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Diversity of Cultural Expressions

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CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

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INFORMATION DOCUMENT

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)

This information document was prepared in compliance with Decision 6.IGC 10. It outlines the progress of the strategy for encouraging ratifications of the Convention since it was launched in 2010 and contains updated information on the specific activities undertaken in this context by the Secretariat, the Parties, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations.

Annex I presents the state of ratifications. Annex II lists the specific activities undertaken by the Parties and civil society as part of the strategy for encouraging ratification.

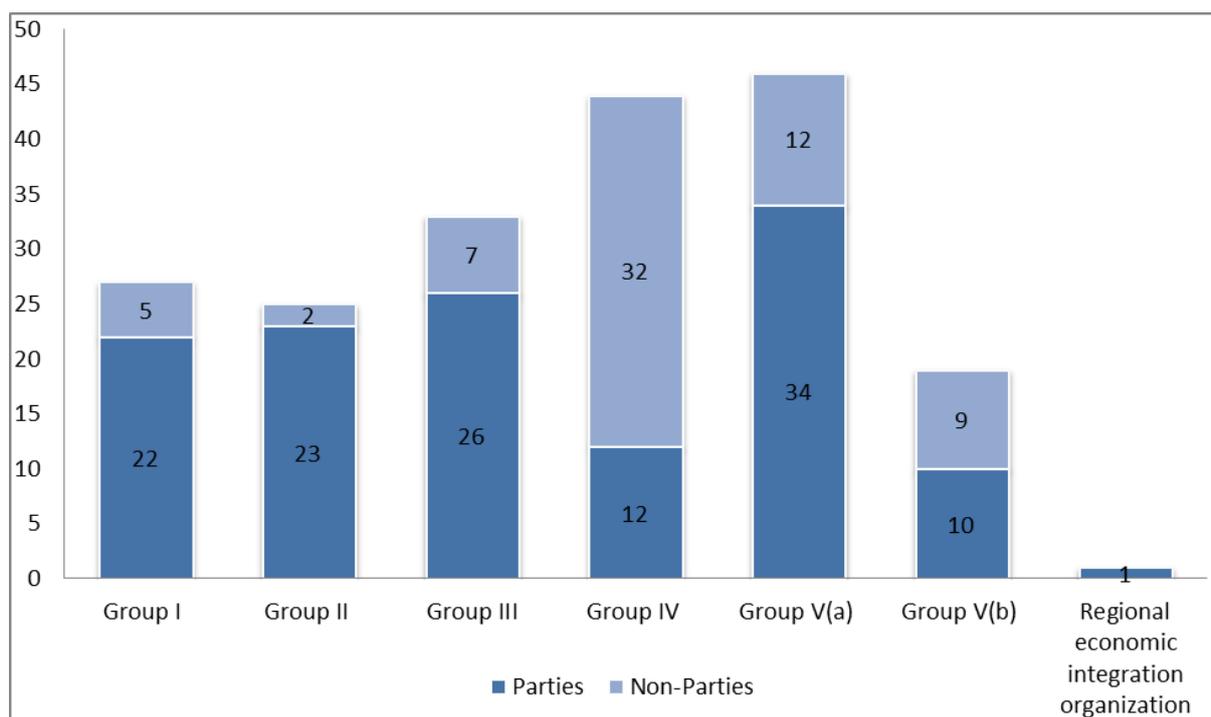
1. At its second extraordinary session (March 2009), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”) requested the Secretariat to submit to it a strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Convention”) (Decision 2.EXT.IGC 7).
2. At its third ordinary session (December 2009), the Committee adopted a ratification strategy and action plan for the period of 2010-2013, indicating actions to be taken by Parties, the Secretariat and civil society (Decision 3.IGC 4). The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its fourth ordinary session a document reporting on the progress of ratifications as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2009-2010 (Decision 3.IGC 4).
3. At its fourth ordinary session (December 2010), the Committee took note of the progress of ratifications in 2009-2010 (CE/10/4.IGC/205/4) and requested the Secretariat to report to it at its sixth ordinary session on the further progress of ratification as well as on steps taken and actions carried out in 2011-2012 (Decision 4.IGC 4).
4. At its third ordinary session (June 2011), the Conference of Parties took note of the information concerning the implementation of the ratification strategy (CE/11/3.CP/209/INF.4) and invited the Committee to continue its work on it (Resolution 3.CP 11). During the general debate of this session, a number of Parties raised the importance of ratification of the Convention and called for greater concerted efforts, particularly in under-represented regions.
5. At its sixth ordinary session (December 2012), the Committee took note of the progress of ratification made in 2011-2012 (CE/12/6.IGC/10). While requesting Parties and civil society to continue their efforts to implement the ratification strategy during 2013, the Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare an information document on this matter and transmit it to the Conference of Parties at its fourth ordinary session in June 2013 (Decision 6.IGC 10).
6. The present document provides updated information about the state of ratification; key elements of the action plan (2010-2013) for the strategy for encouraging ratification of the Convention; steps taken and actions carried out between 2011 and April 2013; as well as next steps. Annex I presents the state of ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups, and Annex II summarizes contributions from the Parties and civil society organizations about specific activities that they undertook in implementing the ratification strategy.

