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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Diversity of  
Cultural Expressions

# 14 IGC

DCE/21/14.IGC/10  
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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Fourteenth session,  
On line  
1 – 6 February 2021

**Item 10 of the provisional agenda:** 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

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Decision 13.IGC 5b, this document contains an 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, taking into account the recommendations resulting from the second external evaluation of the Fund, the Committee's decisions and the debate held at its thirteenth session.

**Decision required:** paragraph 26

## I. Introduction

1. At its seventh session in June 2019, the Conference of Parties requested the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) to review, if necessary, the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (hereinafter “IFCD”) and to submit the results of that review to the Conference of Parties at its eighth session in June 2021 ([Resolutions 7.CP 9 and 7.CP 14](#)). At its thirteenth session in February 2020, the Committee requested the Secretariat to “prepare an analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, in view to revise or update them, taking into account the recommendations resulting from the second external evaluation of the IFCD, the Committee’s decisions, and the debate held during this session” and further requested the Secretariat to “present this analysis at its fourteenth session” ([Decision 13.IGC 5b](#)).
2. The Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD were approved at the second session of the Conference of Parties in 2009 ([Resolution 2.CP 7](#)). Following the first evaluation of the IFCD, carried out by UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2012, and the decisions taken by the Committee, the Guidelines were revised at the fourth session of the Conference of Parties in 2013 ([Resolution 4.CP 9](#)).
3. In accordance with paragraph 22 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, a second external evaluation of the IFCD was carried out in 2017, resulting in 21 recommendations. A report on the impact of those recommendations was submitted to the Committee, which, after examining it, adopted 17 of them ([Decision 12.IGC 6](#)). The Committee then examined the monitoring of the implementation status of the 17 recommendations it had adopted and took note of the progress made ([Decision 13.IGC 5b](#)). The updated implementation status of the 17 recommendations is presented in document DCE/21/14.IGC/9. Regarding the recommendations pertaining to the fundraising and communication strategy, an evaluation of the 2013-2018 strategy and a draft 2021-2023 strategy are contained in documents DCE/21/14.IGC/11 and DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11.
4. The analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD presented in this document takes into account the relevant decisions taken by the Committee, the comments made by the Panel of Experts and the lessons learned by the Secretariat when implementing the 17 recommendations resulting from the second external evaluation and adopted by the Committee, including specific evaluations or studies carried out in that context. A summary table presenting the current Guidelines along with considerations on whether they should be revised or updated is annexed to this document.

## II. Considerations that could lead to a possible revision or updating of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity

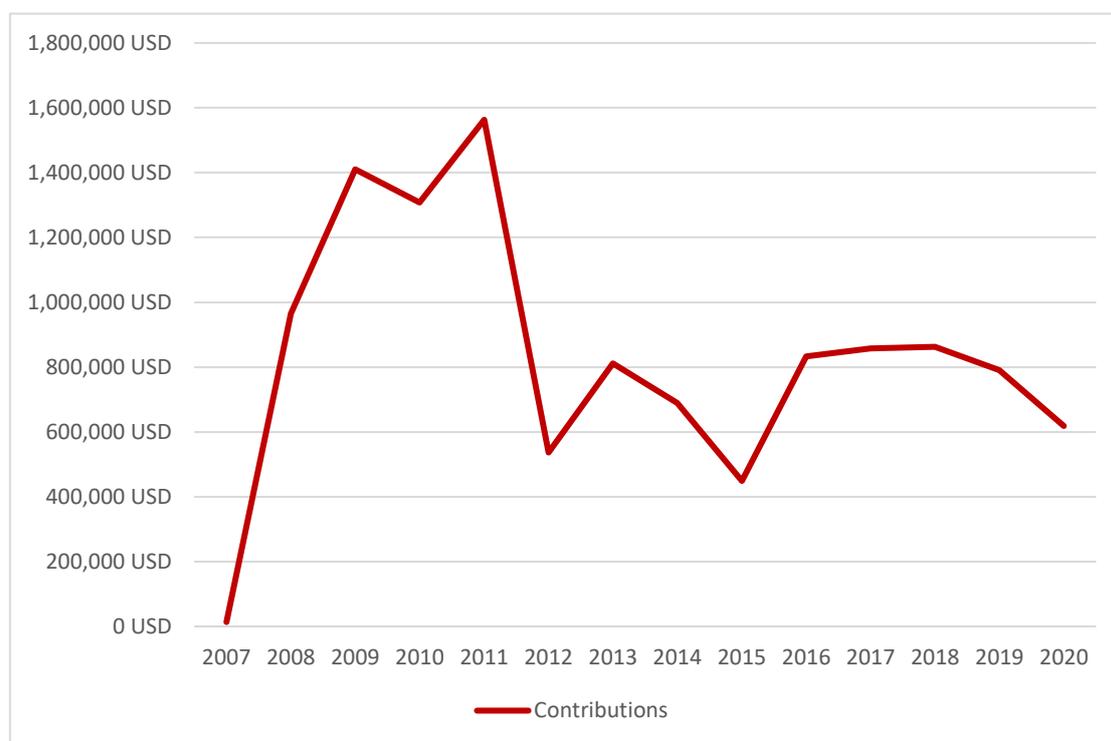
### *A lack of understanding of the role of the IFCD as a support mechanism for the implementation of the 2005 Convention*

5. Although the IFCD was established under **Article 18 of the Convention** as one of the means by which the Parties endeavour to support “cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in developing countries” (paragraph 1 of the Guidelines, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention), the various evaluations conducted in recent years agree that its mandate is not widely recognized as being that of the Convention.
6. More recently, this lack of understanding of the role of the IFCD as a support mechanism for the implementation of the Convention was highlighted in the evaluation of the 2013-2018 IFCD fundraising and communication strategy contained in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11. It noted that while, for the main donors, most of which were developed countries with a long tradition of support for creativity and culture, the link between the IFCD and the Convention was easy to make, the same was not true for developing countries, *i.e.*, IFCD beneficiary

countries<sup>1</sup>. In that regard, the evaluation of the 2013-2018 IFCD fundraising and communication strategy calls for a better clarification of the IFCD's mandate and the respective roles of the Convention and the Fund, as well as for more specific attention to be paid to the needs and expectations of developing countries.

