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Diversity of
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Seventh Ordinary Session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
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Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Report on the outcomes achieved between 2010 and 2013 of the implementation of the strategy to encourage ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

This document responds to Decision 6.IGC 10, through which the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit at its seventh ordinary session a report on the results of its strategy of ratification (2010-2013) achieved. A list of Parties and non-Parties according to UNESCO Electoral Group is presented in Annex I, while Annex II provides a list of relevant documents and decisions/resolutions of past statutory meetings on the ratification strategy.

Decision required: paragraph 19

1. A strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) and its action plan for the period of 2010-2013 were adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) at its third ordinary session in December 2009. The main purpose of the strategy and the action plan was to maintain the momentum of ratification and to specify the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the implementation of the plan.
2. At its fourth and sixth ordinary sessions in December 2010 and 2012 respectively, the Committee examined reports on activities carried out by the concerned stakeholders (Parties, civil society, and UNESCO), noted the progress of ratifications in 2009-2010 (see document CE/10/4.IGC/205/4) and 2011-2012 (see document CE/12/6.IGC/10) and requested the Secretariat to report to it at its seventh session on the outcomes achieved (Decision 6.IGC 10).
3. At its third and fourth ordinary sessions in June 2011 and 2013 respectively, the Conference of Parties also took note of reports on the implementation of the ratification strategy (see documents CE/11/3.CP/209/INF.5 and CE/13/4.CP/INF.4) and invited the Committee to continue its work on regional and sub-regional levels (Resolutions 3.CP 11 and 4.CP 13).
4. A list of Parties and non-Parties according to UNESCO Electoral Group is presented in Annex I (Status October 2013), while Annex II provides a list of relevant documents and decisions/resolutions of past statutory meetings in order to recall discussions that had taken place on the ratification strategy.

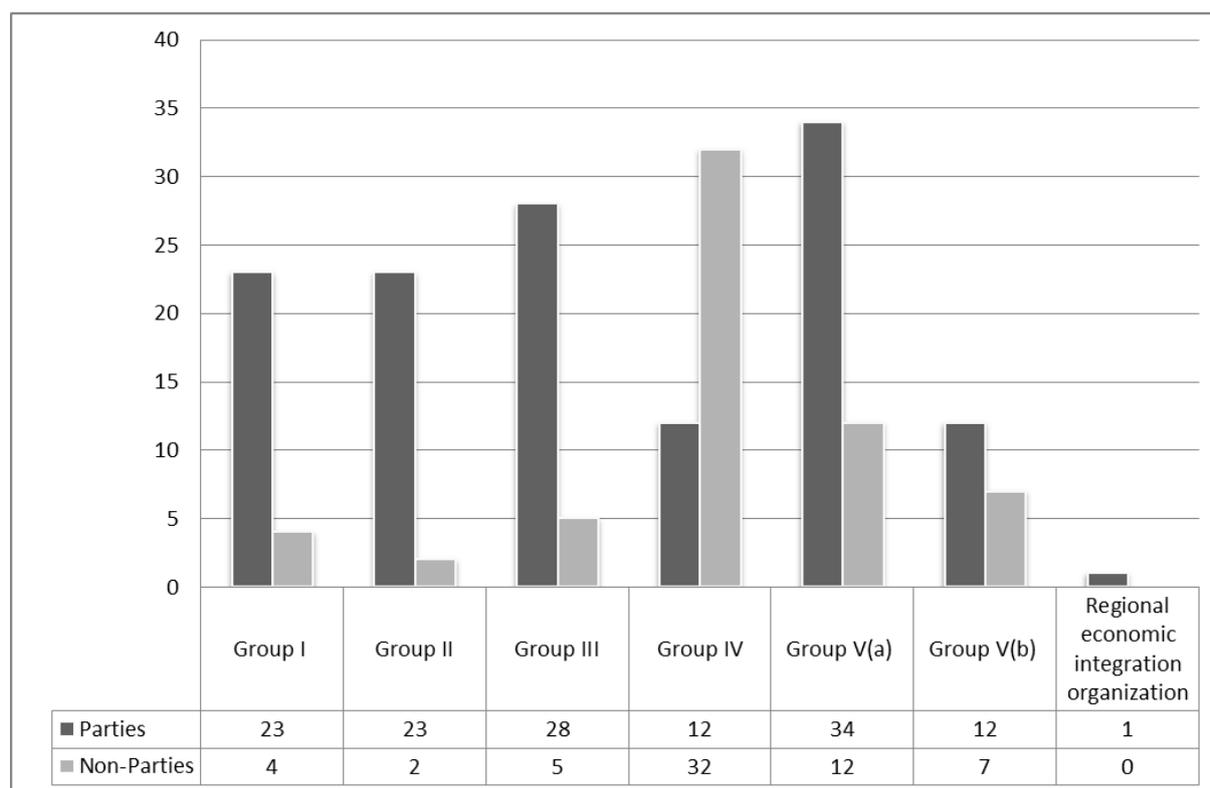
Objectives and key actions of the ratification strategy (2010-2013)