State of ratification

7. As of 27 April 2013, 127 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention. The cumulative number of ratifications since the start of the implementation of the ratification strategy in 2010 is 23 (eleven additional ratifications in 2010, four in 2011, six in 2012, and two so far in 2013).
8. In order to achieve the goal set by the action plan of the strategy, i.e., at least 35 new ratifications between 2010 and 2013, an additional 12 ratifications are necessary by the end of 2013.
9. A graph indicating ratification status according to UNESCO Electoral Groups¹ is presented below. A detailed breakdown is presented in Annex I.

¹ The group membership of South Sudan (a Member State of UNESCO since the end of 2011) for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board will be endorsed by the next 37th session of the General Conference.

Ratification status by Electoral Groups of UNESCO² as of 27 April 2013



Key elements of the action plan (2010-2013)

10. Among the objectives of the ratification strategy (2010-2013) and its action plan are the improvement of geographical balance of Parties by addressing the issue of under-represented regions and sub-regions and raising the visibility of the Convention through its promotion in international and other forum.

11. The strategy calls Parties to define at the national, regional and subregional 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 are invited to use international fora to promote the benefits of ratifying the Convention.

12. UNESCO is 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 under-represented regions and subregions.

13. In collaboration with Field Offices, the Secretariat is 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.

14. Civil society is invited to play a key role in promoting ratification, particularly in under-represented regions and subregions, by disseminating information about the Convention and through networking activities and events, as well as by organizing information and awareness-raising workshops.

² The classification of countries by electoral groups is based on the UNESCO document *Grouping of Member States for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board*.

Steps taken and actions carried out (2011 – April 2013)

15. Pursuant to Decision 4.IGC 4, the Secretariat sent a letter on 19 July 2012 to all Parties inviting them to communicate to it, by 14 September 2012, the results of any relevant information about activities undertaken as part of the strategy to encourage ratification. The Secretariat sent an e-mail reminder on 7 September 2012. Annex II provides a summary of specific activities undertaken by Parties during the period between 2010 and 2012.

16. The rate of response by Parties to the Secretariat's invitation was low; only eight responses were received on time, while two more replies were submitted after the deadline³. One of the reasons for such a low response rate may be that 94 Parties were due to submit their quadrennial periodic report by 30 April 2012. As expressed by some Parties, they encountered financial and human resource constraints to undertake both initiatives.

17. In their responses, Parties indicated that communicating about concrete measures taken to implement the Convention is the best way to promote it and serves as an incentive for other States to ratify. Indeed, a wide range of data provided by the quadrennial periodic reports demonstrates the importance of sharing information and good practice towards promoting the benefits of the Convention among non-Parties to the Convention (see Annex II).

18. Similarly, promoting ratification is closely linked to the implementation of Article 21 of the Convention, as actions of Parties to promote the objectives and principles of the Convention in various international fora directly and indirectly contribute to raising awareness about the Convention and its promotion among non-Parties.

19. An analysis of responses and data from the quadrennial periodic reports and from the consultation on Article 21 demonstrates that Parties promote 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 is also promoted within bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation.

