



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Diversity of  
Cultural Expressions

# 10 IGC

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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Tenth Ordinary Session  
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters  
12-15 December 2016

**Item 6 of the provisional agenda:** Report on the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention

In accordance with Decision 9.IGC 9 and the debates of the Committee, this document presents a report on the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, including participation in the sessions of the governing bodies.

Decision required: paragraph 10.

1. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”), at its ninth ordinary session (in December 2015), considered an evaluation report on the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”)<sup>1</sup>. Following its consideration of the report, the Committee acknowledged the fundamental role of civil society in implementing the Convention and raising its visibility, in the work of the governing bodies, and in supporting Parties in the elaboration and implementation of cultural policies.

2. Since 2007, when the Convention entered into force, 17 decisions on the role and participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention have been taken by the governing bodies. The Secretariat has prepared more than 20 working and information documents on issues relating to civil society and the Convention to support informed decision-making. Lastly, by the end of 2016, the Secretariat will have organised ten informal exchange sessions on specific themes of priority to the governing bodies, three of which were specifically on civil society’s engagement in the implementation of the Convention.

3. In order to increase the participation of civil society in the work of the governing bodies, at its ninth session (in December 2015) the Committee requested the Secretariat to:

- include on the agenda of each of its meetings an item on the role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, inviting civil society, under that agenda item, to present an activity report (in writing and/or orally);
- organize a working session between civil society representatives and the Bureau, prior to the meetings of the governing bodies, to address, *inter alia*, specific issues of importance to civil society;
- work together with civil society representatives to develop and implement indicators to better measure the involvement and scope of civil society engagement;
- encourage participation of civil society representatives at meetings of the governing bodies, as observers, including professional organizations and/or individual practitioners working in the cultural and creative sectors whose interests correspond to the agenda of the meeting. (Decision 9.IGC 9)

4. To implement that decision, the Secretariat has taken several initiatives:

- Inclusion of item 6 concerning civil society on the provisional agenda of the tenth ordinary session;
- Organization of a training session with representatives of civil society and
- Organization of a working session between representatives of civil society and the Bureau, on 12 December 2016, to provide an informal forum for civil society to express their views on the Committee’s agenda items and therefore further facilitate their participation and engagement in the debates of the Committee;
- Mobilization of civil society networks, including professional organizations and individual practitioners working in the digital environment, in order to raise their awareness about their important role and essential participation in the sessions of the governing bodies, in particular through the use of social networks.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex to the document “Assessment of the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention”, CE/15/9.IGC/9.

5. While the Secretariat included a specific item on the Committee's agenda concerning civil society, it was deemed premature for civil society to present a report on the activities at this time, particularly because of the need to first structure the organizations that are active in the fields of the Convention. The Secretariat favoured a pragmatic approach by first bringing together and training civil society representatives and involving them in a panel on creativity in the digital age for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a priority for the Committee. The goal is for civil society to be able to present a written and/or oral report at the eleventh ordinary session of the Committee in December 2017.

6. Indeed, in order to submit to the Committee a report that is representative of all civil society organizations worldwide and that can address the diverse cultural and creative industry sectors covered by the Convention to the sessions of the governing bodies, it will take some time for civil society to structure and defining specific activities of cooperation as well as to garner the support required for their participation. It is a hoped effect that this process will increase in civil society's motivation to fully engage in the implementation of the Convention both at the country level as well as directly in the work of the governing bodies.

7. The annual report submitted by civil society could highlight the key activities and actions they have undertaken to implement the Convention, in line with the priorities set by the governing bodies. This report will thus allow civil society to make specific proposals and recommendations, that could form the basis of future action by the Parties and thus respond to the Operational Guidelines adopted for Article 11. The first written report by civil society organizations, in line with the priorities defined by the governing bodies, should be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 September 2017.

8. The training session aims to work with representatives of civil society around the world and help them define and articulate their future report. The Secretariat has also invited civil society networks to raise awareness about their important role and essential participation in the sessions of the governing bodies. In particular, it has reached out to professional organizations and individual practitioners working in the digital environment.

9. Finally, in order to bring Committee members closer to the stakeholders of the Convention, the Secretariat has organised, with the support of the International Organisation of the Francophonie, a special panel bringing beneficiaries of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) to this tenth ordinary session. This panel intends to provide Committee members and other participating Parties to the Convention with an opportunity to meet the artists and cultural professionals whose project they support through their decisions and to discuss with them the impact of IFCD funding.

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

#### **DRAFT DECISION 10.IGC 6**

*The Committee,*

1. *Having examined document DCE/16/10.IGC/6;*
2. *Recalling its decisions 1.IGC 5C, 1.EXT.IGC 5, 5.IGC 4, 8.IGC 7a, 9.IGC 9 and Conference of Parties resolutions 2.CP 7 and 4.CP 13;*
3. *Invites the Parties, the Secretariat and civil society to continue exchanging on and developing mechanisms to strengthen the participation of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, including the organization of a biennial forum preceding sessions of the Conference of Parties;*

4. *Encourages the Parties to support, financially or otherwise, the increased participation of representatives from civil society organizations in the meetings of the governing bodies;*
5. *Requests the Secretariat to continue its work with civil society representatives to develop and implement indicators to better measure the involvement and the range of civil society engagement in the implementation of the Convention and report back to the Committee;*
6. *Also requests the Secretariat to include an item on the agenda of its eleventh ordinary session concerning the role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, and invites civil society to present a report (written and/or orally) on the activities carried out in 2017, and submit it to the Secretariat by 30 September 2017.*