5. The main objectives of the ratification strategy (2010-2013) were to improve geographical balance of Parties by addressing underrepresentation among some regions and to raise the visibility of the Convention through its promotion in international forums. The expected result of the strategy’s action plan was to obtain 35 to 40 additional ratifications over the 2010-2013 period. Underrepresented regions were Arab States and Asia and the Pacific region.
6. The strategy called Parties to define at the national, regional and sub-regional levels measures to encourage ratifications and activities to be carried out in collaboration with their National Commissions, national points of contact as well as civil society. In addition, they were invited to use international forums to promote the benefits of ratifying the Convention.
7. Civil society was invited to play a key role in promoting ratification, particularly in underrepresented regions, by disseminating information about the Convention and through networking activities and events, as well as by organizing information and awareness-raising workshops.
8. UNESCO was invited to ensure coordination with other relevant sectors concerned by this strategy and establish close and active cooperation between Field Offices and the Secretariat by encouraging awareness-raising activities in UNESCO Member States that are non-Parties to the Convention, especially in underrepresented regions.
9. In collaboration with Field Offices, the Secretariat was called to develop new information tools responding to identified needs; prepare a document reporting on the progress of ratifications, steps taken and actions carried out by all stakeholders; and publish the information kit in downloadable format on the Convention’s website in UNESCO’s six official languages.

State of ratification

10. As of early 2010, 105 Parties had ratified the Convention. As of 16 October 2013, the overall number of Parties to the Convention was 133 (132 States and 1 regional economic integration organization). During the implementation of the strategy, between 2010 and 2013, 28 States ratified the Convention. Only 7 more ratifications are to be obtained by the end of 2013 to achieve the objective of the ratification strategy, which is to obtain 35 to 40 additional ratifications over this period. The number of Parties and non-Parties according to UNESCO Electoral Group and the number of ratification per year from the entry into force of the Convention in 2005 to date are presented in the graphs below:

Number of Parties vs. non-Parties per UNESCO Electoral Group



11. During the implementation of the ratification strategy from 2010 to 2013, the following twenty-eight (28) States ratified the Convention.

Electoral Group	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Group I	-	-	-	Belgium	1
Group II	Ukraine Czech Republic Azerbaijan	-	-	-	3
Group III	Haiti Trinidad & Tobago Honduras	Costa Rica	-	Colombia Antigua & Barbuda Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) El Salvador	8

Group IV	Republic of Korea	-	Indonesia	-	2
Group V(a)	Lesotho Malawi Equatorial Guinea Democratic Republic of Congo	Gambia United Republic of Tanzania	Angola Central African Republic Rwanda Swaziland	-	10
Group V(b)	-	Palestine	United Arab Emirates	Morocco Iraq	4
TOTAL	11	4	6	7	28

12. While the rapid ratification momentum that the Convention experienced in 2006 (38 ratifications) and 2007 (39 ratifications) has subsided, the rhythm of ratification has resumed its steady pace thanks to the implementation of the ratification strategy and its action plan.

13. Regarding underrepresented regions, Group V(b) has surpassed the 50% threshold with an increased number of ratifications by Arab states (4 new Parties), while Group IV remains underrepresented with only two additional ratifications achieved during the strategy implementation.

Summary of steps taken and actions carried out (2010 - 2013)

14. Pursuant to Decisions 3.IGC 4 and 4.IGC 4, the Secretariat sent letters to all Parties inviting them to communicate to it the results of any relevant information about activities they had undertaken to implement the ratification strategy. Twenty-eight (28) Parties¹ provided their responses during the 2010 consultation while ten (10)² did so for the 2012 consultation.

