



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Diversité
des expressions
culturelles

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Diversidad
de las expresiones
culturales

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

Разнообразие форм
культурного
самовыражения

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

تنوع أشكال التعبير
الثقافي

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

文化表现形式
多样性

7 CP

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

Seventh session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
4-7 June 2019

Item 4 of the provisional agenda: Adoption of the summary record of the sixth session of the Conference of Parties

This document contains in Annex the draft summary record of the sixth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions submitted for adoption to the Conference of Parties.

Decision required: paragraph 2

1. The draft summary record of the sixth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is submitted in Annex for adoption by the Conference of Parties.
2. The Conference of Parties may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 7.CP 4

The Conference of Parties,

1. *Having examined Document DCE/19/7.CP/4 and its Annex;*
2. *Adopts the summary record of the sixth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions annexed to the above-mentioned document.*

ANNEX

Draft summary record of the sixth session of the Conference of Parties

Opening Ceremony

1. The sixth ordinary session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (hereinafter “the Convention”) was opened by Ms Mechtild Rössler, Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i., on Tuesday 13 June 2017.
2. It was attended by 104 Parties to the Convention, 10 UNESCO Members not Party to the Convention, 4 intergovernmental organizations, 32 Civil Society Organizations, 4 UNESCO Chairs, and 1 Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.
3. The **Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i.** and **representative of the Director-General of UNESCO**, Ms Mechtild Rössler, welcomed all participants to the session and congratulated the six new Parties to the Convention. She then emphasized the importance of a sustained partnership between Member States and civil society. In this regard, she mentioned that the first ever Civil Society Forum had been held on 12 June 2017 and the first civil society reports would be submitted to the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter “the Committee”). She also underlined that the sixth session of the Conference of Parties would approve Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment and this was a significant achievement.

The representative of the Director-General of UNESCO highlighted three main areas of action of the Secretariat for the 2015-2017 period. The first was the publication of the first Global Report, “[ReShaping Cultural Policies: A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development](#)” (hereinafter the “2015 Global Report”). The second was the implementation of the Secretariat’s capacity-building strategy that was carried out in 12 countries, Party to the Convention, thanks to the support of Sweden, the preparation of training materials on artistic freedom thanks to the support of Denmark, and a research and training program on preferential treatment. The third area she highlighted was the Secretariat’s ability to provide technical assistance, including *ad hoc* support to cultural and creative industries and to the development of cultural policies in certain countries with the support of the Republic of Korea. She also mentioned that the Secretariat hoped to develop a new cooperation program with the support of the European Union (hereinafter “EU”) to continue the important work started by the the UNESCO/EU Expert Facility Project.

Item 1 – Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur of the Conference of Parties ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/1](#))

4. The **Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i.**, Ms Mechtild Rössler, proceeded with the election of the Bureau.
5. The Delegation of **Indonesia**, with the support of the Delegations of **India** and **Italy**, proposed H.E. Mr Asaduzzaman Noor, the honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh to take up the Presidency of this session of the Conference of Parties.
6. The Delegation of **Denmark**, with the support of the Delegation of **Iraq**, nominated Finland as Vice-Chair of Group I. The Delegation of **Ecuador**, with the support of the Delegation of **Brazil**, nominated Paraguay, as Vice-Chair of Group III. The Delegation of **Morocco**, with the support of the Delegation of **Italy**, nominated Iraq as Vice-Chair of Group V (b). The Delegation of

Serbia, with the support of the Delegation of **Croatia**, nominated Slovakia as Vice-Chair of Group II. These nominations were passed by acclamation.

7. The Delegation of **Zimbabwe**, with the support of the Delegation of **Nigeria**, proposed Ms Mélanie Afferi (Côte d'Ivoire) for the position of Rapporteur.
8. The **Chairperson** confirmed the election and declared the Resolution 6.CP 1 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 1 was adopted.

Item 2 – Adoption of the agenda ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/2](#))

9. The **Secretary of the Convention**, Ms Danielle Cliche, read out the list of proposed items for the session and their related working documents. The Secretary of the Convention reminded the Parties wishing to propose amendments to the draft resolutions that they should provide them in writing to the Secretariat as quickly as possible, ideally both in English and French.
10. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 2 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 2 was adopted.

Item 3 – Approval of the list of observers ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/INF.2](#))

11. The **Secretary of the Convention** read out the list of registered Member States of UNESCO not Party to the Convention (Bhutan, Japan, Libya, Myanmar, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, Yemen), as well as registered intergovernmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations, UNESCO Chairs, and Category 2 Centres.
12. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 3 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 3 was adopted.

Item 4 – Adoption of the summary record of the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of Parties ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/4](#))

13. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 4 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 4 was adopted.

Item 5 – General debate

14. The **Chairperson** invited Parties to take the floor for the general debate. All Parties congratulated the Chairperson for his election, as well as the Secretariat for their excellent work and the Committee for their achievements these past two years.
15. The Delegation of **Paraguay** recalled that it had benefitted from the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (hereinafter "IFCD") twice and emphasized the importance of a strong fundraising strategy for the IFCD. Regarding its actions to implement the Convention, it mentioned the National Council of Culture, a platform created by law to include members of civil society in cultural governance and a national awareness-raising campaign on cultural diversity. In 2017, it also organized the first diversity festival, in which 20 cultural groups took

part. Finally, it noted that on a regional level, discussions were taking place in the MERCOSUR cultural diversity committee on a common strategy to implement the Convention.

16. The Delegation of **Morocco** highlighted the adoption of a law on the status of the artist, the creation of a music export bureau, and the development of a national programme to promote diversity in cultural festivals as major steps toward the implementation of the Convention. It also emphasized the involvement of civil society in cultural policy. For example, cultural associations were involved in the drafting a law on Moroccan culture and languages. It also mentioned the existence of public fund to support artistic projects.
17. The representative of **the Government of Quebec** within the delegation of Canada reaffirmed its unwavering support for the Convention and expressed its will to promote international cooperation. He announced that Quebec would support a research programme on the challenges of international cooperation on digital issues. The representative then stressed the importance of including the fundamental principles of the Convention in all other international fora. Finally, the representative presented Quebec's new cultural policy, which was influenced by the Convention. The elaboration of the policy, which would soon be made public, began with a wide public consultation in 2016.

The Ddelegation of **Canada** commended the quality of the Global Report and the organization of the first Civil Society Forum. It announced its candidacy for the Intergovernmental Committee and emphasized its two priorities: challenges posed by digital progress, such as increased cultural homogenization and the importance of international cooperation, notably through the IFCD.

18. The delegation of **India** underscored its commitment to the Convention and announced it was undertaking a national cultural mapping mission was in progress in order to build a consolidated database of information about cultural assets. It celebrated India's diversity, with its 35 states and union territories, 22 official languages, and over 700 dialects, and committed to support and preserve this diversity. Finally, it emphasized the crucial nature of the discussions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter "SDGs"), most notably Goals 4, 16, and 17 on education, justice, and collaboration.
19. The delegation of **Italy** was pleased to announce that it had provided an associate expert to support the Secretariat and that it was a very enriching experience for this young professional. It mentioned a programme launched by the Ministry of Culture to promote the artistic creativity of migrants and the creation of two institutions in 2015 to provide free copyright advice to young artists and to tackle online piracy. Finally, it advocated for the mainstreaming of culture as a tool of economic development on the occasion of the G7 meeting of Ministers of Culture in Florence.
20. The delegation of **Madagascar** thanked UNESCO for its help drafting its first quadrennial periodic report, submitted in 2016, and for the IFCD funds it received on three occasions. It requested capacity-building assistance in order to translate the Convention in its national law, to organize awareness-raising workshops, and to translate the Convention in Malagasy.
21. The Delegation of **Burkina Faso** thanked the Secretariat and the government of Sweden for its support in the elaboration of its second quadrennial periodic report. Significant results were achieved in cultural governance, structuring civil society, including culture in national policies, and promoting human rights. It listed national tools put in place to implement the Convention, such as the national strategy for developing cultural industries, the development programme for cultural enterprises, the development fund for tourism and culture, and its Category 2 Centre for performing arts.
22. The Delegation of **Austria** listed 3 priorities for the Convention: to ensure the Convention remains relevant in the digital environment; to defend the status of the artist and freedom of expression and: to ensure that cultural diversity plays a crucial role in the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development (hereinafter the “2030 Agenda”). The Delegation recalled that reporting is the backbone of the Convention and encouraged all Parties to submit their periodic report.

23. The Delegation of **South Africa** reported that it would organize training sessions for key stakeholders among civil society, so that they could better implement the Convention and get involved in the reporting process. It mentioned that it was revising its white paper on arts, culture, and heritage, which will include references to the 2005 Convention. It explained that it launched its national cultural observatory, focusing research efforts and resources towards enhancing the development of the creative and cultural industries.
24. The Delegation of **Germany** praised the inspirational role of the Convention in strengthening innovative policies for cultural diversity and participatory governance. It noted that the reporting exercise provided impetus for political action, notably regarding gender equality and artistic mobility. It reported that culture had an increased weight in the national implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda. It explained that the EU was revising its audiovisual media services directive in order to better adapt to the digital world, which is in line with the Operational Guidelines to be approved at this Conference of Parties. The Delegation stated that inequalities were the main challenges to the SDGs. Finally, it commended the cooperation between Parties enabled by the Secretariat.
25. The Delegation of **Mali** reported that it had adopted a law on the status of the artist, which includes intellectual property rights protection to foster the development of creative industries. It announced the creation of a national commission for protecting and promoting cultural diversity. Finally, it encouraged awareness-raising and capacity-building activities in order to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.
26. The Delegation of **Finland** referred to the Convention as a *magna carta*, as it is a fundamental guarantee of rights and has a structuring impact at the level of international law, national policies, and on the ground. It stated that the indicator framework on culture and democracy, developed by the Council of Europe, shows strong correlation between culture and democracy. Hence, it suggested that the Convention should play an even more crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
27. The Delegation of **Viet Nam** highlighted the link between culture and development, noting that this link compels the state to create a productive environment for the development of cultural industries. After public consultations, the prime minister approved the national strategy for the development of cultural industries, which should account for 3% of GDP in 2020, and 7% in 2030. In the same line, culture has been included in its national action plan to implement the 2030 Agenda.
28. The Delegation of **Croatia** welcomed the proclamation of the international day of Romani language by UNESCO. It mentioned that it set up fiscal measures to protect creativity, such as paying social, health, and retirement benefits for registered freelance artists. It also funded artistic associations and artistic mobility in order to support cultural participation. Finally, it emphasized the necessity of teaching the youth to value cultural diversity as a mean to fight intolerance.
29. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** recalled that it made sacrifices to uphold its mother language and established the International Mother Language Institute as a Category 2 Centre. It underscored the fact that it hosted the first meeting of culture ministers of the Asia Pacific region in 2012, which led to the adoption of the Dhaka Ministerial Declaration on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
30. The Delegation of **Cuba** affirmed its belief that culture is a catalyst for development. It explained that its cultural policies focus on enhancing access to cultural goods and services,

especially for the youth. It expressed its particular interest in the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention in the digital age. It thanked Sweden for its support in drafting its second periodic report. Finally, it reaffirmed the convergences between the Convention and the UNESCO plan for culture in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2026.

