



4th ORDINARY SESSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
Summary record on discussions from 30/11 to 03/12 2010

Item 7 of the agenda

Draft operational guidelines on information sharing and transparency
(Article 9 of the Convention)

Purpose: draft operational guidelines on a report to be submitted to the Conference of Parties every four years

Every 4 years, Parties should provide to the UNESCO with a concise report to :

- Advise on what qualitative and quantitative measures have been taken to achieve the objectives of the Convention on a national and international level and on the impact and results of these measures. Civil society should participate.

Parties also should :

- Choose a contact point centralizing this information
- Share and exchange information (measures and statistics) in order to develop best practises.

Contact points could be high ministerial officials, national commissions, permanent delegations, NGOs, etc.

Parties should send the report to the Secretariat who will prepare an analytical summary for the attention of the Committee which will deal with the strategic issues to be examined. The reports will then be sent to the Committee of the Conference of Parties for consideration.

Adoption : the draft and its annex (frame for periodical reports) is adopted and will be proposed for approval at the next Conference of Parties.

Item 8 of the agenda

Draft operational guidelines on the exchange, analysis and dissemination of information
(Article 19 of the Convention)

Purpose: Drafting operational guidelines defining means of cooperation between Parties to exchange best practises to insure an effective gathering of data and statistics on the diversity of cultural expressions (see article 9.1 of the Convention).

Measures to implement these operational guidelines are:

- Regular gathering of basic data on culture
- Support to the infrastructures and expertise necessary to complete this gathering
- Development of standard indicators to measure cultural diversity.

Parties should cooperate in order to reach the objectives of exchange and analysis and treatment of shared information, statistics and best practices. The UNESCO Secretariat facilitates these exchanges by developing an expert data base and encouraging the networking of information sources.

Civil society is invited to actively participate.

Adoption : the draft is adopted and will be proposed for approval at the next Conference of Parties. The Secretariat is invited to organize a meeting with the contact points at the occasion of the next Conference of Parties.

Item 9 of the agenda

Draft operational guidelines on education and public awareness
(Article 10 of the Convention)

Purpose: Draft operational guidelines to draw a framework for public education and awareness programs to increase visibility of the UNESCO's objectives.

Parties and civil society have been consulted in July 2009 so they could give their ideas and expectations on the main issues of the Article 10 of the Convention. Parties stated that they should be free to set up and implement any action they deem most adapted to the various publics they want to reach with regards to furthering education and exchange.

The implementation of the operational guidelines goes through the development of programs bridging culture and education, furthering the objectives of the Convention and its ranking amongst other UNESCO instruments, and highlighting professions linked to the cultural industry.

These awareness campaigns could be aimed primarily to schools, teaching and training institutes, but also be relayed through the medias and various public events.

Cooperation with intergovernmental and regional organisations should be fostered. The contact points of Parties will follow up on the initiated measures set up to foster awareness and education.

Item 10A of the agenda

Decision regarding the implementation of the International Fund for cultural diversity (IFCD))

A call for projects was made in March 2010, and subsequently 254 funding requests were received from 57 countries, reaching a total amount of 44M\$. For the record, on July 1st, 2010, the Fund was credited with 2,6M\$, out of which 70% (1,8M\$) were allocated to the pilot phase.

Since quite a few projects did not meet the funding criteria, only 183 projects were sent to a panel of 6 experts for assessment. The funding requests ranged from 1.500\$ to 3M\$.

After both a quantitative and qualitative appraisal, the experts selected 32 projects (15 of which from Africa) for a total amount of 2,2M\$.

The EU representative mentioned that the EU could not contribute directly to the Fund but that it had budgeted 1M\$ to finance projects dealing with technical assistance (the first call for proposals will be launched early 2011).

