

**13th Session**

Agenda item: A

## **Securing Intangible Cultural Heritage Protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**

*The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference,*

*Reaffirming* the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), which emphasizes State Parties' commitments to protect and preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage,

*Reemphasizing* Article 13 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, stating that States Parties are encouraged to develop or modify Intangible Cultural Heritage-related policy and legislation, to assist in implementing the Convention,

*Reaffirming* the Urgent Safeguarding List which aims at mobilizing international attention and cooperation for strengthening safeguarding measures taken by each Member State,

*Recognizing* the importance of social networking services and digital collections in sharing information and raising awareness on the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage as UNESCO and Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre of UNESCO (ACCU) stated,

*Recognizing* that urbanization and modernization have a negative impact on native and indigenous traditions, due to the younger generation moving away from their native communities to urban centers for economic opportunities, for example, native people that move to urban centers have experienced an erosion of culture and loss of language in addition to the exploitation and discrimination they often face,

*Concerned* that the younger generations who are often in unstable economic conditions are losing interest in securing Intangible Cultural Heritage in the face of growing globalization,

*Concerned* that the indigenous heritage is being lost due to reasons such as globalization, making it hard for the Intangible Cultural Heritage to meaningfully connect with indigenous heritage to be passed on,

*Deeply concerned* about the increasing number of Intangible Cultural Heritage in danger by lack of successors and the local people are losing interest by loss of cognitive opportunity and motivation in Intangible Cultural Heritage,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to sign and ratify the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage by 2030 to further enable the protection and preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
2. *Strongly advises* Member States to review their legislation, if necessary, to provide a framework that adapts to the specific needs of every Member States for safeguarding and enhancing Intangible Cultural Heritage to accommodate the informal nature of grassroots initiatives;
3. *Encourages* Member States to continue efforts to expand the Urgent Safeguarding List to draw more attention to Intangible Cultural Heritage that is not yet inscribed in the List for information sharing;
4. *Suggests* Member States use social networking services in preserving and raising awareness Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding, such as but not limited to:
  - a. UNESCO and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre of UNESCO (ACCU) website;
  - b. Social media platforms;
5. *Recommends* organizations Intangible Cultural Heritage that is listed in the Urgent Safeguarding List such as museums and preservation centers to develop digital collections of Intangible Cultural Heritage in forms of but not limited to:
  - a. Photographs, such as those of people, places, architecture, and cultural objects such as tools and costumes;
  - b. Audio, such as recorded interviews to collect stories, memories, songs, beliefs, and descriptions of how to make crafts or how to perform certain customs and traditions;
  - c. Video, such as recorded cultural activities and performances;
6. *Encourages* Member States to accelerate the digitalization process of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding and preventing them from disappearing completely;
7. *Invites* Member States that have already engaged in digitalization of Intangible Cultural Heritage and have seen the advantages, to share effective methods and publicize advantages of online archives of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding to the other Member States;
8. *Suggests* Member States provide spaces such as community halls for people from indigenous communities to practice their traditions, making it possible for people from different native communities to continue practicing their traditions from within urban centers;
9. *Draws the attention* of all Member States to Project 2022 which calls for the educating of young people in regards to the urgent safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage with

the purpose of strengthening the connection between young people and enabling them to explore more about their countries' Intangible Cultural Heritage;

10. *Encourages* all Member States to create an environment where citizens can be interested in the intangible culture of other countries as well as their own and can learn to increase the number of successors for solving the problem of the shortage of successors and of different intensity of interests in different Intangible Cultural Heritage, with the following details:
  - a. Continue to discuss how citizens can make educational opportunities and share information;
  - b. Cooperate together by holding the event of cross-cultural exchange at least once a year;
  - c. Welcome citizens of other Member States to pass on their culture and establish educational programs for cultural heritage;
11. *Recommends* Member States to make facilities or organizations which hold events similar to the World Heritage Youth Forum for promoting and educating Intangible Cultural Heritage, especially for young generations;
12. *Suggests* Member States provide classes and teaching materials of indigenous heritage in school, and the acquisition of Intangible Cultural Heritage in communities;
13. *Recommends* Member States to establish research visas targeting professionals work in academic fields who have motivation for researching Intangible Cultural Heritage and possible to submit certificates of their own status as an alternative to increasing the number of candidates who are capable of inheriting Intangible Cultural Heritage, with the following details:
  - a. Recommended validity of the visa to five years;
  - b. Possible extension of another five years under the requirements that:
    - i. The results of the research are proved to contribute to the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
    - ii. At least one research is published about Intangible Cultural Heritage over five years.