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# Diversity of Cultural Expressions

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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

**First session**  
**Ottawa, Canada, 10-13 December 2007**

### **Item 5C of the provisional agenda: Role and participation of civil society in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention**

The Conference of Parties, in its Resolution 1.CP 6 adopted at its first session, requested the Committee to prepare the operational guidelines for the implementation of the Convention giving priority attention to several provisions, among which is Article 11 (Participation of Civil Society). This document proposes a roadmap, timetable and working methods for the elaboration of Chapter 5 of the draft Table of Contents of the operational guidelines on the role and participation of civil society in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

**Decision required:** paragraph 13

1. The Conference of Parties, in its Resolution 1.CP 6 adopted at its first session, requested the Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) to prepare the operational guidelines referred to in subparagraph (c) of Article 22.4 and subparagraph (b) of Article 23.6 of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), giving priority attention to, *inter alia*, the provisions of Articles 7, 8 and 11 to 17 of the Convention and to submit at the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties the results of its work for consideration and approval.
2. Article 11 of the Convention recognizes the fundamental role which civil society has to play in the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and invites the Parties to encourage the active participation of civil society in achieving the objectives of the Convention. Further, a number of other provisions of the Convention refer explicitly or implicitly to the role and participation of civil society in protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, e.g., Articles 6, 7, 12, 15, 19.
3. Given the importance of civil society in the text of the Convention, as well as the emphasis placed on civil society by the Conference of Parties at its first session, it is proposed to the Committee to start consideration of Chapter 5 of the draft Table of contents of the operational guidelines (Role and Participation of Civil Society) at its present session and to determine the roadmap, timetable and working methods for the elaboration of this chapter.
4. In this context, it is proposed that Chapter 5 of the draft Table of contents of the operational guidelines (document CE/07/1.IGC/5A) be not limited strictly to Article 11, which lays down the basic principle concerning civil society, but that it also takes into account the references to civil society organizations and actors made in other provisions of the Convention.
5. Given that widespread use of the term ‘civil society’ is comparatively recent, that the Convention is the first international instrument adopted under the aegis of UNESCO to make use of the term, that the Convention itself does not define the term, and also that the terminology of the Convention in regard to civil society organizations and actors is not harmonized, it may be appropriate if, in elaborating Chapter 5 of the draft Table of contents of the operational guidelines, the Committee adopts a working definition to orient Parties and other stakeholders.
6. In this context, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Convention, it may also be appropriate to map out the types, categories and forms of civil society organizations and actors active in the cultural field, and more specifically, in the field of diversity of cultural expressions, and to include the results in Chapter 5.
7. The role and functions of civil society organizations and actors in the implementation of the Convention, which should represent the core of Chapter 5, merit in-depth examination and analysis.
8. Furthermore, existing and possible measures, methods and forms of encouraging the participation of civil society to be employed by the Parties in compliance with the relevant articles of the Convention (such as Article 6, Article 11 etc.) need to be explored in detail so that efficient, clear and useful guidelines may be provided to all stakeholders.

9. Last but not least, the specificities and potential of civil society participation at national level, on the one hand, and at international level, on the other, should be explored.
10. Given the complexity of the task, the Committee may wish, before its next session, to commission an academic or research institution or individual researcher to carry out a peer-reviewed study. The result of this study could be presented for consideration to the next session of the Committee. Depending on the results of the discussion at its next session, the Committee may then decide the methods to be used in order to further elaborate Chapter 5 of the draft Table of contents of the operational guidelines.
11. In addition, it is proposed to the Committee that an information session be organized before the opening of the next session of the Committee, with representatives of civil society organizations, having interest and activities in the fields covered by the Convention, pursuant to Rule 7.4 of the draft Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Committee (document CE/07/1.IGC/4).
12. With the aim of facilitating the Committee's initial discussion on this matter, the Secretariat has commissioned a high-level expert to prepare a concise report entitled "Civil Society and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)". The report offers a synoptic overview of the term civil society, existing definitions, functions of civil society organizations, measurement of civil society capacity and modalities of interaction and coordination. The report is provided to the Committee as information document CE/07/1.IGC/INF. 6.
13. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

**Draft decision 1.IGC 5C**

*The Committee,*

1. *Having examined document CE/07/1.IGC/5C;*
2. *Acknowledging the importance of the role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and taking note of the report contained in document CE/07/1.IGC/INF. 6;*
3. *Decides that the examination of Chapter 5 (Role and Participation of Civil Society) of the draft Table of contents of the operational guidelines, will be included in the agenda of its next session;*
4. *Decides to commission a study (peer-reviewed) on the role and participation of civil society in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and to discuss the result of this work at its next session;*
5. *Requests the Secretariat to organize, before the opening of the next session of the Committee, an information session on the role and participation of civil society with representatives of civil society organizations, having interest and activities in the fields covered by the Convention pursuant to Rule 7.4 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Committee.*