs are effectively delivered. The Secretariat continued the work of reorienting the capacity-building programme for multimodal delivery and has further advanced the development of a Learning Management System (LMS).
2. The reporting period also included the treatment and evaluation of seven proposals for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO **Chairs** in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the first UNITWIN network on living heritage safeguarding in three universities in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The UNESCO Chair on Transcultural Music Studies (Weimar, Germany) and the UNESCO Chair on Global Understanding for Sustainability (Jena, Germany) contributed to the academic debate and networking around the topic of cultures for sustainable futures by organizing an international UNESCO Chairs Conference in May 2022. In addition, the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development (Cergy-Pontoise, France) organized its inaugural conference in April 2022.
3. **Living heritage and education**: The Secretariat continued its work on the second funding priority set by the Committee on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)). Experience sharing and programme analysis with the Education Sector was helpful in the process of further sharpening the scope of the intersectoral programme and developing a joint programme framework (Recommendation 4 of the IOS evaluation). A joint theory of change was developed with the Education team of the Harare Office for a project on living heritage and education in Zimbabwe and Namibia, while the important role of living heritage for educational processes, transformation and mutual understanding was discussed and acknowledged in the most recent draft of the [Revised Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (‘1974 Recommendation')](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000383055); this is to be discussed at an Intergovernmental Special Committee Meeting, with a view to its submission to UNESCO’s 42nd session of the General Conference in November 2023. The recommendation will provide a key standard-setting instrument in the field of education and for monitoring the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals SDG 4, hence the importance of having the role of living heritage for education recognized in the process.
4. The [Clearing house on Living heritage and education](https://ich.unesco.org/en/clearinghouse-education), with projects and resources on the topic, is now available in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Projects generating knowledge, methods, and tools to support the transmission of intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education are being implemented in Latin America Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Furthermore, the rising number of countries that collaborate with Field Offices to implement the intersectoral programme on living heritage and education is encouraging, with more than twenty-five initiatives included in the Culture Sector’s work plans for this biennium. These achievements are contributing to the implementation of regional frameworks and action plans, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda), in particular to Goal 4 on Quality Education and Goal 11 on Building Resilient Cities. Since the successful launch of the first Massive open online course (MOOC) on intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development in January 2022, more than 2550 learners from 160 countries have enrolled on the course and followed the modules on the connections between living heritage in areas such as gender equality, education, health, income generation, disasters and peacebuilding. The course has notably attracted young people among its audience. The training material is currently being adapted in other linguistic versions.
5. **Periodic reporting**: The Secretariat made a sustained effort to supporting the implementation of the periodic reporting mechanisms. During the reporting period the Secretariat undertook an assessment of a total of twenty-four reports submitted by eighteen States Parties on the current status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, which will be examined by the present session of the Committee under Item 6.a of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/22/17.COM 6.a](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-6.a-EN.docx)). For the periodic reporting on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List, the Secretariat has provided an analytical overview on the reports submitted by the States Parties from Europe for examination by the present session of the Committee under Item 6.b of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/22/17.COM 6.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-6.b-EN.docx)). For other regions, the Secretariat was in charge of preparing an in-depth analytical report on the periodic reports submitted by States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, carrying out capacity-building activities for States Parties in the Arab States, and initiating the reporting process for the States Parties in Africa; an update in this regard will be presented to the present session of the Committee under Item 6.c of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/22/17.COM 6.c](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-6.c-EN.docx)).
6. **Category 2 centres**: The Secretariat launched the preparatory phase for the evaluation of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe. In addition, the Secretariat supported the renewal of agreements concerning the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF).