***A trend towards the stagnation of contributions to the IFCD and an exponential increase in the number of projects submitted***

7. Furthermore, an analysis of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD cannot disregard the trend towards the stagnation of voluntary contributions and the exponential increase in the number of funding applications submitted, particularly in 2020. The highest level of annual voluntary contributions was recorded in 2011, one year after the operationalization of the IFCD, with funds received between 1 January and 30 December 2011 amounting to US\$1,563,216<sup>2</sup>. Since then, although the number of countries contributing to the IFCD has increased significantly, from 16 in 2010 to 50<sup>3</sup> in 2020, the total amount of contributions has been declining steadily, averaging US\$827,275 annually since 2016.



**Figure 1: Evolution of contributions between 2010 and 2020**

8. The need to increase extrabudgetary funding and voluntary contributions was underlined by the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO<sup>4</sup>. The draft 2021-2023 fundraising and communication strategy proposed in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11, on the basis of the evaluation of the previous strategy for 2013-2018, recognises that Parties' contributions will remain the main source of funding for the IFCD, which, given its multi-donor nature, will struggle to attract contributions from the private sector. The lack of visibility regarding the projects to be funded is, for many, an operational obstacle that cannot be overcome by any fundraising or communication strategy.

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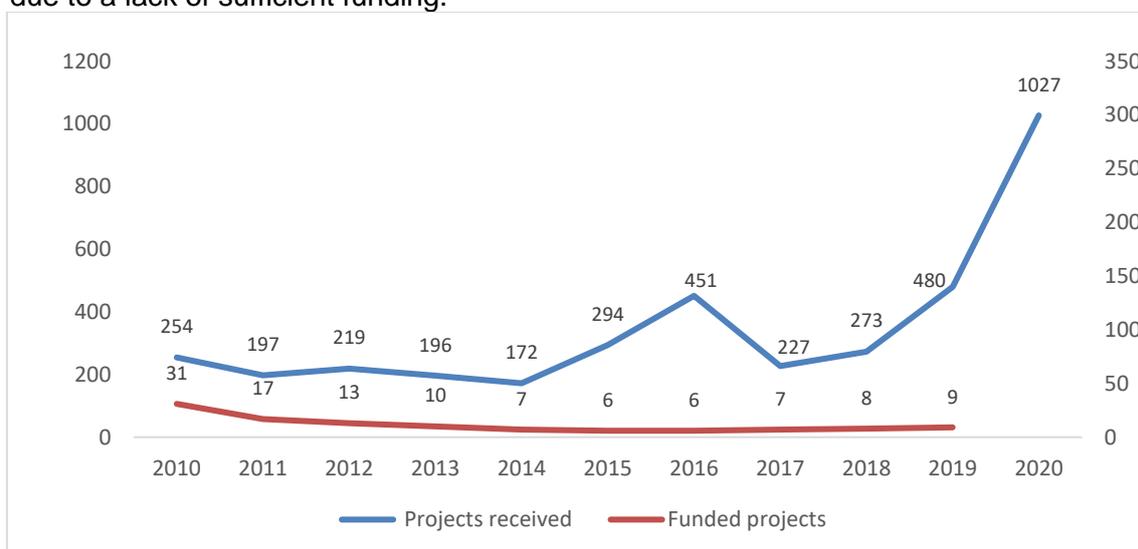
1. In accordance with the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, the beneficiaries of the Fund are "Parties to the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that are recognized by UNCTAD as developing economies, economies in transition and least developed countries".

2. See the IFCD financial statements included in [document CE/12/6.IGC/9](#).

3. Number of Parties having contributed to the IFCD between 1 January and 30 November 2020.

4. See recommendation 108 (a) in [document DCE/19/7.CP/INF.10](#).

9. As a result of the continued decline in the total annual contributions to the IFCD, the number of funding applications approved by the Committee has decreased from 17 projects in 2011 to nine projects in 2019. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of funding applications dropped to six in 2015 and 2016. The total amount mobilized annually is still well below the amount that would be needed to finance all the projects awarded 30 points by the Panel of Experts. The Committee's decision requesting the Panel of Experts to recommend for approval the highest-scoring projects that have obtained at least 30 points, within the limit of funds available ([Decision 12.IGC 6](#)), has indeed highlighted that, for each cycle of calls for funding applications, several projects that exceed the 30-point mark cannot be approved by the Committee for lack of sufficient resources.
10. Such a gap seems to have reached new levels with the eleventh call for funding applications launched in 2020, for which 1,027 applications were submitted by applicants from 102 countries, including 94 eligible countries, an increase of more than 200% compared to the tenth call in 2019. Given the resources available, only six projects have been submitted to the Committee for approval (document DCE/21/14.IGC/8), which represents a success rate of 0.58%. As highlighted in the 2020 narrative report on the IFCD (document DCE/21/14.IGC/7), the efforts of the National Commissions and the Secretariat seem to have resulted in an increase in the number of funding applications submitted, as well as an improvement in their quality, even as the number of projects submitted to the Committee for approval is declining due to a lack of sufficient funding.



**Figure 2: Projects submitted vs. projects approved between 2010 and 2020**

***Cumbersome procedures that require the mobilization of several stakeholders***

11. The second external evaluation of the IFCD underlined that **the pre-selection of projects at the national level remained the weak link in the IFCD calls for funding applications cycle** and strongly recommended strengthening the capacities of the National Commissions, as key actors involved in the application pre-selection process, in concrete areas such as the formation and coordination of a pre-selection panel (Recommendation 5), or the appointment by each National Commission of a focal point in charge of coordinating IFCD-related issues for at least two years (Recommendation 9). It was in the light of that observation that, in 2018, the Committee requested the Secretariat to work on the pre-selection procedure with the National Points of Contact for the Convention, in the event that the National Commissions were not in a position to undertake their responsibilities within the allocated deadlines ([Decision 12.IGC 6](#)).
12. The Secretariat, for its part, also faces the issue of limited human resources. Since 2010, this issue has been constantly raised by the Committee ([Decisions 4.IGC 10B and 4.IGC 16](#)) and reaffirmed in the first evaluation of the IFCD in 2012. The second external evaluation in 2017 found that there were still significant gaps in the Secretariat's human capacities, the most

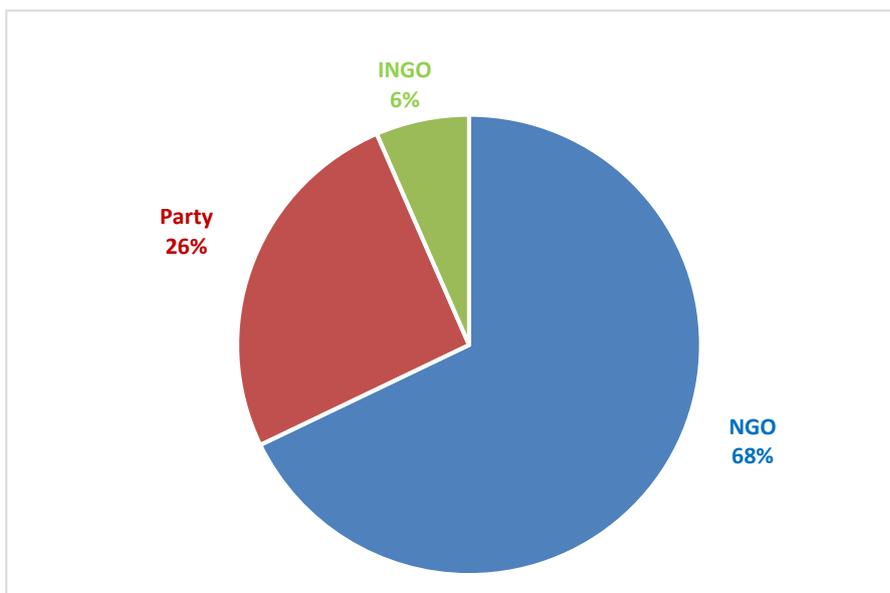
obvious being the need for dedicated staff for project monitoring and evaluation and fundraising. If the Secretariat’s human resources do not increase, **the annual frequency of calls for funding applications**, as set out in paragraph 13 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, **could be subject to reflection**.

13. Between the launch of the call and the approval of the projects, almost a year elapses, during which the Secretariat must simultaneously take the administrative and financial steps needed to implement the projects approved by the Committee and launch a new call, while continuing to ensure administrative and financial management and follow-up, as well as any programmatic adjustments needed for projects approved by the Committee at previous sessions, but still ongoing. For the annual launch of the call for funding applications, it is not only the human resources of the Secretariat that are mobilized, including those of the field offices, but also those of all parties involved in the submission, selection and evaluation of funding applications (applicants, National Commissions, National Points of Contact for the Convention and Panel of Experts). **The efforts made by all these stakeholders seem disproportionate considering that, on average, less than 2% of the funding applications submitted can be approved by the Committee.**

***Difficulties in leveraging the impact of funded projects to advocate for the IFCD***

14. In accordance with paragraph 10 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, the following are entitled to benefit from projects: a) all developing countries that are Parties to the Convention; b) non-governmental organizations (hereinafter “NGOs”) from developing countries, Parties to the Convention, that meet the definition of civil society and the criteria regulating the admission of its representatives to meetings of the organs of the Convention as set out in the operational guidelines on the role and participation of civil society; c) international non-governmental organizations (hereinafter “INGOs”) that meet the definition of civil society and the criteria regulating the admission of its representatives to meetings of the organs of the Convention as set out in the operational guidelines on the role and participation of civil society; and d) micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the private sector active in the field of culture in developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, within the limits of the available amounts of contributions from the private sector, in accordance with the national legislation of the Parties concerned. As the amounts paid by the private sector have so far been minimal, no funding applications could be considered for this last category of potential beneficiaries.

15. As shown by Figure 3, since the IFCD became operational, almost three quarters (74%) of the funding granted have gone to projects submitted by NGOs and INGOs. However, according to paragraph 2 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD, its main objective is “to invest in projects that lead to structural change through the introduction and/or elaboration 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 reinforcement of institutional infrastructures



**Figure 3: Funding distribution by type of beneficiary**

deemed necessary to support viable cultural industries at the local and regional levels”. In many countries, however, NGOs and INGOs have little political leverage and, as a result, their ability to influence policies and strategies and thus trigger structural change may appear limited.