31. The Delegation of **Indonesia** highlighted its rich cultural diversity, which consists of 300 ethnic groups and 700 languages. It announced that in April 2017, it had adopted a law on the advancement of cultures that was inspired by the Convention. In 2017, it also hosted a global event in Jakarta for World Press Freedom day, which was officiated by the president of Indonesia. The Delegation recalled that it organized two World Cultural Forum in 2013 and 2016, and announced the next one to be held in 2019. Finally, it noted that two Indonesian cities, Bandung and Pekalongan, had joined the Creative Cities Network.
32. The Delegation of **Sweden** underscored the Convention's close ties to democracy and fundamental freedoms. It emphasized the need to continue to support women creators. It expressed its support for the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention in the digital age and stressed the importance of collaborating with civil society. It encouraged Parties to contribute to the IFCD and to maximize their efforts in implementing the Convention.
33. The Delegation of **France** commended the organization of the Civil Society Forum. It recalled that culture is a strong tool to achieve the SDGs and pledged to continue to support developing countries in this sense. It noted its support for the Operational Guidelines as they strengthen the universality of the Convention in the digital age. It announced an upcoming summit of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (hereinafter "OIF") focusing on culture and development.
34. The Delegation of the **European Union** presented three initiatives contributing to the implementation of the Convention. First, it mentioned the newly adopted strategy for international cultural relations. Second, it listed the seven new political and economic agreements with third countries signed between 2012 and 2016 that reference the Convention. Finally, it highlighted the modernization of the copyright framework for the digital age to ensure fair remuneration and greater transparency in contractual arrangements between creators and online platforms. This initiative is very much in line with the Operational Guidelines, which the EU fully supports.
35. The Delegation of **Egypt** mentioned its multiple festivals and its national center for translation, which has translated 3500 books from 36 languages. It stressed that preserving cultural diversity via freedom of expression and the coexistence of communities is crucial not only to encourage development, but also to tackle fanaticism. It emphasized the role of education in the implementation of the Convention.
36. The Delegation of **Serbia** recalled the reform of its national cultural system to implement the Convention and reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda. It highlighted its incentives for investors to produce audiovisual works as an example of best practice. It noted that its main challenge was implementing the Convention at the local level. Finally, it recalled that it was the host of the first cultural industries forum of Central East Europe and China in 2016.
37. The Delegation of **Nigeria** recalled the actions taken by the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding, a Category 2 Center. It conducted workshops on the Convention for key stakeholders, expanded the scope of cultural mapping in Nigeria, and consolidated its engagement with the local film industry, known as Nollywood. The recognition of the importance of universities in the implementation of the Convention led to a greater engagement of the higher education community. In May 2017, the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, agreed to participate in the Nigerian government's efforts to implement the Convention.

38. The Delegation of **Zimbabwe** highlighted the creation of a national Ministry for Rural Development, the Promotion and the Preservation of National Culture and Heritage, which synergizes Zimbabwe's activities implementing the Convention. It thanked UNESCO, Sweden, and the EU for supporting its capacity-building activities. In addition, it mentioned the four projects in Zimbabwe that have received support from the IFCD. The projects measured the economic contribution of creative industries, provided business training to cultural practitioners, developed a national copyright strategy, and strengthened local cultural policies. These efforts culminated in the adoption of a national cultural policy in December 2016 in partnership with civil society. A new desk was also created within the national statistics agency to collect cultural statistics in order to inform policy design. Furthermore, it highlighted the fact that performing and visual arts were now taught in primary and secondary schools thanks to the adoption of a new curriculum. Finally, it noted that the opening of new airwaves had ensured that artists had the opportunity to broadcast their content, especially in an era of digitalization.
39. The Delegation of **Belarus** recalled that it adopted a Culture Code in 2016, which integrates the Convention's provisions at the national level. It welcomed the Secretariat's actions towards fostering cooperation with civil society and noted that Belarus has 13 professional creative unions that actively contributed to the development of its national cultural policy. A presidential fund for culture supports these unions. Finally, the Delegation expressed its interest in discussing digital issues, as this discussion coincided with a national reflection on that topic.
40. The Delegation of the **Syrian Arab Republic** noted that in 2012, it had adopted a clear legislative framework for the protection of culture and freedom of the press. It underlined that art has helped Syrian society to deal with the human tragedy and terror it faces. The Campaign for Cultural Diversity and the Cultural Expression of the People of Syria has led to the establishment of several cooperation programs with allied nations to combat terrorism. The Syrian Arab Republic protects its national language, Arabic, as well as regional languages, including Aramaic, Kurdish, and Armenian. This dynamic development process led to the adoption of a new cultural policy in 2017. Governorates are also working to promote arts in the digital world to protect culture and involve women in order to combat extremism. The Syrian Arab Republic recently celebrated the Ancient Syrian Calendar's New Year, as well as the International Day of Peace. It also issued the Declaration of Cultural Peace with Palmyra and commemorated the genocide of Armenian-Syrians. The Delegation recalled that the embargo imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic prevents its artists from leaving the country unless they give up their Syrian citizenship. Finally, it underlined the difficulty it faced in implementing the Convention while sanctions are in force.
41. The Delegation of **Barbados** highlighted that culture is a platform for social and economic development, business ventures, and trade. In 2015, Barbados passed the Cultural Industries Development Act and established the Cultural Industries Development Authority, which supports the business ventures of cultural practitioners. In addition, it proposed the inclusion of the Convention in several of its international cooperation agreements. In 2017, it hosted the Caribbean Festival of Arts, which included a workshop on cultural policy and copyright. Other initiatives have included a program to train cultural practitioners in marketing their businesses, as well as mapping the country's cultural industries and the establishment of a registry of cultural workers. Finally, the Delegation underlined the importance of the Convention for Small Island Developing States.
42. The Delegation of **Colombia** thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Sweden for their support in submitting its first periodic report. It recalled that they have recently adopted a new law on the creative economy and is providing technical assistance support to Southern Cone and Central American countries to collect cultural statistics. In 2016, a joint initiative of 10 South American countries led to the launch of MICSUR, a market for the cultural industries of South America.

43. The Delegation of **Kenya** underscored the fact that it considers the Convention to be an important tool to encourage cultural dialogue, support the value chain of cultural goods, and implement the 2030 Agenda. Since 2014, Kenya has reviewed its national policy on culture in order to align it with the Convention. In partnership with civil society, Kenya, has supported community cultural festivals and signed several bilateral agreements to facilitate the mobility of artists, foster cultural cooperation, and promote creative industries. Kenya foresees that the digital environment will be a means to promote culture as a basic human right, contribute towards peace and tolerance, and ensure the participation of citizens in the governance of culture. For this purpose, it believes that it is essential to tackle specific challenges including inadequate citizen use and access to the digital environment and copyright issues.
44. The Delegation of **Ethiopia** mentioned that it revised its cultural policy in 2015 inline with the Convention and affirmed the vibrant link between culture and development. The Delegation also highlighted that Ethiopia had signed over 17 bilateral cultural cooperation agreements after ratifying the Convention. Some of the challenges it faced include a lack of information on the cultural sector's needs and a lack of coordination among all relevant parties. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat and the government of Sweden for its support in submitting its first periodic report in 2015.
45. The Delegation of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** announced that its Ministry of Culture and Arts, together with UNESCO's Office in Kinshasa, organized a series of seminars focusing on the transformation of cultural associations into cultural and creative industries. It noted that, as a post-conflict country, it placed particular importance on the Convention's fundamental objectives to favour peace and security. The Delegation mentioned that it is currently reviewing its legal corpus on intellectual property in order to protect the rights of creators, especially in the digital environment. In 2009, it also established a special fund for artistic creation, and in 2011, the Fund for Cultural Promotion became a public institution whose mission is to support artistic and literary initiatives. The Delegation underlined that the Convention inspired its new cultural policy, and thanked UNESCO for its technical and financial assistance in this matter.
46. The Delegation of the **People's Republic of China** reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the Convention, having designed a five-year development plan to ensure the growth of the cultural supply and the widening of the cultural sector. The Chinese cultural industries have grown rapidly over the last four years, with an increase in revenue of 2.4 trillion yen. Projects have been implemented within the public services sector, especially to develop cultural infrastructures in rural areas. These initiatives have also led to an increase in exchanges with other countries and to the strengthening of intercultural dialogue.

[Observers]

47. The representative of the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie** (hereinafter the "APF"), Mr Mathieu Traversy, recalled that the APF comprises 83 parliaments and international organizations that aim to promote peace and democracy through laws and policies. APF members have contributed to the development of the Convention and promoted its ratification, which is a requirement to join the APF. Although the implementation of the Convention is the prerogative of the executive branch of governments, parliamentarians also have an essential role to play, notably by incorporating the Convention into national laws. In the advent of the digital age, the APF is committed to reshaping national policies to account for this new challenge. As such, in 2016, the APF organized a seminar on cultural diversity in the digital age with the National Assembly of Quebec. The aim of this seminar was to understand new challenges posed by the digital environment and to mobilize parliamentarians to include this topic in their cultural policies. The first panel focused on the impact of the digital environment on cultural markets, and the second focused on the impact of the Convention on public policies in the digital age.
48. The **Chairperson** thanked the 35 Parties and 1 observer that participated in the General Debate. He also gave special thanks to the Governments of Canada-Quebec and Bangladesh

for their announced contributions to the IFCD. He observed that Parties have been reshaping their policies to align them with the goals of the Convention and that they expressed their appreciation for the technical assistance they received in this regard. He noted several future priorities, such as the Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, freedom of expression, human rights, education, and gender equality. The Parties recognized the Convention as a cornerstone of cultural policies and as a means to foster peace and democracy. In particular, the Convention's monitoring framework has served as an essential tool for reviewing cultural policies. All Parties also recognized the importance of the Convention in implementing the SDGs.

49. The representative of the **International Dance Council** (hereinafter the "IDC") recalled that it is an official partner of UNESCO representing all types of dance across the world. Over the last ten years, it has been conducting a project on dance training, which has led to the creation of an international certification for dance studies that could contribute to the mobility of artists. The IDC wishes to use the emblem of the Convention and to present the project to the Delegations of UNESCO.
50. The **Chairperson** highlighted that the first Civil Society Forum had taken place on the previous day. He invited participants to share a summary of the exchanges.
51. Ms Valeria Marcolin, representative of **Culture et Développement**, and Mr Amitava Bhattacharya, representative of **Contact Base**, spoke on behalf of Civil Society Organizations (hereinafter "CSOs") that attended the Forum. They thanked the Parties and the Secretariat for the creation of the Forum, an essential instrument that enables them to contribute to the work of the Convention's governing bodies. The event provided a unique opportunity for civil society actors to exchange information on their activities, foster cooperation activities, especially in the South, and share their views on the main challenges remaining, both within civil society itself and for the governance of culture in general. The Forum also allowed CSOs to discuss the drafting of their first Civil Society Report, which will have to address the diversity of civil society in terms of regions, activities, priorities, and structures. They also underlined the resources they need to ensure their sustainable participation in the Forum. They identified priority tasks for CSOs, which include preparing their first annual report, contributing to an item on civil society for the next session of the Committee, participating in a meeting with the Bureau prior to this next session, proposing insight for each document of the session, helping to build indicators to better measure civil society involvement, assisting the Secretariat in the dissemination of information, and contributing to the preparation of a biennial Civil Society Forum. CSOs also vowed to ensure that this process could be of use in the preparation of quadrennial periodic reports at the national level.
52. The **Chairperson** closed the General Debate and congratulated the Parties on the fruitful session.

