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Diversity of cultural expressions

5 IGC

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

**Fifth Ordinary Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
5 - 9 December 2011**

Item 4 of the provisional agenda: Preparation of quadrennial periodic reports of Parties to the Convention

At its third ordinary session (June 2011), the Conference of Parties approved the operational guidelines on Information Sharing and Transparency (Article 9 of the Convention) and the Framework for Quadrennial Periodic Reports on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. This document summarizes the modalities for the submission and dissemination of quadrennial periodic reports.

Decision required: paragraph 13

1. Article 9 (a) of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) stipulates that the “Parties shall provide appropriate information in their reports to UNESCO every four years on measures taken to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territory and at the international level.”
2. At its third ordinary session in December 2009, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) held a debate on the Convention’s reporting mechanism and the preparation of the operational guidelines on measures to promote information sharing and transparency. During this debate, the Committee agreed that the quadrennial periodic reports should be clear and concise to ensure widest possible participation and inter-comparability. They also agreed that a thematic approach should be adopted and the type of information provided should be both quantitative and qualitative in nature. It was underscored that these reports should become working tools to share the experiences and challenges encountered by Parties in the implementation of the Convention and to promote international cooperation.
3. At its fourth ordinary session in December 2010, the Committee adopted the draft operational guidelines on Information Sharing and Transparency (Article 9 of the Convention) and the draft framework for the quadrennial periodic reports (Decision 4.IGC 7). On this occasion, the Committee highlighted the contribution that civil society is to make to the reports within their fields of competence as well as the importance of reflecting on the ways and means of ensuring their involvement in the preparation process.
4. At its third ordinary session in June 2011, the Conference of Parties approved the operational guidelines on Information Sharing and Transparency (Article 9 of the Convention) and the Framework for Quadrennial Periodic Reports on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Resolution 3.CP 7).
5. The same session of the Conference of Parties adopted the timetable for the submission of quadrennial periodic reports of Parties (Resolution 3.CP 10). The timetable was constructed on the basis of paragraph 1 of the operational guidelines for Article 9: “Each Party submits, the fourth year following the year in which it deposited its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, and every fourth year thereafter, a report to the Conference of Parties for its examination in accordance with Article 22.4 (b)”.
6. Since no reports could be submitted prior to the approval of the operational guidelines by the Conference of Parties in 2011, it was decided that the Parties having ratified the Convention between 2005 and 2008 shall submit their first quadrennial periodic report to the Secretariat in April 2012. Those having ratified the Convention in 2009 shall submit their reports in April 2013 (Resolution 3.CP 10). According to the calendar adopted, 94 Parties are to submit their quadrennial periodic reports in 2012 and 11 in 2013.
7. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Resolution 3. CP 10, in October 2011 and October 2012 the Secretariat will invite the Parties concerned to submit their reports no later than April 2012 and April 2013, respectively. They are to be submitted on paper and in electronic format in one of the Committee’s working languages, namely, English or French, (paragraph 10 of the operational guidelines on Article 9). The reports are to be accompanied by a summary and annexes.
8. The Secretariat has prepared an online submission form that will serve as a basis for a future knowledge management platform to promote exchange, analysis and dissemination of information as specified in Article 19 of the Convention and its operational guidelines.

9. Only the summaries of the quadrennial periodic reports will be translated into both English and French. Should the Committee decide that the full reports¹, excluding annexes, be translated, the estimated cost of the first round of submissions would be US\$ 131,600 (94 reports x 20 pages x 70 US\$/page²). The Committee is, therefore, invited to consider the desirability of translating the periodic reports submitted in one of its working languages into the other working language and, in case of a positive decision, identify the source of funding.

10. Paragraph 7 of Resolution 3.CP 10 provides that the quadrennial periodic reports are to be made available to Parties for information before the Committee session at which the reports are to be considered, and to the public after the Committee session. In the case of the first 94 reports, this means that they will be made available to Parties as an information document prior to the sixth ordinary session of the Committee (December 2012) and to the public shortly thereafter.

11. In conformity with Resolution 3.CP 10, paragraph 5, the Secretariat is to draw up a strategic and action-oriented analytical summary of the quadrennial periodic reports received and to submit it to the Committee at its sixth session. The reports of the Parties including their executive summaries and annexes, together with the comments of the Committee and the Secretariat's analytical summary will be submitted to the fourth session of the Conference of Parties to be held in June 2013.

12. An exchange session on the modalities of civil society's involvement in the preparation of the Parties' quadrennial periodic reports is to be held ahead of the fifth session of the Committee on 5 December 2011. The purpose of this session is to engage Parties to the 2005 Convention in an exchange with civil society representatives to share experiences on "ensuring the involvement of civil society in the preparation of the reports according to jointly-agreed modalities" (paragraph 7 of operational guidelines on Article 9), and in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention and its operational guidelines.

13. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 5.IGC 4

The Committee,

1. *Having examined document CE/11/5.IGC/213/4;*
2. *Recalling Resolutions 3.CP 7 and 3.CP 10 of the Conference of Parties and its Decision 4.IGC 7;*
3. *Decides that the quadrennial periodic reports of Parties submitted in one of the Committee's working languages (English or French) are / not / to be translated into the other working language / allocating an amount of USD XXX from [source of funds] to finance the translations /.*

¹ The Framework for Quadrennial Periodic Reports on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions approved by the 3rd session of the Conference of Parties suggests that the reports should be no longer than 20 pages, excluding annexes.

² UNESCO rate for translation of a standard page is 51 EUR, which is equivalent to 70 US\$ according to the UN operational exchange rate of 15/09/2011.