

13th Session

Agenda item: D

**Securing Intangible Cultural Heritage
Promoting the Inclusion of Intangible Cultural Heritage from
Underrepresented Regions**

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

Recalling one of the most important global conservation instruments, the World Heritage Convention in 1972, which placed Intangible Cultural Heritage preservation as a responsibility of the international community,

Realizing that the definition of underrepresented regions under UNESCO has not officially been determined,

Recognizing the importance of higher education for raising awareness about Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Expressing its support for the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in the European Union (ASPnet) which has contributed to the making of global networking and collaboration, capacity-building, communication, and advocacy,

Emphasizing the effectiveness of mass media to promote Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Reaffirming the purpose of one of the fundamental treaties in Intangible Cultural Heritage preservation, the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003, which is to provide international cooperation and assistance for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Deeply concerned about the gap in the number of Intangible Cultural Heritage officially listed under UNESCO between underrepresented regions and represented regions,

Stressing the importance of Intangible Cultural Heritage education for future generations and successors to ensure that inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Acknowledging that the management of Intangible Cultural Heritage in underrepresented regions should be sufficient, sustainable, and comprehensive enough to protect its original form,

1. *Strongly recommends* the establishment of official parameters for underrepresented regions under UNESCO that will be utilized as a baseline for definition, the parameters are as follows:
 - a. Regions with Member States that need more recognition for the value of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
 - b. Regions with at least 50 percent of Member States that have less than a specific number of officially listed Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, with the specific number to be determined by research conducted by UNESCO;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of formal and informal education in order to promote Intangible Cultural Heritage in underrepresented regions, with the following details:
 - a. Member States should emphasize investing in the education sector, specifically the higher education sector to encourage more international students to pursue their higher education in underrepresented regions;
 - b. Member States should increase study abroad programmes to allow international individuals to learn about local culture and help promote Intangible Cultural Heritage in underrepresented regions;
 - c. Member States in underrepresented regions with poor quality education systems should collaborate with Member States with higher quality education systems to improve the education system of their country, the quality of education systems will be referred from the UNESCO International Bureau of Education index;
 - d. Member States in the underrepresented region should subsidize international universities that are willing to open campuses within underrepresented regions, therefore promoting globalization;
3. *Suggests* the utilization of mass media in both underrepresented and represented regions to promote the registration of Intangible Cultural Heritage, including platforms such as but not limited to television, radio, newspapers, and social media, especially targeting the future generation responsible for cultural protection, promotion, and preservation;
4. *Encourages* multilateral cooperation between developed and developing Member States in capacity building and aid provision as a means to promote underrepresented Intangible Cultural Heritage, with the following details:
 - a. Aid provided will be in forms of but not limited to:
 - i. Technology and digital innovations transfer from developed to developing Member States to expand the spread of information about Intangible Cultural Heritage, including mass media platforms mentioned in Clause 3 and digital libraries containing Intangible Cultural Heritage records;
 - ii. Human resources support from developed to developing Member States to aid the preservation, management, and promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage in underrepresented regions, human resources referred to can be in the forms of but not limited to researchers and experts in Intangible Cultural Heritage;
 - b. Capacity-building measures will be in the form of but not limited to knowledge sharing in the form of educational cultural workshops;

5. *Strongly recommends* the World Heritage Committee review the criteria for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity with the following details:
 - a. Specifying the parameters of inscription that provides clearer standards that can be used by all Member States for reference;
 - b. Identifying possible changes and amendments that can improve the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to be more accessible to all Member States in underrepresented regions;

6. *Suggests* the creation of Intangible Cultural Heritage workshops in order to raise awareness about Intangible Cultural Heritage from underrepresented regions with details as follows:
 - a. Invite indigenous people with expertise in their own Intangible Cultural Heritage;
 - b. Encourage students to take part in workshops;
 - c. Welcome participants from other regions and Member States to create international awareness;
 - d. Collaborate with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) using their expertise in gathering people and managing workshops;
 - e. Recommend the use of online tools such as video conference systems, if in-person workshops are not feasible;
 - f. Encourage the conduction of workshops to be on a national, regional, or international scope;

7. *Recommends* Member States to establish a database to keep track of all the data from workshops and campaigns and all the information related to Intangible Cultural Heritage, in time it can be used to check the progress of the promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage and act as a helpful measure for Intangible Cultural Heritage to be recognized by UNESCO;

8. *Suggests* that Member States set up museums and experience centers for Intangible Cultural Heritage, with the aim to increase the engagement of young people with Intangible Cultural Heritage, with the following details:
 - a. The form of museums and experience centers can vary depending on each Member State's financial and resources availability;
 - b. Museum and experience centers can showcase each Member State's Intangible Cultural Heritage of any form;
 - c. Museums and experience centers should make Intangible Cultural Heritage learning accessible and available for everyone in any form;

9. *Affirms* financial support for underrepresented regions in order to reinforce their management systems to sufficiently manage the preservation, protection, and promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, considering the level of priority determined by the urgency of the situation of each Member State;

10. *Endorses* the allocation of UNESCO representatives to underrepresented regions to promote the inscription of Intangible Cultural Heritage to the UNESCO List, overview and ensure the proper implementation of all Intangible Cultural Heritage preservation programs.