



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

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ITH/14/9.COM/13.b
Paris, 27 October 2014
Original: English

**Draft Operational Directives on
'Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage
and sustainable development at the national level'**

General provisions

1. States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to recognize the importance and strengthen the role of intangible cultural heritage as a guarantee of sustainable development, fully addressing its four core dimensions: inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development, and peace and security. States Parties shall endeavour to integrate the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage fully into their development plans, policies and programmes, striving to maintain an appropriate balance among those four dimensions. States Parties shall further endeavour to keep the principles and goals of sustainable development at the forefront of their safeguarding plans, policies and programmes.
2. Insofar as their development plans, policies and programmes involve intangible cultural heritage or may potentially affect its viability, States Parties shall endeavour to:
 - (a) ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and involve them actively in such plans, policies and programmes;
 - (b) ensure that those communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries, both in moral and in material terms, of any such plans, policies and programmes;
 - (c) ensure that such plans, policies and programmes do not de-contextualize or denaturalize the intangible cultural heritage manifestations or expressions concerned.
3. States Parties shall endeavour to take full cognizance of the potential and actual impacts of all development plans and programmes on intangible cultural heritage, particularly in the context of environmental, social and human impact assessment processes.
4. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a strategic resource to enable sustainable development. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in particular through the application of intellectual property rights, privacy rights and any other appropriate form of legal protection, to:
 - (a) promote creativity, innovation and utilization of intangible cultural heritage while ensuring that the bearers of such heritage, whether communities, groups or individuals, benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from the use or adaptation of that heritage;
 - (b) ensure that the rights of the communities, groups or individuals that create, bear and transmit their intangible cultural heritage are duly protected from misappropriation or abuse of their knowledge and skills.
5. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that their safeguarding plans and programmes are fully inclusive of all sectors and strata of society including indigenous peoples, migrants,

immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of marginalized groups, in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention.

6. States Parties are encouraged to foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development and its importance as a resource for solving development problems, and at demonstrating its value with clear evidence, including appropriate indicators.
7. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that inscriptions of intangible cultural heritage on the Convention's lists as provided in Articles 16 and 17 of the Convention and selection as a best safeguarding practice as provided in Article 18 are used to advance the Convention's goals of safeguarding and sustainable development, and are not misused to the detriment of the intangible cultural heritage and communities, groups or individuals concerned, in particular for short-term economic gains.

Core dimension 1: Inclusive social development

8. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that inclusive social development cannot be achieved without sustainable food security, quality health care, access to safe water and sanitation, quality education for all, inclusive social protection systems and gender equality, and that these goals must be underpinned by inclusive governance and the freedom for people to choose their own value systems.

Food security

9. State Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional farming, fishing, hunting, pastoral, food-gathering and food preservation knowledge and practices, including their related rituals and beliefs, that contribute to food security and adequate nutrition. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
 - (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those knowledge and practices, demonstrating their efficacy, identifying and promoting their contributions to maintaining agro-biodiversity, providing food security and strengthening their resilience to climate change;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including codes of ethics, to promote and/or regulate access to traditional farming, fishing, hunting pastoral and food gathering and preservation knowledge and practices, as well as equitable sharing of the benefits they generate, and ensure the transmission of such knowledge and practices;
 - (c) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to recognize and respect the customary rights of communities and groups to those land, sea and forest ecosystems necessary for their farming, fishing, pastoral and food-gathering knowledge and practices.

Health care

10. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure the recognition of, respect for and enhancement of those traditional health practices that contribute to well-being, including their related knowledge, practices, expressions, rituals and beliefs, and to harness their potential to contribute to achieving quality health care for all. To that end, they are encouraged to:

- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of traditional health care practices, demonstrating their functions and efficacy, and identifying their contributions to meeting health care needs;
- (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, in consultation with knowledge holders, healers and practitioners, to promote access to traditional healing knowledge and raw materials, participation in healing practices, and transmission of such knowledge and practices, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of them;
- (c) enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of health care practices and systems.

Access to clean and safe water and sustainable water use

11. State Parties shall endeavour to ensure the viability of traditional water management systems that promote equitable access to safe drinking water and sustainable water use, notably in agriculture and other subsistence activities. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of those traditional water management systems and identifying their contributions to meeting environmental and water-related development needs, as well as how to strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to identify, enhance and promote such systems in order to respond to water needs and climate change challenges at the local, national and international levels.

