

Permanent Delegations of the States
Parties to the Convention for the
Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural
Heritage

9 October 2025

Culture Sector
The Assistant Director-General

Ref.: CLT/LHE/25/430

**Subject: Twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the
Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
(8 – 13 December 2025, New Delhi, Republic of India)**

Dear Permanent Delegate,

On behalf of the Director-General, I have the honour to invite your country to the twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which will take place at the Red Fort in New Delhi, Republic of India, **from 8 to 13 December 2025**. I would be grateful if you could transmit this information to the national authorities in charge of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in your country.

This session of the Committee will be preceded by an opening ceremony, organized by the host country on Sunday, 7 December 2025. Registered participants in the session are welcome to attend and more details will be provided in due course.

Please find enclosed the provisional agenda for the session. Documents corresponding to the items inscribed on this agenda will be published on the webpage dedicated to the twentieth session (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/20com>) in the two working languages of the Committee, English and French, **by 10 November 2025** (all items except items 6.c, 8, 13, 14, 16) and **by 24 November 2025** (items 6.c, 8, 13, 14, 16). General information concerning practical arrangements for the session will also be posted on the same webpage.

Out of concern for the environment and in order to reduce costs, hard copies of the documents will not be provided. Furthermore, please be advised that all debates will be transmitted live by webcast on the webpage dedicated to the session, allowing participants to follow the meeting remotely.

Kindly confirm your country's participation in this Committee session, as well as the participation of the expert for whom financial assistance is requested, if relevant, by registering online as soon as possible and **before 10 November 2025** on the following webpage: <https://indico.un.org/event/1019922/>. In the event that you encounter technical difficulties, kindly send an e-mail to the Secretariat of the Convention (ichmeetings@unesco.org).

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Expenses incurred by participants will be borne by the government they represent. Participation costs for representatives from developing States Parties to the Convention may, however, be covered by the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ('the Fund'), subject to the availability of resources and provided that such representatives are experts in intangible cultural heritage. Kindly note that only one request for one expert per State Party shall be considered for such assistance from the Fund.

Requests for financial assistance must reach the Secretariat of the Convention (ichmeetings@unesco.org) **no later than 23 October 2025** (Rule 5.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee). Nevertheless, taking into account UNESCO's regulations regarding the purchase of tickets, and to fulfil other administrative and logistical requirements, I invite eligible States to send their request as soon as possible. Such requests should be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the proposed expert, a scanned copy of her/his valid passport, her/his travel itinerary (in particular, the departure city) and a supporting correspondence from the relevant national authorities designating the expert (if the request is not directly submitted by the national authorities).

For all enquiries concerning visas and other formalities required to enter India, participants are invited to refer to the General Information document, which will shortly be made available on the abovementioned webpage dedicated to the twentieth session. To ensure visas are issued in time for the session, all participants are strongly encouraged to take the necessary steps to obtain their visa (including transit visas, where relevant) as soon as possible following the completion of their online registration. Please bear in mind that only the authorities of India may determine whether a visa is granted; the Secretariat will not be able to intervene regarding decisions taken by the host country on visa applications.

Throughout the Committee session, a series of side events on the theme of living heritage safeguarding may be organized outside the plenary meetings, in coordination with the host country and subject to available spaces. Please consult the webpage dedicated to the session for more information, including the calendar of events which will be regularly updated with details of approved side events.

As is customary, a meeting of the ICH NGO Forum will take place on Sunday, 7 December 2025. Further information on the agenda for that meeting will be made available at <http://www.ichngoforum.org/>.

Furthermore, an information and exchange meeting will be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 October 2025 to present the working methods of the Committee as well as practical information concerning this twentieth session. This meeting will also be broadcast live on the webpage dedicated to the session. More information will be provided in due course as to the modalities of participation.

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Thank you for your interest and support in the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Ottone R.", is positioned to the right of the salutation. The signature is written in a cursive style with vertical lines and small loops.

Ernesto Ottone R.

Enc.: Provisional agenda of the twentieth session of the Committee (Document LHE/25/20.COM/2)

cc: Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of India to UNESCO
Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
National Commissions of the countries concerned