20. The European Union (EU) promotes ratification through its coordination mechanisms, policy dialogue, existing and newly created instruments, as well as international cooperation programmes. Documents resulting from such coordination mechanisms regularly refer to the importance of ratification. Moreover, many EU cooperation programmes and policies include ratification of the Convention as a condition for participation.

21. Ratification was promoted by some intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), notably the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), which made ratifying the Convention a prerequisite to becoming a member or observer. In addition, 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 the parliamentarians of La Francophonie to implement the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions," calling upon parliamentarians to initiate and support ratification of the Convention.

22. On 3 August 2012, the Secretariat also sent a letter to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, inviting it to forward relevant information on activities undertaken by civil society organizations. While the Liaison Committee was unable to coordinate inputs by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) due to lack of resources, the Secretariat received replies from two international civil society organizations⁴. Actions by civil society

³ Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Latvia, Mauritius, Mexico, Slovakia and the European Union (EU).

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

organizations demonstrate their continuing engagement as a bridge between governmental authorities, artists, cultural professionals and citizens. As a key stakeholder of the Convention, civil society organizations participated in a number of activities, systematically highlighting the importance of ratification. Annex II provides a summary of specific activities taken by them.

23. The Secretariat, including Field Offices, implemented the ratification strategy mainly in the two ways. One was through strategically participating in planned meetings which involved Parties and non-Parties to the Convention. This proved to be highly cost-effective, allowing the Secretariat to avoid spending on travel while ensuring its strong presence, creating synergies between meeting organizers and the Secretariat. The other way was by producing awareness-raising and information tools and making them available on the Convention's website.

Priority activities in under-represented regions and subregions

24. Several Parties and civil society organizations undertook activities to raise awareness of the Convention and promote ratification particularly in Asia and Pacific. For example, Bangladesh organized a Ministerial Forum on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions from 9 to 11 May 2012. 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". The Declaration calls on states in the Asia and the Pacific region to ratify the Convention, indicating concrete actions to be taken to strengthen regional cultural cooperation in favour of protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. 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 wide-spread media coverage.

25. Between 2011 and April 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 under-represented regions and subregions. During her official visits to UNESCO's Member States, for instance in Myanmar (April 2012), in Bangladesh (May 2012), in the Russian Federation (June 2012), in Thailand (September 2012), and in Japan and Turkey (November 2012), she highlighted the importance of culture and creativity and benefits of becoming a Party to the Convention. She also raised the importance of ratification at a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings that she held with numerous authorities, especially during the 36th General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011. 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.

26. In 2011, the Secretariat commissioned 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); need to improve information dissemination to reach out to diverse stakeholders; need to communicate more explicitly about benefits of the ratification; and need to create and disseminate customized messages according to target audiences. The findings serve as the basis of awareness-raising brochures that the Secretariat is currently finalizing.

27. 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 brought together 25 experts from nine Southeast Asian states and 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.

28. 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. 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 UNESCO Apia Office has also participated in national consultation meetings in Fiji to discuss possible ratification of the Convention.

29. For the Arab states, the German National Commission for UNESCO organized an international working conference entitled “CONNEXIONS: Cultural life, diversity of cultural expressions, human development – perspectives and actions” in Hammamet, Tunisia (6-8 September 2012), followed by an international capacity-building workshop for young experts entitled “CONNEXIONS U40: Culture, human development, dialogue: resources, actions, network” in Alexandria, Egypt (7-9 November 2012). These events brought together experts and cultural professionals from across the Arab states to raise awareness of the Convention, share inspiring practice from different countries and continents, and helped empower civil society in their self-organisation as well as in their advocacy work to promote further ratifications.

Awareness-raising activities and information tools

30. In conformity with the decision of the Committee (Decision 4.IGC 4), the Secretariat organized an exchange session entitled “Ratification makes a Difference” on the first day of the third session of the Conference of Parties at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (14 June 2011). Five panellists representing different stakeholders (Parties to the Convention, non-Parties, civil society players) presented their views on the Convention and why they think the ratification is important. The webcast video of the session is available from the Convention website at www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/cultural-diversity/diversity-of-cultural-expressions/meetings/conference-of-parties/sessions/3cp/information-session-ratification-makes-a-difference/.