Quality education for all

12. Within their respective educational systems and policies, States Parties shall endeavour, by all appropriate means, to ensure recognition of, respect for, and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in society, emphasizing its role in transmitting life skills, in particular through specific educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned and through non-formal means of transmitting knowledge. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. ensure that educational systems promote respect for one's self and one's community and mutual respect for others, and do not in any way alienate people from their intangible cultural heritage, characterize their communities as not participating in contemporary life, or harm in any way their image;
 - ii. ensure that intangible cultural heritage is integrated as fully as possible as the content of educational programmes in all relevant disciplines, both as a contribution in its own right and as a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects, at the curricular, cross-curricular and extra-curricular levels;
 - iii. recognize the importance of traditional modes and methods of transmitting intangible cultural heritage and seek to harness their potential within formal and non-formal education systems;

- (b) enhance collaboration and complementarity among the diversity of educational practices and systems;
- (c) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of traditional pedagogical methods and assessing their efficacy and suitability for integration into other educational contexts;
- (d) promote education for the protection of biodiversity, natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

Social cohesion

13. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize and promote the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to social cohesion, overcoming all forms of discrimination and strengthening the social fabric of communities and groups in an inclusive way. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to give particular attention to those practices, expressions and knowledge that help communities, groups and individuals to transcend differences of gender, colour, ethnicity, origin, class and locality and to those that are broadly inclusive of all sectors and strata of society including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities, and members of marginalized groups.

Gender equality

14. States Parties shall endeavour to foster the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to greater gender equality and to eliminating gender-based discrimination, while recognizing that communities pass on their values, norms and expectations related to gender through intangible cultural heritage and it is therefore a privileged context in which community members' gender identities are shaped. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) take advantage of intangible cultural heritage's potential to create common spaces for dialogue on how best to achieve gender equality, taking into account the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders;
 - (b) promote the important role that intangible cultural heritage can play in building mutual respect among communities and groups whose members may not share the same conceptions of gender;
 - (c) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding the diversity of gender roles within particular expressions of intangible cultural heritage;
 - (d) ensure gender equality in the planning, management and implementation of safeguarding measures, at all levels and in all contexts, in order to take full advantage of the diverse perspectives of all members of society.

Core dimension 2: Environmental sustainability

15. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that environmental sustainability requires ensuring a stable climate, sustainably managing natural resources and protecting biodiversity, which in turn depend on improved scientific understanding and knowledge-sharing about climate change, natural hazards, the space environment and natural resource limits, and that strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations in the face of climate change and natural disasters is essential to limiting their human, social and economic costs.

Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

16. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of the knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe that contribute to environmental sustainability, recognizing their capacity to evolve, harnessing their potential role in the protection of biodiversity and in the sustainable management of natural resources. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about nature and the universe and as essential actors in sustaining the environment;
 - (b) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding traditional systems of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable resource use and demonstrating their effectiveness, while promoting international cooperation for the identification and sharing of good practices;
 - (c) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning nature and the universe, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
 - ii. conserve and protect those natural spaces whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

Environmental impacts

17. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize the potential and actual environmental impacts of intangible cultural heritage practices, with particular attention to the possible consequences of their intensification. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding such impacts;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to encourage environmentally friendly practices and to mitigate any possible harmful impacts.

Community-based resilience to natural disasters and climate change

18. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of knowledge and practices concerning geoscience and particularly the climate, and to harness their potential to contribute to the reduction of risk, to the recovery from natural disasters, particularly through the strengthening of social cohesion, and to the mitigation of climate change impacts. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) recognize communities, groups and individuals as the bearers of traditional knowledge about geoscience and particularly the climate;
 - (b) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding and demonstrating the effectiveness of traditional knowledge of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery, climate adaptation and climate change mitigation, while enhancing the capacities of communities, groups and individuals to face climate change challenges for which their existing knowledge may not suffice;

- (c) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. promote access to and transmission of traditional knowledge concerning earth and the climate, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it;
 - ii. integrate communities, groups and individuals who are bearers of such knowledge fully into systems and programmes of disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Core dimension 3: Inclusive economic development

- 19. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that sustainable development depends upon stable, equitable and inclusive economic growth, based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and requires productive and decent employment, reduction of poverty and inequalities, low-carbon as well as resource-efficient economic growth, and welfare protection.
- 20. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of intangible cultural heritage as a powerful force for inclusive economic development, encompassing a diversity of productive activities, with both monetary and non-monetary value, and contributing in particular to strengthening local economies. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to respect the nature of that heritage and the specific circumstances of the communities, groups or individuals concerned, particularly their choice of collective or individual management of their heritage, while promoting fair trade and ethical economic relations.

