

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

13 March 2024

**Culture Sector  
The Assistant Director-General  
and Secretary of the 2003 Convention a.i.**

Ref.: CLT/LHE/24/116

Dear Permanent Delegate,

I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will hold its tenth session at UNESCO Headquarters (Room I), from 11 to 13 June 2024. An official invitation letter to this session will be sent separately.

One of the tasks of the General Assembly will be to renew half of the States Members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Article 6.4 of the Convention). The twelve States whose mandates will expire in June 2024 are:

Group I: Sweden, Switzerland;  
Group II: Czechia;  
Group III: Brazil, Panama, Peru;  
Group IV: Republic of Korea;  
Group V(a): Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda;  
Group V(b): Morocco, Saudi Arabia.

The remaining States Members of the Committee are:

Group I: Germany;  
Group II: Slovakia, Uzbekistan;  
Group III: Paraguay;  
Group IV: Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Viet Nam;  
Group V(a): Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia;  
Group V(b): Mauritania.

Pursuant to paragraph (ii) of Rule 35.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, twenty-four Committee seats shall be distributed among electoral groups in proportion to the number of States Parties from each group, provided that, after such distribution, at least three seats have been attributed to each group.

As you know, in accordance with its Article 34, the Convention enters into force for a State Party three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification. For the tenth session of the General Assembly, 183 States will be party to the Convention.

The General Assembly will first have to agree on the distribution of the twenty-four Committee seats and, consequently, to determine the distribution of the twelve vacant seats. In conformity with Resolution 3.GA 12, the geographical distribution of seats in the Committee is determined by mathematical calculation on the basis of 183 States as follows:

Group I:	24 States	3.15 seats (3)	2 vacant seats
Group II:	24 States	3.15 seats (3)	1 vacant seat
Group III:	32 States	4.20 seats (4)	3 vacant seats
Group IV:	40 States	5.25 seats (5)	1 vacant seat
Group V(a):	44 States	5.77 seats (6)	3 vacant seats
Group V(b):	19 States	2.49 seats (3)	2 vacant seats
Total:	183 States	24 seats	12 vacant seats

In conformity with Rule 36.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat by 30 April 2024 whether your country intends to stand for election to the Committee, to enable the Secretariat to establish a provisional list of candidate States Parties. Please note that the correspondence is to be sent to the Secretariat of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: CLT/LHE, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07, France, email: [ichmeetings@unesco.org](mailto:ichmeetings@unesco.org) with a copy to [k.nakata@unesco.org](mailto:k.nakata@unesco.org).

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the following two articles of the Convention. Article 6.6 stipulates that a 'State Member of the Committee may not be elected for two consecutive terms'. Article 26.5 provides that 'any State to this Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the Committee' and that 'the term of office of any such State which is already a Member of the Committee shall come to an end at the time of the elections'. In this regard, Rule 36.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly specifies that no payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted later than a week before the opening of the Assembly (4 June 2024).

May I also remind you that paragraph 27 of the Operational Directives states that the Evaluation Body is composed of six experts 'representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee', which means that States Parties that currently have experts seating in the Evaluation Body should refrain from presenting themselves as candidates.


In accordance with Rule 36.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, a provisional list of candidate States Parties, indicating the electoral group to which they belong and the number of seats to be filled in each electoral group, as well as updated information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund made by each of the candidates will be provided to all States Parties at least four weeks before the tenth session of the General Assembly (14 May 2024) and this list will be revised as necessary. Furthermore, Rule 36.4 stipulates that the list will be finalized three working days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (5 June 2024).

If you have already submitted your candidature and received a confirmation of receipt from the Secretariat, there is no need to act on this circular letter.

For all information related to the General Assembly, I invite you to consult the webpage dedicated to the tenth session at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/10ga> that will be regularly updated.

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

Yours sincerely,



Ernesto Ottone R.

Cc: National Commissions of the States Parties concerned