

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

10th CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

February 14th – June 13th, 2019

1. The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)

On February 14th, 2019, the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) launched its 10th call for funding requests.

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is one of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' key instruments of international cooperation and assistance. Its purpose is to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in developing countries Parties to the Convention, through strengthening the means to create, produce, distribute and have access to diverse cultural goods and services. As a multi-donor fund, the IFCD promotes South-South and North-South cooperation, while contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality.

Since 2010, the IFCD has provided more than US\$ 7 million in funding for 105 projects in over 50 developing countries, covering a wide range of areas, from the development and implementation of cultural policies, to capacity-building for cultural entrepreneurs, mapping of cultural industries and the creation of new cultural industry business models.

2. Eligible projects

The IFCD invests in projects that lead to structural change through:

- the introduction and/or elaboration of policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions, including cultural goods, services and activities,
- the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities of public sector and civil society organizations deemed necessary to support viable local and regional cultural industries and markets in developing countries.

2.1 Type of eligible projects

*The IFCD funds projects submitted by **public authorities and institutions (Parties)**, that through participatory and transparent processes, involve all stakeholders, in particular civil society, and:*

- Develop tools that contribute to decision-making and planning (mappings, sustainable statistical collection and processing systems, sectoral strategies, etc.);
- Create/strengthen public cultural agencies and institutions essential to the development of cultural industries, including developing the expertise of civil servants;
- Establish/strengthen financing and market development mechanisms for cultural goods and services;
- Implement international cooperation agreements and treaties aimed at a more balanced exchange of cultural goods and services;
- Create/strengthen the pedagogical and organizational capacities of educational, vocational and technical training institutes in the cultural industry sectors;
- Promote the development of cultural industries in the digital environment, in accordance with the [Open Road Map for the Implementation of Guidelines to Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Digital Environment](#);
- Strengthen participation in cultural life, including measures to promote access for vulnerable groups (including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples) in the creation, production, distribution and access to diverse cultural expressions;
- Create and implement measures or policies to promote gender equality in the cultural and creative industries.

*The IFCD funds projects submitted by **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**, that:*

- Strengthen capacities of civil society focusing on policy participation, communication and/or networking;
- Contribute to inform policy making, including monitoring and evaluation activities to determine the impact of cultural policies and measures to promote the cultural industries;
- Develop advocacy strategies and activities to raise awareness of the Convention among civil society organizations including those outside the culture sector;
- Strengthen the pedagogical and organizational capacities of educational, vocational and technical training institutes in the cultural industry sectors;
- Create new financing opportunities and promote access to national and international markets for cultural goods and services;
- Promote the development of cultural industries in the digital environment, in accordance with the [Open Road Map for the Implementation of Guidelines to Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Digital Environment](#);
- Strengthen participation in cultural life, including measures to promote access for vulnerable groups (including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples) in the creation, production, distribution and access to diverse cultural expressions;
- Support activities that promote gender equality in the cultural and creative industries.

2.2 Sectors of intervention

Projects may have a transversal (cultural policies or strategies, copyright, etc.) or sectoral focus. Seven specific sectors are eligible for funding:

- audiovisual/cinema
- visual arts
- design
- media arts
- music
- performing arts
- publishing

3. Who can apply

- **Public authorities and institutions from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention).**
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention):** Non-governmental organizations that, according to their national regulations, are non-governmental and non-profit and that meet the definition of civil society¹ mentioned in the Operational Guidelines.
- **International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) registered in countries [Parties to the 2005 Convention](#):** International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), which meet the definition of civil society mentioned in the Operational Guidelines; and which present projects that have an impact in developing countries at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level.

In accordance with the [Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD](#), approved by the Conference of Parties in June 2013, National Commissions and any other organizations participating in the pre-selection or approval of projects submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat are not eligible for IFCD funding.

2. For the purpose of this Convention, *civil society* means non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, professionals in the culture sector and associated sectors, groups that support the work of artists and cultural communities. Criteria identified in the Operational Guidelines on civil society are: civil society have interests and activities in one or more fields covered by the Convention; they have a legal status in compliance with the established rules of the jurisdiction in the country of registration; they are representative of their respective field of activity, or of the respective social or professional groups they represent.

4. Basic requirements

Beneficiary countries	<p>Projects must be implemented and/or benefit eligible countries (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention) only.</p> <p><i>Note for INGOs: applications from INGOs must be implemented in two or more eligible countries and demonstrate that the proposed project has an impact at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level.</i></p>
Implementation period	<p>The project implementation period shall be between 12 and 24 months.</p> <p>The projects should start, at the earliest, in April 2020, following the approval of the project by the Intergovernmental Committee in February 2020.</p>
Amount requested	<p>The maximum amount that can be requested is US\$ 100,000.</p> <p><i>Projects that are approved for funding will receive their allocations in several instalments. Beneficiaries normally receive 50% of the total amount approved in the beginning of the project, another 30% mid-way through the project and the remaining 20% once all activities have been completed and the final reports are submitted.</i></p>
Budget and Expenditure	<p>Expenditures for project-related overhead costs are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total project budget.</p>
Language	<p>The application and its complementary documents must be in English or French.</p>

The following types of projects **ARE NOT** eligible for IFCD funding:

- Projects related to the production of cultural and artistic works and events, exclusively.
- Projects related to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Please refer to the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).
- Projects related to tangible cultural heritage (e.g. World Heritage sites) (Please refer to the World Heritage Fund).
- Projects aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt or paying interest.
- Projects sustaining ongoing activities with recurring costs.
- Projects financing permanent working spaces and/or equipment, exclusively.
- Projects financing physical construction or the restoration of buildings.

- Projects that focus on primary and secondary school environments.
- Projects that focus on cultural tourism.
- Projects that are conceived as scholarships or grants for personal needs.

4. How to apply

Prepare the Application form:

- Download and review the Call for Funding;
- Download and review the [Annotated Guide](#);
- Download, save and complete the [Project Framework](#) (for Microsoft Excel (2011 or later versions) or similar applications);
- Gather digital copies of all [Complementary Documents](#) that are required for your application.

Complete the Application Form:

All the project proposals must be submitted through the online Application Form.

- **Create** your account at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/applicant/register>;
- **Log in** at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/user> and complete the online Application Form. During this process, you can save your application and come back later, using your login and password;
- **Upload** the Project Framework and Complementary Documents in the dedicated fields
- Before finalizing your application, ensure that all fields have been completed and accept the Terms and Conditions
- Date, sign and click on the **'SUBMIT'** button to finalize your application.

5. Submission deadline

All applications must be submitted by **June 13th, 2019 (midnight, Paris time) at the latest.** Applications submitted after this date will not be considered for the evaluation.

6. Selection Procedure

Step 1:

- National Commissions will form a pre-selection panel made up of representatives from Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural industries, and members of civil society organizations specializing in the field of culture to undertake a first review ensuring that applications are relevant, meet the country's needs and priorities, are deemed to be feasible, and have been

subject to a consultation among stakeholders. This panel will then perform an online pre-selection of a maximum of four funding requests (two maximum from public authorities/institutions and two maximum from NGOs) by **22nd July 2019, midnight, Paris time.**

- International NGOs (INGOs) are not subject to the pre-selection procedure undertaken by the National Commissions. The applications will be directly considered for technical assessment by the UNESCO Secretariat, which will verify if the applications are complete, fall within the areas of intervention of the IFCD, and are therefore eligible.

Step 2: Upon receiving the pre-selected applications from the National Commissions, the UNESCO Secretariat will perform a technical assessment to ensure that the applications are complete, fall within the areas of intervention of the IFCD, and are therefore eligible.

Step 3: All eligible funding requests will be evaluated by an international panel of experts from UNESCO's five regions. Each application will be reviewed by two members of the Panel of Experts, based on the evaluation criteria established for the IFCD.

The results of the technical assessment and the IFCD Panel of Experts' evaluation will be published in January 2020 on the 'Results' page of the IFCD website.

Step 4: Final recommendations by the Panel of Experts will be communicated to the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention, which will make the final decision on projects to receive funding from the IFCD during its 13th ordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from **11 to 14 February 2020.**

Step 5: The UNESCO Secretariat will inform the beneficiaries of the approved projects. Project implementation will start from **April 2020.**

7. Evaluation Criteria

Applications for funding requests to the IFCD will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria on how the funding request:

- addresses the objectives, priorities and areas of intervention of the 2005 Convention and the IFCD;
- meets the needs and priorities of the country where the project will be implemented, and is feasible and relevant;
- contributes to achieving concrete, measurable, realistic and sustainable results;
- has a potential structural impact leading to the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector;
- promotes South-South and North-South-South cooperation;
- ensures that the project's impact/long-term benefits can be achieved and promotes the sustainability of the project;
- satisfies the principle of financial accountability.

In addition, the Panel of Experts will evaluate the applicants' capacity to implement the work plan and manage the budget, ensuring that:

- overhead costs do not exceed 30% of the total budget;
- requested funds are to be spent principally on project activities;
- resources are not spread too thinly or are used to support sporadic activities.

The skills and competences of key people involved in the implementation of the proposed activities, as well as the involvement of stakeholders in the design and implementation of the project will also be evaluated.

Additional financial assistance, either in the form of self or co-funding, is highly advisable as a means to engage more partners in the process and to contribute to the smooth implementation and sustainability of the project.

8. Support

For more information on the IFCD application process, please contact the Secretariat at the email address: convention2005.ifcd@unesco.org or visit the website <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>.