



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

14 IGC

DCE/21/14.IGC/7
Paris, 5 January 2021
Original: French

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

**Fourteenth Session
Online
1 – 6 February 2021**

Item 7 of the provisional agenda: Narrative report of the International Fund
for Cultural Diversity (2020)

In accordance with Article 4.3 of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and Decisions 13.IGC 5a and 13.IGC 5c adopted by the Committee, this document presents a narrative report on the implementation of the Fund.

Decision required: paragraph 32

I. Background

1. The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (hereinafter “the IFCD”) was established under Article 18 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) and consists mainly of voluntary contributions. As a key instrument for the implementation of the Convention, it promotes South-South and North-South cooperation, in particular through its multi-donor nature. In accordance with Article 3 of its Financial Regulations, the IFCD provides a mechanism for those party to the Convention to “support cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction, especially in relation to the specific needs of developing countries, in order to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention”. As a result, the projects supported by the IFCD contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by all United Nations Member States within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Annex I provides a schematic overview of the contribution of funded projects to Goal 4: Quality education, Goal 5: Gender equality, Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals.
2. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, approved by the Conference of Parties in 2009 and revised in 2013, the main objective of the Fund is to invest in projects that lead to structural change through the establishment and/or development of policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions, including cultural goods, services and activities, as well as through the strengthening of institutional infrastructures deemed necessary to support viable cultural industries at the local and regional levels.
3. In accordance with Article 4.3 of the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity approved by the Conference of Parties in 2019 ([Resolution 7.CP.9](#)), a narrative report shall be submitted annually to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”). This document is complementary to the six other documents relating to the IFCD, namely:
 - Financial Statements of the Special Account for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity from 1 January 2020 to 30 November 2020 (DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.7)
 - Recommended projects from the International Fund for Cultural Diversity’s eleventh call for funding applications (DCE/21/14.IGC/8)
 - Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the second external evaluation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (DCE/21/14.IGC/9)
 - Analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, with a view to their possible revision or updating (DCE/21/14.IGC/10)
 - Evaluation report of the previous communication and fundraising strategy of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (2013-2018) and new fundraising strategy (2021-2023) (DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11)
 - Draft of the new fundraising strategy for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (2021-2023) (DCE/21/14.IGC/11)
4. As the year 2020 marks the tenth anniversary of the IFCD, the Secretariat also includes in this document an overview of the 10 years of implementation of the IFCD, as a complement to the narrative report for the year 2020.

II. Brief overview of the 10 years of implementation of the IFCD

5. Since 2010, the Secretariat has launched an annual call for funding applications, in accordance with paragraph 13.1 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD. Since 2015, funding applications have been submitted through the dedicated online platform. At the end of the evaluation process, the results of the call for funding applications are published online,

together with the recommendations of the Panel of Experts. The Committee then examines and approves the projects at its ordinary session according to the funds available under the IFCD for that purpose.

6. The projects financed over the last 10 years have covered a broad range of types of interventions, including the development and implementation of cultural policies, capacity building of cultural entrepreneurs, mapping of cultural industries and the creation of new business models in cultural industries (a sample is presented in Annex I). The IFCD continues to create new ways of supporting projects aimed at developing innovative cultural policies and business models, increasing new investments in creativity, and promoting gender equality and opportunities for young people in the cultural and creative sectors. In doing so, the IFCD supports projects that contribute directly to the goals of the Convention.

An inversely proportional change in the number of funding applications versus the funds available

7. As shown in Figure 1, the **number of projects submitted increased significantly between 2010 and 2020**, from 254 in 2010 to 1,027 in 2020, while the **overall number of projects funded decreased**. While 31 projects were funded in 2010 under the first call, since 2014, an average of seven projects have been funded per year.