16. As an example, the independent evaluations of the projects financed in Uruguay and Zimbabwe, the main conclusions of which are contained in document DCE/21/14.IGC/9, reveal that, while **these projects strengthened the beneficiary organizations**, enabling them to create new partnerships, secure financial contributions from other donors, join professional networks and, in some cases, pursue their activities beyond IFCD financial support, **their impact on public policies or strategies in the field of the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions was limited** when the projects were not integrated into an “ecosystem” of initiatives (public and private) pursuing similar objectives, or when those organizations did not have a privileged link with policymakers. As a result, projects intended to have an impact on local policies were more successful than those intended to have an influence at the national level.
17. **This lack of visible results beyond a strictly local scale is cited by some Parties as a deterrent to making voluntary contributions to the IFCD.** The evaluation of the 2013-2018 fundraising and communication strategy contained in document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11 notes that one of the obstacles to IFCD investments is precisely the low impact at the national level. It points out that, prior to granting funding, several donors would like to have more evidence of the structural changes triggered by projects or a convincing explanation of the medium and long-term impact of funded projects beyond the local level.

***Unclear pre-selection and evaluation criteria***

18. Among the recommendations resulting from the second external evaluation of the IFCD adopted and considered urgent by the Committee was one “to conduct random IFCD project independent evaluations in order to build a knowledge base on the projects and extract lessons from the different experiences” (Recommendation 13, [Decision 12.IGC 6](#)). Although such evaluations are envisaged in paragraph 23 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD and the approved budget for 2020-2021 provides resources for this purpose, the modalities and criteria for undertaking such evaluations have not, to date, been specified by the Committee. In addition, a study of existing practices in other organizations with a strong culture of learning about funding culture or social change revealed that, when the funding organization did not have sufficient resources, the steps to evaluate and exploit the results were also taken by the organizations responsible for implementing the projects. Thus, in order to have additional information on the project’s achievements and not depend solely on the declarations of the beneficiary organizations, the funding body may ask them to provide a percentage of the budget for financing the evaluation of the project.
19. Another of the recommendations adopted by the Committee concerns the attention to be devoted to the beneficiaries’ implementation capacity as a determining factor for the future impact that the funded projects might have at the national level (Recommendation 21, [Decision 12.IGC 6](#)). Although it was recommended that more weight be given to this aspect in the selection and evaluation process, the practical arrangements for implementing this recommendation are not, to date, reflected in the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD.
20. Although the projects evaluated in Uruguay and Zimbabwe represent only a sample of the projects funded by the IFCD, their evaluation shows that the **assessment of the risks** associated with project implementation is insufficiently taken into account in the preparation of funding applications.

21. Three other evaluation criteria arising from the recommendations adopted by the Committee are not reflected in the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD:
- criteria for promoting certain geographic regions to fine-tune project selection (Recommendation 6)<sup>5</sup>,
  - criteria for positively discriminating project proposals that include concrete actions aiming at increasing women's representation in key areas of cultural life and/or challenging traditional women's roles (Recommendation 15),
  - extra criteria (implementation capacity of the organization responsible for implementing the project, risk assessment, etc.) making it possible to better differentiate between the funding applications obtaining at least 30 points submitted to the Committee for approval (Recommendation 6).

***Capacity-building and/or technical assistance programmes attract higher levels of voluntary contributions than the IFCD***

22. The capacity-building and/or technical assistance programmes implemented by the Secretariat, mostly supported by voluntary contributions, contribute directly to the IFCD's main objective of leading to structural changes in the cultural and creative industries. Examples include capacity building on the participatory monitoring of cultural policies or on the development and implementation of regulatory frameworks in the field of cultural and creative industries, or technical assistance for the elaboration or updating of legislation and regulations to improve the status of the artist<sup>6</sup>. These programmes, which currently attract higher levels of voluntary contributions than the IFCD, show that some contributors, as well as developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, are more in demand for capacity building and/or technical assistance than for grants.
23. As mentioned above, while funding for projects designed and implemented predominantly by NGOs remains relevant and the very large number of funding applications received in 2020 only serves as a reminder of that, in accordance with Article 18.5 of the Convention, the Committee may be receptive to other forms of assistance relating to specific projects that it may deem appropriate to approve<sup>7</sup>. As an example, the Committee requested the Secretariat to set up an assistance programme dedicated to the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment through peer-learning, information-sharing and advocacy initiatives, in particular among policymakers in developing countries, to support Parties in implementing the Convention in the digital environment ([Decision 13.IGC 7](#)). A concept note for that programme is contained in document DCE/14.IGC/21/14. If the Committee decides to approve it, Parties interested in supporting this programme could channel their contributions through the IFCD.
24. If the Committee wished to consider and approve such programmes, or others that could be designed to meet the assistance needs expressed by Parties in the future, the synergies between funding applications and programmes would undoubtedly be strengthened and the image of the IFCD as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the Convention enhanced. It may be relevant to ask whether there might not be a way to remove one of the obstacles to the payment of voluntary contributions to the IFCD, namely the lack of understanding of the role of the IFCD in the implementation of the Convention and the difficulty of measuring the impact of projects approved by the Committee. For the time being, paragraph 4 of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD stipulates that the Fund "given its multi-donor nature, cannot receive tied or earmarked contributions".

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5. To implement this recommendation, the Committee requested the coordinator of the Panel of Experts to attribute one bonus point to projects from countries that have never received funding ([Decision 12.IGC 6](#)).

6. For further details, refer to the Secretariat's report for 2020 in document DCE/21/14.IGC/4.

7. Article 18.5: "The Intergovernmental Committee may accept contributions and other forms of assistance for general and specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by it".