15. The Secretariat also consulted NGOs via the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, inviting it to forward relevant information on activities undertaken by civil society organizations. Three (3) NGOs³ shared information during the 2010 consultation, and two (2)⁴ during the 2012 consultation. Information documents CE/10/4.IGC/205/INF.4 and CE/12/6.IGC/INF.5 provide a detailed report on activities undertaken by Parties and civil society organizations based on these consultations.

16. The following points summarize concrete actions carried out by Parties, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, as well as UNESCO:

- In general, Parties promoted ratification by highlighting the principles and objectives of the Convention within existing networks, working groups and bilateral and regional coordination mechanisms of which they are part. Ratification of the Convention was also promoted within bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation.
- Ratification was also promoted through intergovernmental organizations. For instance, the European Union (EU) promotes it through its coordination mechanisms to promote policy dialogue, as well as through its international cooperation programmes. Documents resulting from such coordination mechanisms regularly refer to the importance of ratification.

¹ Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the European Union.

² Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Latvia, Mauritius, Mexico, Slovakia and the European Union.

³ International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD); International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA); International Federation of Musicians (FIM).

⁴ The International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) and the Arterial Network.

- The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) specifies ratification of the Convention as a pre-condition for membership.
- The Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie through its inter-parliamentary Conference on the diversity of cultural expressions (2-3 February 2011 in Québec, Canada) adopted the “Québec Declaration on the commitment of parliamentarians of la Francophonie to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”.
- The UNESCO Secretariat pursued ratification by: strategically participating in planned meetings/workshops which involved Parties and non-Parties to the Convention (cost-effective action allowing the Secretariat to avoid spending on travel while ensuring its strong presence, creating synergies between meeting organizers and the Secretariat); and by developing and producing a wide range of awareness-raising and information tools (e.g., awareness-raising videos, info kit, Basic Texts of the Convention, brochure and electronic newsletters on projects supported by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity) and making them available to various stakeholders mainly via the Convention’s trilingual website (English, French, Spanish).
- During 2010 and 2013, the Director-General contributed to the implementation of the ratification strategy by encouraging UNESCO Member States non-Parties to the Convention to ratify, especially in underrepresented regions during her official visits. She also raised the importance of ratification at a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings that she held with government authorities. In her official speeches and editorials, she stressed the importance of UNESCO’s cultural conventions, including and especially the 2005 Convention, for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

Activities in underrepresented regions

Arab states

- In February 2009, the Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) sent a letter to ministers in charge of culture in all Arab countries, urging them to ratify the Convention.
- In the framework of its partnership with UNESCO, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) contributed to the Arabic translation of the Convention’s information kit. Studies on the Convention and its implementation have also been commissioned by ISESCO and distributed to policymakers and other key actors in the field of culture in Arab States.
- For the Arab states, the German National Commission for UNESCO (Convention national contact point) organized an international conference entitled “CONNEXIONS: Cultural life, diversity of cultural expressions, human development – perspectives and actions” in Hammamet, Tunisia (6-8 September 2012). This conference brought together experts from across the Arab states to raise awareness on the Convention thereby empowering civil society in their advocacy work to promote ratification.

Asia and the Pacific

- In the Asia and Pacific region, where ratification lags behind, the Commonwealth Foundation, in cooperation with the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), organized a meeting on the Convention with representatives of cultural organizations from Asia Pacific in Sydney, Australia in July 2010.