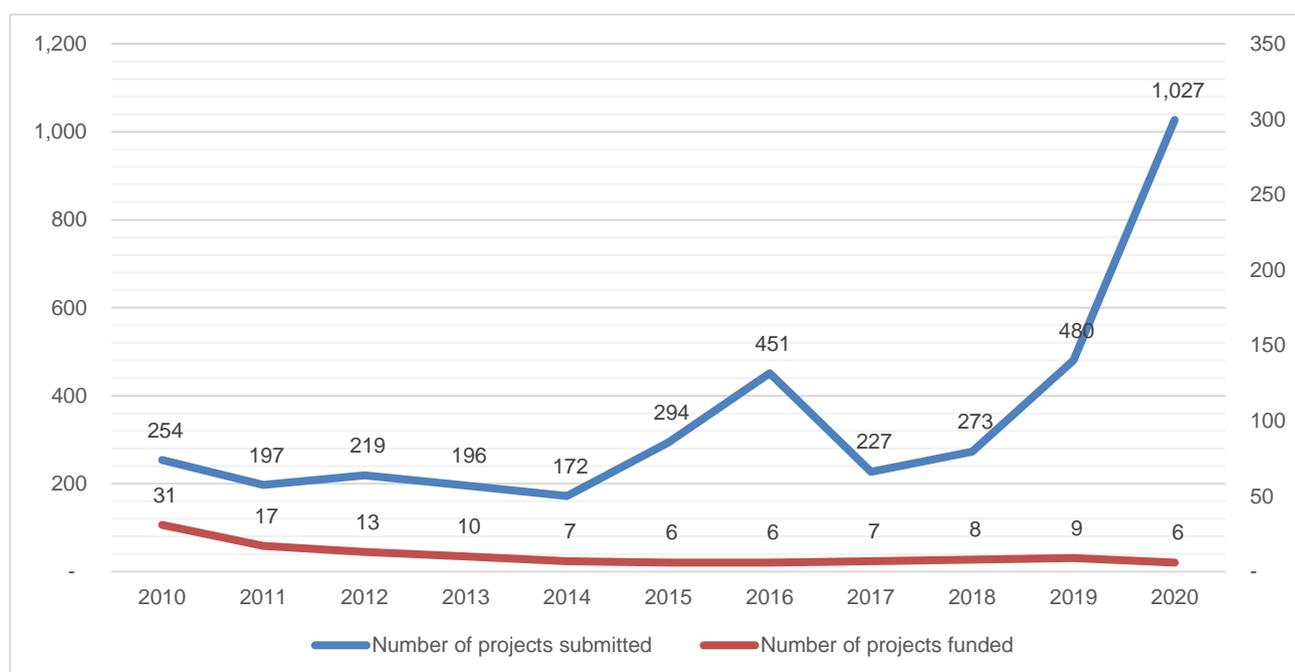


Figure 1: Evolution of the number of projects submitted vs the number of projects funded¹

Investments in developing countries

8. The IFCD has been running since 2010 and celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2020. During this decade, the Committee approved 114 projects for a total amount of more than \$8.3 million. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, these projects have benefited developing countries party to the Convention and recognized by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as developing economies, economies in transition and least developed countries.
9. These projects were implemented in 58 countries, 42% of which were in Africa, 33% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 11% in Eastern Europe, 8% in Asia and the Pacific and 4% in the Arab States. As detailed in Figure 2, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are the two regions that have benefited most from IFCD support.

1. For 2020, these are the 6 projects recommended by the Group of Experts and submitted to the Committee for approval, as presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/8.