### III. Possible next steps

25. On the basis of the observations and analyses presented above, the Committee is invited to decide, at the request of the Conference of Parties ([Resolution 7.CP.9](#)), on the need for a possible revision or updating of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD. To that end, the Committee may also wish to consider the following comments:
- the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD were last revised in 2013 ([Resolution 4.CP.9](#)) following the first evaluation of the IFCD conducted by IOS;
  - the second external evaluation of the IFCD was carried out in 2017 and led to the adoption of 17 recommendations by the Committee ([Decision 12.IGC.6](#)), which have already been implemented or are being implemented for those that require ongoing monitoring;
  - since 2013, following the two evaluations of the IFCD and the Committee's decisions, improvements have been made to the procedures for funding applications and the selection and evaluation of those applications, with a view to making the Fund more efficient and transparent, but they are not spelled out in the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD;
  - the holding of Committee sessions at the beginning of the year ([Decision 12.IGC.13](#) and [Resolution 7.CP.10](#)) requires an adjustment to the calendar of the IFCD cycle.
26. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

#### **DRAFT DECISION 14.IGC 10**

*The Committee,*

1. *Having examined document DCE/21/14.IGC/10 and its annex,*
2. *Recalling Resolutions 7.CP.9 and 7.CP.14 and Decision 13.IGC.5b,*
3. *Takes note of the Secretariat's 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,*
4. *Decides to update and revise the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity;*
5. *Requests the Secretariat to submit to it, at its fifteenth session, preliminary draft Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, updated and revised, taking into account the decisions taken by it thereon, the recommendations of the second external evaluation of the IFCD adopted by it and the debates held during the present session.*

**ANNEX**  
**Analytical table of the Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD**

Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i>	Comments	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<b>Strategic considerations and objectives</b>		
1. The purpose of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is to finance projects and activities approved by the Intergovernmental Committee (herein after “the Committee”) on the basis of guidelines determined by the Conference of Parties, notably to facilitate international cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in developing countries” <sup>1</sup> , in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention (Article 3 of the Financial Regulations of the IFCD).’	Not applicable.	No comments.
2. The main objective of the IFCD is to invest in projects that lead to structural change through the introduction and/or elaboration 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 reinforcement of institutional infrastructures deemed necessary to support viable cultural industries at the local and regional levels.	Not applicable.	Article 18.5 of the Convention provides that “The Intergovernmental Committee may accept contributions and other forms of assistance for general and specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by it”.  IFCD resources could thus also be used for general purposes approved by the Committee such as, for example, capacity-building programmes on specific areas of the Convention.  Second external evaluation of the IFCD (document DCE/17/11.IGC/7b).

1. Parties to the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that are recognized by UNCTAD as developing economies, economies in transition and least developed countries.

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	Comments	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
		Draft of the new fundraising strategy for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity 2021-2023 (document DCE/21/14.IGC/INF.11).
3. IFCD projects demonstrate the value and opportunities that the cultural industries bring to sustainable development processes, in particular to economic growth and the promotion of a decent quality of life.	Not applicable.	No comments.
4. The IFCD is managed as a Special Account pursuant to Article 1.1 of its Financial Regulations and, given its multi-donor nature, cannot receive tied or earmarked contributions.	Following the revision of the IFCD's Financial Regulations in 2019 ( <a href="#">Resolution 7 CP 9</a> ), reference should now be made to Article 1.2 of the said Regulations.	In accordance with Article 18.5 of the Convention, which provides that “[t]he Intergovernmental Committee may accept contributions and other forms of assistance for general and specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by it”, the IFCD should be able to receive contributions tied or earmarked for “general or specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by [the Committee]”.
5. Use of the IFCD's resources must be consistent with the spirit and provisions of the Convention. Pursuant to Article 18.3(a) and 18.7, Parties shall endeavour to provide voluntary contributions on an annual basis. The Committee encourages Parties to provide contributions on an annual basis, the amount being at least equal to 1% of their contribution to the UNESCO budget. The resources of the IFCD will be used to fund projects in developing countries. Public development aid which is not tied may be used to fund the activities of the IFCD for projects approved by the Committee in accordance with the provisions governing UNESCO Special Accounts.	Not applicable.	In accordance with Article 18.5 of the Convention, which provides that “[t]he Intergovernmental Committee may accept contributions and other forms of assistance for general and specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by it”, the IFCD should be able to receive contributions tied or earmarked for “general or specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by [the Committee]”.

<p>6. In managing the IFCD, the Committee shall ensure that the use of the resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1. meets the programmatic and strategic priorities established by the Committee;</li> <li>6.2. meets the needs and priorities of beneficiary developing countries;</li> <li>6.3. promotes South-South and North-South-South cooperation;</li> <li>6.4. contributes to achieving concrete and sustainable results as well as structural impacts in the cultural field;</li> <li>6.5. respects the principle of ownership by the beneficiaries;</li> <li>6.6. respects, to the extent possible, an equitable geographical distribution of the resources of the IFCD and gives priority to Parties who have not yet benefited or who have benefited the least from these resources;</li> <li>6.7. satisfies the principle of financial accountability, as understood within the United Nations system;</li> <li>6.8. satisfies the need for funds to be spent principally on project activities and ensuring minimum overhead costs as referred to in paragraph 15.7;</li> <li>6.9. avoids spreading resources too thinly or supporting sporadic activities;</li> <li>6.10. promotes gender equality;</li> <li>6.11. promotes the participation of various social groups as identified in Article 7 of the Convention in the creation, production, dissemination, distribution and enjoyment of diverse cultural expressions;</li> <li>6.12. complements other international funds covering similar fields without, however, compromising the IFCD's possibility to provide funding to projects that have already received</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
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<b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i>	Comments	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
or could receive financial assistance from a third party.		
<b>Areas of intervention</b>		
<p>7. Funds will be allocated:</p> <p>7.1. For projects that:</p> <p>7.1.1. introduce and/or develop policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution, and access to a diversity of cultural goods, services and activities;</p> <p>7.1.2. strengthen corresponding institutional infrastructure <sup>2</sup>, including professional capacities and organizational structures, deemed necessary to support viable local and regional cultural industries and markets in developing countries;</p> <p>7.2. For assistance for participation, within the limits of funding decided by the Committee. This assistance may cover:</p> <p>7.2.1. the cost of participation of public or private organizations or individuals from developing countries invited by the Committee to its meetings for consultation on specific issues in conformity with Article 23.7 of the Convention;</p>	Not applicable.	<p>The possible revision of paragraph 2 of the Guidelines currently in force should be reflected here. Such a revision could be guided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the lack of understanding of the links between the IFCD and the implementation of the Convention;</li> <li>• under Article 18.5 of the Convention, the Committee may decide to complement the offer of financial assistance to projects submitted predominantly by NGOs with programmes approved by the Committee to cover needs, other than grants, expressed by Parties.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Institutional infrastructure is to be understood as any public, collective and professional organizational structures (excluding working space and equipment, physical construction or restoration of buildings), capacities as well as legislative (legal) and administrative provisions deemed necessary for the implementation of policies.

