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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

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda: Interim report on the use of the resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (Article 18)

In its Decision 1.IGC 6 adopted at its first ordinary session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare, in light of the debates and the written contributions from the Parties, an interim report on the operational guidelines for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity. This document presents the interim report.

Decision required: paragraph 78

1. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first ordinary session (Ottawa, 10-13 December 2007), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) adopted Decision 1.IGC 6, whereby it requested the Secretariat to prepare, in light of the debates of that session and the written contributions from Parties, an interim report on the operational guidelines for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”) which would be presented at its next session in June 2008.

2. It should be recalled that the first ordinary session of the Conference of Parties adopted Resolution 1.CP 7 requesting the Committee to submit to it for approval at its second ordinary session draft guidelines on the use of the resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, in compliance with Article 18.4, by specifying its priorities and modalities.

3. To clarify terminology, it should be explained that the term “operational guidelines” for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, used in Decision 1.IGC 6, and the term “guidelines” on the use of the resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, used in Article 18.4 of the Convention and in Resolution 1.CP 7, are interchangeable. In this document the Convention terminology will be used.

4. Pursuant to Decision 1.IGC 6, the Secretariat of the Convention invited Parties wishing to send written contributions by 29 February 2008 at the latest. At the request of the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO, which holds the Presidency of the European Union, and with the approval of the Committee’s Chairperson, the deadline for submissions was extended to 15 March 2008, making it possible to receive more contributions.

5. By that date the Secretariat had received contributions from the following Parties: Canada, 29 February; Chile, 14 March; China, 29 February; Namibia, 15 March; Norway, 14 March; European Community (EC), 13 March; and the group of 20 Parties to the Convention belonging to the Francophone group of UNESCO, 14 March. The EC’s contribution represents the joint position of the EC and the 24 States Parties to the Convention that are EC members or candidate countries (hereinafter referred to as “EC”), namely: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The contribution of the 20 Parties to the Convention belonging to the Francophone group of UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as “GAF cosignatory Parties”) represents the position of the following Parties: Albania, Andorra, Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Djibouti, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and Vietnam. In all, 50 Parties sent the Secretariat proposals in the shape of written contributions.

6. The 27 Parties that expressed an opinion on the use of the Fund’s resources during the Committee’s first session were the following: Angola, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Oman, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

7. The content of the discussions on the use of the Fund’s resources at the Committee’s first ordinary session can be found in paragraphs 316 to 378 of the draft summary records (CE/07/1.IGC/10).

8. Having read and conducted a comparative analysis of the Parties’ oral and written contributions, the Secretariat has grouped together their substantive points using the structure put forward in the preliminary draft guidelines for the use of the resources of the Fund (CE/07/1.IGC/6),

presented at the Committee's first session. The Parties' written contributions by and large follow the same structure. This structure is supplemented by sections on practical arrangements, which were not included in the preliminary draft guidelines but which the Committee discussed at its first session. It should be mentioned that where the written contributions have employed different terminology or a different structure, their points have been subsumed under the appropriate sections.

9. General considerations emerging from the discussions at the Committee's first session and the Parties' written contributions have been grouped together in this interim report in an introductory section headed "General points". It is for the Committee to determine in which section of the draft operational guidelines for the Fund they should appear. For example, all the contributions recommended that a pilot phase be introduced for the first operational exercise of the Fund. This recommendation might appear in an introduction to the draft operational guidelines for the Fund if the Committee so decides. It might also be included in the draft decision by means of which the Committee will submit the draft operational guidelines for approval by the Conference of Parties.

10. The interim report contains the following sections: (1) General points; (2) Guiding principles; (3) Objectives; (4) Scope of application; (5) Beneficiaries; (6) Forms of assistance; (7) Type of programmes, projects and activities; (8) Submission procedure and format for assistance requests; (9) Selection criteria and procedures; (10) Committee evaluation and approval of assistance requests; (11) Implementation and evaluation; (12) Reports to the Committee; and (13) Fundraising/financing.

11. For ease of reference each section of the interim report is numbered with an Arabic numeral in italics. The first part of the section (a) "Points of agreement", presents the elements that oral and written contributions have in common, without specifying their sources, since there is a consensus among the Parties that have expressed an opinion. The second part (b) "Differences", sets out separate proposals or proposals with distinctive characteristics or specific recommendations from only one Party or group of Parties. Their sources are identified. Bullets are sometimes used in the narrative report for the sake of clarity.

12. It should be mentioned that the Conference of Parties, at its first session, decided in Resolution 1.CP 7 that, given its multi-donor nature, the Fund would be managed as a special account in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO. Document CE/07/1.CP/CONF/209/7 also specifies that the establishment of a special account does not prevent donors from also financing projects under funds-in-trust. Thus, pursuant to Article 18.5 of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions and other forms of assistance for general or specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that it approves such projects, on the basis of guidelines determined by the Conference of Parties.

13. The contribution from the GAF cosignatory Parties recommends that the Fund should be multilateral and unable to accept tied or earmarked contributions. If the Committee were to adopt this proposal, it might wish to replace the term "Fund" by "Fund Special Account" in the light of the above.

14. In addition to this interim report, the Secretariat has prepared an information document composed of 2 parts (CE/08/1.EXT.IGC/INF.6A and CE/08/1.EXT.IGC/INF.6B), containing a compilation of the written contributions as sent by the Parties to the Secretariat and, for the purposes of analysis, a comparative table of Parties' contributions, highlighting their points of agreement and individual characteristics.

2. INTERIM REPORT

1. General points

1(a) Points of agreement

15. All the contributions recommend a pilot phase for the first few years of the Fund. Some add that this experimental phase, which should be governed by flexible guidelines, would enable effective and appropriate management mechanisms to be put in place and tested in order to be evaluated and reviewed prior to entering a more operational stage. During this pilot phase it might be advisable to focus on exemplar implementation, by selecting flagship projects likely to attract additional resources.

1(b) Differences

16. The Delegation of Jamaica has suggested that the Secretariat should be guided by other existing models within UNESCO, in other international organizations and also at the national level.

17. The EC recommends that in establishing the mechanisms of the Fund, “inspiration might be drawn from private or civil society funds of comparable size that are governed by high standards of accountability and innovative practices”.

2. Guiding principles

2(a) Points of agreement

18. All contributions recommend that projects submitted to the Committee should embody the Convention’s broad guidelines, support its objectives (Article 1), be based upon its guiding principles (Article 2), its scope of application (Article 3) and especially cooperation for development (Article 14), and that no political conditions should be attached to them (Article 18.6). A broad consensus has emerged on the following principles, according to which the Fund ought to:

- concern the promotion and protection of cultural diversity, particularly cultural expressions;
- meet the needs and priorities expressed by developing countries, especially the least developed countries;
- have a structural impact, contribute to achieving concrete results for its beneficiaries and bring about sustainable progress in the cultural field;
- be targeted to avoid the scattering of resources and to avoid supporting sporadic activities.

19. All Parties having voiced an opinion would like the Fund’s administration and management to be simple, efficient, transparent and balanced so as to allocate maximum resources to the projects submitted. They recommend that the Fund should complement other international funds covering similar fields.

2(b) Differences

20. The EC here points out that the efficiency, credibility and eventual success of the Fund will greatly depend on its management, which must also satisfy the principle of accountability, and adds, with regard to the principle of proportionality, that management costs and human resources must be proportional to the amounts awarded in order to ensure that maximum resources are allocated to projects.

21. The EC also emphasizes that the Fund and its implementation mechanisms should be demand-driven and meet the requirement of ownership by the beneficiaries. It has further recommended that priority be given to joint initiatives of significant regional relevance strengthening South-South cooperation and to other initiatives submitted by a cluster of countries. As regards avoiding sporadic activities, the EC states that projects of this sort could be supported as an exception if they are potentially decisive in providing leverage for subsequent structural projects.

22. The GAF cosignatory Parties recommend that the Fund should be multilateral and unable to accept tied or earmarked contributions.

23. As far as complementarity is concerned, Norway stresses that overlap with complementary funds must be avoided, while Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties make it clear that, to optimize use of resources, complementarity should not compromise the Fund's ability to provide funding to projects that have already received or could receive financial assistance from a third party.