31. The Secretariat launched in August 2011 a redesigned and restructured trilingual website of the Convention (English, French, Spanish) (www.unesco.org/culture/en/2005convention/) with substantial improvement in navigability and functionality. The Convention website functions as a main platform for information dissemination and exchange. New photos and videos are constantly uploaded to make the website a dynamic communication tool. For instance, a one-minute promotional video spot “protect, foster, recognize, promote, strengthen” was produced by a group of students from the “Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños” (Cuba), in cooperation with UNESCO Havana Office. It is often used by UNESCO field colleagues to present the 2005 Convention to various stakeholders.

32. A first edition of the Basic Texts of the Convention was published in UNESCO’s six official languages in December 2011. Printed versions were distributed to all Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, National Commissions for UNESCO, national points of contact for the Convention, UNESCO Field Offices, as well as to institutions, foundations, universities, experts and individuals working in fields relevant to the Convention. The Convention’s info kit

has further been enriched by the addition of its Arabic version. The info kit is now available in twelve languages, including in six official languages of UNESCO. The electronic versions of the Basic Texts and all language versions of the info kit are available for download at www.unesco.org/culture/en/2005convention/.

33. Finally, with the funds made available by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust (Spanish FIT), the Secretariat is currently finalizing a series of electronic brochures on the following topics, responding to needs for such materials expressed by the Convention's stakeholders:

- What is the 2005 Convention?
- 10 steps to implement the 2005 Convention
- 10 reasons to ratify the 2005 Convention
- 2005 Convention by and for Civil Society
- 2005 Convention: Commitment to Culture and Development

Next Steps

34. Achieving near-universal ratification 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 does make 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 will seek the means to continue developing its knowledge management system so that information gathered through the quadrennial periodic reports and other mechanisms such as the IFCD and the consultation on Article 21 can systematically be made accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

35. Building on the achievements made by the participants of the Hammamet conference (September 2012) and the Alexandria workshop (November 2012) mentioned above, the Secretariat will work in cooperation with Parties, the European Commission and UNESCO Field Offices to organize a two-day subregional meeting on the Convention in 2014. This meeting will gather high-level policy makers from selected Arab states that are both Parties and non-Parties to the Convention. The aim is to engage the participants in a discussion on critical cultural policy issues and challenges they face in the implementation of policies and measures as foreseen in the Convention. In addition, the Secretariat will work together with the German National Commission, which is planning a forum of cultural actors, workshops, and working visits in the Arab states aimed at fostering cultural governance and knowledge exchange.

36. Pursuant to Decision 6.IGC 10, the Secretariat will submit to the Committee at its seventh ordinary session in December 2013 a document reporting on the outcomes achieved between 2010 and 2013 through implementing the ratification strategy.

ANNEX I State of ratification by UNESCO Electoral Groups

Group I	
States Parties ¹	Non-States Parties
Andorra	Belgium
Austria	Israel
Canada	San Marino
Cyprus	Turkey
Denmark	United States of America
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
Armenia	Uzbekistan
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 ²	Bahamas
Argentina	Belize
Barbados	Dominica
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	El Salvador
Brazil	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Chile	Suriname
Colombia ³	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Costa Rica	
Cuba	
Dominican Republic	
Ecuador	
Grenada	
Guatemala	
Guyana	
Haiti	
Honduras	
Jamaica	
Mexico	
Nicaragua	
Panama	
Paraguay	
Peru	
Saint Lucia	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Uruguay	

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
Jordan	Bahrain
Kuwait	Iraq
Palestine	Lebanon
Oman	Libya
Qatar	Mauritania
Sudan	Morocco
Syrian Arab Republic	Saudi Arabia
Tunisia	Yemen
United Arab Emirates	

N.B.: The group membership of South Sudan (a Member State of UNESCO since the end of 2011) for the purpose of elections to the Executive Board will be endorsed by the next 37th session of the General Conference.

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

² Antigua and Barbuda will become a Party to the Convention as from 24 July 2013.

³ Colombia will become a Party to the Convention as from 19 June 2013.

ANNEX II

Contributions from the Parties and civil society

I. Background

1. Pursuant to Decision 3.IGC 4 and Decision 4.IGC 4 adopted by the Committee at its third and fourth sessions (December 2009 and December 2010 respectively), the Secretariat sent the Parties to the Convention and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee a letter asking for information about the activities they had undertaken to implement the strategy to promote ratification.
2. This annex provides results of the consultations held between 2010 and 2012. The contributions that the Secretariat received by the Parties and civil society organizations are listed in alphabetical order.