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	Comments	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<p>7.2.2. the cost of participation at the meetings of the organs of the Convention by government experts from least-developed countries that are members of the Committee, upon their request. Requests must reach the Secretariat of the Convention at least two months before each session of the Committee or of the Conference of Parties;</p> <p>7.3. For the evaluation of projects by the Panel of Experts, to be constituted by the Committee, before their submission for examination to the Committee. Funds could also be allocated for a meeting between the Secretariat and the members of the Panel of Experts every two years in Paris.</p>		
<p>8. Projects aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt or paying interest, relating solely to the production of cultural expressions or sustaining ongoing activities with recurring costs, will not be eligible for assistance from the IFCD.</p>	Not applicable.	No comments.
<p>9. At each session, on the basis of the funds available in the Special Account, the Committee will adopt a budget for each of the above-mentioned types of assistance.</p>	<p>Following the revision of the IFCD's Financial Regulations in 2019 (<a href="#">Resolution 7.CP 9</a>), the appropriation of the resources of the Special Account is henceforth approved by the Committee on a biennial basis.</p>	<p>Several of the Committee's decisions, as well as the recommendations resulting from the evaluations of the IFCD, call for the strengthening of the system for managing the knowledge generated by the projects financed in order to better measure their impact and take advantage of their results to advocate for the IFCD and ensure its sustainability.</p> <p>Recommendation 12, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: "To make resources available so that the Secretariat can take bold steps for the IFCD to become a "learning-driven" fund by introducing measures that aim to extract lessons and spaces for the reflection at that centre of the IFCD strategy,</p>

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	
	<p><u>Update</u></p>	<p><u>Revision</u></p>
		<p>including hiring of dedicated staff at the Secretariat responsible for project monitoring and evaluation” and the recommended implementation action: “Invite the Intergovernmental Committee to commit to regularly allocating a percentage of either IFCD project funding or IFCD total income to learning (monitoring and evaluation of human resources, tools and products)”.</p> <p>Recommendation 13, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: “To conduct random IFCD project independent evaluations in order to build a knowledge base on the projects and extract lessons from the different experiences” and the recommended implementation action: “Set aside a sum equivalent to 3% of project funding (roughly US\$18,000 each year assuming US\$600,000 in project funding) for IFCD-commissioned independent project evaluations”.</p> <p>Paragraph 23 of the current Guidelines provides for the possibility of carrying out ex-post facto project evaluations.</p>
<p><b>Beneficiaries</b></p>		
<p>10. Entitled to benefit from the IFCD:</p> <p>10.1. For projects:</p> <p>10.1.1. all developing countries which are Parties to the Convention;</p> <p>10.1.2. non-governmental organizations (NGOs) coming from developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, which meet the definition of civil society and criteria regulating admission of its representatives at meetings of organs of the Convention</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No comments.</p>

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	
	<p><u>Update</u></p>	<p><u>Revision</u></p>
<p>as mentioned in the Operational Guidelines relating to the role and participation of civil society;</p> <p>10.1.3. international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), which meet the definition of civil society and criteria regulating admission of its representatives at meetings of organs of the Convention as mentioned in the Operational Guidelines relating to the role and participation of civil society;</p> <p>10.1.4. micro, small and medium enterprises of the private sector active in the cultural field of developing countries that are Parties to the Convention, to the limit of available funds from contributions provided by the private sector, in full conformity with the domestic laws of the Parties concerned;</p> <p>10.2. For participatory assistance:</p> <p>10.2.1. public or private organizations or individuals from developing countries, in conformity with Article 23.7 of the Convention;</p> <p>10.2.2. governmental experts from least-developed countries, which are members of the Committee.</p> <p>10.3. To avoid any conflict of interest, National Commissions and any other organizations participating in the pre-selection or approval of projects submitted to the Secretariat are not eligible for IFCD funding.</p>		

<b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i>	<b>Comments</b>	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<b>Funding and submission ceilings</b>		
<p>11. Regarding the funding and submission ceilings, the following shall be taken into consideration:</p> <p>11.1 the maximum amount requested from the IFCD for each project is US\$100,000;</p> <p>11.2 the project implementation period can be between 12 and 24 months;</p> <p>11.3 National Commissions or other official channels designated by Parties can forward a maximum of four applications per funding cycle, maximum two per Party (public authority/institution) and maximum two from NGOs;</p> <p>11.4 Each INGO may present a maximum of two applications per funding cycle with written support from beneficiary countries.</p>	Not applicable.	No comments.
<b>Pre-selection process at the country level</b>		
<p>12. Regarding the pre-selection process at the country level, the following shall be taken into consideration:</p> <p>12.1. National Commissions or other official channels designated by the Parties shall launch a call for funding requests within their countries, setting appropriate deadlines that take into account the submission deadlines communicated by the Secretariat;</p> <p>12.2. National Commissions or other official channels designated by the Parties shall form a pre-selection panel made up of, in particular, Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural industries, and members of civil society organizations specializing in the field of culture to evaluate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2015, date when the IFCD online platform was created, the call for funding applications is launched directly by the Secretariat and projects are submitted directly through the platform. The role of the National Commissions is to promote this call at the national level.</li> <li>• The Committee requested the Secretariat to work with the National Points of Contact on the pre-selection process, in the event that National Commissions were not in a position to undertake their responsibilities within the allocated deadlines (<a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>).</li> </ul>	No comments.