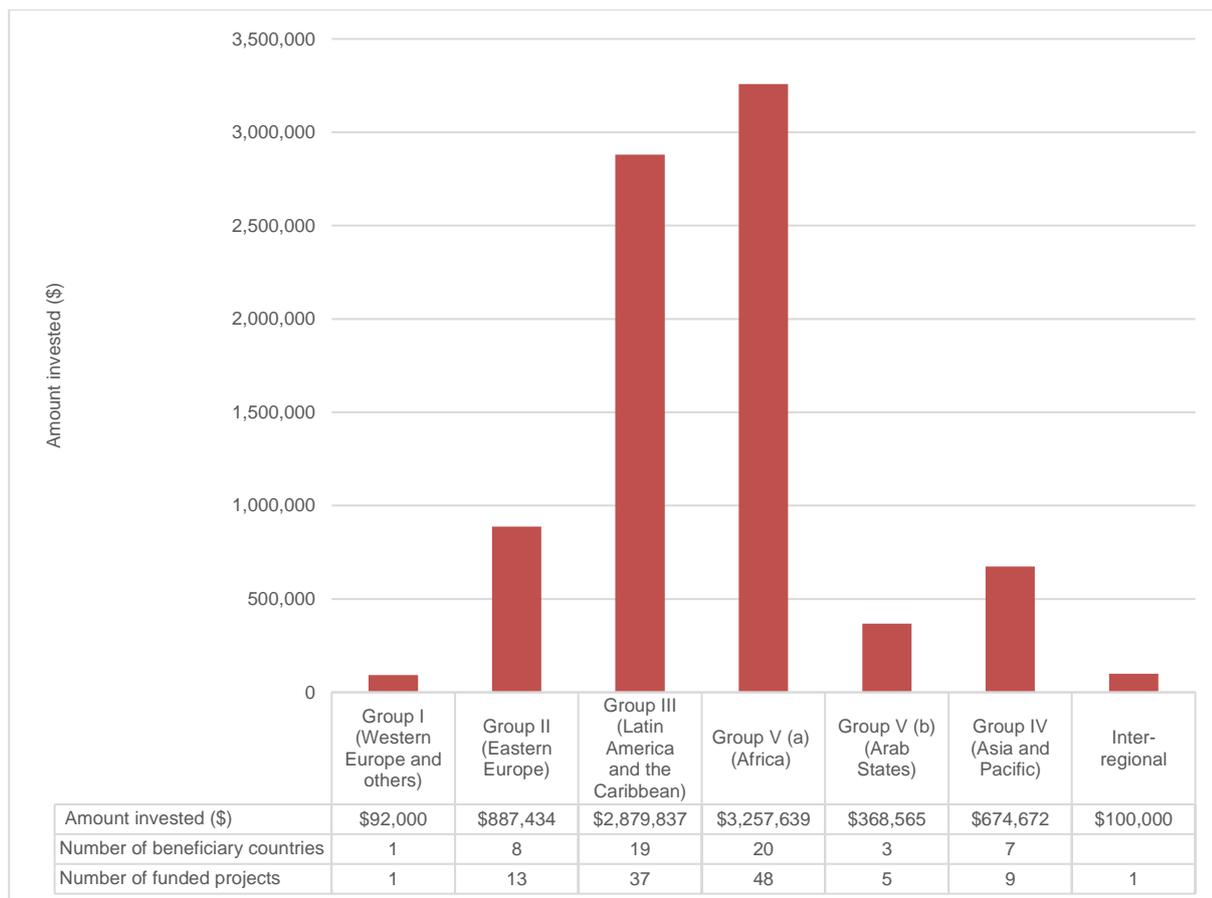


Figure 2: Overview of IFCD investment between 2010 and 2019

Increase in the number of countries applying to the IFCD

10. In accordance with Recommendations 9, 10 and 11 of the second external evaluation adopted by the Committee in 2018 ([Decision 12.IGC 6](#)) (see document DCE/21/14.IGC/9), the Secretariat has set up training modules on pre-selection procedures for National Commissions, on the preparation of funding applications and on the submission procedure for potential IFCD applicants. Since 2018, the Secretariat, including through the field offices, has organized training sessions giving priority to countries that have never benefited from the IFCD. In addition, material on the preparation of applications for IFCD funding was included in the training module on the participatory monitoring of cultural policies developed under the programme “Reshaping Cultural Policies for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”² funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Thus, the three regional capacity-building workshops on the preparation of quadrennial periodic reports held in Jakarta (Indonesia), Pretoria (South Africa) and Quito (Ecuador) included an introduction to the IFCD. Since December 2018, information sessions on the IFCD have been consistently organized in parallel to the statutory meetings of the Convention.
11. The various activities carried out on the initiative of the Secretariat have led to an **increase not only in the number of countries that have submitted funding requests, but also in the number of National Commissions that have completed the pre-selection procedure**. As shown below in Figure 3, since 2010, the number of countries submitting projects has risen from 57 eligible countries to 94, an increase of 64% over 10 years.
12. In 2015, the procedure for the pre-selection of projects by National Commissions began to take place via the online submission platform for funding applications. Since then, the number of

2. For more information: <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/activities/reshaping-cultural-policies-promotion-fundamental>.

National Commissions having completed the pre-selection process has risen from 55 countries in 2015 to 79 countries in 2020, an increase of 44% over 5 years.