Item 6 – Report of the Committee on its activities and decisions to the Conference of Parties **([Document DCE/17/6.CP/6](#))**

53. The **Chairperson** invited Ms Jana Kňázková, Rapporteur of the tenth session of the Committee, to present the Report of the Committee.
54. The **Rapporteur** noted that the Committee had met for its ninth and tenth sessions and had taken 34 decisions since the fifth session of the Conference of Parties. Firstly, the Committee continued to support the implementation of the global capacity-building strategy. In particular, it asked the Secretariat to elaborate a training module on Articles 16 and 21, noting that the complexity of the Convention sometimes requires further training for government officials. Secondly, the Committee approved 12 new projects for financing by the IFCD, and conducted an in-depth review of the Fund. The Committee noted that more projects could be supported

if voluntary contributions increased. To this effect, it called for an official letter of appeal to be sent annually by the Director General to each Party, quoting the amount of 1 % of their contribution to the Regular Budget of UNESCO. Thirdly, the Committee examined a total of 38 quadrennial periodic reports. Considering that around a hundred reports were expected, the submission rate was low, demonstrating the need for continued capacity-building. At its ninth session, the Committee launched the 2015 Global Report, which tracks progress on the implementation of the Convention, proposes indicators for future monitoring, and analyzes current trends in cultural policies. One of its unique features is its monitoring framework, which includes four overarching goals and eleven areas for monitoring. Fourthly, the Committee continued its work on digital issues, elaborating and examining preliminary draft Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, which are presented to this session of the Conference of Parties under item 11. Fifthly, the Committee continued its work on the involvement of civil society. The tenth session initiated a novel coordination meeting between the Bureau and CSOs, which allowed the latter to participate more actively in the work of the Committee. It also invited CSOs to present a report at its eleventh session in December 2017. Sixthly, the Committee pursued synergies between the Convention and the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist. The monitoring framework, which includes artistic freedom as one of its eleven monitoring areas, should facilitate these synergies. Seventhly, the Committee continued to monitor the implementation of the Recommendations from the Internal Oversight Services (hereinafter “IOS”) and of the External Auditor. It participated in UNESCO’s Working Group on Governance and suggested including an item on governance at this session of the Conference of Parties. Finally, while acknowledging the successful work undertaken thus far, the Committee underlined the importance of raising extrabudgetary resources to integrate new themes in future work plans. These new themes could include, for instance, the 2030 Agenda and the impact of global conflicts and crises on the implementation of the Convention, artistic freedom, and the mobility and artists. The Committee therefore recommended reviewing the Operational Guidelines on sustainable development adopted in 2009.

55. The Delegation of **France** expressed its satisfaction with the Committee’s work and noted that the preparation of the draft Operational Guidelines had enabled productive debates between the Parties. It raised future challenges, such as sustainable development and the impact of global conflicts on artists, and hoped that discussions on these topics would follow in the future.
56. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 6 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 6 was adopted.

Item 7 – Secretariat’s report on its activities 2015-2017 ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/7](#))

57. The **Secretary of the Convention** presented Document 7 and information on the Secretariat’s progress in light of its performance indicators as defined in the 38 C/5 Program and Budget. She explained that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the new monitoring framework for the implementation of the Convention were major developments that shaped the report. She noted that the documents of the previous session had received high scores in the satisfaction survey, and that the Secretariat’s working methods were deemed good practices by UNESCO’s Working Group on Governance. She thanked the Governments of Spain, Italy, and Sweden, as well as the Basque region, for their support in improving the Secretariat’s knowledge management that underline these efforts.

She then presented the four sections of the report, which correspond to the 4 goals of the Convention. The first part concerns Goal 1, which is to support sustainable systems of governance for culture, contributing to Target 16.7 of the SDGs. To this end, the capacity development program has led to the elaboration of a methodological guide on technical assistance and of specialized training materials, as well as to the implementation of capacity

development activities in 34 countries. These activities have inspired policy changes, such as the Pacific Community's Regional Cultural Strategy (2010-2020) and the development of a new cultural policy in Samoa following the Third Pacific Ministers for Culture Meeting. In addition, specific attention was dedicated to the transformation of the cultural sector in the digital age. For instance, the Nordic Culture Ministers adopted a declaration on the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and artistic freedom in the digital age, while the Secretariat organized exhibits showcasing digital arts at UNESCO Headquarters in partnership with the Republic of Korea and the OIF.

Goal 2 of the Convention seeks to achieve a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increase the mobility of artists and cultural professionals, thereby contributing to Targets 8.a and 10.a of the SDGs. In light of the decision to redesign the UNESCO-Aschberg program, the Secretariat organized a meeting of experts to discuss the updated program, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair of Laval University (Québec). The Secretary of the Convention also highlighted that two volumes of the Convention's new Research and Policy Series were launched at this session. She thanked the authors of these studies: Ms Véronique Guèvremont, who studied the impact of trade agreements on the diversity of cultural expressions, and Mr Octavio Kulesz, who focused on digital transformations in Spain and Spanish-speaking Latin America. This study was produced with the support of Spain.

Goal 3 focuses on the integration of culture in sustainable development frameworks. It supports several SDGs and targets, including Targets 4.4 and 8.3. This goal is achieved in part through the IFCD, as the majority of funded projects focus on building competencies and skills among cultural professionals. The Secretariat is also working on the development of new indicators to monitor the integration of culture in national development plans and international assistance programs by governments, as the EU did in its "Strategy for International Relations."

Goal 4, which concerns the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, corresponds to Targets 5.c and 16.10 of the SDGs. With regard to artistic freedom, the Secretariat has contributed to celebrations for World Press Freedom Day in 2016 and 2017 and to produce a leaflet on this topic. It has reached out to international networks, such as Freemuse, ArtsWatchAfrica, Index on Censorship, Arterial Network, PEN International, and Arts-Rights-Justice, most of which also participated in the Convention's first Civil Society Forum. The Secretariat is also preparing a training module on artistic freedom with the support of Denmark. Goal 4 aligns with the articles in the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, whose implementation at the global level is monitored with the help of international artists' associations. In addition, special attention has been dedicated to promoting gender equality, especially in the selection of IFCD projects, the development of pilot activities with UNESCO's Field Office in Dakar, and the organization of events such as the debate on "The Courage to Create: Gender Equality and the Arts," held at the occasion of International Women's Day in 2017. Finally, Goal 4 also relates to the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict. To this end, a project to help re-establish the cultural scene and support new cultural models in Iraq has been designed.

The Secretary of the Convention concluded by highlighting the need to secure extrabudgetary funds to keep moving forward in the implementation of the Convention, especially with regards to the IFCD, capacity-building, and knowledge management activities. Finally, she thanked the donors for their confidence and support.

58. The **Chairperson** thanked the Secretary of the Convention. He underscored the Executive Board's current actions to deal with the financial restrictions of the Organization and to prepare the 39 C/5 Program and Budget. He then asked if Parties had any comments or questions.
59. All Parties commended the very high quality of the Secretariat's work and its report.

60. The Delegation of **France** praised the Secretariat's communication efforts, citing frequent news articles, higher traffic on the website, and new partnerships with press agencies.
61. The Delegation of **Finland** noted an imbalance in the report between the high number of activities organized under Goals 1 and 4, and the lower number of activities organized under Goals 2 and 3, which require legal frameworks that are still in the process of being adopted. The Delegation asserted that it is necessary to assess whether actions taken under Goals 2 and 3 have the desired effects. The Delegation also underlined that many activities were funded through voluntary contributions, which were not allocated through the IFCD's Special Account but rather as funds-in-trust to carry out specific activities. While these two methods are mutually supportive, the Delegation remarked that it was worthwhile to pay attention to this trend.
62. The Delegation of **Mexico** underlined the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially artistic freedom, the status of the artist, and gender equality as particularly important.
63. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** commended the Secretariat for its recognition of country specificities and for its work in assisting Samoa, Djibouti and Mauritius. It highlighted the balance that the Secretariat has successfully maintained between capacity development policy and cultural intervention. It thanked the Governments of Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and the Republic of Korea, as well as the EU, for providing support to various activities.
64. The Delegation of **Sweden** thanked the Secretariat for highlighting the links between the Convention and the 2030 Agenda. It noted that Sweden was pleased to arrange the second meeting of the Global Report's editorial board in Stockholm in March 2017. It also underlined the central role of civil society in promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and raising awareness of the Convention, and thanked the Secretariat for organizing the first Civil Society Forum.
65. The Delegation of **Austria** expressed its worry about the limited resources available to the Secretariat. It underlined that the Secretariat had surpassed the targets set in the 38 C/5, whereas Parties had not reached their goals to provide input, for example in their periodic reports.
66. The Delegation of **Croatia** highlighted that the Ministry of Culture and the Croatian National Commission for UNESCO, together with the UNESCO Office in Venice, cooperated in the implementation of indicators on culture for development, and that Croatia organized an international conference at the end of 2017 to share this experience.
67. The Delegation of **Iraq** thanked the Secretariat for its support of cultural activities in Iraq. It also thanked the Governments of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway for their support.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATORY POLICY MONITORING TO PROMOTE THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

68. The **Secretary of the Convention** explained that the panel would bring together participants of the project "Enhancing fundamental freedoms through the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions," supported by the Government of Sweden. The project has two interrelated components. At the country level, capacity development activities were undertaken in 12 developing countries. At the global level, the first biennial Global Report was published. The purpose of the panel is to discuss how governments and civil society actors can work together towards establishing permanent platforms for participatory and transparent policy dialogue, and generate meaningful information, data, and good practices. The panelists include the principal editor and authors of the Global Report, experts who undertook capacity-

building missions, as well as national partners who participated in the elaboration of periodic reports.

69. **Mr Yudhishtir Raj Isar, Moderator of the Panel and Editor of the 2015 Global Report**, underlined that the Global Report had become an important policy-making tool. He mentioned that the Secretariat and the Committee had elaborated a very useful framework around Articles 9 and 19. He recalled the goals of the Global Report, namely to monitor the impact of the Convention, support evidence-based policy-making, analyse trends, track progress, identify challenges, facilitate information sharing and knowledge production, showcase innovative policies and measures, and provide evidence regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He remarked that the adoption and improvement of a reporting framework for the Convention had been particularly diligent and effective. Mr Isar mentioned four questions addressed by the Global Reports, namely whether the Convention has led to policy change at the country level; whether these policies have been implemented effectively; whether these policies have led to improvements in further policy-making; and whether these policies have created better outcomes in terms of human development. He cited the key findings of the 2015 Global Report on cultural policy-making, which concluded that new cultural policies had been adopted to strengthen the cultural value chain, but that evaluation mechanisms were still lacking. In addition, the Global Report found that civil society involvement was increasing, but that its participation was still relatively weak and that platforms to this end remain fragile. Finally, it found that although evidence-based policy-making must still be improved, the Global Report can serve as an effective tool to favour these processes on the ground. Mr Isar then asked Mr Luis Armando Soto Boutin, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Colombia to UNESCO, what role CSOs played during the policy monitoring process in Colombia.
70. **Mr Luis Armando Soto Boutin, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Colombia to UNESCO** noted that one of Colombia's first challenges was to explain the Convention to various stakeholders, including civil society. Structuring the report and collecting statistics was useful in this sense, as it enabled them to identify and bring the stakeholders together so that they could take ownership of the Convention. He explained that Colombia had worked not only with important institutions such as the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota, but also with stakeholders on a smaller scale, such as independent editors. Finally, Mr Boutin highlighted that important funds had been dedicated to raising awareness of the Convention and that the main media outlets in Colombia often reported on it.
71. **Mr Isar** turned to Mr Seminas Haderas, Founder and Director of Gerar, the Creative Hub, a dynamic platform for cultural expressions and member of the Ethiopian team for periodic reporting.
72. **Mr Seminas Haderas, Founder and Director of Gerar, the Creative Hub**, described the process of periodic reporting as a unique exercise for civil society, since it allows it to realize that it is not only a consumer, but also a producer and stakeholder of cultural expressions. He explained that civil society members sat with governments for the first time to define mechanisms to maximize the impact of the Convention. He noted that he was pleasantly surprised to notice the immediate impact of the Convention in Ethiopia. For instance, filmmakers previously had issues importing equipment, and civil society's work on that matter led to a new filmmaking policy that permits needs-based tax-free imports, to be approved by the Minister shortly. He identified the lack of knowledge and understanding of processes as the main challenge.
73. **Mr Isar** introduced Ms Christine Merkel, from the German Commission, who is also a member of the Expert Facility. She has contributed to both the 2015 and 2017 Global Reports and she conducted capacity-building missions in Tunisia and Morocco. Mr Isar asked her to share her observations regarding the extent to which stakeholders in Tunisia and Morocco applied the messages of the 2015 Global Report. He also asked her how the Report could help improve national cultural policies in the field of media diversity.

