

UNESCO funds two projects presented by groups associated with the international movement of coalitions for cultural diversity

Montreal, December 6, 2010 – The Intergovernmental Committee of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions approved last week in Paris funding for 31 projects from amongst some 254 project proposals received, including two presented by groups associated with the international movement of coalitions for cultural diversity.

One of these two projects involves organizing an *“Inter-Americas Meeting on Cultural Diversity”* in Toluca, Mexico, in May 2011, to consider the challenges facing the implementation of the Convention locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. The meeting is intended for civil society in the Americas, and in particular, young professionals, students and researchers active in cultural policy matters, who belong to the U40 Americas (*“Under 40 years old”*) network. This will be the second meeting of its kind following the initial meeting held in Montreal in May 2010. The project was presented by an active member of the U40 network, Ms. Gabriela Sanchez Villegas.

The Coalition for cultural diversity of Mali will also be granted financial support for communications initiatives designed to foster the implementation of the Convention and the development of a draft communal cultural policy. More than 200 key cultural stakeholders are being targeted across the country. The project was developed by the President of the Malian Coalition, Mr. Adama Traoré. *“I am happy to see UNESCO recognize the expertise and capacity to take action of the actors in civil society, who are associated with the international movement of coalitions for cultural diversity. This financial support will provide the movement with means to continue our activities that support the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. My most heartfelt congratulations go out to Ms. Gabriela Sanchez Villegas of Mexico and Mr. Adama Traoré of Mali for their sense of initiative”*, commented Mr. Rasmané Ouedraogo, President of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity.

Meanwhile, the Federation welcomes the announcement of financial support to another initiative designed to foster the implementation of the Convention. Bangladesh will likewise be able to organize a meeting of Cultural Ministers from the Asia-Pacific region, with the participation of international experts, in November 2011, so as to encourage more States from this under-represented region in the number of ratification to do so. This meeting could also, we hope, bring greater recognition for the role of civil society.

The International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) is the voice of cultural professionals worldwide. The Federation brings together 43 national coalitions comprised of over 600 organizations.