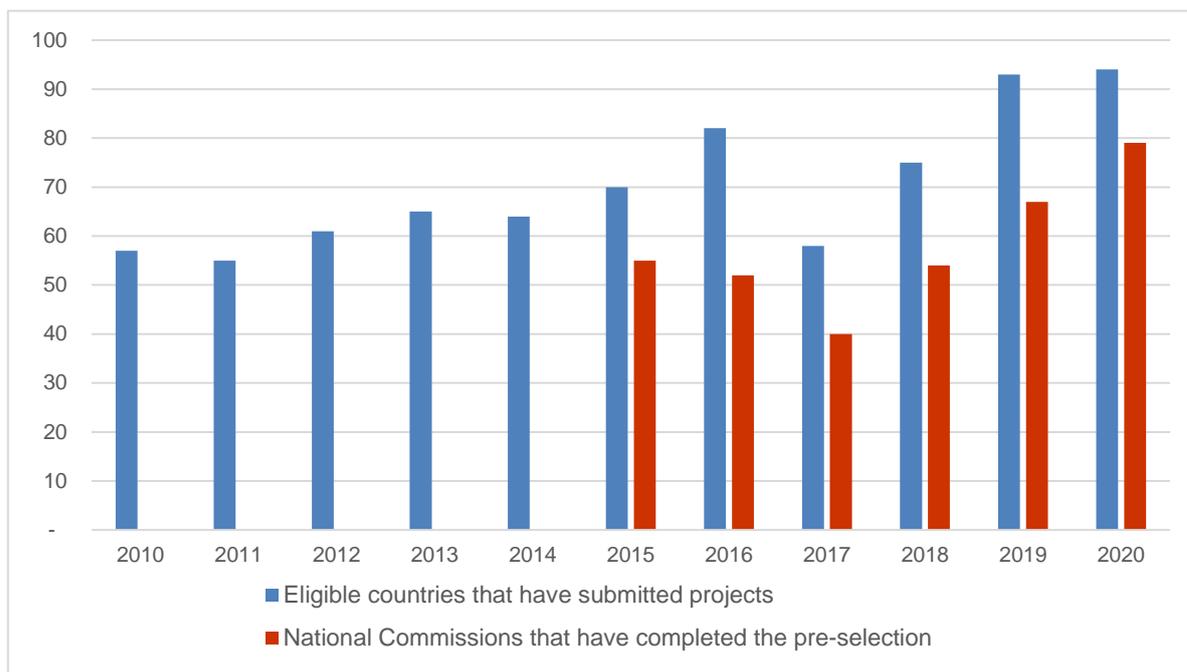


Figure 3: Evolution of the number of countries submitting projects and pre-selecting projects between 2010 and 2020³

Decrease in voluntary contributions

13. Between 2010 and 2020, 86 Parties made at least one contribution to the IFCD. During the same period, 26 countries contributed at least five times and only six countries⁴ contributed annually. In 2012, the Committee adopted a fundraising and communication strategy ([Decision 6.IGC 6](#)), which undoubtedly led to the increase in the number of contributing countries since 2016, but which failed to lead to an increase in the overall sum of contributions. An evaluation of the fundraising and communication strategy (2013–2018) is presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11.
14. Figure 4 shows the evolution of contributions, including interest, and the number of Parties that have contributed to the IFCD over the last 10 years. The number of contributors has increased significantly, from 16 in 2010 to 50⁵ in 2020. However, despite the rise in the number of contributing countries, since 2016, the annual level of voluntary contributions to the IFCD has remained on average around \$827,275 over the last five years.

3. Pre-selection by National Commissions began in 2015.

4. Andorra, Finland, France, Mexico, Monaco and Sweden.

5. Number of Parties that have contributed to the IFCD between 1 January and 30 November 2020.

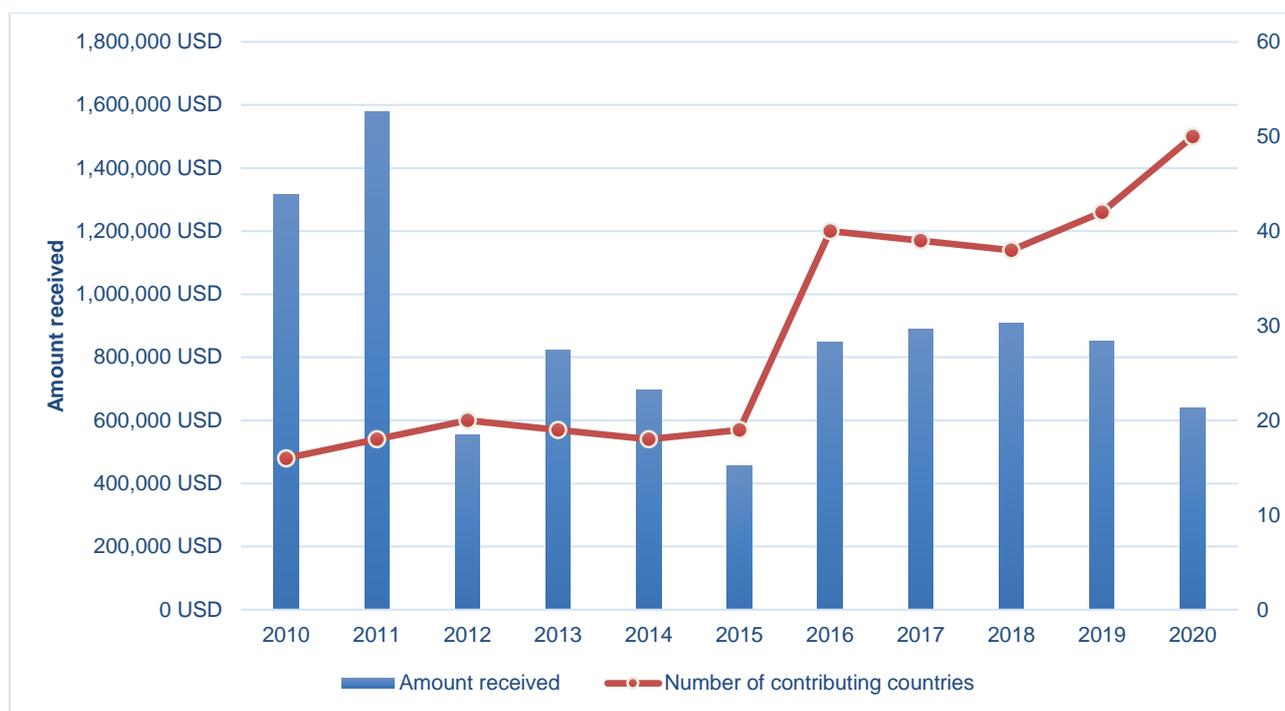


Figure 4: Voluntary contributions received and number of contributing countries per year

III. Financial report on the use of the financial resources of the IFCD in 2020

15. At its thirteenth session, the Committee adopted the IFCD budget, for the first time on a biannual basis, for the period 2020-2021 in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Fund. The income and expenditure are reflected in the financial statements prepared for the Special Account of the IFCD by UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning, and are found in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.7. As at 30 November 2020, the total expenditure amounted to US\$602,279, representing an implementation rate of 36.12%.

Evaluation of funding applications

16. In March 2020, in accordance with Decision 13.IGC 5a, the Secretariat launched the eleventh call for funding applications. Information on the number of projects submitted, the pre-selection process and the recommendations of the Panel of Experts is presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/8.
17. The Secretariat is in charge of all administrative and technical procedures related to the launch of the call for funding applications on the dedicated online platform. In addition, it oversees all stages of project selection and ensures that the various stakeholders – applicants, National Commissions and the Panel of Experts – adhere to the implementation schedule.
18. For the year 2020, the Secretariat carried out the technical evaluation of 190 projects pre-selected by National Commissions and 24 projects submitted by international non-governmental organizations, whose applications are submitted directly to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 13.3 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD.
19. Following the technical evaluation by the Secretariat, the Panel of Experts appointed by the Committee at its last session ([Decision 13.IGC 5a](#)) evaluated the 111 eligible projects. In accordance with paragraph 16.4 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, the Panel of Experts prepared the recommendations submitted to the Committee for examination and possible approval as presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/8.

20. It should be noted that while the call for funding applications is open for three months, application processing (pre-selection by National Commissions, technical evaluation by the Secretariat and evaluation by the Panel of Experts) takes a total of eight months until the Committee examines the recommended projects. In accordance with paragraph 7.3 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, US\$43,961 was committed on covering the costs of evaluating 111 applications by the Panel of Experts in 2020.

Participation of least developed countries members of the Committee in statutory meetings

21. As of 30 November 2020, this line shows no expenditure, as the (face-to-face or online) format of the fourteenth session of the Committee is not yet known and possible arrangements for the participation of least developed countries in the event of a face-to-face meeting have not yet been made.

Monitoring of funded projects

22. Monitoring of project implementation is carried out by the Secretariat in collaboration with field offices. This monitoring has been strengthened through regular and one-to-one communication with the project leaders. The Secretariat ensures that the results and deliverables of each project correspond to the work plan and budget included in the approved funding applications.
23. The Secretariat also ensures the administrative and financial management of all funded projects. Of the 114 projects approved for funding since 2010, 99 have been finalized and 15 are being implemented. In February 2020, the Committee approved funding for nine projects under the tenth IFCD call for funding applications ([Decision 13.IGC 5a](#)). The Secretariat immediately launched the administrative procedures to establish contracts with the beneficiary organizations. The commitments amounting to US\$457,597 under the “Funding of projects” line in the report “Schedule of expenditure for the period 1 January to 30 November 2020”, included in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.7, correspond to the five contracts that were drawn up before 30 November 2020.⁶ At the request of the organizations responsible for the other four projects approved by the Committee at its thirteenth session, the preparation of the contracts has been postponed to 2021 owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 crisis, which have prevented those organizations from starting their projects in 2020.
24. The health crisis has also impacted most of the 15 ongoing projects. The list of projects concerned is found in Annex II to this document. Throughout 2020, the Secretariat worked closely with the organizations responsible for the projects concerned to reschedule the planned activities and their implementation timeframe.