74. **Ms Christine Merkel, Head of Division for Culture, Memory of the World, German Commission for UNESCO**, observed that the authors of the Convention were visionaries in connecting media and cultural policies. Both the Global Report and country periodic reports help connect disjointed elements to create ecosystems that nurture this connectivity. Ms Merkel also underlined the importance for the Report to provide key messages. For instance, the main message of the media chapter is that many people in the world still access high-quality content mainly through traditional media. Thus, media actors in all transmission channels are fantastic partners to strengthen the diversity of cultural expressions and support independent creators and give spaces to new voices. Ms Merkel remarked that her experiences with the Tunisian and Moroccan teams were very interesting because the current landscape in these countries is quickly evolving. In 2014, Tunisia adopted a new constitution that underlines fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media and freedom of expression, and in 2017, it created an independent media council. Ms Merkel also cited the example of Morocco's High Authority for the Communication Sector. She observed that the media sector is evolving very quickly and adopting new ways of production, and concluded that the Convention is a fruitful tool to better understand the field and take action.
75. **Mr Isar** introduced Ms Anupama Sekhar, Director of the Culture Department at the Asia-Europe Foundation, who is also a member of the Convention's Expert Facility and who undertook a capacity-building mission in Indonesia. He asked her how the Secretariat could improve its capacity-building efforts and what the main obstacles were to a more robust dialogue in Asia.
76. **Ms Anupama Sekhar, Director of the Culture Department at the Asia-Europe Foundation**, explained that she spent 6 months in Indonesia in 2016 to help in the preparation of the country's first periodic report. She noted that the periodic reporting exercise is, in itself, an experiment in building participatory models between civil society and the government. She observed that the connections created during the preparation of the report were maintained after the report was submitted with the creation of a working group, which constitutes a first step towards building long-term participatory models. Ms Sekhar then remarked that missing data due to the lack of information systems constituted a particular challenge. The reporting process allowed for the preliminary mapping of existing policies and the identification of remaining gaps. The full version of Indonesia's report has been published as a book and disseminated among civil society. She added that the language of the Convention could be difficult to understand, and that the concrete and evidence-based nature of periodic reports was more practical for ministries and civil society. She then mentioned that the Expert Facility is a great mechanism that could be improved through better geographic and gender representation. On the topic of civil society dialogue, she proposed a two-step approach consisting in the creation of safe spaces for civil society to interact with neutral interlocutors, and in the creation of information system mechanisms to allow both governments and civil society to access the information they need. Finally, she cited peer-to-peer networks among professionals and civil society as interesting avenues to foster cooperation.
77. **Mr Isar** opened the floor for questions.
78. The Delegation of **Indonesia** thanked Sweden and Ms Sekhar for their support. It asked how capacity-building programs could best be sustained; whether any good practices existed to enable stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Convention; whether any capacity-building programs existed to conduct regulatory impact assessment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and whether guidelines for international cooperation were needed.
79. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** mentioned that its Ministry of Culture works with civil society on a day-to-day basis and values their input. However, it remarked that it is difficult to create connections between local issues and global dialogues and fill in the gaps in UNESCO's policy monitoring mechanisms. The local UNESCO offices may be in a good position to provide help.

80. **Ms Merkel** identified impact assessments as a key point, as most countries now possess descriptive data but struggle to interpret it. She highlighted that it is the shared responsibility of the Parties to strengthen the resource base and ensure that data is collected frequently enough, especially as digital trade is evolving very quickly.
81. **Mr Soto Boutin** mentioned that in the case of Colombia, the report allowed for relevant sectors to be compared for the first time, which revealed an asymmetry between them in terms of regulation and cohesion. In this context, it noticed that some sectors have a huge potential, but lack the necessary means to fulfil it. Mr Soto Boutin underlined that the involvement of academia and research centres was crucial to keep the report alive. For instance, a number of universities in Colombia contributed to the report with qualitative studies and analyses.
82. **Mr Haderas** raised the idea that creating connections is easier when people are working on joint projects. As an example, he explained that Ethiopia is preparing a project that will allow the government and civil society to collect information on cultural industries, for instance, on the release of new books, music or videos. It is preferable to bring different actors together to deliver a single project, as it facilitates communication and creates a shared sense of responsibility.
83. **Ms Sekhar** cited the examples of the European Compendium and the World CP Database of Cultural Policies as instances where governments and civil society collaborate to create a single information document. She also underscored that some networks already exist and that it is important to build alliances between them.
84. The Delegation of **Sweden** expressed its satisfaction at the success of the capacity-building project it funded. The Delegation asked the panel to discuss the report's contribution to the topics of fundamental freedoms and freedom of expression.
85. **Ms Sekhar** noted that freedom of expression was addressed during the capacity-building mission she conducted in Indonesia. During a public forum, 200 civil society participants were able to begin a conversation with the government on this difficult topic. Ms Sekhar also mentioned that artistic freedom was put on the agenda of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations, which were held in Indonesia in May 2017 for the first time.
86. **Ms Merkel** mentioned that for the first time, a chapter of the 2015 Global Report focused on the monitoring of existing data sources on artistic freedom. She underlined the need to use diverse sources to assess the situation, because the protection of artistic freedom also depends on other United Nations bodies and CSOs that have been working on the topic for an extended period of time, such as PEN International. She mentioned that Germany's Foreign Office supported the initiative of one of its UNESCO Chair on the 2005 Convention to convene a summer academy on arts, rights, and justice in 2017 and 2018, in cooperation with 10 international non-governmental organizations.
87. **Mr Soto Boutin** highlighted that Colombia's report included local and community measures, such as community radios, which contribute to the promotion of freedom of expression.
88. **Mr Haderas** highlighted that the Convention helped to break down assumptions about the respective roles of governments and civil society in the protection of artistic freedom. For example, a government member affirmed that it did not wish to control the contents of Ethiopia's local radio or television, but rather to ensure fertile discussions about the challenges they face.
89. The Delegation of **Zimbabwe** noted its difficulty in obtaining statistics for the preparation of its first periodic report. It asked how other Parties were able to collect data from national stakeholders.

90. The Delegation of **Austria** identified two challenges linked with periodic reporting: reaching out to a diversity of stakeholders and building a sustained relationship with civil society actors.
91. The Delegation of **Italy** noted that a lot of activities took place without full awareness of the Convention. It listed raising awareness of the Convention and tackling the lack of available data as important challenges. It asked whether the experts also worked on disseminating broader information about the Convention's content and values.
92. **Ms Merkel** affirmed the importance of awareness raising and connecting with established professional sectors. She underlined the primary role of the national contact points in this process. She expressed the opinion that the Expert Facility did not hold the primary responsibility for awareness raising, but that it was rather a shared responsibility of the Parties.
93. **Ms Sekhar** offered her perspective as a civil society actor, and stated that the Asia-Europe Foundation aimed to raise awareness of the Convention and share learned lessons by disseminating information within existing networks. She highlighted the need for better connections at the regional level, and reaffirmed the need to build alliances in this regard.

Item 9 – Quadrennial periodic reports: transmission of new reports and the 2015 edition of the Global Report ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/9](#))

94. The **Chairperson** noted that the panel discussion reminded the Parties that the Conference of Parties should serve to set a proactive vision for the future of the Convention.
95. The **Secretary of the Convention** explained that Document 9 provides a summary of actions taken by the Secretariat in 2015-2017 to analyse and enrich the periodic reporting process, as well as an overview of the decisions and debates that took place at the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee. In addition, the 2015 Global Report provides an analytical summary of the reports. She recalled that the Global Report was produced with the support of Government of Sweden.

The Secretary of the Convention noted that several Parties had trouble uploading their reports online and apologized for these issues, assuring that the Secretariat was working on resolving this problem. She underscored the fact that the use of an online submission system is motivated by the objective of creating a comprehensive Knowledge Management System (hereinafter "KMS") that grants easy access to information about cultural policies and best practices.

She noted that in addition to the 12 countries that benefitted from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (hereinafter "SIDA") project, partners on the ground also helped to complete smaller scale missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Togo. She agreed with the panellists that such partnerships should be used as additional opportunities to replicate capacity-building activities in new countries.

The Secretary of the Convention underlined the fact that interventions usually last from 10 to 12 months, as the capacity development strategy was designed to maximize impact and sustainability. As such, the interventions are multifaceted: they can involve assessments, multi-stakeholder consultations, the establishment of national teams, and policy dialogues. The resulting structures are meant to be stepping-stones towards a long-term sustained impact.

Twelve reports were expected by April 2018, in addition to the fourteen reports that were due in 2017 and had not yet been received. She encouraged the Parties that had not yet submitted their reports due in 2015-2016 to submit them as quickly as possible.

She highlighted that the periodic reports contributed to the Global Report and its monitoring framework, which was developed to provide Parties with clear areas of policy intervention for

the implementation of the Convention. She thanked the Governments of Austria and Sweden for supporting editorial meetings. The Secretary of the Convention concluded by re-emphasizing the importance of the periodic reporting exercise. She invited the Parties to discuss their experiences, since the the periodic reporting exercise was still in an experimental phase and could be adjusted according to their feedback. She explained that a proposal to review the Operational Guidelines on Article 9 was included in the draft resolution, and underlined the importance of examining the Annex to the Guidelines to align it fully with the monitoring framework of the Global Report.

96. The **Chairperson** praised the Parties' progress, but noted that improvements could still be made.
97. The Delegation of **Nigeria** explained that although Nigeria had not yet submitted its report due in 2016, it had brought together the major stakeholders involved in data collection in the context of a national workshop held in May 2017. It mentioned important actors, including the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria, which acts as a repository and an active data-gathering platform, and the UNESCO Office in Abuja.
98. The Delegation of **Norway** mentioned the complexity of the reporting requirements and of the online form, and expressed its view that it constitutes an impediment to the submission of the reports. It highlighted the limited resources available to national administrations in the field of culture, especially for periodic reporting, given the time-consuming process of coordinating with various agencies for the preparation of the report. It also highlighted that Parties faced significant reporting requirements for a large number of other international instruments, and that some data may be relevant to several conventions. In this context, it suggested to simplify the structure of the reporting form, in addition to improving the current technical infrastructure.
99. The Delegation of **Indonesia** thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Sweden for their support in the preparation of its report. It underlined that this process had led to greater CSOs involvement, with several now interested in applying for IFCD funding. The Delegation remarked that good periodic reports needed to be supported by strong evidence and data, which revealed a need for additional national surveys in the cultural sector in Indonesia. The Delegation announced that Indonesia was planning to establish a national working group on the implementation of the Convention that would involve ministries and CSOs. As an example of good practice, the Delegation cited that it was developing Operational Guidelines to collect data on a yearly basis using a modified reporting template. Accordingly, it encouraged other Parties to pursue capacity-building programs, particularly to assess the impact of the Convention.
100. The Delegation of **Mexico** expressed its support for the revision of the Operational Guidelines on Article 9. It asked for the suspension of Paragraph 20 of the Operational Guidelines so that the reports could be published online prior to each session of the Committee.
101. The Delegation of **France** recalled that it had submitted its report in 2016 and underscored the hard work that it required. It explained that inter-ministerial working groups were created, involving the Ministries of Culture, Foreign Affairs, Economy, and the National Commission. The latter was responsible for ensuring that civil society's perspective was taken into account. It noted that coordinating the drafting process across various agencies was complicated. It asked whether a word document could be provided to facilitate the drafting process. It observed that the obligation to provide short answers forced the Parties to leave out relevant content and measures. It concluded by suggesting that future reports could focus on new developments and be read in a continuum with previous reports. This way, Parties would not have to repeat general information about their legislative frameworks every time.
102. The Delegation of **Germany** observed that the report submission rate had not dropped, as 60% of the Parties had submitted a report, but rather that the submissions were late. It

supported the revision of the Operational Guidelines on Article 9 to adjust the reporting framework and improve the KMS. It also supported the suspension of Paragraph 20 of the Operational Guidelines to allow for the online publication of reports as soon as governments approve them.

