



The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

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Beijing 2018*

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Aims of the Convention - Preface:

- refers to to existing international human rights instruments, in particular to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
- Considering the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee of sustainable development, as underscored in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore of 1989, in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of 2001, and in the Istanbul Declaration of 2002 adopted by the Third Round Table of Ministers of Culture [...]



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Convention for the Safeguarding
of the Intangible Cultural
Heritage

The intangible cultural heritage –
or living heritage – is the
mainspring of our cultural
diversity and its maintenance a
guarantee for continuing
creativity



Flamenco, Spain;
„Dancers 2” by Richard Pluck. Licensed under CC BY-
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Gingerbread craft from Northern Croatia; Porcijunkulovo,
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Peking Opera, China
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Carnival, Kolumbien; „CARNAVAL DEL CALI VIEJO EN LA FERIA DE CALI
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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Aims of the Convention – Art. 1:

The purposes of this Convention are:

- (a) to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned;
- (c) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, and of ensuring mutual appreciation thereof;
- (d) to provide for international cooperation and assistance.



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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

2. Definition of Intangible Cultural Heritage – Art. 2:

The “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.



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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Categories:

- Oral traditions and expressions
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festivities
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craft techniques and craftsmanships



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Oral traditions and expressions

Arirang, lyrical folk songs, Republic of Korea

Inscribed in 2012 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



Gugak singer Song So-Hee performing "Arirang", JEON HAN / Korean Culture and Information Service / Korea.net (www.korea.net) / Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/koreaneet/13326575265/> (CC BY-SA 2.0),

“oral traditions and expressions, including the language as medium of immaterial cultural heritage (e.g. narrations, legends, fairy-tales, fables, poems and rhymes, riddles, songs, sayings, figures of speech, prayers)”

263 expressions in 104 countries

38 expressions inscribed in the Urgent Safeguarding List

217 expressions inscribed in the Representative List

8 expressions inscribed in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Source: www.unesco.org

Performing arts

The Samba de Roda of the Recôncavo of Bahia, Brazil

Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2005)

“performing arts (e.g. music, song, typical dance forms, mask dance, theatre, string-puppets, mime, puppet show, different kinds of circus, traditional songs like shepherd’s songs or polyphone songs)”



Samba de roda com baianas e Olívia Santana, Ministério da Cultura, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ministeriodacultura/4795168392/> (CC BY 2.0)

288 expressions in 103 countries

33 expressions inscribed in the Urgent Safeguarding List

248 expressions inscribed in the Representative List

7 expressions inscribed in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Source: www.unesco.org

Social practices, rituals and festive events

Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablou, sacred house of Kangaba, Mali

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

“social practices, rituals and festivities (e.g. forms of greetings, giving, playing, living, eating and dressing, rituals concerning birth, initiation, wedding or burial, seasonal festivities and ceremonies, parades, processions, carnival customs , traditional life style)”



Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablou, sacred house of Kangaba (Mali)



Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablou, sacred house of Kangaba (Mali)

343 expressions in 110 countries

40 expressions inscribed in the Urgent Safeguarding List

295 expressions inscribed in the Representative List

8 expressions inscribed in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Source: www.unesco.org

Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

The Andean Cosmivision of the Kallawaya, Bolivia

Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2003)



Kallawaya, Source:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassybolivia/13274989013/>

“knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (e.g. cosmologies, knowledge about medicinal plants and their usage, agricultural knowledge, sowing calendar)”



Andean cosmivision of the Kallawaya
 Photograph: Freddy Delgado © Ministerio de Culturas

173 expressions in 88 countries

23 expressions inscribed in the Urgent Safeguarding List

145 expressions inscribed in the Representative List

5 expressions inscribed in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Source: www.unesco.org

Traditional Craftsmanship



Source: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/RL/00671>



Source: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/RL/00671>

Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked string musical instrument

Inscribed in 2012 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

“traditional craft techniques (e.g. working of stone, earth, wood, metal, hides, glass, weaving techniques, embroidery techniques, lace making, pigment mixtures, painting, traditional preparation of food)”

253 expressions in 100 countries

30 expressions inscribed in the Urgent Safeguarding List

216 expressions inscribed in the Representative List

7 expressions in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Source: www.unesco.org

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

3. Role of State Parties – Art. 11:

Each State Party shall:

- take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory;
- among the safeguarding measures referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3, identify and define the various elements of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant nongovernmental organizations.