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	
	<p><u>Update</u></p>	<p><u>Revision</u></p>
<p>and pre-select projects to be submitted to the Secretariat;</p> <p>12.3. the pre-selection panel is to undertake an assessment on how the projects are relevant, meet the country's needs and priorities, and have been subject to consultation among stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation 9, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: "To strengthen the capacity of the National Commissions as key actors involved in the application process in order to improve the selection process and avoid the non-selection of good quality projects. A good step forward would be ensuring that each National Commission appoints a focal person in charge of coordinating IFCD issues for at least two years, and that in case of changes, the same person ensures the transfer of knowledge and files".</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Procedure for the submission of funding requests</b></p>		
<p>13. Regarding the procedure for the submission of funding requests, the following shall be taken into consideration:</p> <p>13.1. the Secretariat shall launch the call for funding requests in January each year. All funding requests will be received by the Secretariat by 15 May at the latest. Those received after the deadline are considered ineligible;</p> <p>13.2. funding requests by Parties and NGOs are submitted to the Secretariat through the National Commissions or other official channels designated by the Parties, that ensure projects are relevant and meet the country's needs and priorities;</p> <p>13.3. funding requests by INGOs are submitted directly to the Secretariat with written support from the beneficiaries concerned to ensure projects are relevant and meet the beneficiary's needs and priorities. Funding</p>	<p>Factual changes enacted in the application process in the last few years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the shift of Committee sessions from the end to the beginning of the year from 2020 onwards (<a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 13</a> and <a href="#">resolution 7.CP.10</a>), the launch of calls has been deferred to <b>March</b> each year.</li> <li>Since 2015, all funding applications have been submitted <b>directly to the Secretariat through the online platform</b>.</li> <li>The form is the <b>same</b> for all types of applicants, whether they are NGOs or INGOs.</li> </ul>	<p>No comments.</p>

<p><b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i></p>	Comments	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<p>requests by INGOs are submitted on a separate form and must demonstrate a sub-regional, regional or inter-regional impact;</p> <p>13.4. upon receiving the requests, the Secretariat will perform a technical assessment to ensure that the applications are complete, fall within the areas of intervention of the IFCD and therefore are eligible. Upon completion, the Secretariat will forward eligible project files to the members of the Panel of Experts for evaluation.</p>		
<b>Funding request forms</b>		
<p>14. Forms provided by the Secretariat on the website of the 2005 Convention shall be used and considered the official funding request forms.</p>	Not applicable.	No comments.
<p>15. All funding requests shall be submitted in either English or French and contain the following information:</p> <p>15.1. background information about the beneficiary, including mission and activities, and biographical information about project staff members;</p> <p>15.2. a brief summary of the project;</p> <p>15.3. a project outline (title, short- and long-term measurable objectives, country context and needs assessment, activities and expected results, including the cultural, social and economic impact, beneficiaries and partnerships);</p> <p>15.4. the name and address of the representative of the beneficiaries' organization that will hold</p>	<p>Recommendation 21, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: "To devote more attention to the <b>capacity of project partners</b> [applicants] and give this factor greater weight in the selection process... Include elements that prove the capacity of partners [applicants] (such as experience, sector expertise, past performance and participation in networks)".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study of existing practices in other organizations that fund culture or social change (see document DCE/21/14.IGC/9) brought to light that part of the funds granted to the project were dedicated to its evaluation.</li> <li>• An assessment of the risks associated with project implementation and mitigation measures could be included in funding applications.</li> </ul>

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	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<p>financial and administrative responsibility for implementation of the project;</p> <p>15.5. a work schedule and time frame;</p> <p>15.6. measures to promote the sustainability of the proposed project;</p> <p>15.7. a detailed budget, including the amount of funding sought from the IFCD, as well as other sources. Self or co-funding is encouraged to the extent possible. Expenditures for project-related overhead costs required to implement the project are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total project budget;</p> <p>15.8. any information relating to the status of completion of earlier funding requests from the IFCD.</p>		
<b>Panel of Experts</b>		
<p>16. A six-member Panel of Experts shall be proposed by the Secretariat to the Committee for its approval based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equitable geographical distribution and representation;</li> <li>• university degree or professional experience in the fields of cultural policy and/or cultural industries;</li> <li>• experience in evaluating projects;</li> <li>• professional experience in international cooperation;</li> <li>• in-depth professional experience in one of the UNESCO regions;</li> <li>• gender equality;</li> </ul>	Not applicable.	No comments.