103. The Delegation of **Viet Nam** recalled that it was one of the 12 countries that had benefited from the Swedish government funded project. It cited the participation of international experts, the establishment of a clear structure for the report, specific instructions, and participatory methods as major elements that facilitated the preparation of its report. In addition, the participatory policy monitoring methods allowed them to develop better-informed policies, including a policy framework for the development of cultural industries. The multi-stakeholder national team worked together to analyse challenges and sustain momentum for the implementation of the Convention. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism now maintains a two-way platform for dialogue with civil society and artists to discuss current issues in the cultural sector. The Delegation concluded by thanking the Government of Sweden, the Secretariat, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi, and the experts for their support.
104. The Delegation of **Sweden** acknowledged the work associated with the preparation of the reports. It noted that raising awareness and increasing the involvement of civil society were two particular challenges that it faced when elaborating its report, and observed that many Parties shared these challenges. It welcomed the fact that civil society representatives were invited to submit reports detailing their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and their recommendations for further action, as those reports constitute a pragmatic way to contribute to data collection and availability.
105. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 9 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 9 was adopted.

106. The **Secretary of the Convention** acknowledged the comments of the Parties and expressed the Secretariat's intention to work on improving the process for compiling and submitting reports. She also addressed the relationship between the regular program and extrabudgetary resources. She noted that as part of its results-based budgeting exercise, the Secretariat identifies the resources it needs to undertake the activities that the Parties have decided upon, the amount that the regular program and existing extrabudgetary funds can contribute, and the funding gap that remains to be filled in order for the Secretariat to fulfil its responsibilities.

The Secretary of the Convention announced the screening of a film shot in Burkina Faso, which tells the story of the implementation of the Convention at the country level through various projects that benefitted from technical assistance (support through EU funds), IFCD funding, support from the Government of Spain for the development of cultural indicators, and support from SIDA for policy monitoring and evaluation.

[Screening of the film]

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BENEFICIARIES OF THE IFCD

107. The **Chairperson** announced a special panel to hear from beneficiaries of the IFCD. He welcomed three project managers from Haiti, Burkina Faso, and Morocco. The Chairperson also introduced Ms Ouafa Belgacem, Member of the IFCD Panel of Experts, as moderator of the discussion.
108. **Ms Ouafa Belgacem, Moderator of the Panel and Member of the IFCD Panel of Experts**, invited the panellists to present their projects, two of which had been implemented by non-governmental organizations (Haiti and Morocco) and the third by a State Party (Burkina Faso).

109. **Ms Milena Sandler, Vice-President of the Haitian Association of Music Professionals - Ayiti Mizik**, noted that Ayiti Mizik is the only association of cultural professionals in Haiti. In 2015, the IFCD funded a mapping of the Haitian music industry. The exercise contributed to raise awareness of its social and economic value. It also resulted in a report on Haiti's music industry, which detailed its main challenges and its contribution to the economy. Ms Sandler noted that the study demonstrated that Haiti had shown strength and creativity for over 50 years despite the complex political and social context. In particular, the music scene has become increasingly diverse in the past ten years with a wide variety of music genres. Ms Sandler concluded that Haiti's music sector showed many strengths, based on a strong music heritage, a receptive audience, and the dedication its musicians. However, certain weaknesses that limit the sector's development remain, including the lack of professional training and appropriate infrastructures. She noted that challenging economic conditions were major obstacles that could be offset by a strategy focused on Haiti's youth and active diaspora. She highlighted that the interviews, field surveys, and a national round table held in 2017 already showed increased awareness among stakeholders. She also indicated that these actors were starting to create associations and unions to take part in discussions on topics such as copyright. Finally, she mentioned that branches of Ayiti Mizik were being established in various provinces, showing the extensive reach of the project.
110. **Mr Aadel Essaadani, General Coordinator of the Racines Association in Morocco**, observed that the IFCD's funding had had a structuring effect on the association's project named "General States of Culture." Racines decided to create databases to facilitate decision-making processes and the involvement of artists. This initiative resulted in the Artmap.ma website, which comprises 18 artistic disciplines in Morocco. The website offers an overview of the country's cultural development, making geographic proximity and gaps more visible, which could inform the elaboration of future cultural policies. He then explained that the funding provided by the IFCD served to implement the second step of the project, which consisted of a survey on the cultural practices of Moroccan citizens. This field research aimed to assess the current state of these practices by region and by discipline. The results were made publicly available on the Pratiquesculturelles.ma website. Mr Essaadani underlined that these tools allowed civil society to improve their advocacy activities based on strong factual data.
111. **Mr Hamed Patric Lega, Director-General of Sectorial Studies and Statistics for the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Burkina Faso**, described the project "Decentralization and Cultural Policy: A New Model of Governance for Culture in Burkina Faso." He mentioned that the project was implemented from 2013 to 2017 and targeted 13 municipalities, their local officials, cultural operators, artists, and other stakeholders involved in local development. Several ministries and regional associations were involved to achieve the project's ultimate aim of contributing to local cultural development through culturally-minded development programs. Mr Lega explained that the first step consisted in supporting local communities in the elaboration of their development programs and the incorporation of culture in those plans. The second step consisted in strengthening the capacity of each community to implement its own program. This step was especially important because local officials, who sometimes lack the capacity to manage specific cultural projects, were recently made responsible for culture. The project also aimed to establish local teams that can seek advice from a national team. Mr Lega underlined that recent activities also included an awareness-raising campaign that reached out to 1,300 individuals and the training of local stakeholders on the basis of a new training guide.
112. **Ms Belgacem** observed that all three projects aimed to support data-gathering and the elaboration of cultural policies. She underlined that the Fund had been very innovative in supporting these activities. Before 2010, it was very difficult to convince donors to finance mapping, training or advocacy projects. The IFCD's support of such initiatives showed their relevance and led to increased national and international support for their realization. Ms Belgacem then asked the panellists to discuss the challenges they faced, as well as the impact of their projects.

113. **Mr Essaadani** noted that Racines was very preoccupied with assessing the impact of its actions. He highlighted that several other countries had reused and adapted the project's methodology, including Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Rwanda, and Tunisia. He noted that many African countries faced the same challenges because their Ministries for Culture still lacked a division for statistics, and that civil society was working on the ground to produce data and inform decision-making. In addition, he mentioned the creation of the African Cultural Policy Network on 23 July 2017. The network, which already comprises 80 members from 24 countries, strives to encourage cooperation within the global South in favour of strong cultural policies that cover all stages of the cultural value chain.
114. **Ms Sandler** listed three major challenges as the availability of a locally trained cultural economist, a local company that could carry out such a study and an overall lack of expertise in this field. She mentioned that among the initial impacts of the project were an increased awareness among relevant stakeholders, who had rarely been involved in large initiatives such as this one and new network connections between the different stakeholders of the Haitian music industry.
115. **Mr Lega** noted that although his project had not reached its end, it had already generated positive effects. For instance, he cited the increased mobilization of local stakeholders for the implementation of structuring actions in local communities, as well as the involvement of technical partners, financial associates, and traditional leaders. In addition, cultural actors now participate in local municipal councils, and culture is increasingly included in municipal development plans. He then listed two main challenges, namely the lack of resources to extend the project and the difficulty of creating sustainable consultation frameworks.
116. **Ms Belgacem** thanked the speakers and opened the floor for questions.
117. The Delegation of **Germany** expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for organising this session that gives the Parties as donors to the IFCD the possibility to hear about the the tangible impacts of the fund directly from the beneficiaries themselves. It asked how long-term projects are able to be managed with the IFCD's shorter-term funding, and how other funding sources from foundations or generated through bilateral agreements could help ensure the sustainability of the activities.
118. The Delegation of **France** thanked the panellists and commended Mr Essaadani for the excellent overview of Morocco's cultural landscape. It asked whether the project had been shared with cultural diplomatic representations in Morocco, for instance the Institut Français.
119. The Delegation of **Kenya** underlined that cultural management in Kenya had been devolved to the municipal level, much like in Burkina Faso. It explained that this decision had proved to be a challenge, as capacities were still lacking and other priorities took the government's attention. It asked Mr Lega whether the project had led to discussions about cultural management policies at the local level. It also expressed interest in the African Cultural Policy Network.
120. **Mr Essaadani** observed that civil society focused primarily on proximity and impact. He highlighted the fact that the African Cultural Policy Network would help share policy ideas and expertise tailored to the specific needs of African countries. He noted that civil society had already worked with certain local governments in Morocco, Rwanda, and South Africa, for instance. The goal is to share good practices when African countries achieve success in certain cultural sectors, as in the case of Tunisia in theatre, Nigeria in film, or Morocco in visual arts. Regarding France's question, he answered that the initiative was shared with such cultural institutes.
121. **Mr Lega** responded to the Delegation of Kenya's question by confirming that the project had led to the elaboration of local cultural policies: four municipalities involved in the project had

adopted new policies or strategies. Nine other municipalities were very advanced in the process and were fine-tuning their implementation and funding strategy.

122. The representative of the **International Federation of Musicians**, Mr Thomas Dayan, mentioned that his association was also working to create collective groups of musicians. Recognising that this is a very complex process, as musicians often work independently, he asked Ms Sandler which strategies had been used to overcome this challenge.
123. **Ms Sandler** agreed and noted that no other formal professional association existed outside of Ayiti Mizik. As such, the association tried to demonstrate that its work could benefit every musician, even though the benefits may not be immediate. She cited previous activities, such as training sessions or the creation of a resource centre for musicians, as examples to convince musicians that collective action could bring changes that would benefit the entire sector.
124. The Delegation of **Paraguay** mentioned that in Latin America, a debate was taking place on how to quantify the contribution of cultural industries to a country's gross domestic product. It explained that Paraguay was struggling because of lack of data, but estimated that cultural industries account for 30% of its gross domestic product. Preliminary data from Mexico showed that cultural industries accounted for 7.5% of its gross domestic product, but only employed 2% of its workers, indicating that the cultural and creative sectors have an important weight in economic development.
125. The **Secretary of the Convention** asked the panellists how they could work in partnership with the Secretariat to raise funds for the IFCD. Noting that the Fund was under evaluation, she also asked which improvements to the IFCD would be most helpful to them.
126. **Mr Essaadani** underlined that the IFCD favoured the development of effective cultural policies within the framework of the Convention, as civil society provides expertise, information, and research in cases when governments either cannot or will not accomplish this type of work.
127. **Ms Belgacem** underlined the importance of advocacy projects to convince governments to contribute to the Fund. In terms of visibility, she suggested that this topic be included in each project contract. She then thanked the panellists.

Item 10 – Secretariat's report on the IFCD ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/10](#))

128. **The Secretary of the Convention** explained that between 2015 and 2017, the number of funding requests had increased by 53%. Requests to support digital art projects had tripled, and those coming from Africa had doubled. However, the number of National Commissions participating in the pre-selection process had declined by almost 20%, and the number of funding requests that successfully passed the Secretariat's technical evaluation had declined from 55 to 36. Finally, she noted that the Committee had approved six projects at each of its last two sessions, with half of the countries selected being first-time beneficiaries.

In response to these challenges, the Secretariat developed a series of training modules on applying for funding and pre-selecting projects. These modules were tested in 2016, for instance during sub-regional workshops in Barbados, Ecuador, Viet Nam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In addition, a results-based management (hereinafter "RBM") framework was developed for the IFCD in order to respond to the recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (hereinafter "IOS") to increase the effectiveness of the monitoring of the impacts of the IFCD. More work at the country level remains necessary to implement this evaluation mechanism fully.

The Secretary of the Convention then focused on the IFCD's five-year fundraising and communication strategy, which was adopted in 2013. She recalled that the overall goal of the strategy was to ensure that by 2018, the IFCD would receive regular financial support from at least half of the Parties and that six key private sector partnerships would be developed to provide 30% of the Fund's resources. She noted that although 43% of the Parties had made at least one contribution to the Fund, these contributions remained irregular and 82 Parties had never contributed at all. She named the countries that have made a voluntary contribution every year since 2013: Andorra, the People's Republic of China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Mexico, Monaco, Slovenia, and Sweden. She also highlighted the 15 Parties that contributed for the first time during the 2015-2016 period: Belize, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, El Salvador, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Mali, Morocco, Paraguay, Togo, and Viet Nam. She recalled that the overall funding target identified in the strategy was just over 5 million USD, and noted that almost 3 million USD had been raised, which represents 60% of the targeted amount.

Regarding the development of partnerships with the private sector, she informed the Parties that the Secretariat had worked with fundraising professionals to develop a database of 40 potential companies to approach. As an example, she explained that they selected Vivendi because of its global aim to support cultural and creative industries and its explicit statement of commitment to the Convention among its "core strategic issues," in addition to that fact that it is a member of the UN Global Compact. She mentioned that the Secretariat had an exploratory meeting with representatives of Vivendi and would meet with them again. In the meantime, Vivendi agreed to distribute the IFCD's films and to assist the Secretariat in its efforts to raise awareness of the IFCD.

The Secretary of the Convention highlighted that there was strong evidence to support the IFCD's relevance and its impact. She called on all actors to work together to raise funds and help the IFCD achieve its full potential.

129. The **Chairperson** noted that much had been accomplished in this period by the IFCD, and that there was a clear call for all stakeholders to engage in augmenting the Fund's resources.
130. The Delegation of **Canada** congratulated the Secretariat for its efforts in identifying new funding sources and asked about the challenges it faced in sustaining the interest of private partners.
131. The Delegation of **Latvia** explained that it strived to contribute to the Fund on a regular basis, but that convincing decision-makers to make this promise remained a challenge due to the limited visibility of the Fund and the internal financial procedures of each country. The Delegation acknowledged that the voluntary invoice sent out by UNESCO was very helpful in securing funds. It also praised the Secretariat's work on the IFCD brochure to increase the visibility of the Fund and its contributors, and encouraged the Parties to work towards regular contributions.
132. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** noted that culture was the least funded sector in Bangladesh, because the creative economy remained little known. In this sense, it expressed its hope that the IFCD would become even more vibrant to increase the visibility of cultural and creative industries.
133. The Delegation of **France** noted an increasing need for support in preparing funding applications, as a high number of applications did not pass the Secretariat's technical assessment. It underlined that funding remained the IFCD's main challenge, citing the fact that only 12 out of 91 eligible projects had been selected. It also highlighted that every year, it sent out the list of eligible projects that did not receive funding to its network abroad in the hope that partners might support some of them. The Delegation thanked the Secretariat for its efforts to showcase IFCD projects, as a clear demonstration of their benefits could help secure funding for future projects.

134. The Delegation of **Finland** mentioned that the financial instruments available to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda were numerous and well-funded. It cited the example of the Inter-American Development Bank, which is trying to understand how cultural projects can contribute to sustainable economic growth, and encouraged UNESCO to exchange with development banks. The Delegation finally noted that all IFCD activities were eligible for official development assistance, which could secure additional resources.
135. The Delegation of **Mexico** recognized the value of the IFCD and recalled that it had both benefitted and contributed to the Fund, despite the country's financial constraints.
136. The Delegation of the **Czech Republic** announced that it would increase its annual contribution.
137. The **Secretary of the Convention** responded to the Delegation of Canada's question. She noted that the small IFCD team had to accomplish a large amount of work to identify partners and prepare convincing messaging strategies. She mentioned that potential partners had shown a lot of interest in initial conversations, but that following up was an intensive exercise for which the Secretariat needed additional resources. She highlighted that hiring professional fundraisers is a good idea, but if they were not familiar with the cultural sector it can sometimes backfire. She expressed the Secretariat's interest in receiving secondments from the Parties to accomplish this work. The Secretary of the Convention also expressed interest in the Delegation of France's strategy to circulate a list of unfunded projects and encouraged all Parties to do the same, as the projects have already been assessed and given feedback. She also thanked the Delegation of Finland for its suggestion to pursue partnerships with development banks, which the Secretariat would pursue. She recalled that a few years ago, the Secretariat had ensured that the Fund was included in official development assistance, so that the Parties' contributions to the IFCD would be considered as overseas development assistance by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (hereinafter "OECD"), thereby helping Parties to make contributions on an annual basis.
138. The **Chairperson** noted that the Delegation of Canada had proposed an amendment that read: "encourages Parties to support the IFCD by providing regular voluntary contributions equivalent to at least 1% of their contribution to the Regular Budget of UNESCO, and requests the Secretariat to send the official letter of appeal on an annual basis." The amendment was meant to ensure that the resolution was consistent with the decision taken by the Committee at its ninth session. Seeing no objection, he declared the Resolution 6.CP 10 adopted as amended.

Resolution 6.CP 10 was adopted as amended.

Item 8 – Secretariat's report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's Report "on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes, and entities" ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/8](#))

139. The **Chairperson** explained that the Sub-Group on governance recommended endorsing a more coherent vision and an aligned system of International and Intergovernmental Bodies (hereinafter "IIBs") working closely with Member States and relevant partners. Each of these IIBs should ensure that they support the Organization's objectives, Medium-Term Strategy, and Programme and Budget, while taking into account the specificities of their individual mandate. The Sub-Group also underlined the need to reinforce these IIBs by strengthening transparency and awareness-raising measures. It identified several best practices, including the promotion of diversity and inclusivity, and a limit of two consecutive mandates for membership in all IIBs and their Bureaus. The Chairperson highlighted the Conference of Parties' Rules of Procedure was cited as an example of best practice, especially Rule 16 that

only allows a member of the Committee to be re-elected for a second consecutive term if a “clean slate” situation occurs within an electoral group.

140. The **Secretary of the Convention** recalled the work accomplished in response to the External Auditor’s reports on governance reform, starting in 2013, when the governing bodies participated in a self-assessment exercise. She also recalled that the Executive Board and the General Conference had examined the final report on the audit of the governance in 2015. Following this, the General Conference decided to establish an open-ended working group on the governance, procedures, and working methods of UNESCO’s governing bodies, in addition to inviting all IIBs to include an item on their agenda concerning the follow-up to the recommendations in 2016.

She noted that the Committee had examined the Secretariat’s report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor’s Report at its tenth session in December 2016. She highlighted that the Secretariat had prepared a table on the follow-up to the recommendations, which confirmed that the Convention’s governing bodies had already implemented several of the recommendations, such as the third recommendation that underlines the need to shorten the duration of statutory meetings. The table also showed progress regarding the implementation of Recommendation 14 concerning the evaluation of the governing bodies with, for instance, the distribution of a satisfaction survey on the preparation and organisation of statutory meetings.

The Secretary of the Convention also provided an update on the debates of the Sub-Group on governance during its meetings in 2017. She highlighted that it had been mentioned that despite its youth, the Convention was very mature in terms of governance and featured several good practices. For instance, she explained that the practice of prohibiting Members of the Committee to be immediately eligible for re-election was considered a best practice because it ensured a geographical rotation among regional groups. She mentioned that the Bureau’s meeting with civil society prior to the statutory meetings had also been cited as a good practice.

Finally, the Secretary of the Convention recalled that Member States had acknowledged the innovative working methods of the Convention. She cited as examples the prioritization of work by the Parties every two years; the Report of the Secretariat on its activities; the informal preparation meetings between the Secretariat and the members of the Committee or the Parties; the satisfaction survey; the election of the Bureau one year before each Committee session; the systematic monitoring of governance issues with swift implementation of recommendations from evaluations and audits; the comprehensive presentation of the Parties’ quadrennial periodic reports; the significant involvement of civil society; and the fundraising and communication strategy adopted for the IFCD.

141. The Delegation of **Cuba** expressed its understanding that the General Conference had not definitely approved the entirety of the External Auditor’s recommendations. It asked for clarifications regarding the Secretariat’s follow-up table included in the annex of the report.
142. The **Secretary of the Convention** confirmed that the General Conference had not adopted all of the External Auditor’s recommendations, and explained that the Secretariat had followed up on all the recommendations required by the General Conference.
143. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the Resolution 6.CP 8 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 8 was adopted.

Item 11 – Draft Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/11](#))

144. The **Director-General of UNESCO**, Ms Irina Bokova, opened the session and stressed that the adoption of the Operational Guidelines was a decisive step in the Convention's life. She noted that the digital revolution was a testament to the Convention's strength, which is based on the principle of technological neutrality. She highlighted that the Operational Guidelines would help address the new challenges associated with producing, using, and sharing cultural goods and services in the digital environment, in addition to dealing with issues such as market access, transparency, and fair remuneration for artists. She cited the reform of public policies to support the creation, distribution, and access to cultural expressions in the digital environment, as well as the recognition of the specificity of cultural goods and services in trade agreements as measures that could be taken to this effect. The Director-General of UNESCO underlined that while digital tools provided new opportunities, they also created new obstacles to the diversity of cultural expressions. She stressed that cultural policies should aim to maintain openness in this field. She underscored that the Operational Guidelines would ensure that digital technologies contribute to the Convention's objective to achieve a more inclusive and creative society. She recalled that the Convention was designed to benefit artists and cultural professionals. She expressed her satisfaction with the public session on the transfer of value and fair remuneration for artists in the digital age that took place on 12 June 2017, in collaboration with the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers and in the presence of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Jean-Michel Jarre and Deeyah Khan. She highlighted that the Operational Guidelines would address specific measures that could be taken not only by governments, but also by civil society, including supporting new forms of creativity that respect equitable and fair remuneration for creators, transparency in income distribution, and the protection of intellectual property rights. Finally, she noted that the Operational Guidelines would serve to strengthen the Parties' action by taking a new step towards the modernization of the Convention's tools, and wished them a very fruitful debate.
145. The **Secretary of the Convention** recalled that the Committee had adopted the draft Operational Guidelines on the basis of three elements. Firstly, the Committee took into account the legal framework of the Convention, in particular its principle of technological neutrality. Secondly, it recognized that the draft Operational Guidelines did not go beyond the scope of the Convention, their aim being to provide a transversal reading of the Convention and its existing guidelines with regard to digital issues and related technologies. Thirdly, the Committee noted that the guidelines incorporated recurrent issues such as the arrival of new digital actors and their impact on the distribution of cultural goods and services, on communication infrastructure and digital inequalities, and on the need for new regulatory systems and remuneration models. More importantly, the guidelines also took into account more recent issues raised by the Parties on artistic freedom in the digital age, as well as net neutrality, big data, and algorithms. She concluded by thanking Ms Véronique Guèvremont (Canada) and Mr Octavio Kulesz (Argentina), who worked on the draft text of the guidelines.
146. All Parties thanked the excellent work of the Secretariat and the experts for the draft Operational Guidelines.
147. The Delegation of **Ecuador** highlighted Paragraphs 4 and 9 as particularly important, as they respectively recall that there are differences in the rate at which digital technologies are adopted around the world, and that policies should pay due attention to the special circumstances and needs of various social groups. The Delegation therefore submitted an amendment to add a new paragraph which would read: "Reminding the Parties' sovereign right to formulate, to adopt, and to implement policies and measures for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment taking into account the particularities of each country."

148. The Delegation of **Canada** expressed its full support for the Guidelines. It underlined the cross-cutting impact of digital issues, and their intersection with topics such as freedom of expression, democratic development, access to trusted news sources and responsible journalism, and social integration. It informed the Conference of Parties that Canada was currently undertaking a major review of its cultural policy, entitled “Canadian Content in a Digital World,” which involved 30,000 online submissions from interested citizens. It mentioned that it looked forward to learning from other Parties and sharing its best practices with them.