3. Objectives

3(a) Points of agreement

24. All Parties that have voiced an opinion agree on the following objectives for the Fund:

- help implement measures and policies established by the Convention, particularly those intended to protect (Article 6.2) and promote (Article 7.1) the diversity of cultural expressions in developing countries, especially the least developed countries;
- strengthen the public sector's strategic abilities and management in public cultural institutions through international professional cultural exchanges and by sharing best practices;
- strengthen the capacity of sustainable cultural industries in developing countries for production and distribution, in particular by developing and establishing legal and institutional frameworks together with cultural infrastructures and policies.

(b) Differences

25. Norway suggests that, in the "Objectives" section, explicit reference should be made to Article 14 of the Convention, which states, among other things, that it is desirable to "foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector", particularly in developing countries.

4. Scope of application

4(a) Points of agreement

26. There is also a broad consensus on the scope of application, according to which the Fund's resources should be used for the following purposes: supporting cooperation for sustainable development in order to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector; creation and implementation of cultural policies and measures intended to promote and protect cultural expressions (transversal national strategies, legal or institutional frameworks, etc.); capacity-building through the exchange of information and expertise (human resources training, transfer of technology and knowledge, etc.); strengthening of cultural industries in developing countries and support for international cooperation in special situations where cultural expressions, on Parties' territories, are at risk of extinction, under serious threat, or otherwise in need of urgent safeguarding, particularly in developing countries.

27. With respect to strengthening cultural industries, the number of priority fields should be limited to avoid scattering of resources. As regards international cooperation in special situations, there is agreement on the need to refer to the operational guidelines for measures to protect cultural expressions (Articles 8 and 17 of the Convention).

4(b) Differences

28. The GAF cosignatory Parties specify that the scope of application covers “cultural expressions” as defined in Article 4.3 of the Convention.

29. As far as the Fund’s fields of intervention are concerned, four contributions have specific points to make. China includes promoting the development, creation, incubation and capacity-building of small, medium and micro-cultural enterprises in developing countries. Norway advocates focusing on preparation, implementation, and consolidation of cultural policies. Namibia’s contribution recommends forms of assistance that might also come under the “scope of application” or “beneficiaries” sections: supporting and promoting creative talents of artists, specifically those artists without formal art training; providing financial support to art centres that offer practical training for young artists; supporting and promoting the role of women artists in their quest to eradicate poverty; supporting art education for unemployed youth; and assisting Member States to raise awareness through the media about the importance of art and culture and their contribution to the economic development. Lastly, Canada and Chile recommend that the Fund’s priority areas of intervention should be regularly reassessed on a consensual basis in consultation with the beneficiaries.

5. Beneficiaries

5(a) Points of agreement

30. Noting that this case is not covered by the Convention, the Parties point out that a range of their public sector bodies could receive support from the Fund. However, all agree that the list of beneficiaries should not be too broad or inclusive in order to avoid an increase in funding applications and a further delay in the review process. Canada and Chile add that a broad and inclusive definition of beneficiaries could impair the Fund’s ability to meet genuine needs and undermine the intention of having a structural impact and avoiding the scattering or dissipation of Fund resources, cited in the “Guiding principles” section. Consequently, the contributions have all taken the pragmatic approach of recommending that the beneficiaries should be Parties to the Convention.

5(b) Differences

31. This assumption has been qualified and added to in terms of priorities and categories of beneficiaries by Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties, which propose that the Committee should give precedence, as priority beneficiaries, to the least developed States Parties, developing countries, or low-income countries as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s Committee for Development Policy. They also suggest that projects could be submitted individually by the Parties or through regional partnerships. They recommend that these partnerships, which may take the form of collaborative projects involving several countries from one region, should be strongly encouraged. They justify such projects by pointing out that they often allow for a more concerted approach to common problems.

32. Canada, Chile, the EC and the GAF cosignatory Parties propose that the Parties’ public sector and their civil society should be beneficiaries of the Fund, since civil society is in close touch with the needs of the culture sector and also given its role in the Convention. In this respect Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties suggest that the Committee should create a mechanism for the Fund that would allow to provide financial support for projects submitted by representatives of civil society from developing countries in view of the fact that they are closer to

the cultural and artistic communities. This would enable them to contribute to capacity-building and implementation of cultural policies and measures in developing countries.

33. The EC and the GAF cosignatory Parties here add that the conditions for this ought to be clarified – by specifying, for example, that project proposals submitted by civil society must be supported by at least two Parties to the Convention.

34. During the Committee's first session, India expressed reservations about the funding of public and private organizations from developing countries and of individuals invited by the Committee to participate in its meetings in order to consult them on specific issues, because the terms "civil society" and "private sector" had not been clearly defined.

35. Lastly, Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties suggest that the eligibility of private sector organizations as Fund beneficiaries should be conditional upon this sector's ability to help finance the Fund: private organizations could only receive funding made available through the Fund by cultural industries. This might further encourage the private sector to help finance the Fund to support its peers.

6. Forms of assistance

6(a) Points of agreement

36. The majority of Parties believe that the use of the resources of the Fund should take the form of legal, technical, financial, human or material assistance and be allocated for:

- assistance to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in the least developed countries, developing countries and low-income countries. This assistance may be requested in the following fields: cultural policies, institutional infrastructures, capacity-building, cultural industries and technology transfer;
- assistance in special situations to Parties that have determined the existence of one of these situations: at risk of extinction, under serious threat or in need of urgent safeguarding, particularly in developing countries;
- preparatory assistance. Such assistance may be requested to identify the specific needs of developing countries Parties to the Convention and to prepare their requests for assistance in order to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector.

6(b) Differences

37. It will be recalled that the preliminary draft guidelines on the use of the Fund's resources (CE/07/1.IGC/6) has a section on the use of consulting services by the Committee to evaluate assistance requests, or, in application of Article 23.7, whereby the fees and costs to be covered by the Fund are restricted to the least developed countries.

38. At the Committee's first session some delegations were wary of funding experts. Others thought that these costs ought to be limited. Another strand of opinion was that there should be a discussion of the costs inherent in using independent experts for evaluating requests.

39. Several contributions propose that the assistance should cover participation in the Committee's meetings or the use of experts but with the following reservations. Namibia suggests that, in this respect, the Fund's resources might be used to provide financial assistance for the participation of artists and experts in Committee meetings and related activities. The GAF cosignatory Parties specify that this assistance should be given to government experts from least developed countries that are members of the Committee, upon request and subject to the

availability of funds. They suggest that preparatory assistance to States for preparing their requests to the Fund should be subject to appraisal if necessary.

40. At the Committee's first session China stated that the Fund must be used for the right projects and have the right priorities, in particular activities related to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions rather than assistance in special situations, preparatory assistance and use of consulting services by the Committee.

7. Type of programmes, projects and activities

7(a) Points of agreement

41. All Parties agree that the programmes, projects and activities financed by the Fund must comply with its objectives, its scope of application and eligible types of assistance. The Fund should act as a catalyst to generate further funds. It is understood that the guidelines under discussion relate only to the trial phase and should be flexible. The majority of Parties that have expressed an opinion consider that projects could be national, regional, bilateral or multilateral but that it would be premature to set minimum and maximum amounts.

7(b) Differences

42. Nevertheless, the following reservations have been expressed regarding the exclusion of some forms of use, partnerships, the amounts concerned and the budget period.

43. Canada and Chile recommend specifically excluding programmes aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt, or paying interest or which relate exclusively to the production of cultural expressions. These should not be able to receive assistance from the Fund. Lastly, Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties believe that, in exceptional circumstances, the Committee could allow funding for some widespread projects that exceed the prescribed thresholds in time and money, thus helping to enhance the visibility of the Fund by involving stakeholders from large organizations or cultural industries.

44. The EC contribution suggests that priority should be given to public-private partnerships. It provides examples of specific actions aimed at: contributing to knowledge of the cultural sector by identifying existing resources and needs in beneficiary countries; developing relevant legislative frameworks including consideration of the cultural aspects in development and implementation of other public policies; promoting cooperation between public authorities, the professional sectors and civil society, particularly through organizational support.

45. In addition to national projects submitted by the Parties, the GAF co-signatories suggest that requests for assistance may be submitted through regional partnerships which might take the form of collaborative projects. They consider that a minimum of three countries is necessary to form a regional partnership.

46. Canada and Chile believe that the minimum and maximum amounts to be granted for one project should be assessed on the basis of the resources available, contributions to the Fund and the average number of projects submitted and/or funded. As a starting point they advise a sum of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for a project of national scope and between \$20,000 and \$50,000 for a project with subregional, interregional, regional or international scope.

47. Canada and Chile recommend that the duration of the projects supported by the Fund should be one-year rather than on a multi-year basis, while the GAF cosignatory Parties advocate a biennial period.

48. At the Committee's first session, Mali – supported by Brazil, Germany and Senegal – expressed the reservation that the resources allocated to experts should not exceed those allocated for activities.

8. Procedure and format for submission of assistance requests

8(a) Points of agreement

49. A broad consensus on the need to establish a timetable, an administration framework, mechanisms and straightforward criteria for project descriptions, emerged from the discussions during the Committee's first session. A large majority also strongly recommended standardizing and simplifying the assistance request application form in order to make them easy to complete by applicants and easy to process.

50. The Parties were in favour of associating UNESCO Regional Field Offices as important intermediaries providing support for project formulation. They were also unanimous in holding that requests for assistance should be submitted by States or civil society through National Commissions or other official channels. In general, the Parties agreed that procedures and formats were provisional and would be redefined and improved in the light of practice at the end of a transitional period in the pilot phase.

8(b) Differences

51. However, several other options have been put forward, such as the possibility that civil society might submit projects directly.

52. Canada and Chile suggest that beneficiaries should submit their assistance requests to the Director-General of UNESCO through official national channels designated by the Parties, while the GAF cosignatory Parties suggest that these requests should be sent to the Secretariat of the Convention by National Commissions.

9. Selection criteria and procedures

9(a) Points of agreement

53. There seems to be majority agreement on the following criteria and procedures:

- projects partly or wholly funded by the Fund must be approved by the Committee, must come through the official channels of the least developed, developing, or low-income States Parties and must build the capacity of States Parties, more specifically through regional partnerships;
- applications must meet four mandatory criteria, with which the beneficiaries will agree to comply:
 - (i) specify the official body that will assume financial and administrative responsibility for project implementation;
 - (ii) provide an initial mandatory contribution to the preliminary budget, unless otherwise specified;
 - (iii) if financial assistance has been granted, and once the project is complete, submit to the Director-General of UNESCO a detailed and certified financial statement showing that the funds were used to complete the project, and return any unspent funds to UNESCO;
 - (iv) submit a detailed evaluation report on the outcomes of the activities funded and the results achieved.

54. Civil society organizations might request assistance, the terms of which are still to be decided. It has been suggested, for example, that their assistance requests should be supported by at least two Parties to the Convention.

9(b) Differences

55. Canada, Chile and the EC specify that in the selection process priority should be given to the projects that most closely match the Fund's guiding principles and objectives. In order to facilitate selection and improve transparency, the EC considers it important to assess not only the relevance of projects in relation to the guidelines' general objectives but also the relevance of the proposed activities in relation to their proclaimed objectives.

56. The EC recommends that project selection should take place regularly, taking into account the Fund's available resources and the meeting timetables of the organs of the Convention.

57. The GAF cosignatory Parties suggest that the beneficiaries' initial mandatory contribution should be 10% of the provisional budget.

10. Committee evaluation and approval of assistance requests

10(a) Points of agreement

58. Several Parties support the idea of a preselection process in three stages. Screening of assistance requests would take place at the national level. The screened funding applications would then be forwarded to the UNESCO Secretariat, which would conduct a technical review and select eligible requests.

59. The need to involve an expert panel or a Committee subcommittee, appointed on a rotating basis using a number of criteria, such as geographical, cultural and economic distribution and drawing on various kinds of expertise, has been endorsed by most members of the Committee and Parties that have expressed an opinion, as has the submission to the Committee for approval, with reference to the equity principle and available resources, of the list of evaluated projects, accompanied by comments and recommendations. The Secretariat will be responsible for obtaining a statement of the detailed activity at the end of the funding process and sending it to either the Fund subcommittee or the Committee, depending on which option is chosen.

60. The Parties all agree that the Committee should not be turned into a mechanism for approving projects, to which it should devote only part of its time. It is considered that there is a need for mechanisms for monitoring and submitting reports, including the possibility of a biennial report to the Conference of Parties, provided that the costs are kept down.

10(b) Differences

61. A range of opinions has been expressed on this subject, covering the bodies responsible, their composition, and selection and evaluation procedures.