Generating income and sustaining livelihoods

- 21. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to generating income and sustaining livelihoods for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
 - (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing the opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for generating income and sustaining livelihoods for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its role in supplementing other forms of income;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. promote opportunities for communities, groups and individuals to generate income and sustain their livelihood through the practice, transmission and safeguarding of their intangible cultural heritage;
 - ii. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of income generated as a result of their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to generate income for others.

Productive employment and decent work

- 22. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contributions of intangible cultural heritage to productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:

- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at identifying and assessing the opportunities that intangible cultural heritage offers for productive employment and decent work for the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to its adaptability to family and household circumstances, and its relation to other forms of employment;
- (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures, including tax incentives, to:
 - i. promote productive employment and decent work for communities, groups and individuals in the practice and transmission of their intangible cultural heritage, while extending social security protections and benefits to them;
 - ii. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of work opportunities involving their own intangible cultural heritage and that they are not dispossessed of it, in particular in order to create employment for others.

Tourism

23. States Parties shall endeavour to ensure that any activities related to tourism, whether undertaken by the States or by public or private bodies, demonstrate all due respect to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories and to the rights, aspirations and wishes of the communities, groups and individuals concerned therewith. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) assess, both in general and in specific terms, the impacts of tourism on the intangible cultural heritage and on the sustainable development of the communities, groups and individuals concerned, with particular attention to anticipating potential impacts before activities are initiated;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. ensure that the communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of any tourism associated with their own intangible cultural heritage, while promoting their leading role in managing such tourism;
 - ii. ensure that the viability, social functions and cultural meanings of that heritage are in no way diminished or threatened by such tourism;
 - iii. guide the interventions of those involved in the tourism industry and the behaviour of those who participate in it as tourists.

Core dimension 4: Peace and security

24. States Parties are encouraged to recognize that peace and security – including freedom from conflict, discrimination and all forms of violence – are prerequisites for sustainable development and require respect for human rights, effective systems of justice, inclusive political processes, and appropriate systems of conflict prevention and resolution.
25. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance those practices, representations and expressions of intangible cultural heritage that have peace-making and peace-building at their core, that bring communities, groups and individuals together and that ensure exchange, dialogue and understanding among them. States Parties shall further

endeavour to fully realize the contribution that safeguarding activities make to the construction of peace.

Preventing disputes

26. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that intangible cultural heritage can make to the prevention of disputes. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at demonstrating the contributions of expressions, practices and representations of intangible cultural heritage to dispute prevention;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. support such expressions, practices and representations;
 - ii. integrate them into public programmes and policies;
 - iii. consider them as fully as possible as complements to other legal and administrative mechanisms of dispute prevention.

Conflict resolution

27. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that intangible cultural heritage can make to peaceful conflict resolution. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at demonstrating the contributions of expressions, practices and representations of intangible cultural heritage to peaceful conflict resolution;
 - (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to:
 - i. support such expressions, practices and representations;
 - ii. integrate them into public programmes and policies;
 - iii. consider them as fully as possible as complements to other legal and administrative mechanisms of peaceful conflict resolution.

Restoring peace and security

28. States Parties shall endeavour to take full advantage of the potential role of intangible cultural heritage in the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) foster scientific studies and research methodologies, including those conducted by the communities themselves, aimed at understanding how intangible cultural heritage can contribute to restoring peace, reconciling parties, re-establishing safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals;

- (b) adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to integrate such intangible cultural heritage into public programmes and policies aimed at the restoration of peace, reconciliation between parties, re-establishment of safety and security, and recovery of communities, groups and individuals.

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage as a means for achieving lasting peace and security

29. States Parties shall endeavour to recognize, promote and enhance the contribution that safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups and individuals makes to the construction of lasting peace and security. To that end, States Parties are encouraged to:
- (a) ensure that their safeguarding efforts fully include and recognize the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities, and members of marginalized groups;
 - (b) take full advantage of the contributions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to democratic governance and human rights by ensuring the widest possible participation of communities, groups and individuals;
 - (c) realize the peace-building potential of safeguarding efforts that involve intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity.