



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

8 IGC

CE/14/8.IGC/15
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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY
OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS**

Eighth Ordinary Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
9-11 December 2014

Item 15 of the provisional agenda: Date of the next session of the Committee

Decision required: paragraph 6

1. Article 23.2 of the Convention stipulates that the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall meet annually.
2. In addition, it is recalled that the Conference of Parties decided at its first session that, as a general rule, the Committee will meet at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (Resolution 1.CP 6, paragraph 3).
3. In the context of determining the date of its ninth session, the Committee shall also consider the results of the audit of the working methods of cultural conventions realized by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) published in September 2013 (IOS/AUD/2013/06). Recommendation 1 invites the Secretariat to “formulate proposals to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO and/or of the Convention(s) to” “c) reduce the frequency (...) of the meetings of State Parties (...) and synchronize the meetings of the State Parties to the conventions, when efficiencies can be achieved”, (p. 5).
4. Determining the duration and agenda of meetings is the prerogative of the governing bodies. In accordance with past practice, the Committee adopted Decision 7.IGC 14 that reduced the number of working days for its eighth ordinary session from five days to three.
5. The synchronization of the meetings of the governing bodies to the respective culture conventions has been the subject of debate and decision. In 2012, at its sixth ordinary session, Members of the Committee expressed their concerns to the Secretariat of synchronizing the meetings of the governing bodies as it happened in 2012 when there was no time between the sessions of the Intergovernmental Committees to the 2003 and 2005 Conventions. They argued that scheduling meetings in close succession is not efficient, as Parties do not have sufficient time to fully prepare for the debates and are sometimes unable to attend the entire sessions, given the intensity of the schedule. This sentiment has also been expressed by the World Heritage Committee in its decision taken during its 38th session (June 2014) that synchronizing the meetings of the States Parties to the different conventions “would not be an advantage to States Parties in view of the duration and location of the sessions” (Decision 38 COM 5F.1). The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take a decision on this matter at its ninth ordinary session in November 2014. It could therefore be concluded that any possible gains in efficiency from closely synchronizing the meetings of States Parties to the respective culture conventions would be small at best, and that it might instead jeopardize other more important efficiency measures.
6. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 8.IGC 15

The Committee,

Decides to convene its ninth ordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14 to 16 December 2015.