The 32 projects selected by the experts were submitted for discussion and approval to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Purpose :

- **Selection of projects to be financed on the 2011 budget (call for projects 2010)**
- **Drawing up the assessment criteria for the call for projects 2011**

- **IGC decisions regarding the 32 selected projects**

- the funding request for an Arts complex with residences for artists (in Mali) was not accepted;
- setting an upper limit of 100 000 \$ per project . 3 projects will not be granted the requested fund (+ 200 000 \$) ;
- the total budget allocated for the call for projects 2010 is 1 547 700 \$

- **Debate on the process to be set for the 3 projects requesting over 100.000\$**

Germany pointed out that there is doubt as to how viable the project will be so further discussions are necessary with the NGO which presented it.

The panel of experts could also be asked to control the feasibility of the projects because the Convention secretariat is small and this will not result in increased costs (the experts are remunerated on a fixed fee basis).

- **Debate on the selection criteria to be put forward for future projects**

- ▶ **Debate on the extent of these proposals.**

The initial article 12 of the preliminary decision considered these as amendments to the operational guidelines on art. 18 (Fund) and was calling on the 3rd Conference of Parties to proceed with these amendments.

Problems raised:

- art. 12 does not specifically refer to amendments to operational guidelines – though it is the IGC's role to propose such amendments, later on to be adopted by the Conference of Parties.
- the wording of art. 12 is not adequate; it could be considered that the IGC is overextending its authority.

→ Some countries (Kenya, South Africa) are backing the Tunisian proposal calling for a study on the general guidelines to be adopted to select projects.

Other countries (particularly Albania, France, Brazil, Sainte-Lucie, Mexico) consider that:

- it is essential to capitalize on the experience gained during this 1st pilot year and to draw up some selection criteria for the call for projects in June 2012;
- the proposed selection criteria will not change the operational guidelines: a change in the operational guidelines could only be envisaged after completion of a 3 year pilot phase (June 2012)

→ This position is finally adopted.

► Criteria to be taken into account for the call for projects 2011

Particularly:

- maximum amount requested to the IFCD: 100 000 \$ for assistance and 10.000\$ for preliminary assistance;
- maximum number of projects per beneficiary (one project per Partie or NGO);
- maximum number of projects to be presented per beneficiary (2 projects max) ;
- selection of projects by a group of experts: above 75% of points.

Moreover, terms such as “preliminary assistance” and “institutional infrastructure” will have to be defined.

Item 10B of the agenda

Draft decision regarding the fund raising strategy for the International Fund for cultural diversity (IFCD)

The Committee President stressed that the success of the funding strategy for the Fund is closely related to communication on the Convention. The Committee should take into account the successful and innovative mechanisms nationally in order to attract small donors. It is also imperative to insure transparency and traceability of donations.

Several countries are in favour of branding cultural events which benefit cultural diversity. A financial compensation would be paid by the event (Canada, South Africa, Ste Lucie, Greece, China).

South Africa also suggested that financial statements for each project should be cleared by a financial controller.

Adoption: Draft adopted, to be submitted for approval at the next Conference of Parties. A questionnaire will be sent by the Secretariat in order to collect information on implementation at a national level.

The Committee asked the Director General to allocate at the next Conference of Parties the resources necessary for the Fund to operate.

Item 11 of the agenda

Documents to be approved by the third ordinary session of the Conference of Parties

These are the drafts for O.G. (operational Guidelines) regarding articles 9, 10 and 19 of the Convention, together with the draft regarding the use of a Convention emblem.

O.G. article 9 → OK

O.G. article 10 → OK

O.G. article 19 → OK

O.G. use of an emblem → see item 5 of the agenda

Item 5 of the agenda

Feasibility study and cost analysis for the creation of an emblem for the Convention

A questionnaire was sent to Parties and to the Liaison Committee in July 2009. This shows it would be useful to create an emblem.

In view of the two suggested options (designation of an artist and international contest of artists), the Committee preferred to postpone its decision particularly because of the costs involved (US\$ 17K and US\$ 41K respectively).

This item will be on the agenda of the 5th Ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee.