

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

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

Item 16 of the provisional agenda: Committee's report on its activities and decisions (2020-2021)

In accordance with Rule 45.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, this document presents in Annex the Committee's report on its activities and decisions, which will be submitted by the Conference of Parties at its eighth session (June 2021).

Decision required: paragraph 2

1. Rule 45.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) stipulates that it shall present a report on its activities and decisions to the Conference of Parties. In accordance with [Decision 12.IGC 13](#), the Committee’s thirteenth session was held in February 2020 and its annual sessions are now held at the beginning of the year. This report therefore covers the period from February 2020 to February 2021, in accordance with the work plan, of which the Committee took note at its thirteenth session ([Decision 13.IGC 11](#)). The report annexed to this document has been revised by the Secretariat during the Committee’s fourteenth session prior to its adoption.
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.IGC 16

The Committee,

1. *Having examined Document DCE/21/14.IGC/16 REV and its Annex,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 13.IGC 11,*
3. *Adopts the report on its activities and decisions for the period 2020-2021;*
4. *Submits the report to the eighth session of the Conference of Parties.*

ANNEX

Report of the Committee to the Conference of Parties on its activities and decisions 2020-2021

I. Background

1. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) is composed of representatives of 24 Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”), elected by the Conference of Parties for a term of four years, in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation. The Committee shall meet annually and may meet in extraordinary session at the request of at least two thirds of its Members to discuss specific issues, in accordance with Rule 2 of its Rules of Procedure. The annual sessions of the Committee provide Members with forums for discussion and decision-making, to guide the implementation of the Convention at the international level. These working sessions allow them to translate the priorities set by the Conference of Parties into a biennial work plan and to make decisions that guide the implementation of the Convention at the national level also. The report of the Committee on its activities and decisions thus enables the Conference of Parties to be informed of the Committee’s progress in implementing its work plan, guided by the resolutions approved by the Conference of Parties as well as by the expected results of UNESCO’s Programme and Budget (C/5), as adopted by the General Conference. The present report outlines the activities and decisions of the Committee since the last Conference of Parties in June 2019.

II. Composition of the Committee

2. At its seventh session (4-7 June 2019), the Conference of Parties elected 12 members of the Committee, in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure. The 24 Member States of the Committee and their terms of office are as follows:

Group I	
Austria	2019-2023
Canada	2017-2021
Denmark	2019-2023
Finland	2017-2021
Group II	
Armenia	2019-2023
Azerbaijan	2019-2023
Croatia	2017-2021
Latvia	2017-2021
Group III	
Argentina	2017-2021
Brazil	2019-2023
Colombia	2017-2021
Ecuador	2019-2023
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2019-2023

Group IV	
China	2017-2021
Mongolia	2019-2023
Republic of Korea	2017-2021
Group V(a)	
Burkina Faso	2019-2023
Ethiopia	2019-2023
Kenya	2017-2021
Mali	2017-2021
Senegal	2019-2023
Group V(b)	
Egypt	2017-2021
Iraq	2017-2021
Qatar	2019-2023

III. Meetings of the Committee

3. Since the seventh session of the Conference of Parties, the Committee has met twice in ordinary session (see table below). In accordance with Rule 12.1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee shall elect a Bureau at the end of each ordinary session, whose term of office shall continue until the next ordinary session. At its thirteenth ordinary session, the Committee suspended the application of Rule 12.1 of its Rules of Procedure to proceed with the election of the Chairperson of the fourteenth session ([Decision 13.IGC 14](#)). The Bureau agreed that the fourteenth session of the Committee, originally scheduled to take place from 2 to 5 February, would be held online from 1 to 6 February 2021.

Sessions	Members of the Bureau	Dates
Thirteenth session, UNESCO Headquarters	Chairperson: Mr Mzalendo Kibunjia (Kenya)	11-14 February 2020
	Rapporteur: Mr Falah Al-Ani (Iraq) Replaced by: Ms Won Young Kim (Republic of Korea)	
	Vice-Chairpersons: Argentina ¹ , Croatia, Finland and Republic of Korea	
Fourteenth session, Online	Chairperson: Mr Park Yang-woo (Republic of Korea)	1-6 February 2021
	Rapporteur: Ms Anna Steiner (Austria)	
	Vice-Chairpersons: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Senegal	

4. The responsibilities and functions of the Committee are established in Articles 18.4 and 23 of the Convention and include:
- promoting the objectives of the Convention, encouraging and monitoring its implementation;
 - preparing the operational guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

- transmitting to the Conference of Parties quadrennial periodic reports from Parties, together with comments and summaries;
- establishing procedures and other mechanisms for consultation aimed at promoting the objectives and principles of this Convention in other international forums;
- evaluating funding requests under the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD);
- inviting, at any time, public or private organisations or individuals to participate in its meetings for consultation on specific issues.

IV. Activities of the Committee

5. Since the seventh session of the Conference of Parties (June 2019), the Committee's main activities and decisions have been guided by requests from the Conference of Parties in its [Resolution 7.CP.14](#), on the basis of which it established its work plan for the period 2020-2021 ([Decision 13.IGC.11](#)), namely:

- implementation of the global capacity-building strategy in order to design, implement and monitor policies and measures to promote and protect the diversity of cultural expressions through on-demand technical assistance, mentoring and peer-to-peer learning activities delivered through the Expert Facility and multi-stakeholder consultation processes at the national level (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/6](#));
- implementation of the IFCD and recommendations from its second external evaluation in order to develop a new fundraising and communication strategy, revision of the results-based management framework, and undertaking, if necessary, a revision of the guidelines on the use of the IFCD resources and to present their results to the Conference of Parties at its eighth session (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/9](#));
- implementation of capacity-building activities, advocacy and training programmes related to preferential treatment measures, recognized under the Convention as an innovative mechanism to address the imbalance in trade relations and mobility barriers (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/12](#));
- implementation of policy monitoring activities to assess the impact of the Convention and demonstrate its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals through the collection and analysis of data, information and good practices based on the Parties' quadrennial periodic reports, the national digital roadmaps and other sources, and sharing the results through the publication of research papers, the third edition of the Global Report series as well as through the Policy Monitoring Platform (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/6](#));
- pursuing synergies in the monitoring of policies and measures related to the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist as well as with the activities of the Communication and Information Sector and the Division for Gender Equality (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/13](#));
- supporting the participation of civil society in the work of the Convention's governing bodies, and implementing stakeholder outreach and advocacy activities to raise awareness of the Convention (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/15 REV](#)).

6. The table below provides a detailed overview of progress made in the implementation of the activities and decisions of the Committee at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, in accordance with its work plan for the 2020-2021 period.

V. Conclusion and next steps

7. The table below shows that the Committee has endeavoured to translate the priorities established by the Conference of Parties in its [Resolution 7.CP.14](#) into decisions and calls for action by Parties and/or the Secretariat in order for them to have an impact on the implementation of the Convention at national and international level. However, a number of these actions, primarily those to be undertaken by the Secretariat, are highly dependent on

voluntary contributions by Parties. While international cooperation and assistance programmes attract significant support from approximately ten partners (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/4](#)), the same cannot be said of the IFCD, whose viability is a major concern for the Committee.

8. Indeed, the IFCD has registered a growing imbalance between the human and financial resources mobilized both by Parties (and the non-governmental organizations operating within them) and by the Secretariat when managing calls for funding requests and the number of requests that the Committee is able to approve each year depending on available funds. Without a regular and sustained influx of voluntary contributions from Parties, this trend cannot be reversed. Furthermore, like the fundraising and communication strategy 2013-2018, the external evaluation of which is presented in [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11](#), the implementation new strategy for the 2021-2023 period adopted by the fourteenth session of the Committee¹ will depend on voluntary contributions, and in particular on the possibility of securing a Resource Mobilization Officer within the Secretariat. At the same time, the Committee, in its [Decision 13.IGC 5b](#), requested the Secretariat to carry out an analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, with a view to their possible revision or update (see [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/10](#)). At its fourteenth session, the Committee decided to update and revise the guidelines and requested a preliminary draft to be submitted by the Secretariat at its fifteenth session in February 2022..
9. Other actions requested by the Committee depend on voluntary contributions, such as the launch of an assistance programme dedicated to the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, for which a concept note is contained in Document DCE/21/14.IGC/14, and the participation of civil society representatives in the work of the Convention's governing bodies, as envisaged in the Operational Guidelines on the "Role and Participation of Civil Society".²
10. Lastly, in accordance with paragraph 19 of the operational guidelines on "Information Sharing and Transparency", the Secretariat forwards to the Committee before its ordinary sessions preceding every two Conference of Parties (i.e., every four years) "a report monitoring the implementation of the Convention at the international level on the basis of the information and data derived from the quadrennial periodic reports and other sources. The report will highlight transversal issues as well as challenges identified in the reports to be addressed in the future implementation of the Convention." Since 2015, this monitoring report is available as the *Re/Shaping Cultural Policies* Global Report on the 2005 Convention, the first two editions of which and the third, currently in preparation, were only possibly thanks to voluntary contributions, particularly the project "Reshaping Cultural Policies for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" funded by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The funds needed to prepare the fourth edition of this report have not yet been secured.

1. Also contained in [Document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11](#).

2. For a brief overview of the collaboration with civil society in implementing the Convention, see Document DCE/21/14.IGC/15 REV.

40 C/5 - Expected result 7: Policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions designed and implemented by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention		Work plan for activities of the Committee (2020-2021)	
Performance indicators	Assessment according to the following:	Priorities identified by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 7.CP 14)	Activities and decisions of the Committee
<p>1. Sound governance exercised through the adoption and implementation of strategic resolutions/decisions of the governing bodies of the 2005 Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities established through the Conference of Parties' Resolutions - Resolutions are reflected in the Intergovernmental Committee work plan and implemented through Intergovernmental Committee decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the governance of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) by revising the guidelines on the use of IFCD resources, if necessary - Undertake stakeholder outreach and advocacy activities to raise awareness of the Convention - Encourage and support civil society participation in the work of the Convention's governing bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of two ordinary sessions of the Committee (13.IGC and 14.IGC) and a meeting of the Bureau of the fourteenth session - Analysis of the guidelines on the use of the IFCD resources and decision to update and revise them (Decision 14.IGC 10) - Civil society meetings with the Bureau of the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee - Consideration of the report of the second edition of the Civil Society Forum (Decision 13.IGC 10) - Networking meeting of UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO operating in the fields covered by the Convention, held alongside the thirteenth session of the Committee - Request for close collaboration between the Secretariat and the Bureau of the second edition of the Civil Society Forum, with a view to the organization of the third edition of the Forum to be held prior to the eighth session of the Conference of Parties (Decision 14.IGC 15).

40 C/5 - Expected result 7: Policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions designed and implemented by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention		Work plan for activities of the Committee (2020-2021)	
Performance indicators	Assessment according to the following:	Priorities identified by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 7.CP 14)	Activities and decisions of the Committee
<p>2. Number of supported Member States that have designed, implemented and monitored policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions, contributing to the goals of the 2005 Convention and in a gender-responsive manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies are designed or re-designed which reflect the core goals of the Convention - Measures and/or action plans defined towards the implementation of the policy - Quadrennial periodic reports submitted and address policies and measures to promote women as creators and producers of cultural goods and services as well as provide evidence towards SDG targets attainment - Level of civil society stakeholders' engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the capacity-building strategy at global level through on-demand technical assistance, mentoring and peer-to-peer learning activities provided through the Expert Facility - Implement capacity-building, advocacy and training programmes on preferential treatment measures - Monitor and assess the impact of the Convention and demonstrate its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals through the collection and analysis of data, information and good practices, and share the results through the publication of research papers, the third edition of the Global Report series as well as through the Policy Monitoring Platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of the impact of the capacity-building programme on participatory policy monitoring, on Parties' abilities to prepare their quadrennial periodic reports and call for voluntary contributions by Parties for the continuation of the capacity-building programme on participatory policy monitoring (Decisions 13.IGC 6 and 14.IGC 6) - Consideration of the Secretariat's concept note on the assistance programme dedicated to the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment (Decision 14.IGC 14). - Parties strongly encouraged to take appropriate preferential treatment measures in order to effectively redress imbalances in the flow of cultural goods and services and facilitate the mobility of artists and cultural professionals from developing countries (Decisions 13.IGC 8 and 14.IGC 12) - Consideration of 83 quadrennial periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention (Decisions 13.IGC 6 and 14.IGC 6) - Consideration of an inventory of national roadmaps on the implementation of the Convention in

40 C/5 - Expected result 7: Policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions designed and implemented by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention		Work plan for activities of the Committee (2020-2021)	
Performance indicators	Assessment according to the following:	Priorities identified by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 7.CP 14)	Activities and decisions of the Committee
			<p>the digital environment based on information collected from 20 Parties (Decision 13.IGC 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postponement of the publication of the third edition of the Global Report to the fifteenth session of the Committee, i.e. to a session not preceding a session of the Conference of Parties (Decision 14.IGC 6) - In-depth analysis of the information and data collected from the submitted quadrennial periodic reports, to feed into a special edition of the Global Report on Gender Equality in the cultural and creative sectors.
<p>3. Number of supported Member States and civil society stakeholders that have effectively implemented international assistance, including through the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of contributions to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity - International assistance requests submitted - Project initiatives successfully implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the IFCD and recommendations from its second external evaluation in order to develop a new fundraising and communication strategy, to revise the IFCD results-based management framework on the basis of a project impact assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of nine projects for funding by the IFCD under the ninth call (total amount of US \$760,858) (Decision 13.IGC 5a) and six projects under the tenth call (total amount of US\$436,965) (Decision 14.IGC 8). - Adoption of a provisional budget for 2020-2021 of US\$1,843,164 (Decision 13.IGC 5c) - Request to the Director-General to issue the annual calls for voluntary contributions to the IFCD (Decisions 13.IGC 5c and Decisions 14.IGC 7 and 11) and an additional call tailored

40 C/5 - Expected result 7: Policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions designed and implemented by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention		Work plan for activities of the Committee (2020-2021)	
Performance indicators	Assessment according to the following:	Priorities identified by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 7.CP 14)	Activities and decisions of the Committee
			<p>to different audiences (Decisions 14.IGC 7 and 14.IGC 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewal of half of the members of the Panel of Experts responsible for evaluating requests for funding from the IFCD and preparing recommendations for adoption by the Committee on the projects to be financed (Decision 13.IGC 5a) - Implementation of the recommendations of the second external evaluation of the IFCD adopted by the Committee as a matter of urgency (Decisions 13.IGC 5b and 14.IGC 9) - Consideration of the external evaluation of the 2013-2018 IFCD fundraising and communication strategy and adoption of a new IFCD fundraising and communication strategy for the 2021-2023 period (Decision 14.IGC 11).
<p>4. Number of supported Member States that have designed, implemented and monitored policies and measures to promote the 1980 Recommendation on the Status of Artists, especially artistic freedom, contributing to the goals of the 2005 Convention and in a gender-responsive manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural policies and measures to promote and protect artistic freedom - Global survey submitted on policies that recognize the social and economic rights of artists - Evidence of measures and/or action plans that implement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pursue synergies in the monitoring of policies and measures related to the 1980 Recommendation on the Status of the Artist as well as with the activities of the Communication and Information Sector and the Division for Gender Equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-depth analysis of the information and data collected from the submitted quadrennial periodic reports and the questionnaires on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation, to feed into (i) a detailed analysis of the

40 C/5 - Expected result 7: Policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions designed and implemented by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention		Work plan for activities of the Committee (2020-2021)	
Performance indicators	Assessment according to the following:	Priorities identified by the Conference of Parties (Resolution 7.CP 14)	Activities and decisions of the Committee
	<i>the policies and address digital technologies, mobility, artistic freedom</i>		implementation of the 1980* Recommendation and (ii) a special edition of the Global Report on artistic freedom†. - Request to the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen the synergies between the Convention and the Recommendation (Decisions 13.IGC 9 and 14.IGC 13)

*. The publication *Culture & working conditions for artists* is available in English, French and Spanish at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publications/culture-working-conditions-artists>

†. The publication *Freedom & Creativity: Defending art, defending diversity* is available in English, French and Spanish at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publications/freedom-creativity-defending-art-defending>