Monitoring the implementation of recommendations⁷

25. Document DCE/21/14.IGC/9 presents the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations following the second external evaluation of the IFCD. Several evaluations in connection with the IFCD were conducted in 2019. The analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD is also presented to the Committee with a view to possibly revising or updating them (document DCE/21/14.IGC/10) and is, to a large extent, informed by the conclusions of these different evaluations.
26. In addition, the evaluation of the 2013-2018 fundraising and communication strategy, presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11, has, through its findings, helped to shape the new fundraising and communication strategy for 2021-2023, which is presented to the Committee for adoption in document DCE/21/14.IGC/11.

6. These are the projects carried out by the Music in Africa Foundation (NGO, South Africa), Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana Núcleo del Azuay (Ecuador), the Fundação Carlos Morgado (NGO, Mozambique), the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts – IKSU (NGO, Turkey) and the Vietnamese National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies – VICAS (Viet Nam).

7. Owing to the COVID-19 health crisis, the activities described were carried out online and did not involve any costs during the period under review.

IV. Status of voluntary contributions to the IFCD in 2020

27. As is the case every year, pursuant to [Decision 13.IGC 5c](#), the Director-General has issued a call for contributions to all Parties, quoting the amount corresponding to 1% of the total contribution of each Member State to UNESCO's regular budget.
28. The call for contributions sent to all Parties was followed by a specific communication from the Secretariat to the Parties to the Convention. This resulted in voluntary contributions from 50 Parties as at 30 November 2020. The total amount of contributions, including interest, is contained in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.7.

V. Conclusion

29. In the ten years of its existence, the IFCD has been recognized as a key tool of international cooperation for the implementation of the Convention and in particular for the development of creative and cultural industries in developing countries. As presented in the analysis of the previous fundraising and communication strategy (DCE/21/14.IGC/11 and DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11), the IFCD is now prominent in the landscape of international funding mechanisms for the cultural and creative sector.
30. Moreover, as a result of the capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat with various stakeholders, the number of projects submitted to the IFCD and the participation rate of National Commissions in the pre-selection process has increased considerably over the last decade. However, as the number of projects funded depends on the amount of voluntary contributions from Parties to the Convention, the funding capacity of the IFCD remains below 2%.
31. Although continuous efforts are being made by the Secretariat despite very limited human resources, the major challenge for the IFCD remains achieving a regular level of funding commensurate with the growing number of requests for funding.
32. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.IGC 7

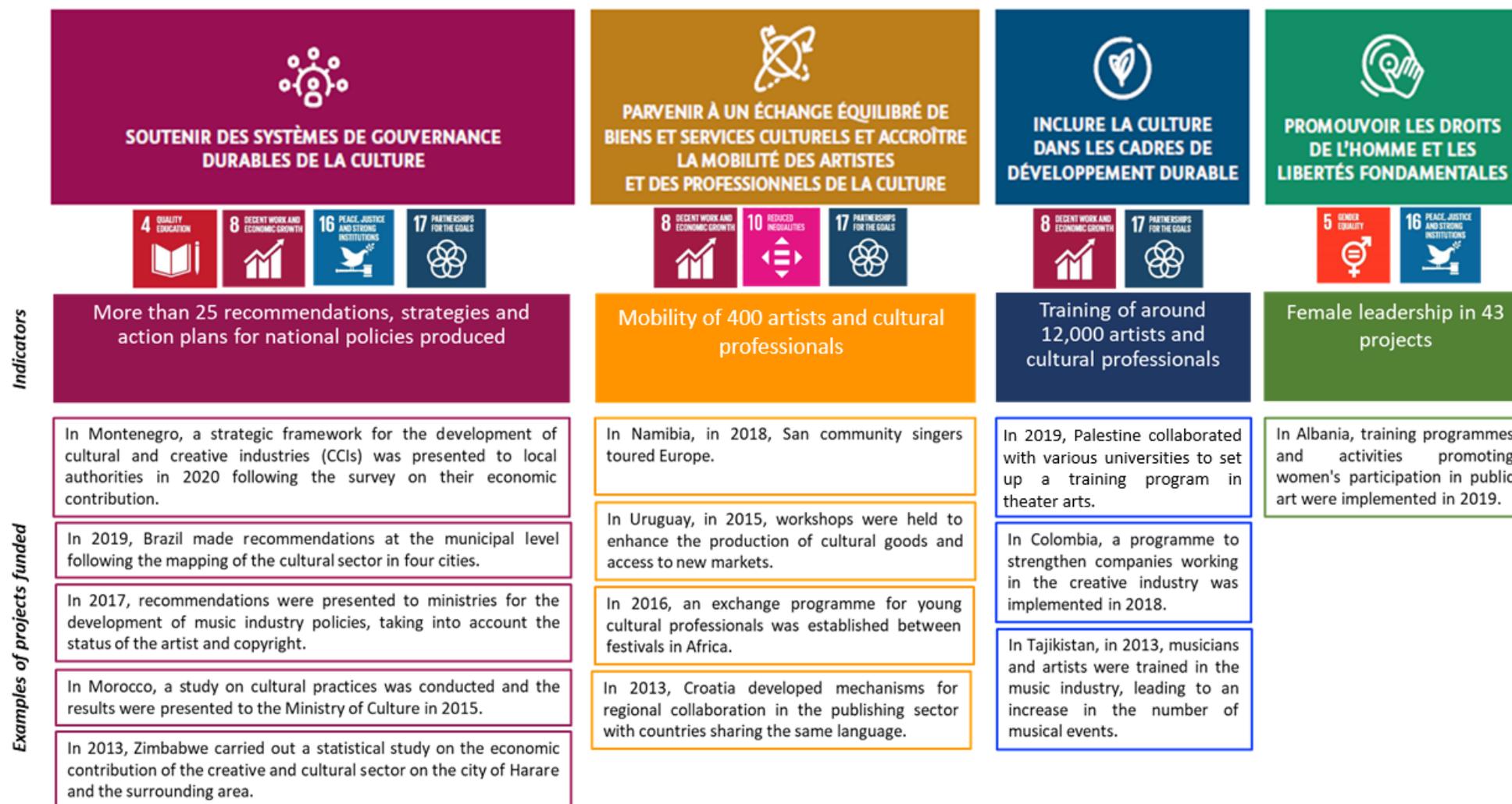
The Committee,

1. *Having examined document DCE/21/14.IGC/7 and its annexes,*
2. *Recalls the commitment of Parties to make voluntary contributions on a regular basis to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity for the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with Article 18.7 of the Convention;*
3. *Expresses its sincere appreciation to all Parties that have contributed on a voluntary basis to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity since 2010, and encourages all Parties to support it on a regular basis by making an annual contribution equal to or greater than 1% of their contribution to UNESCO's regular budget;*
4. *Takes note of the Financial Statements of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity for the period 1 January to 30 November 2020 contained in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.7;*
5. *Also takes note of the overview of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity during its ten years of existence (2010-2020) and of the efforts made by the Secretariat to strengthen the capacities of the various stakeholders involved in the preparation and pre-selection of funding applications;*
6. *Notes with concern the growing imbalance between the number of funding applications submitted to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and the funds available to finance them;*

7. Also recalls that the viability of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity is a strategic issue for the credibility of the Convention and the effectiveness of its implementation, as well as a shared responsibility of all Parties to the Convention;
8. Requests the Secretariat to submit this narrative report to the Conference of Parties at its eighth session and to submit the narrative and financial reports for the period of 1 January 2020 to 30 November 2021 to its next session.

ANNEX I⁸

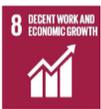
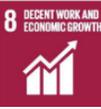
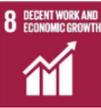
Contribution of the IFCD to the implementation of the 2005 Convention and to the SDGs

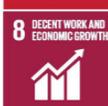
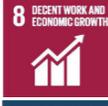


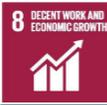
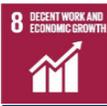
8. Based on a sample of projects.