**IV. Ways forward**

1. Even though the reporting period only covers a six-month period, the present report reflects how intense the Secretariat’s operations have been, covering numerous areas, to support the decision-making process of the governing bodies of the Convention, while at the same time administering different international cooperation mechanisms, carrying out operational projects; expanding the capacity-building approach, responding to emergency situations, and developing new thematic areas. Going forward, three areas of intervention seem worth highlighting.
2. The outcomes from the global reflection on the listing mechanisms are particularly encouraging and mark an important step toward the future development of the Convention. The approved revisions to the Operational Directives should serve to reinforce the credibility and operationalization of the listing mechanisms. It is important to allow time for the results of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms to take effect, as the revisions to the Operational Directives touched upon many aspects that will need to be implemented through several cycles before the effects can be assessed in a reliable way. At the same time, the Secretariat lost no time in starting the preparations to support the new reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention. This intergovernmental reflection is expected to bring the Convention to yet another level of maturity, allowing for deeper dialogue and collaboration amongst the various stakeholders around the theme of good practices for safeguarding living heritage.
3. The marked improvement in the submission rates of periodic reports in the two regions where the reformed system has been applied so far reflects a broad participation of States Parties. Provided that the positive trend in the submission of reports continues in the following cycles, the overall effectiveness of the reporting system in informing future decision-making will depend on how the extensive data produced are treated and made available. As the 2021 IOS Evaluation highlighted, further reflections will be needed on the potential uses of the data collected through periodic reports, as well as on strategies for making it widely available in a digestible and visual manner The reflection year in the six year cycle (2026), will be devoted to producing a global synapsis. This also connects to the recently held UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development meeting (Mondiacult meeting) as the [Final Declaration](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/5.EXT.COM/5?dec=decisions&ref_decision=5.EXT.COM) calls upon UNESCO to produce a comprehensive Global Report on Cultural Policies on a quadrennial basis, building on the information, data and existing indicators provided by its Member States notably in the framework of the periodic reports of the UNESCO’s complete set of normative instruments in the field of culture. It will be important therefore, as the Convention finalizes its first cycle of reformed periodic reporting to start exploring how best to adjust the process so that the information it produces may also effectively contribute to this initiative.
4. The thematic windows to highlight and strengthen the contribution of living heritage to Sustainable Development will no doubt continue to gain importance (document [LHE/22/17.COM 13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-13-EN.docx)). In this respect, the Living Heritage and Education Programme is building its momentum through intensified intersectoral collaboration for the development of a [UNESCO framework on culture and arts education](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000376144). The work on the framework was endorsed during the recent Executive Board session (Draft decision [215EX/5.I.D](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000382472)) and was also highlighted in the [Final Declaration](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/5.EXT.COM/5?dec=decisions&ref_decision=5.EXT.COM) of the Mondiacult meeting. Together with the ongoing discussions on the contribution of living heritage for educational processes ahead of the adoption of the revised ‘[1974 Recommendation](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000383055)’ by the 42nd session of the General Conference in November 2023, these developments provide a promising opportunity for upscaling and sharpening the scope of the Living Heritage and Education Programme, as recommended by the IOS evaluation (recommendation 4).

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1. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 5

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM/5 and its annex,
2. Expresses its full satisfaction with the completion of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, which has generated impactful results that are important for the credibility of the Convention and the operationalization of its listing mechanisms and commends the Secretariat for having supported the process throughout;
3. Notes with satisfaction the effectiveness of the capacity-building approach developed by the Secretariat for the reformed periodic reporting mechanism, confirmed by the marked improvement in the submission rates of reports from Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe; and invites States Parties to support financially the roll-out of the capacity-building for the regional cycle of periodic reporting in Africa;
4. Takes note of the Secretariat’s increased engagement in initiatives related to the safeguarding of living heritage in emergencies, which confirms the relevance of the ‘Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’ of the Convention, and appreciates in particular the actions taken by the Secretariat to support the safeguarding of Ukrainian intangible cultural heritage;
5. Further takes note of the progress made under each of the three thematic initiatives, including the on-line surveys as part of the preparations for establishing guidance notes and requests that the Secretariat report back to the Committee at its eighteenth session on the progress achieved;
6. Acknowledges the reorientation of the global capacity-building programme, including the move towards a multimodal delivery approach (blended, fully online, in-person), the development of the thematic areas and the expansion of the global network of facilitators, and appeals to States Parties to consider hosting and/or financially supporting training courses to equip the growing number of facilitators with the knowledge and skills required to support States Parties;
7. Also takes note of the increasing demand for projects under the first funding priority, ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage’, which includes requests to strengthen capacities in the core areas of the Convention, such as the preparation of safeguarding plans, International Assistance requests and nomination files, and calls upon States Parties to provide funding support for the design and implementation of multi-year projects to respond to such requests, notably in Africa and Small Island and Developing States;
8. Appreciates the steady progress made in the implementation of the second funding priority, ‘Safeguarding and transmission of intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education’, and encourages States Parties to provide support for intersectoral collaboration with the education sector with a view to anchoring the integration of living heritage safeguarding in education policies and systems at the local, national and international levels.