- An awareness raising workshop was organized in Jakarta (Indonesia) by the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS) with the assistance of the Bangkok and Jakarta Field Offices, and another in Cambodia by UNESCO's Phnom Penh Office in cooperation with the Convention Secretariat (October 2010).
- UNESCO Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Jakarta Offices cooperated to organize the first Southeast Asian Expert Meeting on the Convention (20-21 October 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia) in which the Secretary of the Convention participated. The Meeting, which brought together 25 experts from nine Southeast Asian states, resulted in the creation of a regional expert network and a regional action plan designed to promote awareness of the Convention and to increase the number of Parties from the region. The UNESCO Bangkok Office is coordinating follow-up activities.
- In Bangladesh, the national authorities organized from 9 to 11 May 2012 a Ministerial Forum on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The first of its kind, the Forum was in part funded by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) and brought together representatives of more than 30 states from the region, which resulted in the adoption of the "Dhaka Declaration," calling on non-Parties in the Asia and the Pacific region to ratify the Convention. Given the strategic importance of the Forum, UNESCO ensured a strong presence through the participation of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary of the Convention as well as UNESCO Bangkok office. The participation of the Director-General was indeed significant and received widespread media coverage.
- For the Pacific region, the UNESCO Apia Office participated in the Pacific Ministers of Culture meeting (4 July 2012 in Honiara, Solomon Islands), as did the General Secretary of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD). This meeting launched a consultation process on the Convention in the Pacific region and resulted in a public pledge by a number of non-Parties to the Convention.
- The Secretariat commissioned in 2011 two research papers one on Southeast Asia and the other on Arab states, with the aim of better understanding the regional contexts and reasons why ratification has so far been lagging behind in these regions. Major findings include: lack of cultural policies and limited financial resources for cultural industries; lack of awareness about the Convention even among key stakeholders (artists, cultural professionals, officials working in the Ministry of Culture); the need to improve information dissemination to reach out to diverse stakeholders; the need to communicate more explicitly about benefits of the ratification; and the need to create and disseminate customized messages according to target audiences. The findings served as the basis of awareness-raising brochures that the Secretariat is currently finalizing with funds made available by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust (Spanish FIT).

Proposed follow-up activities

17. It should be highlighted that the overwhelming majority of stakeholders indicated that sharing information and communicating about concrete measures taken to implement the Convention is the best way to promote ratification and serves as an incentive for other States to ratify. Indeed, the mechanisms of the Convention such as the quadrennial periodic reporting exercise (see document CE/12/6.IGC/INF.5), and the implementation of Article 21 of the Convention (see document CE/12/6.IGC/11) promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention in various international forums help to promote ratification.

18. An increase in the number of ratifications depends on the capacity of Parties, the Secretariat, and other key actors such as civil society organizations to reach out to various stakeholders and deliver key messages about the importance and benefits of ratification. It also requires an evidence-based approach to demonstrate how and why ratification makes a difference for the international community, national governments, civil society and citizens at large. Considering that sharing good practices is one of the most effective means to promote ratification, the Secretariat is seeking extrabudgetary funds to support the development of a comprehensive knowledge management system aiming at systematic and timely information sharing.

19. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 7.IGC 10

The Committee,

1. *Having examined document CE/13/7.IGC/10 and its Annexes;*
2. *Takes note of the outcomes achieved between 2010 and 2013 through the implementation of the ratification strategy and its action plan;*
3. *Requests Parties and civil society to continue their efforts to promote the ratification of the Convention by widely sharing information about good practices and benefits of ratification;*
4. *Further requests the Secretariat to prepare an information document reporting on the outcomes of the implementation of the ratification strategy and follow-up activities and transmit it to the Conference of Parties at its fifth ordinary session (June 2015);*
5. *Further invites the Secretariat to continue sharing information and good practices on the implementation of the Convention as an effective means of promoting ratification.*

ANNEX I
State of ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups*

Group I	
States Parties ¹²	Non-States Parties
Andorra	Israel
Austria	San Marino
Belgium	Turkey
Canada	United States of America
Cyprus	
Denmark	
Finland	
France	
Germany	
Greece	
Iceland	
Ireland	
Italy	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Monaco	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Portugal	
Spain	
Sweden	
Switzerland	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	

Group II	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Albania	Russian Federation
	Uzbekistan
Armenia	
Azerbaijan	
Belarus	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Czech Republic	
Estonia	
Georgia	
Hungary	
Latvia	
Lithuania	
Montenegro	
Poland	
Republic of Moldova	
Romania	
Serbia	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Tajikistan	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Ukraine	

Group III	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Antigua and Barbuda	Bahamas
Argentina	Belize
Barbados	Dominica
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Brazil	Suriname
Chile	
Colombia	
Costa Rica	
Cuba	
Dominican Republic	
Ecuador	
El Salvador	
Grenada	
Guatemala	
Guyana	
Haiti	
Honduras	
Jamaica	
Mexico	
Nicaragua	
Panama	
Paraguay	
Peru	
Saint Lucia	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Uruguay	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	