The **Minister of Culture and Communications of the Government of Quebec, the Honourable Luc Fortin**, expressed his full support for the Guidelines. He explained that the consultations organized in 2016 for the elaboration of a new cultural policy for Quebec, as well as the implementation of Quebec’s Digital Cultural Plan over the past few years, had highlighted a need to strengthen the digital skills and knowledge of artists and cultural industries more generally. He confirmed that the acquisition of digital tools and knowledge by these actors would remain a priority for Quebec.

149. The Delegation of **Mexico** expressed its support for the Guidelines, but wondered about their reach, given that a fundamental principle of the Convention is the universality of the Internet. It noted that web fragmentation is increasing due to remuneration, subscription, and geolocalization models that subordinate free access to content to the payment of quotas. It also underlined that creation and production were costly in developing countries and suggested that they could be granted preferential treatment in the digital environment. In this context, it highlighted the importance of taking into account all groups, including those who live in remote areas.
150. The Delegation of **France** noted that while the digital revolution created new opportunities for innovating, creating, producing, and disseminating artistic works, as well as increasing access to cultural goods and services, it also carried risks regarding cultural concentration or the upheaval of the cultural value chain. It underlined the importance of reaffirming the dual nature of cultural goods and services. It expressed the belief that the exchanges over the past two years had proved that the Convention possessed the necessary tools to respond to digital issues: it must not be rewritten, but rather its principles need to be interpreted operationally to be applicable in the digital environment.
151. The Delegation of **Germany** highlighted the importance of Paragraph 13 of the Guidelines on the establishment of interministerial working groups at the national level and the involvement of all stakeholders to move the Guidelines forward. Exchanges should take place to identify how this objective would be achieved. It concluded by expressing its full support for the Guidelines.
152. The Delegation of **Latvia** highlighted the need for the Convention to stay relevant and expressed its appreciation for the Guidelines in this regard. It noted that press and media freedom was a priority for Latvia within UNESCO, and that it strived to support media diversity through its national policies, including by conducting research and analysis on its current situation. The Delegation expressed its belief that this research could offer valuable input in the monitoring of the national implementation of the Guidelines, and suggested that this topic be the subject of future Committee discussions.
153. The Delegation of **Sweden** mentioned that it found the Guidelines highly relevant, well-balanced, and well-structured. It recalled that it had supported the principle of technological neutrality from the beginning. It underlined the importance of robust copyright legislation as the cornerstone of fair remuneration and reliable business models for creators and cultural industries.
154. The Delegation of **Slovakia** described the Guidelines as concise, comprehensive, and well-structured. It also asked whether guidance would be provided regarding the gathering of

statistical data, as the data that Slovakia currently collects is mostly focused on traditional analog media.

155. The Delegation of **Cuba** mentioned that it attached particular importance to the dual nature of cultural goods and services. As such, it expressed the belief that the Guidelines should feature as fundamental principles the themes of Internet universality, skills development, and technology transfer. It expressed its support for the points raised by the Delegations of Ecuador and Mexico.
156. The Delegation of **India** highlighted that it sought to establish strong networks, institutional support, and technologically advanced systems to promote India's legacy. As such, it underlined the fact that India had launched a cultural mapping initiative. The Delegation also mentioned that India was currently creating a national virtual library, as well as setting up virtual exhibitions and galleries and uploading them to web portals, digitizing the images of 315,000 antiquities in the process. It concluded by noting that a pilot project on the tagging of art objects was currently being extended to all museums in India, and that the National Archives of India were encouraging the digitization of archives.
157. The Delegation of **Nigeria** expressed its satisfaction that its concerns were reflected in the current text of the Guidelines, for which it expressed its support.
158. The Delegation of **Honduras** underlined that the Guidelines would help protect the rights of creators in a digital jungle where big platforms gain important revenue but do not offer fair remuneration to smaller actors. It supported the declarations of Ecuador and Mexico regarding Internet universality and stated that Parties should ensure that all have access to the Internet.
159. The Delegation of **Ecuador** recalled that certain indigenous communities did not wish to be involved in the digital revolution, and that this concern, which is addressed in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, needed to be recognized. It submitted an amendment to add a new paragraph to the Resolution to read: "Reminding the Parties' sovereign right to formulate, to adopt, and to implement policies and measures for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment taking into account the particularities of each country."
160. The Delegation of **Canada** recalled that Article 2.2 of the Convention included a mention of the sovereignty principle. It expressed the opinion that since the Convention was already technologically neutral, the proposed amendment was unnecessary.
161. The Delegations of **Bangladesh, Argentina, Saint Lucia, Venezuela, Palestine, and Cambodia** expressed their support for the proposed amendment.
162. The Delegation of **Sweden** agreed with Canada that the sovereignty principle was already covered in Article 2 of the Convention, and added that it was also mentioned in the draft Operational Guidelines. It noted that the current proposed wording was almost identical to the related paragraph of the Guidelines, except for a phrase regarding the particularities of each country, which did not coincide with the Guidelines. It expressed that it did not support this addition if the proposal was to be approved, and would prefer that the proposed paragraph be removed altogether.
163. The Delegation of **Belgium** agreed that the principle was already included in the Convention, but noted that if it was particularly important to other Parties, it was willing to accept the proposal.
164. The Delegation of **Finland** noted that all agreed on the substance of the proposal, but that the principle of sovereignty was already included in Articles 2, 1(h), and 5.1 of the Convention. It

underlined that it preferred to avoid mentioning principles that already existed and had legal force.

165. The Delegation of **Ecuador** thanked the delegations that supported the proposal and highlighted that they formed a majority of Parties. It noted that the Delegations that spoke up did not oppose to the substance of the proposal. The Delegation underlined that Ecuador found it crucial to include this proposal, as the draft Operational Guidelines did not mention country specificities.
166. The Delegation of **Sweden** took note of the broad support for the proposal and observed that it did not want to go against a consensus. It remarked that the wording of Paragraph 8.4 of the Guidelines was identical to the proposal, but that it did not include the proposal's final phrase of "taking into account the particularities of each country." It asked the Legal Adviser about the legal effect of including this text in the Resolution, but not in the Guidelines.
167. The **Legal Adviser** confirmed that the principle of sovereignty was already included in the draft Operational Guidelines. He noted that it was up to the Parties to decide whether they wished to go further than the wording of Paragraph 8.4 of the Guidelines.
168. The Delegation of **Ecuador** underlined that the phrase under discussion was the most important of the proposal. It explained that it wished to implement the Guidelines in a universal manner, making sure that all social groups have access to digital technologies. It expressed the belief that this was not a legal matter, but a matter of universal principles, and that for this reason it did not make sense to seek advice from the Legal Adviser. It recalled that this topic was discussed at length at the tenth session of the Committee and regretted that it had not already been reflected in the text. It highlighted that the addition could strengthen the Guidelines.
169. The Delegation of **Canada** agreed with Finland, but recognizing the Parties' concerns and as a gesture of good will, it accepted the proposal.
170. The Delegations of **Sweden**, **France** and **Belgium** joined the Delegation of Canada in agreeing to the proposal in a spirit of consensus.
171. The **Chairperson**, seeing no further objection, declared draft Resolution 6.CP 11 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 11 was adopted.

172. The Delegation of the **United States of America** expressed its serious concerns regarding the adoption of Paragraphs 19.4 and 19.5 of the Guidelines. It noted its belief that digital innovation was used as a pretext to seek out prejudice through negotiations outside UNESCO's mandate. The Delegation underscored that this was the reason why the United States of America did not join the Convention. It expressed its regret that the Convention was being used as a shadow trade policy forum. It reaffirmed its belief that the strong protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights provided the incentives needed for innovation, while enabling countries to address current and future challenges in the fields of development, health, and the environment. It rejected the Guidelines' language, which it believed undermined intellectual property rights.

Item 12 – Future activities of the Committee ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/12](#))

173. The **Secretary of the Convention** explained that the document set out proposals for future activities of the Committee for the period of 2017-2019 on the basis of four major elements: performance indicators and targets of the C/5; the monitoring framework of the Convention; the Operational Guidelines of the Convention; and relevant IOS recommendations.

Firstly, she explained that in order to help informed, transparent, and participatory systems of governance for culture, the Committee may support the implementation of the global capacity development strategy. She then suggested that the Committee may continue to prioritize support for monitoring and evaluation activities through the publication of a Global Report and through policy research papers on priority issues. She noted that the Committee may also review the Operational Guidelines for Article 9 on information sharing and transparency in order to align it with the Convention's monitoring mechanisms. She underlined that the Parties could discuss the decision to maintain the publication of the Global Report on a biennial basis, or to follow the quadrennial nature of the periodic reporting cycle, and publish policy research papers annually or biennially on specific policy issues in the meantime. In addition, she noted that the Government of Sweden was supporting the first and second editions of the Global Report, and that the Secretariat could work with Sweden and other Parties to form a donor compact of partners that would support the next editions of the Global Report.

Secondly, in order to facilitate a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increase the mobility of artists and cultural professionals around the world, she suggested that the Conference of Parties could support programmes to strengthen capacities for the implementation of preferential treatment measures through appropriate institutional and legal frameworks that have a combined trade and cultural dimensions. In that regard, the Conference of Parties could review the Operational Guidelines for Article 16 on preferential treatment for developing countries.

Thirdly, to contribute to programmes that integrate culture as a strategic dimension of sustainable development, the Conference of Parties could continue to implement programmes that facilitate international cooperation for sustainable development and poverty reduction. This would include the continued implementation of the IFCD and its evaluation in 2017, its RBM framework, fundraising, a communication strategy targeting private sector partners, and awareness raising activities. In this context, she noted that the Conference of Parties may also consider a review of the Operational Guidelines on Article 13 regarding the integration of culture in sustainable development to ensure their relevance in the context of the 2030 Agenda. They may also seek to collect information and data that could serve as evidence to contribute to the achievement of relevant SDGs and targets.

Fourthly, to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, she suggested that the Conference of Parties could decide to ask the Committee to continue to promote artistic freedom and gender equality as cornerstones of human rights. This process would include continued synergies between the Convention and the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, as well as with the activities on freedom of expression pursued through partnerships with UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector and Gender Equality Division.

Fifthly and finally, she suggested that the Conference of Parties could decide to ask the Committee to continue to work on establishing strong partnerships with civil society to ensure effective policy-making at the country level. The Secretary of the Convention noted that the participation of civil society and the development of partnerships with the public, private, and non-profit sectors had been continuously on the agenda of the Convention's governing bodies and now figured as a regular item on the agenda of the Committee. She remarked that the Conference of Parties and the Committee had taken a total of 19 decisions on the involvement of civil society in their work. She suggested that during the 2017-2019 cycle, the Committee could continue to build on these achievements and on innovative approaches to the governance of culture at the international level, and that it could also consolidate its decisions and actions in a stakeholder outreach strategy.

The Secretary of the Convention concluded by underlining that due consideration should be given to the financial and human capacity of the Secretariat, and that the engagement of civil

society and other partners was key to meet the growing needs and priorities identified by the Parties.

174. The **Chairperson** encouraged the Parties to be diligent in setting priorities for the future and to work together in ensuring that there are resources available to implement these activities.
175. The Delegation of **Canada** noted that resources were limited and therefore encouraged the Conference of Parties to identify priority areas. It recognized the importance of Operational Guidelines, but emphasized that their strength lay in their implementation and monitoring. It noted that concrete activities would have to be planned to give life to the Operational Guidelines.

The **Minister of Culture and Communications of the Government of Quebec, the Honourable Luc Fortin**, underlined that the Committee should pursue its existing activities on digital issues, on the promotion of the Convention in other international fora, and on the evaluation of the impact of the Convention, while paying special attention to Article 21. He noted that Parties should agree on measures to implement the newly adopted Operational Guidelines. In addition, he mentioned the importance of updating the online database through studies on the implementation of the Convention in trade agreements. He highlighted the need to support capacity development and reiterated the importance of the IFCD in this regard.