ANNEX II

List of approved projects being implemented

Decision	Beneficiary	Project title	Description	Amount approved in US\$	Implementation period	Goals of the Convention	SDGs
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Music In Africa Foundation (NGO, South Africa)	Revenue Streams for African Musicians	Launched in 2020, the project will enable new business models to be developed by analysing big data and strengthening suitable policies in music.	92,000	18/06/2020–31/01/2022		
12.IGC 5a (2018)	Antigua and Barbuda	Measuring the economic contribution of cultural industries to national development in Antigua and Barbuda	Since its implementation in 2019 by the Ministry of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts, the project has provided training for government officials.	50,033	09/10/2019–24/03/2022		 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Argentina	Empowering young people in disadvantaged areas of Buenos Aires through music	The project will enable young people to receive training in the cultural and creative industries in order to promote their social inclusion.	36,733	Currently in the contracting process		 
12.IGC 5a (2018)	Obala Art Center (NGO, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Measuring the cultural, economic and social impact of the Sarajevo Film Festival	In 2019, the project measured the impact of the festival over the year. A comparative study was planned for 2020.	49,040	04/11/2019–30/05/2021		 

Decision	Beneficiary	Project title	Description	Amount approved in US\$	Implementation period	Goals of the Convention	SDGs
11.IGC 7a (2017) and 12.IGC 5a (2018)	Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay	Retina Latina: Strengthening the Latin American film industry in the digital age	The project, which began in 2018, has developed the mobile application of the Retina Latina digital platform for streaming Latin American films.	92,875	16/04/2019–31/12/2020	 FLOWS AND MOBILITY	 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Ethiopian Dance Art Association (NGO, Ethiopia)	Strengthening capacities within the dance sector in Ethiopia	In 2021, the project aims to strengthen the dance industry to enable its contribution to local economic development.	99,987	Currently in the contracting process	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Ecuador	Fostering Cultural Entrepreneurship in Cuenca	The project aims to support cultural entrepreneurship in Cuenca by establishing a cultural entrepreneurship incubator, building capacity and developing a training methodology.	86,792	10/08/2020–30/11/2021	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Georgia	Creative Twist – Boosting the Creative and Cultural Industries in Georgia	In 2021, the project will begin to map the creative and cultural industries and develop a strategy and action plan for those industries.	88,269	Currently in the contracting process	 GOVERNANCE FOR CULTURE	 

Decision	Beneficiary	Project title	Description	Amount approved in US\$	Implementation period	Goals of the Convention	SDGs
12.IGC 5a (2018)	Le Centre d'Art (NGO, Barbados, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago)	Implementing a network for the development and dissemination of Caribbean art	The project will create a network between Caribbean countries to promote distribution and artistic collaboration (especially for women).	100,000	16/04/2019–30/11/2021		  
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Mexico	Promoting the Creative Economy in the State of Yucatan	The project aims to support cultural entrepreneurship by training and strengthening professional networks in the region.	78,272	Currently in the contracting process		  
12.IGC 5a (2018)	Creative Industry Innovation Center (NGO, Mongolia)	Promoting Mongolia's cultural industries by strengthening cultural policymaking	Since 2019, the project enabled authorities to strengthen their capacities for implementing cultural policy.	94,404	16/04/2019–30/06/2021		 

Decision	Beneficiary	Project title	Description	Amount approved in US\$	Implementation period	Goals of the Convention	SDGs
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Fundação Carlos Morgado (NGO, Mozambique)	Enhancing the network, knowledge and exchange among creative agents in Mozambique	The project, which started in 2020, aims to strengthen the national network of artists and to create new markets, particularly in the visual arts.	94,860	30/06/2020–31/12/2021		 
12.IGC 5a (2018)	Rwanda Arts Initiative – RAI (NGO, Rwanda)	Developing a common strategy for intellectual property rights in Rwanda’s cultural and creative industries	Since 2019, the project has enabled an analysis to be made of the implementation of Law No. 50/2018 amending Law No. 31/2009. It has also enabled a record to be made of the various organizations working under this framework. A conference on intellectual property will be held soon in Kigali.	94,780	15/05/2019–30/09/2021		 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts – IKSVA (NGO, Turkey)	Empowering Turkey’s Cultural Professionals	The project, implemented since 2020, will strengthen the dialogue between public authorities and civil society organizations. The project will help to ensure a sustainable cultural policy, namely through capacity-building programmes.	92,000	18/06/2020–11/08/2022		 
13.IGC 5a (2020)	Viet Nam	Strengthening intellectual property enforcement in Viet Nam	Launched in 2020, the project aims to provide the staff of public institutions and civil society with training on intellectual property.	91,945	18/06/2020–30/10/2021		