Group IV	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Afghanistan	Bhutan
Australia	Brunei Darussalam
Bangladesh	Cook Islands
Cambodia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
China	Fiji
India	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Indonesia	Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Kazakhstan
Mongolia	Kiribati
New Zealand	Kyrgyzstan
Republic of Korea	Malaysia
Viet Nam	Maldives
	Marshall Islands
	Micronesia (Federated States of)
	Myanmar
	Nauru
	Nepal
	Niue
	Pakistan
	Palau
	Papua New Guinea
	Philippines
	Samoa
	Singapore
	Solomon Islands
	Sri Lanka
	Thailand
	Timor-Leste
	Tonga
	Turkmenistan
	Tuvalu
	Vanuatu

Group V(a)	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
Angola	Botswana
Benin	Cape Verde
Burkina Faso	Comoros
Burundi	Eritrea
Cameroon	Ghana
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau
Chad	Liberia
Congo	Sao Tome and Principe
Côte d'Ivoire	Sierra Leone
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Somalia
Djibouti	Uganda
Equatorial Guinea	Zambia
Ethiopia	
Gabon	
Gambia	
Guinea	
Kenya	
Lesotho	
Madagascar	
Malawi	
Mali	
Mauritius	
Mozambique	
Namibia	
Niger	
Nigeria	
Rwanda	
Senegal	
Seychelles	
South Africa	
Swaziland	
Togo	
United Republic of Tanzania	
Zimbabwe	

Group V(b)	
States Parties	Non-States Parties
	Egypt
	Algeria
	Iraq
	Bahrain
	Jordan
	Lebanon
	Kuwait
	Libya
	Oman
	Mauritania
	Morocco
	Saudi Arabia
	Palestine
	Yemen
	Qatar
	Sudan
	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisia
	United Arab Emirates

¹ The European Union is a Party to the Convention under Article 27.3 of the Convention.

* The group membership of South Sudan (non-State Party to the 2005 Convention) for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board will be endorsed by the 37th session of the General Conference.

ANNEX II

Relevant documents and decisions/resolutions regarding the ratification strategy

Session	Document (reference)	Download
2 nd extraordinary session of the Committee, March 2009	Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7	http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/diversity/convention/2extigc/Decisions_en_2_ext%20igc.pdf
2 nd ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, June 2009	Resolution 2.CP 7	http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/diversity/pdf/convention_2005/CoP/Resolutions_2CP_en.pdf
3 rd ordinary session of the Committee, December 2009	Working document on the “Strategy for encouraging ratifications of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” (CE/09/3.IGC/211/4)	http://www.unesco.org/culture/fr/diversity/convention/3igc/3IGC_4_strategie_ratification_en.pdf
	Decision 3.IGC 4	http://www.unesco.org/culture/fr/diversity/convention/3igc/final_decisions_3igc_en.pdf
4 th ordinary session of the Committee, December 2010	Working document presenting “Progress of ratifications to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” (CE/10/4.IGC/205/4)	http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/diversity/pdf/convention_2005/IFCD/4IGC_4_Etat_avancement_des_ratifications_en.pdf
	Decision 4.IGC 4	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_4IGC_decisions_en_10_12_10.pdf
3 rd ordinary session of the Conference of Parties, June 2011	Information document presenting “Progress of ratifications of the Convention and implementation of the ratification strategy” (CE/11/3.CP/209/INF.4)	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_3CP_INF4_Strategie_ratification_en.pdf
	Resolutions 3.CP 11	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_3CP_resolutions_en.pdf
6 th ordinary session of the Committee, December 2012	Working document presenting “Progress on the implementation of the strategy of ratification to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2011-2012)” CE/12/6.IGC/10	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_6IGC_10_ratification_strategy_en.pdf
	Decision 6.IGC 10	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_6IGC_decisions_en.pdf
4 th ordinary session of the Conference of Parties	Information document presenting “Progress on the implementation of the strategy of ratification to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2011-2013) CE/13/4.CP/INF.4	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_4CP_INF4_ratification_strategy_EN.pdf
	Resolution 4.CP 13	http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Conv2005_4CP_Resolutions_EN.pdf