**Annex**

**Assessment by performance indicator**

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| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Number of Member States with new or revised policies, strategies and programmes to safeguard living heritage, including within sustainable development plans and frameworks, in line with the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2022 to 30/06/2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 60, including 20 in Africa and 10 SIDS | 60, including 20 in Africa and 10 SIDS | * 96 Member States benefitted from the capacity building programme (including16 in Africa and 9 in SIDS), 18 countries received support with the periodic reporting exercise in the Arab States;
* One regional training workshop[[4]](#footnote-4) organized in cooperation with a category 2 centre, training 21 focal points (>50% women) from the Arab States for the roll-out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism;
* One interregional training workshop organized in cooperation with two Field Offices, training nearly 30 participants from 5 SIDS[[5]](#footnote-5);
* 7 proposals processed for the establishment or renewal of UNESCO Chairs in the field of intangible cultural heritage, including the establishment of the first UNITWIN network on ICH (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay);
* International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund supported 42 safeguarding activities in 34 States Parties, including 17 in Africa and 9 in SIDS;
* Regional cycle in the reformed periodic reporting mechanism for Arab States continued with in-person, hybrid and online capacity-building activities.
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| **41C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of Member States sustainably safeguarding living heritage through enhanced international cooperation and assistance mechanisms of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** |

| **Baselines** | **Targets 2023** | **Assessment of progress:01/01/2022 to 30/06/2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 80, including 25 in Africa and 15 SIDS | 90, including 40 in Africa and 17 SIDS | * Working methods and tools of the Convention’s governing bodies and evaluation bodies adapted to online modalities, and knowledge management services optimized to ensure the continuity of statutory mechanisms and meetings;
* Global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention concluded and subsequent amendments to the Operational Directives approved;
* 5 newly International Assistance requests processed and granted, including one from Africa and two from SIDS;
* 57 nomination files treated for the 2022 cycle[[6]](#footnote-6), including one file treated on an accelerated basis (case of extreme urgency, in the sense of Article 17.3);
* 82 nomination files newly submitted registered and 60 nomination files treated for the 2023 cycle;
* 12 statutory meetings and interventions organized;[[7]](#footnote-7)
* First implementation of Article 17.3 of the Convention allowing for an expeditious treatment (within ten weeks) of a nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List.
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1. The report should be read together with the report ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues’, brought to the attention of the present session of the Committee under Item 12 of the provisional agenda (document [LHE/22/17.COM/12](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-12-EN.docx)) and the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund as approved by the ninth session of the General Assembly (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/10); document [LHE/22/9.GA/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-10-EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The report includes the ninth session of the General Assembly (UNESCO Headquarters, 5 to 7 July 2022) since many activities undertaken during the reporting period led to the decisions taken by that session of the Assembly. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. As amended by APX Commission (document [39 C/70](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000260089/PDF/260089eng.pdf.multi)) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . Arab States region kicked-off training on periodic reporting at the Sharjah Institute for Heritage – (hybrid, 21-25 March 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . Inter-regional inception workshop for the project ‘Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies in Small Island Developing States in the Pacific and the Caribbean’ – (online, 07/08 April 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . During the reporting period, the Secretariat organized two meetings of the Evaluation Body for the evaluation of fifty-six nomination files under the 2022 cycle in addition to the evaluation of one file on an accelerated basis (in the sense of Article 17.3). The Secretariat also administered the registration of eighty-two nomination files submitted by the deadline of 31 March 2022 files and verified the technical completeness of sixty files included under de 2023 cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . Meetings and interventions between January and July 2022:

Four meetings of the 17.COM Bureau;

Two meetings of the Evaluation Body for the 2023 cycle;

Fifth extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Online, 1 July 2023;

Open-ended intergovernmental working group in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms – Part III (online);

Information and exchange meeting on proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties;

Ninth session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, UNESCO headquarters, 5 to 7 July 2022; and

Two electronic exchanges of the Members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)