Enhancing fundamental freedoms through the promotion of the Diversity of cultural expressions
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and UNESCO signed a Programme Cooperation Agreement for 2014-2017 that includes a 2.5 million USD project to strengthen national and global capacities for the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

The Sida-funded project aims to support the development of systems of good governance for culture that are based on fundamental freedoms and that foster the diversity of cultural expressions, as stipulated in Article 2.1 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. It does so by raising the level, scope and quality of knowledge available about effective policies and measures that promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

Partner countries:
Between 2015 and 2017, 12 countries will benefit from the capacity-building activities:
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Cuba
- Colombia
- Ethiopia
- Indonesia
- Morocco
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Tunisia
- Viet Nam
- Zimbabwe
While the submission of a periodic report every 4 years is one of the statutory obligations of all Parties to the Convention, not all countries have been in a position to submit their report. Parties, particularly from developing countries, have expressed a number of challenges (e.g., lack of relevant data and information, limited capacity to assess and monitor the impact of policies, fragile networking between governments and civil society).

**CONTEXT**

The activities will strengthen the monitoring and reporting capacities of the beneficiaries. In so doing, governmental and civil society actors will participate in data collection, indicator-building and policy monitoring action.

**PURPOSE**

The activities will strengthen the monitoring and reporting capacities of the beneficiaries. In so doing, governmental and civil society actors will participate in data collection, indicator-building and policy monitoring action.

**BENEFICIARIES**

Governmental and civil society actors engaged in policy-making and monitoring processes for the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (e.g., ministries of culture, education, foreign affairs, social affairs, employment, trade, enterprise development, finance, ICTs, statistical office, association of cultural professionals).

**TIME FRAME**

2015-2017

**MODALITIES**

1. Multi-stakeholder consultation and needs assessment
2. National workshop
3. Elaboration of a periodic report
4. Public presentation and debate on the periodic report

**CAPACITY-BUILDING FACILITATORS**

43 high-level international experts selected to form an Expert Facility of the 2005 Convention. See the Convention website for their biographies.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Activities in the partner countries will be implemented by the following Field offices: UNESCO offices in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dakar (Senegal/Burkina Faso), Hanoi (Viet Nam), Harare (Zimbabwe), Havana (Cuba), Jakarta (Indonesia), Nairobi (Rwanda), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Quito (Colombia) and Rabat (Morocco/Tunisia).

**Expected result 1**

Governmental and civil society actors participate in transparent and informed policy making processes.
PURPOSE
The Report is conceived as a tool to monitor the implementation of the 2005 Convention. It facilitates information sharing and knowledge production on the many ways in which the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions is being pursued across the world.

The Report will serve as a benchmarking and monitoring tool by: analysing current trends; tracking progress and identifying the principal advances made, but also the difficulties, weaknesses and challenges faced by Parties and other relevant policy actors; providing examples of innovative policies and measures and setting in motion the process of building new indicators of progress in this domain.

CONTENTS
The Report will be based on data and information from quadrennial periodic reports submitted by Parties to the Convention and other sources. Report chapters will be written by experts in various domains covered by the Convention.

TARGET AUDIENCE
Decision-makers at the national and international level, arts and culture professionals, the media, civil society groups, academia and the international community.

TIME FRAME
1st edition to be published in December 2015 and 2nd edition in June 2017

Expected result 2
Countries apply evidence-based and informed policy making based on fundamental principles of freedom of expressions, gender equality, sustainability, openness and balance

COMPONENT 2
PRODUCING TWO BIENNIAL GLOBAL MONITORING REPORTS

CONVENTION GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of expression, information and communication
Sovereign right of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies to promote the diversity of cultural expressions and obligation to encourage the active participation of civil society in policy-making and implementation
Equitable access and balance in the flow of cultural goods and services around the world, mobility of artists and cultural professionals
Complementary economic and cultural aspects of sustainable development
International solidarity and cooperation

KEY AREAS TO BE MONITORED
The status of artists including issues on freedom of expression for artists and cultural professionals
Gender equality including policies that recognize and support women as creators, producers, consumers of diverse cultural expressions
Cultural policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions at different stages of creation, production, distribution, dissemination, participation/access to culture, and involving civil society in their design and implementation
Media diversity including the role of public service broadcasting and independent media in promoting the diversity of cultural expressions
The development and impact of digital technologies on the promotion and access to a diversity of cultural expressions
Preferential treatment measures, international consultation and coordination to promote the Convention in other fora
The integration of culture in sustainable development policies including national development plans and international assistance programmes
Programmes and measures to strengthen international cultural cooperation and dialogue among Parties to the Convention
The UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is an international standard-setting instrument providing a framework for the governance of culture. The most recent UNESCO Convention in the field of culture and ratified by 139 Parties as of May 2015, it encourages governments to introduce policies for culture and creativity to advance inclusive economic growth and social cohesion. These policies are to be based on fundamental principles of freedom of expression, equality, openness and balance, sustainability.

More information about the project: http://en.unesco.org/creativity/

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