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	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "fluency in French or English and, if possible, a good understanding of the other language.</li> <li>16.1. Members of the Panel of Experts have a four-year mandate. Half are renewed each two years in order to ensure the continuity of work;</li> <li>16.2. A coordinator shall be designated from among the six members of the Panel of Experts by the members themselves;</li> <li>16.3. A meeting is organized for the Panel of Experts by the Secretariat every two years in Paris;</li> <li>16.4. The Panel of Experts is responsible for preparing recommendations for the Committee for examination and possible approval. The Coordinator shall be invited to the Committee's ordinary session when it examines projects recommended by the Panel of Experts;</li> <li>16.5. Each project application should be assessed by two experts using the evaluation forms provided by the Secretariat. No expert should assess a project from his/her country.</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendations by the Panel of Experts</b>		
<p>17. The Panel of Experts shall undertake an evaluation of funding requests it receives from the Secretariat, using the official evaluation tools and taking into account the overall objectives of the IFCD.</p> <p>17.1. 'The Panel of Experts can recommend to the Committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">17.1.1. a list of projects to be funded within the limits of the funds available;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">17.1.2. only projects that receive at least 75% of the maximum number of points attributable;</p>	<p>Recommendation 6, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: "To allocate extra criteria in the proposal scoring system to projects promoting certain strategic themes and/or geographic regions in order to fine-tune project selection and reduce the challenges emerging from the 30-point decision as well as geographic imbalance".</p> <p>The Committee is already implementing both aspects of this recommendation by requesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the coordinator of the IFCD Panel of</li> </ul>	<p>Practical arrangements are needed to implement the following recommendations as adopted by the Committee (<a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation 15, second external evaluation: "To positively discriminate project proposals that include concrete actions aimed at increasing women's representation in key areas of cultural activity and/or aimed at challenging traditional women's roles".</li> <li>• Recommendation 21, second external evaluation: "To devote more attention to the</li> </ul>

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	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
17.1.3. only one project per beneficiary; 17.1.4. if applicable, adjustment of the funds requested for projects and activities from the IFCD with accompanying explanation(s). 17.2. The Secretariat shall make available online four weeks before the Committee session all project files, their evaluation and recommendation by the Panel of Experts.	Experts to allocate one bonus point to projects from countries that have never received funding ( <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a> ). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Panel of Experts to recommend for approval the highest-scoring projects, attaining at least 30 points, within the limit of funds available.</li> </ul>	capacity of project partners [applicants] and give this factor greater weight in the selection process... Include elements that prove the capacity of partners [applicants] (such as experience, sector expertise, past performance and participation in networks)".
<b>'Decision-making of the Committee</b>		
18. The Committee shall examine and approve projects at its ordinary session.	Not applicable.	No comments.
19. "To facilitate the decision-making of the Committee, the recommendations of the Panel of Experts will be accompanied by a detailed presentation, including: 19.1 a brief summary of the project presented in the request; 19.2 the potential impact and expected results; 19.3 an opinion on the amount to be financed from the IFCD; 19.4 the relevance/appropriateness of the project to the objectives of the IFCD as well as to the areas of intervention of the IFCD; 19.5 an assessment of the feasibility of the project proposed, the relevance and effectiveness of its modalities of execution, as well as the expected structural impacts, where appropriate; 19.6 an analysis of the sustainability of the project, reflecting the level of ownership demonstrated by the beneficiaries, plans for longer-term expected results that go beyond the output	Not applicable.	No comments.

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	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<p>level, as well as the potential of projects to produce structural effects or put in place measures/create conditions for future structural effects to take hold;</p> <p>19.7 an assessment as to the interest of the project;</p> <p>19.8 an assessment of how the project takes into consideration gender equality.</p>		
<b>Monitoring</b>		
<p>20. UNESCO shall develop a systemic and risk-based project monitoring system with adequate human and financial resources to identify and address project implementation challenges and to ensure project sustainability. This monitoring system shall be based on short and long term objectives and SMART<sup>3</sup> indicators.”</p>	Not applicable.	No comments.
<p>21. All relevant UNESCO Field Offices shall designate a focal point to cooperate with the Secretariat in ensuring ongoing monitoring of IFCD projects, and their complementarity and synergies with UNESCO’s other work at the country level. The involvement of UNESCO Field Offices should also facilitate the establishment of contacts and sharing of experiences between IFCD project partners and potential future donors.</p>	<p>Recommendation 10, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a>: “To work with field offices to ensure that on the one hand, UNESCO maximizes the opportunities of having an IFCD-funded project (such as increased visibility, enhanced contact with the local cultural sector and a better understanding of the context) and on the other hand, to ensure that projects know what they can (and should) expect from UNESCO field offices (especially in terms of support and involvement throughout the diffusion, communication and implementation processes)”.</p>	No comments.

3. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timed.

<b>Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity</b> <i>approved by the Conference of Parties at its second session (2009) and revised at its fourth session (2013)</i>	<b>Comments</b>	
	<u>Update</u>	<u>Revision</u>
<b>Evaluation</b>		
22. An evaluation and audit of the IFCD shall be carried out every five years.	Not applicable.	No comments.
23. In addition, any project may be evaluated ex-post facto at the request of the Committee with regard to its efficiency, and the achievement of its objectives relative to the resources spent. Evaluation of funded projects should present lessons learned, as well as the impact of these projects on strengthening and/or fostering the emergence of dynamic cultural industries in developing countries. The evaluation should showcase how experience gained could benefit other projects, with a view to compiling and disseminating best practices on the Convention knowledge platform.	Not applicable.	Consider practical arrangements for the regular implementation of Recommendation 13, second external evaluation, <a href="#">Decision 12.IGC 6</a> : “To conduct random IFCD project independent evaluations in order to build a knowledge base on the projects and extract lessons from the different experiences” and the recommended implementation action: “Set aside a sum equivalent to 3% of project funding (roughly US\$18,000 each year assuming US\$600,000 in project funding) for IFCD-commissioned independent project evaluations”.
24. Under the Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the IFCD, the UNESCO Comptroller is responsible for maintaining the IFCD’s accounting records and submitting the annual accounts to the UNESCO External Auditor for audit.	Not applicable.	No comments.
<b>Reporting</b>		
25. The beneficiaries shall submit a mandatory descriptive, analytical and financial report on the execution of the project and the realization of expected results to the Secretariat. The report must be presented using the reporting forms provided by the Secretariat in order for the beneficiary to receive its final payment. No financial contributions for new projects will be allocated to beneficiaries who have not received their final payment.	Not applicable.	To strengthen the monitoring of funded projects, consideration could be given to establishing the need for a mid-term report in addition to the final report.