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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

3. Inventories – Art. 12:

- To ensure identification with a view to safeguarding, each State Party shall draw up, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory. These inventories shall be regularly updated.
- When each State Party periodically submits its report to the Committee, in accordance with Article 29, it shall provide relevant information on such inventories.



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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

3. Participation of groups and communities – Art. 15:

Within the framework of its safeguarding activities of the intangible cultural heritage, each State Party shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management.



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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

4. Quality of lists - Art. 16:

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

In order to ensure better visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and awareness of its significance, and to encourage dialogue which respects cultural diversity, the Committee, upon the proposal of the States Parties concerned, shall establish, keep up to date and publish a Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



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4. Quality of lists - Art. 17:

List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

With a view to taking appropriate safeguarding measures, the Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish a List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and shall inscribe such heritage on the List at the request of the State Party concerned.



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4. Quality of lists - Art. 18:

Programmes, projects and activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage

On the basis of proposals submitted by States Parties, and in accordance with criteria to be defined by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly, the Committee shall periodically select and promote national, sub regional and regional programmes, projects and activities for the safeguarding of the heritage which it considers best reflect the principles and objectives of this Convention, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.



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Intergovernmental Committee

Electoral Groups of the State Parties to the Convention

Group I (22 of 27 Member States have ratified the Convention; 18 % of all inscribed expressions; representing Western Europe, Turkey & North America)

Group II (24 of 25 Member States have ratified the Convention; 20 % of all inscribed expressions; representing South-Eastern Europe)

Group III (32 of 33 Member States have ratified the Convention; 14 % of all inscribed expressions; representing South America)

Group IV (40 of 44 Member States have ratified the Convention; 34 % of all inscribed expressions; representing Asia & Pacific)

Group V(a) (42 of 47 Member States have ratified the Convention; 9 % of all inscribed expressions; representing Sub-Saharan Africa)

Group V(b) (18 of 19 Member States have ratified the Convention; 8 % of all inscribed expressions; representing Arab States)



Second Session of the
Intergovernmental Committee
(2COM) - Tokyo, 3 to 7
September 2007

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists & <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/lists/>

The 24 Members of the Committee (2018)

Group I (Western Europe, Turkey & North America)

Austria
Cyprus
Netherlands
Poland

Group II (South-Eastern Europe)

Armenia
Azerbaijan

Group III (South America)

Colombia
Cuba
Guatemala
Jamaica

Group IV (Asia & Pacific)

China
Japan
Kazakhstan
Philippines
Sri Lanka

Group V(a) (Sub-Saharan Africa)

Cameroon
Djibouti
Mauritius
Senegal
Togo
Zambia

Group V(b) (Arab States)

Kuwait
Lebanon
Palestine



Second Session of the
Intergovernmental Committee
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September 2007

Source: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/convention>



Thank you for your interest!

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- 7.1. Gugak singer Song So-Hee performing "Arirang", JEON HAN / Korean Culture and Information Service / Korea.net (www.korea.net) / Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/koreanet/13326575265/> (CC BY-SA 2.0).
- 8.1. Samba de roda com baianas e Olívia Santana, Ministério da Cultura, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ministeriodacultura/4795168392/> (CC BY 2.0)
- 9.1. Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablon, sacred house of Kangaba (Mali) (1), Photograph: Equipe de recherche et de documentation de la DNPC, © DNPC, avril 2004, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/septennial-re-roofing-ceremony-of-the-kamablon-sacred-house-of-kangaba-00190>; 9.2. Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablon, sacred house of Kangaba (Mali) (2), Photograph: Equipe de recherche et de documentation de la DNPC, © DNPC, avril 2004, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/septennial-re-roofing-ceremony-of-the-kamablon-sacred-house-of-kangaba-00190>
- 10.1. Kallawayas de visita, Embajada de Estados Unidos en Bolivia, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassybolivia/13274989013/> (CC BY-ND 2.0); 10.2. Andean cosmovision of the Kallawayaya, Freddy Delgado, © Ministerio de Culturas, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/andean-cosmovision-of-the-kallawayaya-00048>
- 11.1. Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked string musical instrument (1), Mamed Rahimov, © 2010 by M.Rahimov/Ministry of Culture and Tourism, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/craftsmanship-and-performance-art-of-the-tar-a-long-necked-string-musical-instrument-00671>; 11.2. Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked string musical instrument (2), Mamed Rahimov, © 2010 by M.Rahimov/Ministry of Culture and Tourism, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/craftsmanship-and-performance-art-of-the-tar-a-long-necked-string-musical-instrument-00671>

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