62. In the EC's view, the evaluation procedure should take account of the present cost-saving practices of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

63. Canada, Chile and the GAF cosignatory Parties add that official national channels designated by the Parties should carry out screening of assistance requests using an assessment grid.

64. China urges the Committee to encourage the Parties to establish national expert panels for prior evaluation of the eligibility of domestic applicants' requests and of beneficiaries' reports before they are submitted to the Committee for approval. The delegation of Burkina Faso has

suggested that an ad hoc group of experts should be set up in each country to review projects, in conjunction with National Commissions and civil society.

65. Canada and Chile recommend that eligible funding requests should be referred to a Fund subcommittee set up by the Committee on the principles of fair geographical distribution and rotation, to consist of six experts representing the Committee's member countries and appointed by them. The GAF cosignatory Parties, on the other hand, recommend a committee of experts appointed by the Secretariat to review and assess requests according to the established criteria in order to compile a list of priority projects using a transparent point system.

66. Norway advocates biannual evaluation by the panel of experts.

11. Implementation and evaluation

67. The division into "points of agreement" and "differences" is not appropriate in this section, since few contributions, either in writing or during the debates, have addressed the issue of implementation and evaluation. The main proposals have come from Canada and Chile. Sources of contributions differing from these proposals are shown in square brackets.

68. Canada and Chile recommend the following:

- an advance payment should be granted for an assistance request from a State Party, subject to receipt of a detailed working plan itemizing the cost of each component of the request;
- a progress report describing the project status and the nature of the work to be done would be provided by the initiator of the project, subject to the duration project and the decision of the Committee;
- any new financial contribution would be dependent on the applicant's submitting all of the financial reports and activity reports (GAF cosignatory Parties) on past projects for which payment has been made;
- any project can be evaluated at the Committee's request (GAF cosignatory Parties).

69. The Committee, through a sub-committee assigned to oversee the Fund administration, should be responsible for receiving detailed statements of the activities carried out, verifying that the funds have been used to implement the project, and reviewing the project evaluation report.

70. An ex-post evaluation should be carried out to measure the effectiveness of the resources spent on achieving project objectives (EC and its Member States).

12. Reports to the Committee

71. Canada and Chile recommend that the subcommittee should submit a summary report on project evaluations to the Committee.

72. Under the Financial Regulations for the Special Account of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, the UNESCO Comptroller will be responsible for maintaining the Fund's accounting records and presenting the annual accounts to the UNESCO External Auditor for audit. The Secretariat would be responsible for submitting the accounts to the Conference of Parties.

13. Fundraising / Financing

73. During the discussions at the Committee's first session a number of delegations expressed the hope that the guidelines would contain a section on financing the Fund.

74. A large number of Parties agree on the need to frame a financing strategy and an active fundraising policy. This fundraising ought to target all potential public or private contributors and partners at national and international levels identified in Article 18.3 of the Convention. In this respect, Canada and Chile suggest that the Committee mandates one or more of its member states to establish a fundraising strategy together with a visibility and action plan. Within this framework, attempts should be made to raise awareness of the Fund among ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO, National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and the cultural community.

75. India has proposed that the strategy consider using existing networks and holding fundraising events combining several forms of cultural expressions. Along these lines, Jamaica has suggested the Committee should contemplate new forms of fundraising, engaging cultural industry leaders and famous artists in order to encourage them to become champions of cultural diversity.

76. Concurring with the majority of opinions expressed, Canada and Chile suggest that the Committee should actively encourage Parties to make regular financial contributions to the Fund, following the example of India's proposal that the Committee should include a paragraph in the guidelines that would encourage States Parties to the Convention to contribute to the Fund at least 1% of their contribution to the UNESCO budget.

77. At its first session, the Committee recommended that the draft guidelines on the use of Fund resources should be simple and concise. The Secretariat is aware that the current narrative report has redundancies, and shall submit to the Committee a simple and concise preliminary draft conforming to its recommendations and the structure it has chosen.

3. DRAFT DECISION 1.EXT.IG 6

78. The Committee may wish to adopt a resolution along the following lines:

The Committee,

1. Having examined document CE/08/1.EXT.IGC/6,
2. Having taken note of information document CE/08/1.EXT.IGC/INF.6 (A and B),
3. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, in light of the debates of the present session, preliminary draft guidelines on the use of the resources of the Fund and to submit them at its next session.