II. Summary of information by Parties

3. **Australia** has implemented initiatives in the field of communication, through:
 - the establishment of an English-language website on the Convention (<http://www.arts.gov.au/culturaldiversity>);
 - exchanges with civil society organizations at the international level, in particular with the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) and with intergovernmental organizations, particularly the Commonwealth Foundation.
4. **Austria** promotes ratification within bilateral and regional coordination mechanisms and the multilateral networks to which it belongs.
 - At the regional level:
 - the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP);
 - the SEE Council of Ministers of Culture (South-Eastern Europe);
 - the ASEM Culture Minister Meetings (Asia-Europe Meeting);
 - the European Union, as part of the “European agenda for culture in a globalizing world”;
 - the Council of Europe, under its Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT);
 - the Cotonou Agreement, where development cooperation, for example, includes measures on the promotion of cultural heritage, local cultural industries and access to European markets.
 - At the international level:
 - The International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP), in particular the INCP Ministerial Meetings and the INCP Working Group on Cultural Diversity and Globalization (WGCD&G);
 - The Austrian Commission for UNESCO coordinates the activities of the Austrian Working Group on Cultural Diversity (AGRE Kulturelle Vielfalt) which is a member of the networks of coalitions. Financial support enables members of the Austrian working group to contribute to meetings of the International Network on Cultural Diversity.

5. **Brazil** also promotes the ratification of the Convention through:
- bilateral and multilateral cultural cooperation agreements, including the associated work plans: all international agreements signed by the Brazilian Ministry of Culture contain clauses on respect for the principles and provisions of the Convention, including those concluded with countries which have not yet ratified it;
 - adopting the theme of cultural diversity within Mercosur Cultural (community of South American countries) and placing it on the agenda of every technical meeting of “Mercosur on Cultural Diversity” held thus far.
6. **Canada** has been active in many intervention areas designed to encourage ratification, both through communication initiatives and by including the principles and objectives of the Convention in the relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements and action plans, including:
- a website and a bimonthly newsletter in English, French and Spanish, hosted through the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity of the Ministry of Culture and Communications of the Quebec Government, which are devoted entirely to issues relating to the Convention and are consulted by visitors from more than 100 countries (www.diversite-culturelle.qc.ca);
 - advocacy events, debates and analysis conducted within the framework of bilateral meetings and in various international fora of which Canada is a member (the Commonwealth; the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) – through the Working Group on Cultural Diversity; the Organization of American States – through the Inter-American Committee on Culture, and UNESCO), for example:
 - the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (CIDEDEC 2011), organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie in cooperation with the National Assembly of Quebec (Quebec, 2-3 February 2011), which examined inter alia the implementation process of the Convention and called Parliamentarians to initiate and support ratification of the Convention;
 - a meeting organised in Jakarta (24-25 June 2010) as a side event of a two-day workshop organized by the Hivos Institute together with representatives from the Indonesian Government and Indonesian civil society in order to promote ratification of the Convention to non-States Parties;
 - support for a number of institutions and civil society organizations that play a role in promoting ratification, such as the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), the Canadian Coalition for Cultural Diversity (CCD), the International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP) and the International Network of Lawyers for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (RIJDEC).
7. **Cuba** has undertaken several activities, particularly in the field of communication, including:
- organizing some 20 international events (publishing, cinema, music, digital art, traditional art, ballet, etc.) focusing on safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions in order to encourage countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention;
 - promoting an awareness of the Convention and the call for ratification amongst specialists, senior managers and officials of the Ministry of Culture and its cultural institutions in the various international meetings they have attended:
 - Meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) in Dominica;

- Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean (Ecuador);
 - Second World Conference on Arts Education (South Korea);
 - Executive Committee of the Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia);
 - Meetings of Youth for Latin American and Caribbean Integration “Participation, Culture and Development” (Ecuador);
 - Second Ibero-American Congress on Culture (Colombia);
- support for activities conducted by civil society and the international non-governmental organizations in Cuba that play a role in promoting ratification.
8. The **Czech Republic** undertook advocacy work in various meetings and negotiations in which Czech experts consulted with their partners from other countries – including those which have not yet ratified the Convention – and spoke in favour of ratification and implementation of the Convention.
9. Activities undertaken by **Germany** as part of the ratification strategy include the following:
- In the field of communication:
 - the establishment of a multilingual website (German, English, French);
 - the booklet “Culture and Creative Industries in Germany” in 2007;
 - the publication “Mapping Cultural Diversity – Good practices from around the Globe”, in Bonn in 2010;
 - Through bilateral and regional coordination mechanisms and the multilateral networks to which Germany belongs, such as:
 - The EU as part of the “European agenda for Culture in a globalizing world”;
 - The Council of Europe under its Steering Committee for Culture;
 - During the German EU Council Presidency in 2007, the German UNESCO Commission (DUK) initiated interdisciplinary capacity-building programme for young experts, “U40 – Cultural Diversity 2030”. U40 is an international network that offers young experts under the age of 40 to participate in international debates on the Convention’s implementation. In June 2009, the DUK organized the U40 Forum on the occasion of the Second Conference of Parties to the Convention in which 50 young experts from 34 countries participated.
10. **Latvia** promotes the benefits of the Convention through various working groups within the EU such as Open Method of Coordination Working Groups of the European Commission on: cultural and creative industries; cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; cultural and creative industries’ export and internationalization support strategy; creative partnerships.
11. In collaboration with civil society, **Mauritius** organized awareness-raising activities during the celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May). It also encourages ratification by communicating information on the principles and objectives of the Convention within regional (Indian Ocean Commission, SADC, ACP, and COMESA) and international fora.

12. With a view to encouraging ratification, **Montenegro** hosted the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, which focused mainly on raising awareness and promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention. A working group was set up to focus specifically on strengthening regional cooperation, including through the application of Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention.
13. **Oman** has taken steps at the national and international levels to encourage countries that have not ratified the Convention to do so, particularly the Gulf and Arab States. This has been done during ministerial meetings (General Cultural Assembly of the Gulf Cooperation Council; meetings of culture ministers from the Arab States) and through the cultural committees of international organizations.
14. In addition to some specific communication activities (systematic dissemination of the “10 keys to understanding the Convention” information kit and translation, together with Brazil, of the summary of the Report on “Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue”), **Portugal’s** efforts to promote ratification focused on its consultations with international organizations: at the seventh Meeting of Culture Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), Members adopted a paragraph in favour of ratification of the Convention in the Final Declaration.
15. **Slovakia** promotes the implementation of the 2005 Convention by Parties to the Convention as an incentive for other States to ratify it.
16. **Spain’s** commitment to the implementation of the strategy for encouraging ratifications took the form of:
 - support for the development of communication tools for the promotion of the Convention (including through the development of a global campaign for the visibility of the Convention, and the translation and dissemination of information tools as well as training in cultural policy);
 - references to the principles and objectives of the Convention and the benefits of ratification during regional and international exchanges such as the Ibero-American Congress on Culture (held annually), the bicentenary commemorations of the independence of Latin American republics, and during the Spanish Presidency of the EU;
 - support for a number of projects run by the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity and its contribution to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), which aims to encourage ratification, particularly by developing countries which may wish to apply for financial support from the IFCD.
17. The activities of the **European Union (EU)** concerning the strategy to promote ratification have been based on:
 - Ratification as a requirement for candidates and potential candidate countries for the EU enlargement;
 - Policy dialogue and cooperation within the framework of strategic partnerships;
 - the work done by the EU within the framework of the Euromed Partnership (27 EU Member States and 12 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea) and the Asia-Europe Dialogue (ASEM-Asia-Europe Meeting). In this context, the European Commission supports the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF);
 - European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which covers immediate neighbours by land or sea. Funding opportunities for ENP countries under the special action for third countries of the Culture Programme in 2009 and 2010 included ratification of the Convention as a condition;

- Cooperation with Southern neighbourhood countries. The EU is evoking the Convention in bilateral contacts with countries that are undergoing so-called “Arab Spring”. A joint action with UNESCO is planned for 2014 to raise awareness about the Convention in the Arab states;
- Eastern Partnership. Targeted efforts to promote ratification have resulted in ratification by all partner countries. A regional seminar is planned for 2013 on the implementation of the Convention;
- Support instruments for the cultural and creative sectors;
 - A special action under the Culture Programme 2007-2013 (cooperation projects with third countries) focused on ENP in 2009 and 2010 and was open to partner countries which have concluded Association or Cooperation Agreements with the EU and ratified the Convention;
 - The MEDIA programme is open to European countries (i.e. EFTA, candidate and potential countries), Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Trans-frontier Television, and to other third countries which have concluded Association and Cooperation Agreements with the EU incorporating clauses on the audiovisual sector and sharing a common approach on cultural diversity. Ratification is a condition for full participation of third countries in the MEDIA programme;
 - Creative Europe is the Commission proposal for an EU framework programme dedicated to the culture and creative sectors for 2014-2020. Creative Europe will build on the experience and success of the Culture and MEDIA programmes with a proposed budget of €1.8 billion;
- The “Protocol on Cultural Cooperation” was developed to promote the principles of the Convention and its implementation in the context of bilateral trade negotiations;
- Ad-hoc awareness raising activities including a celebration in Brussels on 8 December 2010 of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, with the participation of relevant Commissioners, representatives of UNESCO, the Ministers of Culture and/or Development of the EU Member States and developing countries, and celebrities from the cultural sector who are from or have close ties with developing countries.

III. Summary of information from civil society organizations

18. **Arterial Network**, an African regional network-based NGO with national chapters in forty countries in Africa, implemented the following activities to promote ratification:
- Organized a conference in Johannesburg to launch the U-40 Africa initiative and to discuss the role of civil society in the promotion and implementation of the 2005 Convention;
 - Used the Convention as a core document in all training for its national chapters (e.g., “Winter School” and “Cultural Leadership Training” for national chapters);
 - Promoted the Convention vis-à-vis governments that have not yet ratified the Convention.
19. The **International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD)** has been active in the area of communication and awareness-raising (through meetings or provision of information materials), especially in under-represented regions such as the Asia and the Pacific region:
- event-based communication activities included the following meetings:

- July 2012 – Participation in the Pacific Ministers of Culture meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands;
 - May 2012 – Participation in the Ministerial Forum in Dhaka, Bangladesh;
 - November 2011 – Participation as observer in the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities organized by the Organization of American States in Washington, USA;
 - July 2010 – Participation in a meeting of representatives from organizations made up of cultural professionals from Singapore, Australia, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Cook Islands;
 - March 2010 – Participation in meetings with cultural organizations in Japan to identify the key cultural organizations for promoting ratification of the Convention and to launch a coalition for cultural diversity;
 - May 2010 – Participation in a “U40 Americas” meeting in Montreal, bringing together a regional network of professionals from different disciplines who are willing to promote ratification of the Convention;
 - regular events held on key dates for the Convention (17 March – the anniversary of its entry into force; 21 May – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development; 20 October – anniversary of the adoption of the Convention);
- among the communication activities relating to the production and dissemination of information materials (brochures, websites, videos), the following should be highlighted:
 - the “Coalitions in Movement” newsletter, prepared by the secretariat of the Coalition for Cultural Diversity (CCD) and the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), which is distributed to over 1,500 addresses worldwide;
 - a video clip on the Convention;
 - The IFCCD sends a congratulations letter to head of states that just ratified the Convention.

20. The **International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA)** has been active in the area of producing and disseminating materials for communication and advocacy, including:

- a report in English, French and Spanish published in July 2010 to help its members and other agencies gain a better understanding of the principles, objectives, benefits and terminology of the Convention;
- a website containing a number of pages relating to the promotion of the Convention.

21. The **International Music Council (IMC)** has developed advocacy initiatives which involve using its membership to relay information in all the countries where it is represented. In this context, the IMC has undertaken a number of activities to inform its members and make them better advocates (dissemination of materials prepared by the UNESCO Secretariat, preparation and dissemination of promotional materials for its members, introducing the theme of ratification in the most recent IMC World Forum, etc.). Most of its members are now able to undertake education and communication initiatives at the national level, including advocacy work with the National Commissions of countries that are likely to ratify the Convention, or by participating in the programmes of national coalitions for cultural diversity.