176. The Delegation of **Mexico** suggested that the Committee include in its activities the promotion of specific measures and best practices regarding the Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment, taking into account the fact that cultural goods and services were already being produced, distributed, and accessed through digital means.
177. The Delegation of **Germany** expressed its support for the proposed activities, especially with regard to the IFCD. It suggested that future activities be considered with the aim of not overburdening the Committee and in light of the resources available, citing as an example the idea of a more relevant quadrennial Global Report. It expressed the idea that it would rather put more energy into linking the Convention with the 2030 Agenda and its indicator framework, rather than reviewing the Operational Guidelines on Article 13 during this biennium.

The Delegation of **Cambodia**, speaking on the behalf of the Francophone Group, presented the amendment proposals prepared by the working group on cultural diversity. They included taking youth into account, monitoring the impact of Articles 16 and 21, exchanging on the implementation of the newly adopted Guidelines, and reviewing the Operational Guidelines on Article 9 to ensure greater transparency regarding quadrennial periodic reports. It explained that given the limited resources, it would be preferable to continue reflecting on the Operational Guidelines on Article 13 and delay the review of the Operational Guidelines on Article 16. The Delegation also highlighted the fact that its priorities mainly focused on capacity-building and thanked Sweden for its support.

178. The Delegation of **Sweden** supported the call for focused activities and highlighted the promotion of human rights, artistic freedom, and gender equality as areas of priority.
179. The **Chairperson** asked the Secretariat to put the amended draft Resolution 6.CP 12 on the screens. Seeing no objection to paragraphs 1 and 2, he declared them adopted.
180. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** expressed its support for the proposed new paragraph 3, which it deemed relevant, and suggested that “women” be added after “youth.”
181. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared paragraph 3 adopted as amended.
182. The Delegation of **Germany** suggested that paragraph 4 be amended to read “share the results through the publication of a quadrennial or, if feasible, biennial Global Report.”

183. The Delegation of **Denmark** suggested that “subject to extrabudgetary resources” be added to the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 4, “identify priority actions regarding best practices for implementing the Operational Guidelines on the Convention in the digital environment.”
184. The Delegation of **Canada** asked the Delegation of Denmark whether it suggested that extrabudgetary resources should be exclusively associated with activities on digital issues.
185. The Delegation of **Denmark** responded that it did not aim to target activities related to the digital environment, but rather new activities, as financing existing activities was already a challenge.
186. The **Secretary of the Convention** explained that priority actions could take several forms, depending on the resources available. As an example, she recalled that over the past few years, the Parties asked the Secretariat to conduct research on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment. The Government of Spain supported a study on this topic, following which the Parties agreed on the relevance of extending this study to other regions. She mentioned that when the Committee adopts its work plan, it will be asked to identify the most urgent priorities.
187. The Delegation of **Sweden** expressed its support for the proposed amendment.
188. The Delegation of **Canada** expressed that it did not support the amendment as proposed because it was concerned the wording could lead to no actions being taken at all to implement the newly adopted Guidelines, even actions that would not require extrabudgetary funding.
189. The Delegation of **France** noted that while the implementation of the newly adopted Guidelines would involve seeking good practices, it would not necessarily require large-scale studies. It underlined that it was common practice to acknowledge that extrabudgetary resources are needed for new activities to avoid overburdening the Secretariat, and that a new paragraph in that sense could be included at the end of the resolution.
190. The Delegation of **Germany** noted that paragraph 5 of the draft resolution planned for the Committee to conduct further prioritization of the activities identified based on the resources available from both the Regular Program and extrabudgetary resources, and wondered whether this paragraph already addressed the concerns raised by previous Delegations.
191. The Delegation of **Denmark** explained that paragraph 5 concerned the identification of funding sources for existing activities whereas the proposed amendment concerned new activities.
192. The Delegation of **Canada**, together with the Delegation of Denmark, proposed an alternate wording, which would read “identify priority actions regarding best practices for implementing the Operational Guidelines on the Convention in the digital environment and related new activities, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources,” to ensure that the implementation of the Guidelines can continue, while new activities remain subject to extrabudgetary resources.
193. The Delegation of **Finland** expressed the fear that the proposed amendment could create a chronological priority as regards the implementation of various Operational Guidelines. It raised the idea that the debate may actually concern the Parties’ perception of priorities for the Convention. It expressed that it could be flexible, but also urged the Parties to be mindful of the precedents they might be setting.
194. The **Chairperson** agreed and moved on to examine the following subparagraphs of paragraph 4.

195. The Delegation of **Senegal** stated that it preferred the original version to the newly proposed subparagraphs 7 and 8. It requested explanations of the new text, especially concerning the revision of the Operational Guidelines on Article 9, as the original text had a broader scope. It also supported the original text on the revision of the Operational Guidelines on Articles 13 and 16.
196. The Delegation of **Cambodia**, speaking on behalf of the Francophone Group, explained that the amendments were proposed in light of the adoption of the Operational Guidelines, which would involve additional work, and with the idea that it would be beneficial to hold off extensive revisions of existing guidelines. Regarding the Delegation of Senegal's proposal to go back to the original text, it expressed that the Francophone Group had no objection.
197. The Delegation of **Namibia** agreed with the Delegation of Senegal.
198. The Delegation of **France** answered Senegal's question by recalling that the relatively easy adoption of the Guidelines was made possible because of significant preparatory work that took place in the previous years. In this context, the amendment proposals were meant to encourage further reflection on the topics at hand. Regarding the Operational Guidelines on Article 9 specifically, it explained that the addition regarding the online publication of periodic reports emanated from practical concerns. The Delegation declared that it was not firmly opposed to reviewing Operational Guidelines, but believed more discussions were needed before delving into the revision process.
199. The Delegation of **Germany** asked whether the intention was to delete or maintain the subparagraph on the online publication of periodic reports, as it felt that the discussions showed a clear consensus for this approach. It suggested that in the spirit of flexibility, the subparagraphs on Article 13 and 9 could be linked to establish a pragmatic framework for periodic reporting that takes into account the 2030 Agenda and promotes pertinent activities.
200. The **Secretary of the Convention** suggested to combine the new subparagraph with the original text to read "carry out a review of the Operational Guidelines pertaining to Article 9 on information sharing and transparency, including its Annex on the Framework for Quadrennial Periodic Reports, and to make the quadrennial periodic reports received prior to each session of the Committee available online."
201. The Delegation of **Senegal** expressed its support for the Secretariat's proposal if the subparagraphs on the revision of the Guidelines on Articles 13 and 16 were maintained.
202. The Delegation of **Canada** expressed the belief that a solution had been found for Article 9, and asked the Delegation of Senegal to share its specific concerns regarding the proposal for Article 13.
203. The Delegation of **Senegal** suggested that the Committee could both explore specific actions and review the Operational Guidelines on Article 13 to take into account the 2030 Agenda.
204. The Delegation of **Sweden** agreed with the Delegation of Senegal and expressed its concern that the last part of the proposed subparagraph, which would require Parties to collect more information on the actions being taken at all geographical levels, might entail an unnecessary reporting burden.
205. The **Secretary of the Convention** noted that Article 13 was discussed when preparing the Secretariat's report on its activities, which resulted in a table aligning the monitoring framework and the goals of the Convention with the relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda. She recalled that the table also featured modes of intervention undertaken by the Secretariat to produce evidence to work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She suggested that the subparagraph on exploring specific actions could be amended to indicate the nature of these actions.

206. The Delegation of **Bangladesh** suggested that the beginning of the subparagraph could be reformulated to read “continue the Secretariat’s work to effectively implement Article 13” and thus remove the ambiguity of “explore specific actions”.
207. The Delegation of **Senegal** expressed that it preferred to mention the revision of the Guidelines, as it was still unsure what forms these “specific actions” could take. It expressed the concern that the revision of the Guidelines could shed light on other issues that might need to be reviewed to better fit with the 2030 Agenda, and therefore it did not wish to restrict the scope of the revision.
208. The Delegation of **Ecuador** remarked that a consensus seemed possible, and suggested that the proposal of the Delegation of Senegal be used, with an added recognition of the work that the Secretariat had already undertaken towards the revision of the Operational Guidelines.
209. The Delegation of **Colombia** agreed with the idea raised by the Delegation of Ecuador.
210. The Delegation of **Canada**, wishing to find a consensus, indicated that it did not see a need to review the Operational Guidelines on Article 16 because it wanted to discuss the issue beforehand. It suggested that the subparagraph on Article 16 be modified to copy the wording used in the subparagraph on Article 13, to read “to effectively implement Article 16 and review, if necessary, the Operational Guidelines on Article 16”.
211. The Delegation of **France** reviewed the compromise that had been established, noting that the subparagraph on Article 9 remained untouched. It observed that the end of the subparagraph on Article 13 on reporting obligations was removed and replaced with “including, if necessary, the review of the Operational Guidelines as recommended to the Conference of Parties by the Committee in paragraph 13 of its Report.” Finally, a new subparagraph on Article 16 was added to “further examine the implementation of Article 16 with a view to review, if necessary, the Operational Guidelines.” The Delegation underlined that this compromise allowed the discussions to continue, without excluding the possibility of reviewing the guidelines if needed.
212. The Delegation of **Senegal** expressed its belief that the concerns of all Parties were taken into account.
213. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared draft Resolution 6.CP 12 adopted.

Resolution 6.CP 12 was adopted.

Item 13 – Election of Members of the Committee ([Document DCE/17/6.CP/13](#))

214. The **Secretary of the Convention** recalled the candidates to the Intergovernmental Committee as:: Canada and Finland for two seats to be filled in Group I; Croatia, Latvia, and Serbia for two seats to be filled in Group II, Argentina and Colombia for two seats to be filled in Group III; China and the Republic of Korea for two seats to be filled in Group IV; Kenya and Mali for two seats to be filled in Group V(a); and Egypt, Iraq, and Qatar for two seats to be filled in Group V(b).
215. The **Chairperson** noted that there was a clean slate for all groups except for Groups II and V(b). He asked two individuals coming from different electoral groups to volunteer as tellers.
216. Representatives of the Delegations of **Morocco** and **Zimbabwe** volunteered to be tellers.
217. The **Chairperson** declared the election open. Following a break to count the votes, he announced the results of the election. For Group II, he announced that Croatia had received

57 votes; Latvia 86; and Serbia 56. He declared Croatia and Latvia elected. For Group V(b), he announced that Egypt had received 83 votes; Iraq 64; and Qatar 52. He declared Egypt and Iraq elected.

Seeing no objection, the Chairperson declared the Resolution 6.CP 13 adopted. He congratulated the newly elected State Parties to the Intergovernmental Committee and thanked the outgoing Members.

Resolution 6.CP 13 was adopted as amended.

218. Ms Mélanie Afferi, the **Rapporteur**, provided a summary of the session and resolutions adopted.
219. The **Chairperson**, seeing no objection, declared the resolutions adopted in their totality.
220. A representative highlighted that the first Civil Society Forum, attended by around 50 CSOs and several representatives from Parties, had been very constructive and had allowed CSOs to elaborate a work plan for the preparation of its report to the eleventh session of the Committee. He announced that a coordination group had been created following the Civil Society Forum. This coordination group will collaborate with the Secretariat to contribute to the future development of the Convention.
221. The **Chairperson** thanked all the Delegates and representatives of the Parties. He reminded all participants to respond to the satisfaction survey. The Chairperson also thanked the Rapporteur, the translators, the interpreters, the technicians. He paid tribute to the Director-General and commended the excellent work of the Secretariat, and in particular the Secretary of the Convention that supported him and the entire Conference of Parties to ensure the successful outcomes of this session.
222. The **Secretary of the Convention** thanked the Chairperson for his leadership, as well as the Parties, CSOs, panellists, the Rapporteur, the interpreters, the technicians. She thanked, in particular, members of the Secretariat for their excellent work.
223. The **Director of the Division of Creativity**, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, thanked the Chairperson, the Secretary of the Convention, the Secretariat, the Rapporteur, and the participants.
224. The **Chairperson** declared the sixth session of the Conference of Parties closed.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION