

In the Name of God

18/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
Tehran, 25 November 2012
(Revised 1 May 2013)
Original: English

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
FIRST ORDINARY MEETING
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
6 & 7 November 2012

Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT OF THE 1ST ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Summary

Asserted through the "Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011 (original, Persian), the mentioned Category 2 centre is required to be guided and supervised by a Governing Council that will adopt, in the course of its first meeting, a number of procedures and basic texts, to be able to officially start its activities.

The present document constitutes the report of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the "Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", held on 6 and 7 November 2012, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The report includes "a short review of some documents and procedures" (Part A), "a short review of the debates of the two-day Meeting" (Part B), the "decisions and adopted documents" (Part C), some "recommendations on future activities of the Centre" raised by the Governing Council Members in the course of the discussions (Part D), and the "annexes", that include the full-texts of the amended and adopted documents, some background texts, as well as extracts from the delivered addresses and speeches (Part E).

Decision Required: 18/TICHG/GC-001/11-12 (Paragraph ...)

Part A:

A short review of some documents and procedures

1. As stipulated in the "Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), especially Article 7 thereof, the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre") shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the GC").
2. According to Paragraph 1 of Article 7 to the Agreement, titled "Governing Council", the GC shall be renewed every four years, and composed of:
 - (a) A representative of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ICHHTO");
 - (b) A representative of two Member States that have sent a notification, in accordance with the stipulations of Paragraph 2 to Article 5 of the Agreement;
 - (c) A representative of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO;
 - (d) A representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
 - (e) Three specialists in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
3. Paragraph 2 of Article 7 to the Agreement asserts that the GC shall:
 - (a) Approve the strategy and long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - (b) Approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - (c) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre;
 - (d) Issue the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre;
 - (e) Elect the members of the Centre's Executive Board and appoint the Director of the Centre;
 - (f) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions.
4. As stipulated in Paragraph 3 of Article 7 to the Agreement, the GC shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two thirds of its members.
5. According to Paragraph 4 of Article 7 to the Agreement, the GC shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

6. In addition to the abovementioned, the Agreement stipulates the adoption of a Constitutive Act for the Centre, through Article 4 to it, while respecting the conditions asserted under Paragraphs (a) and (b) thereof.
7. The Agreement, also, asserts, through its Article 8 and the Paragraphs thereof, the establishment of an Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as "the EB") for the Centre to ensure the effective running of the Centre between the sessions of the GC.
8. Article 9 of the Agreement, as well as the Paragraphs under it, determine the structure and functions of the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre.
9. According to Article 15 of the Agreement, titled "Entry into Force", the Agreement has been asserted to enter into force upon meeting of the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by UNESCO's internal regulations.
10. The formalities required to bring the Agreement into force according to the domestic law of the Islamic Republic of Iran were met in the following order:
 - (a) Bill of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), approved by the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in August 2010, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, signed by the Chairman to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran (original, Persian);
 - (b) Act of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 23 May 2011, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, signed by the Chairman to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran (original, Persian);
 - (c) Certification by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, of the Act of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), on 31 May 2011, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, signed by the Chairman to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran (original, Persian);
 - (d) Authorization of ICHHTO to Follow the Establishment of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), in Tehran.

11. The procedure leading to the official inauguration of the Centre consisted of the following stages, all of which having been accomplished:

- (a) Election of the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre to do the follow up of the procedure;
- (b) Creation of a separate budget index for the Centre in the National Annual Budget Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- (c) Determination of the Centre's Headquarters;
- (d) Doing the needed correspondences with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section to UNESCO, as well as the Office of the Programme Specialist for Culture in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, by way of UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, as well as the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO;
- (e) Doing the needed documentation, including drafting of the "Constitutive Act", the "Staffing Table Document", the "Strategy and the Long-term and Medium-term Programmes", the "Annual Work Plan", the "Geographical Domain Document", the "Rules of Procedure for the GC", the "Rules of Procedure for the EB", and the "Financial, Administrative and Personnel Management Procedures Document";
- (f) Distribution of invitation documents among the States over the West and Central Asian Region (hereinafter referred to as "the Region") for participation as Members of the Centre;
- (g) Participation in international events (the 2010 Training of Trainers Workshop in Beijing, the Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, the 2012 Joint Meeting of the Category 2 Centres in Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok);
- (h) Doing the needed consultations with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section to UNESCO, as well as the Office of the Programme Specialist for Culture in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, by way of UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, as well as the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, on creation of an abbreviated name, a Pro Tempore Logo, and a website for the Centre;
- (i) Drafting the Pro Tempore Logo of the Centre;
- (j) Creation of the Centre's Website;
- (k) Planning for and holding the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Centre, with the collaboration of UNESCO and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, through:
 - Preparation of the Draft Documents,
 - Preparation of the Draft Decisions,
 - Distribution of invitation letters on GC membership,
 - Election of the GC Members,
 - Distribution of the Draft Documents and Draft Decisions among the GC Members,
 - Determination of the Date and Venue of the 1st GC Meeting,
 - Holding the 1st GC Meeting on 6 and 7 November 2012,
 - Accomplishing the procedures leading to the official inauguration of the Centre,



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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

- Adoption of the majority of the Basic Texts of the Centre,
- Adoption of the Declaration of the 1st GC Meeting,
- (l) Planning for and holding the Inauguration Ceremony of the Centre through:
 - Making preparations with the Deputy for Cultural Heritage to ICHHTO,
 - Holding the Inauguration Ceremony of the Centre on 10 November 2012, and in the presence of a number of high-ranking political and cultural authorities from Islamic Republic of Iran, countries on the Region, and other countries, as well as a representative group of specialists and practitioners in the field of ICH;
- (m) Drafting the Report of the 1st GC Meeting, for submission among the GC Members for Adoption.

Part B:

A review of the debates of the two-day Meeting

12. Date and venue of the 1st GC Meeting of the Centre

The 1st GC Meeting of the Centre was held in 6 and 7 November, 2012, at Golzaar Hall and Sonbol Hall, Laleh International Hotel, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

13. Participants at the 1st GC Meeting of the Centre

- GC Members

The 1st GC Meeting of the Centre was attended by the following individuals as its Members:

(a) Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, Deputy for Cultural Heritage to ICHHTO, as the representative of ICHHTO to the GC, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(b) Ms. Tarja Virtanen, Director of the UNESCO Office in Tehran and UNESCO Representative to Iran and Turkmenistan, as the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO for the 1st GC Meeting, in the absence of Mr. Timothy Curtis, the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO to the GC, as asserted through the letter CLT/CEH/ITH/12/6533, dated 17 October 2012, signed by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture (Original English);

(c) Mr. Rustam Muzafarov, Secretary of the National Committee on Safeguarding the ICH of Kazakhstan, Coordinator of the UNESCO Observatory on Art Education in Central Asia, as the representative of the Government of Kazakhstan to the GC, as asserted through the letter 07-3/1024, dated 29 October 2012, Astana, signed by Secretary General to the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO (Original English);

(d) Ms. Shahlo Abdurahimova, Secretary General of Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO, as the representative of the Government of Tajikistan to the GC, as asserted through the letter 262, dated 05/11/2012, signed by Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairperson of Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO (Original English);

(e) Mr. Ablolmahdi Mostakin, Head of the Department of Culture to the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, as the representative of the Director-general of the National Iranian Commission for UNESCO to the 1st GC Meeting, in the absence of Mr. Mohammad Reza Saeidabadi, Director-general of the National Iranian Commission for UNESCO, and the representative thereof to the GC, as asserted through the letter 912-2-2554, dated 06/11/2012, signed by Director of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO (Original Persian);

(f) Mr. Mohammad Mirshokraei, Iranian specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(g) Mr. Mazdak Anoushe, Iranian specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(h) Ms. Atousa Mo'meni, Iranian Specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian).

- Secretary

The 1st GC Meeting of the Centre was, also, attended, as its Secretary, by Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, as asserted through the letter of appointment 90/2/10132, dated 06/07/2011, signed by Deputy for Cultural Heritage, Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) (Original Persian).

14. Provisional Agenda

Devised for a two-day meeting, the Provisional Agenda of the 1st GC Meeting stipulated an opening ceremony, six successive sessions for the GC discussions, and an ending ceremony. Going through the following details, the programme was successfully followed:

Tuesday, 6 November 2012

Time	Agenda Item	Duration
09:00-09:30	Registration and Distribution of Documents	
09:30-10:30	OPENING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recitations from the Holy Koran and National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran - Address by Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO - Address by the Representative of ICHHTO to the Governing Council - Address by the Representative of Director General to the National Commission for UNESCO, Iran - Address by the Representative of the Director General of UNESCO to the Governing Council 	09:30-09:40 09:40-09:55 09:55-10:05 10:05-10:15 10:15-10:30
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break and Group Photo	10:30-11:00
11:00-12:30	Session One of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Morning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the Governing Council by Virtue of Age - Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre - Adoption of the Agenda - Adoption of the Governing Council Members' Specifications - Election of the Chairperson of the Governing Council - Shift of the Chairmanship of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Elected Chairperson - Adoption of the name of the Centre - Adoption of the Temporary Logo of the Centre - Election of the Director of the Centre and the Secretariat 	11:00-11:05 11:05-11:25 11:25-11:30 11:30-11:40 11:40-11:50 11:50-11:55 11:55-12:05 12:05-12:15 12:15-12:30
12:30-15:00	Lunch Break	12:30-15:00
15:00-16:30	Session Two of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Afternoon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the Constitution of the Centre - Adoption of the Geographical Domain of the Centre - Adoption of the Staffing Table of the Centre 	15:00-15:30 15:30-16:00 16:00-16:30
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break	16:30-17:00
17:00-18:30	Session Three of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Afternoon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Members of the Executive Board - Adoption of the Annual Work Plan and Budget - Adoption of the Website of the Centre 	17:00-17:30 17:30-18:00 18:00-18:30

Wednesday, 7 November 2012

Time	Agenda Item	Duration
09:00-10:30	Session Four of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Morning) - Adoption of the Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre - Adoption of the 1 st Year Programmes of the Centre	09:00-09:45 09:45-10:30
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	10:30-11:00
11:00-12:30	Session Five of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Morning) - Adoption of the Agenda, Date and Venue of the Next [Ordinary]/[Extraordinary] Meeting of the Governing Council - Discussion on the Report and Declaration of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre	11:00-12:00 12:00-12:30
12:30-16:00	Lunch Break	12:30-16:00
16:00-17:00	Session Six of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Afternoon) - Adoption of the Report of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre - Adoption of the Declaration of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre	16:00-16:30 16:30-17:00
17:00-17:30	Coffee Break	17:00-17:30
17:30-18:30	ENDING CEREMONY - The Ending Address by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran an Chairman to ICHHTO - Further remarks and advice by the Governing Council Members	17:30-18:00 18:00-18:30

THE GENERAL REPORT

15. Registration and Distribution of Documents

The participants registered their names, and the badges and the documents were distributed among them;

The Opening Ceremony

The following agenda items were covered:

16. Recitations from the Holy Koran and National Antheme of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

17. Address by Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO: An abstract of the speech by H. E. Seyyed Hassan Mousavi is attached herewith (cf. Annex 3),

18. Address by the Representative of ICHHTO to the Governing Council: An abstract of the speech by Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr is attached herewith (cf. Annex 4),

19. Address by the Representative of Director General to the National Commission for UNESCO: An abstract of the speech by Mr. Ablolmadi Mostakin is attached herewith (cf. Annex 5),

20. Address by the Representative of the Director General of UNESCO to the Governing Council: The text of the speech by Ms. Tarja Virtanen is attached herewith (cf. Annex 6).

Session One

Held in the morning of the 1st day, and following the Opening Ceremony, Session One of the 1st GC Meeting covered the following agenda items:

21. *Election of the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st GC Meeting by Virtue of Age*
Regarding the fact that meeting was the first among the GC meetings, and that the chairperson of the GC was needed to be elected through voting in the course of a next agenda item, the participants in the 1st GC Meeting decided to elect a pro tempore chairperson for the mentioned meeting by Virtue of Age. In so doing, and under the supervision of the Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO to the 1st GC Meeting, the participants decided to elect Mr. Mohammad Mirshokraei, as the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st GC Meeting by Virtue of Age (cf. **Decision 01/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

22. *Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre*

Following the election of the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st GC Meeting, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre was invited by the 1st GC Meeting to present his report on the history of the Centre and the procedure that had led to its establishment. Having adopted the report by Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, the GC decided to include it in the final report of the 1st GC Meeting, as well as the Documents Archive of the Centre (cf. **Decision 02/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith). The text

of the Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre has been attached herewith (cf. Annex 7).

23. Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda under 14 above, that was presented by the Secretary to the 1st GC Meeting, was adopted (cf. **Decision 03/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith), and the GC Members decided to follow it in the course of the determined two-day meeting. The text of the adopted Agenda of the 1st GC Meeting is attached herewith (cf. Annex 2).

24. Adoption of the Governing Council Members' Specifications

The specifications of the individuals listed under 13 above, as people elected for membership in the GC, as well as their representatives to the 1st GC Meeting, were adopted; in addition, the presence of the Director of the Centre in the GC Meetings, as well as the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre in the 1st GC Meeting, both in the capacity of the Secretary, were adopted; as a result Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, was decided to attend the 1st GC Meeting as the Secretary (cf. **Decision 04/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith). The adopted list of the GC Members, as well as the documents authorizing them in the mentioned capacities, are attached herewith (cf. Annex 15).

25. Election of the Chairperson of the Governing Council and Shift of the Chairmanship of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Elected Chairperson

The GC Members, having considered the proposal on the candidacy of Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, the ICHHTO Representative to the GC, for chairmanship of the GC Meetings, unanimously decided to elect Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr as the First Chairperson of the GC (cf. **Decision 05/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith). Following this decision, the chairmanship of the 1st GC Meeting was shifted to Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, and the rest of the agenda items were decided to be discussed under his chairmanship.

26. Adoption of the Name of the Centre

As asserted through the Agreement, the name "Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia", the phrase agreed upon through the mentioned Agreement, was adopted as the official name of the Centre, and its use was decided upon as identical to the provisions of the Agreement. However, regarding the need for a shorter name for the Centre, to appear in ordinary, not-binding, documents, as well as for frequent uses, the GC Members decided to adopt the phrase "Tehran ICH Centre", proposed by the ICH Section to UNESCO, as the shorter name of the Centre. Furthermore, the usage of the mentioned shorter name was decided upon to follow the directions determined in the Agreement (cf. **Decision 06/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

27. Adoption of the Temporary Logo of the Centre

The GC Members came to a consensus on the fact that the thematic and geographical domains specified for the Centre required widespread regional/international efforts in a sufficient time period to prepare a comprehensive logo for it. They, also, agreed to have two logos for the Centre: one in Persian, for uses on the documents and web-pages prepared in

Persian, and another for the documents and web-pages in other languages, including the official languages of UNESCO.

Regarding the abovementioned, the GC Members agreed to adopt, as the temporary logo of the Centre, a combination of the shorter name of the Centre and the UNESCO Emblem, following the internationally approved standards. They, also, agreed to have the full name of the Centre to appear under the mentioned temporary logo in Persian (for the Persian logo) and in English (for the English logo).

The discussions resulted in the adoption of the following as the Temporary Logos of the Centre:

The Temporary Logo of the Centre (Persian)



The Temporary Logo of the Centre (English)



In addition, the GC Members authorized the Secretariat of the Centre to publish an invitation, at the regional and international levels, to a competition for drafting the permanent logo of the Centre. The mentioned Secretariat was required to introduce to the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the GC for the adoption of the finalized logo, the best three candidates to be selected through consultations with specialists in the field.

Finally, the Secretariat of the Centre was requested by the GC Members to follow the procedure of signing the Agreement on the Use of the Emblem of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with UNESCO, in such a way that the finalized logo of the Centre will consist of a combination of the UNESCO Emblem, the ICH Emblem, and the permanent Logo of the Centre, according to the related published standards.

(cf. **Decision 07/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

28. *Election of the Director of the Centre and its Secretariat*

The GC Members, having considered the proposal on the candidacy of Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, who had directed, among his other duties, the process leading to holding the 1st GC Meeting as well as the official inauguration of the Centre, unanimously decided to elect Mr. Yadollah Parmoun as the 1st Director of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia and the Secretariat affiliated to it (cf. **Decision 08/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

Session Two

Held in afternoon of the 1st day, Session Two of the 1st GC Meeting covered the following agenda items:

29 Adoption of the Constitution of the Centre

The Draft Constitution of the Centre was presented by the Director of the Centre (hereinafter, "the Director") to the 1st GC Meeting. The text was discussed extensively by the GC Members, and several amendments were introduced. Especially, amendments were proposed to make the text compatible with the Agreement, both in form and in content. The amended text is attached herewith (cf. Annex 8).

The text was adopted, as amended, by the GC Members (cf. **Decision 09/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

30 Adoption of the Geographical Domain of the Centre

The Draft Proposal on the Geographical Domain of the Centre was presented by the Director to the 1st GC Meeting. After extensive discussions on the thematic and geographical domains of the Centre, especially, the proposal on the gradual extension of the geography, the text was adopted (cf. **Decision 10/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the adopted Proposal on the Geographical Domain of the Centre is attached herewith (cf. Annex 9).

31 Adoption of the Staffing Table of the Centre

The Draft Staffing Table document of the Centre was presented by the Director. The GC Members proposed several amendments to bring the document in line with the signed Agreement, in form and in content. Special attention was directed toward the Executive Board (hereinafter, "the EB"), its structure, and its functions, and special emphasis was put on requesting the Secretariat to draft a suitable set of rules of procedures for it. The Staffing Table was, finally, decided upon to be adopted on a conditional basis, and, solely, as a general organizational chart, provided that that it is redrafted and accompanied with proper collections of rules of procedures related for the GC, the EB, and the Centre, and presented, for adoption, to the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC, that was decided upon to be held in May 2013 (cf. **Decision 11/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the, conditionally, adopted Staffing Table of the Centre is attached herewith (cf. Annex 10).

Session Three

Following Session two, in the afternoon of the 1st day, Session Three of the 1st GC Meeting covered the following agenda items:

32 Election of the Members of the Executive Board

The Decision upon the election of the EB Members was postponed to the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC, that was decided upon to be held in May 2013, where the collection of rules of procedures related to the GC, and the Centre, as well as the whole collection of the rules and regulations of the Centre, were decided to be adopted first, and, only after that, the structure of the EB, among the other affiliated bodies, to be determined thereof. (cf. **Decision 12/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

33 Adoption of the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre

This item was postponed for the 2nd day morning sessions, due to the fact that the long discussions on the previous items had left the 1st day sessions with lack of time.

34 Adoption of the Website of the Centre

The skin/First Web-page of the Website of the Centre was introduced by the Director. The GC Members were also made informed of the efforts that had been made to design the structure of the mentioned website according to the websites of the already established Cat. 2 Centres (namely, Crespial, ICHCAP, CRIHAP, and IRCI), to contribute to the agreement reached in the course of the Bangkok Joint Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Category 2 Centres to establish a coordinated network of the websites of the mentioned Cat. 2 Centres.

The abovementioned skin/First Web-page was adopted, and the GC Members authorized the Secretariat to publish and regularly update it (cf. **Decision 14/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

Sessions Four and Five

Held together in the morning of the 2nd day, with a short break in the middle, Sessions Four and Five of the 1st GC Meeting covered the following agenda items:

35 Adoption of the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre

The Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre document, was presented by the Director to the 1st GC Meeting. Extensive discussions followed, and amendments were proposed by GC Members to bring the mentioned Work Plan in line with the contents of the Agreement and the mandate of the Centre. The document was, finally, adopted as amended, on an interim basis (cf. **Decision 13/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the amended Work Plan and Budget of the Centre is attached herewith (cf. Annex 11).

36 Adoption of the Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre

The document titled Draft Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre was presented by the Director to the 1st GC Meeting. The lengthy debates which followed on the content of the mentioned document resulted in the adoption of, only, the first part of the document, i.e. the section on the proposed Strategy and Long-term Programmes. The Secretariat was, however, requested to redraft the section on the Medium-term Programmes with special attention to the content of the Agreement, as well as the other adopted documents of the Centre, and submit the mentioned section, for adoption, to the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC, that was decided to be held in May 2013.

(cf. **Decision 15/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the adopted part of the document, i.e. the Strategy and Long-term Programmes of the Centre is attached herewith (cf. Annex 12).

37 Adoption of the 1st Year Programmes of the Centre

The document titled "Draft 1st Year Programmes of the Centre" was presented by the Director to the 1st GC Meeting. Consequent to **Decision 15/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, mentioned above (cf. 36 above), where the adoption of the Medium-term Programmes of the Centre was postponed to the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC, the document on the 1st Year Programmes of the Centre was adopted, only, on an interim basis, and as "a list of programmes for the first year following the official establishment of the Centre", to leave space for possible modifications in the nature of the programmes and projects of the Centre to be delineated by the documents on the Medium-term Programmes of the Centre, decided to be discussed and adopted in May 2013, and in the course of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC.

(cf. **Decision 16/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the document on 1st Year Programmes of the Centre, adopted, as mentioned above, on an interim basis, and as "a list of programmes for the first year following the official establishment of the Centre" is attached herewith (cf. Annex 13).

Sessions Six and Seven

Held together in the afternoon of the 2nd day, Sessions Six and Seven of the 1st GC Meeting covered the following agenda items:

38 Adoption of the Agenda, Date and Venue of the Next [Ordinary]/[Extraordinary] Meeting of the Governing Council

Following the debates among the GC Members on the agenda items of the 1st GC Meeting, as well as considering the urgent need felt by the GC Members for the adoption of the lacking documents, the GC Members decided to hold the 1st Extraordinary Session of the GC soon after the 1st GC Meeting.

The following constitute the adopted Agenda, Date, and Venue of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC:

- A) **Agenda of 1st Extraordinary Meeting of GC**
- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the GC,
 - Discussion on the Rules of Procedure of the EB,
 - Adoption of the Rules and Regulations of the Centre,
 - Adoption of the Financial, Administrative and Personnel Management Procedures of the Centre,
 - Adoption of the Methods of Participation for Regional Intergovernmental Organizations and International Organizations in the Work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions,
 - Adoption of the missing items within the Centre's set of rules and regulations, like: drafting a regular annual plan, defining TOR of the GC's Director,
 - Adoption of the Centre's Medium-term Programmes,
 - Discuss any other issue/adopt any other document or amend Basic Texts in places which may be deemed necessary.

B) **Date and Venue of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of GC**

The date and Venue of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the GC were decided upon as May, 2013, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The exact date of the meeting, as well as the complete address of the place, in addition to any other needed information in this regard, were decided upon to be brought into the attention of the GC Members in a timely manner.

39 Discussion on the Report and Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre

The discussions among the GC Members on the Report and Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the GC resulted in the following decisions:

A) *The Final Report*

The GC Members authorized the Secretariat to prepare the Finalized Report of the 1st GC Meeting in a timely manner, and, having, first, received the agreement by the Director-General of UNESCO Representative to the GC on its content, distribute this very draft, by way of e-mail, among the GC Members for their approval through signing it. Exchanges of e-mails among GC Members, on the one hand, and between them and the Secretariat, on the other, before the final signing of the document were also foreseen.

(cf. **Decision 18/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith.)

B) The Declaration

The GC Members authorized the following individuals to draft for adoption in the course of its Ending Ceremony, the declaration of the 1st GC Meeting:

- Ms. Tarja Virtanen
- Mr. Rustam Muzafarov
- Ms. Shahlo Abdorrahimova
- Mr. Mazdak Anoushe
- Mr. Yadollah Parmoun

The Declaration was decided to be read to the GC Members in the course of the following session (the Ending Ceremony), for adoption.

Ending Ceremony

The last round in the two-day meeting, held in the 2nd day afternoon, the Ending Ceremony covered the following:

40 Adoption of the Report of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre

The item had been decided upon in the course of the Sixth and Seventh Sessions (cf. 39, A, above).

41 Adoption of the Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre

The Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council was read by the Director. Having listened to the mentioned Declaration, the GC Members adopted it (cf. **Decision 19/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, attached herewith).

The text of the Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre is attached herewith (cf. Annex 14).

42 Further remarks and advice by the Governing Council Members

The 1st Meeting of the Governing Council came to its end by some ending remarks by the Chairman to GC, the Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO to the GC, the Representative of the Government of Kazakhstan to the GC, the Representative of the Government of Tajikistan to the GC, as well as the representative of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. The participants expressed hope for witnessing the actual outcomes of the discussions in the work of the Centre.

The meeting was ended with taking a group-photo of the participants.

Part C

Decisions and Adopted Documents

43 The present section comprises the full texts of the decisions and documents adopted and amended in the course of the 1st GC Meeting of the Centre. For each decision, the related agenda item has been repeated, as a heading; the mentioned heading will be found as followed by the full text of the adopted decision. It is worth mentioning that these adopted decisions were made based on their related draft decisions, prepared by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Centre. Having undergone, in several cases, special amendments in the course of the 1st GC Meeting, the mentioned draft decisions were finally agreed upon as Adopted Decisions through consensus.

44 The full texts of the basic documents relating to the mentioned decisions have been included as attachments to the present Final Report (cf. Part E: Annexes). The mentioned basic documents were, also, adopted as the official documents of the Centre in the course of the 1st GC Meeting, through detailed debates on their related draft copies that underwent amendments in several sections too.

Decision 01/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Election of the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council by Virtue of Age

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that, as per "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia is required to be governed by a Governing Council with the composition specified therein;
2. Considers the requirement that the mentioned council must be chaired by a chairperson elected by its members through voting;
3. Takes note that the present session is the first meeting of the Governing Council, where the first Chairperson must be elected;
4. Decides to elect a Pro Tempore Chairperson for the Governing Council by Virtue of Age;
5. Further Decides to ask its Pro Tempore Chairperson to ask for the "Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre", do the "Adoption of the Agenda", ask for the "Introduction of the Governing Council Members", "Elect the Chairperson of the Governing Council", and "Shift the Chairmanship of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Elected Chairperson";
6. Further Decides to ask the Representative of the Director General of UNESCO to the Governing Council to elect the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council by Virtue of Age;
7. Decides to elect Mr. Mohammad Mirshokraei as the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council by Virtue of Age.

Decision 02/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Report by Pro Tempore Director of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the painstaking job accomplished by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, and his personnel, to follow up the issues of arranging for the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council and official inauguration of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia in Tehran;
2. Considers the need for a report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre to follow up the Agenda of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council;
3. Decides to ask the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre to present his report to the Governing Council Members, and accompany it with the needed documents;
4. Further, Having listened to the report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, Decides to adopt the mentioned report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre for its accuracy and include it among the archived documents of the Centre.

Decision 03/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Agenda

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre has provided the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council with a Provisional Agenda;
2. Further takes note that the Provisional Agenda mentioned under 1 above is composed of eight consecutive Sessions of the Governing Council, and that it has been planned for two days of work (namely, November 6th and 7th, 2012);
3. Having studied the contents of the abovementioned Provisional Agenda;
4. Decides to adopt the Provisional Agenda mentioned under 1-3 above, as the Agenda for its work.

Decision 04/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Governing Council Members' Specifications

The Governing Council

8. Takes note that the 1st Meeting has been attended, in full capacity, by 8 Members;
9. Further takes note of the letter CLT/CEH/ITH/12/6533, dated 17 October 2012, signed by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture, wherein Mr. Timothy Curtis, Programme Specialist for Culture in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, has been declared as the appointed Director-General of UNESCO's Representative on the Governing Board of the Centre;
10. Further takes note of the same letter CLT/CEH/ITH/12/6533, dated 17 October 2012, signed by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture, wherein Ms Tarja Virtanen, Director of the UNESCO Office in Tehran and UNESCO Representative to Iran and Turkmenistan, has been asked to represent the Director-General of UNESCO for the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, in Mr. Timothy Curtis' absence;
11. Decides to adopt the following, in alphabetical order, as the Specifications of the Members of the 1st Meeting:
 - (1) MS. ABDURAHIMOVA, Shahlo, Representative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan,
 - (2) Mr. ALAVIAN SADR, Masoud, ICHHTO Representative, Islamic Republic of Iran,
 - (3) Mr. ANOUSHE, Mazdak, ICH Expert, Islamic Republic of Iran,
 - (4) Mr. MIRSHOKRAEI, Mohammad, ICH Expert, Islamic Republic of Iran,
 - (5) MS. MOMENI, Atousa, ICH Expert, Islamic Republic of Iran,
 - (6) Mr. MOSTAKIN, Abdolmahdi, Representative of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO,
 - (7) Mr. MUZAFFAROV, Rustam, Representative of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
 - (8) MS. VIRTANEN, Tarja, Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
12. Further takes note of the Paragraphs 2.1.8 and 2.1.9 of the Draft Staffing Table of the Centre to be adopted as Agenda Item No. 11 (Cf. Draft Decision **11/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**) in the course of Session Two of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, where the presence of the Director of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, as the Permanent Secretary of the Governing Council Sessions has been stipulated to do the follow up of the Agenda;
13. Further decides to adopt the presence of Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, as the Secretary of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, to do the follow up of the related Agenda

Decision 05/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Election of the Chairperson of the Governing Council

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that, as per "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia is required to be governed by a Governing Council with the composition specified therein;
2. Considers the requirement that the mentioned council must be chaired by a chairperson elected by its members through voting;
3. Takes note that the present session, as the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, is chaired by a Pro Tempore Chairperson by Virtue of Age;
4. Informed of the "Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre";
5. Having adopted the Agenda of the 1st Meeting;
6. Having, further, adopted the Specifications of the Governing Council Members, in its 1st Meeting;
7. Having, further, collected votes by the Members of the Governing Council authorized for voting, and present in its 1st Meeting;
8. Having performed voting through, and having determined that Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, in his capacity of the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, and the Representative thereof, has been able to win 8 positive votes out of the total number of 8 votes delivered by the Members of the Governing Council;
9. Decides to elect Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, in his capacity of the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, and the Representative thereof, as the 1st Chairperson of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2);
10. Further decides to refer to the Constitution of the Centre to be adopted during the same 1st Meeting of the Governing Council (Cf. Draft Decision **09/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**) for the determination of the Chairperson's terms of office;



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

11. Further Decides to shift the Chairpersonship of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) to Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, to chair debates on the remaining items on the Agenda of the 1st Meeting.

Decision 06/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Name of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that the name "*Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)*", as the name officially included on the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, needs to be abbreviated into a shorter name;
2. Recalls the suggestion by the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section experts to coin a shorter name for ordinary uses, while remaining faithful to the usage of the adopted full name on official and/or binding documents of the Centre, and utilizing the mentioned shorter name on such occasions, only, in accompaniment with the full name;
3. Further recalls the suggestion by the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section experts that the phrase "Tehran ICH Centre" can constitute a proper shorter name for the Centre;
4. Decides to adopt "Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" as the full name of the Centre, that is to be mentioned on the official and/or binding documents of the Centre;
5. Further decides to adopt "Tehran ICH Centre" as the shorter name of the Centre, that is to be used on the abovementioned ordinary occasions, or the official and/or binding documents of the Centre under the condition that it accompanies the full name adopted under Paragraph 4 above;

Decision 07/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Temporary Logo of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of Article 14 to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the Article 14 to the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, titled the Use of UNESCO's Name and Logo;
2. Takes note that the Centre is required to be represented by an officially adopted logo, that is going to accompany its name on printed or electronic documents, web-pages, identity cards, and the like;
3. Considers the need for a sufficient time specified for the creation, submission, evaluation, and adoption of a fully representative logo, that is comprehensive enough in its graphic make up to represent both ICH in general, and the shared Intangible Heritage of West and Central Asia;
4. Decides to adopt, as its Temporary Logo, an accompaniment of the adopted full and shorter names of the Centre;
5. Further decides that a Persian version of the adopted temporary Logo can appear on the printed and/or electronic documents of the Centre, the related web-pages, and the like;
6. Further decides that both of the mentioned versions of the abovementioned Temporary Logo must accompany the UNESCO Emblem, according the related published standards;
7. Further requires the Centre's Secretariat to publish an international call for a competition on the subject of the graphic design of a logo for the Centre;
8. Further requires the Centre's Secretariat to bring to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Council the top three logos selected through consultations with a representative team of prominent graphic designers, for the election and adoption of the Permanent Logo of the Centre;

9. Further requires the Centre's Secretariat to follow the signing of the Agreement on the Use of the Emblem of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with UNESCO to the extent that the finalized logo of the Centre, in both its Persian and English versions, will consist of a combination of all three (i.e. the UNESCO Emblem, the ICH Emblem, and the Logo of the Centre), according to the related published standards;

10. Further decides to adopt the following, respectively, as the Persian and English Versions of the Temporary Logo of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) to appear on the printed and electronic documents of the Centre, the Centre's Website and its related Web-pages, the identity cards of the Centre's personnel, and any other such document, till the time of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, when the permanent logo of the Centre is planned to be selected and adopted:

The Temporary Logo of the Centre (Persian)



The Temporary Logo of the Centre (English)



Decision 08/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Election of the Director of the Centre and the Secretariat

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that, as per "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia is required to act as a secretariat devoted to guide research activities for the safeguarding of ICH at the regional level;
2. Considers the requirement that the mentioned Secretariat must be directed by a director who is an ICH expert with acceptable background;
3. Takes note that the mentioned director of the Secretariat can, at the same time, act as the Director of the Centre;
4. Recalls the report submitted by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, and adopted as Decision **02/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**;
5. Having collected written votes by the Members of the Governing Council authorized for voting;
6. Having performed voting through, and having determined that Mr. Yadollah Parmoun has been able to win 8 positive votes out of the total number of 8 votes collected among the Members of the Governing Council;
7. Decides to elect Mr. Yadollah Parmoun as the 1st Director of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia and the Secretariat affiliated to it;
8. Further decides to refer to the Constitution of the Centre, as well as its Staffing Table, to be adopted during the same 1st Meeting of the Governing Council (Cf. Draft Decisions **09/TICHG/GC-001/11-12** and **11/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**) for the determination of the Director's terms of office.

Decision 09/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Constitution of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of Article 4 to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Article 4 of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;
2. Further takes note of the Draft Constitution for the Centre provided to it for adoption;
3. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft Constitution;
4. Having, further, incorporated amendments in the text of the mentioned Draft Constitution;
5. Decides to adopt the Draft Constitution mentioned under 1 and 2 above, as amended as mentioned under 4 above, as the Constitution of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre).
6. Further, considering the necessity of guaranteeing the proper functioning of the Centre, as well as the Governing Council, the Executive Board, and the Secretariat, through adopting a well-drafted document of Rules and regulations, that will include specific documents of Rules of Procedures for the Governing Council, the Executive Board, and the Secretariat, requests the Director of the Centre and the Secretariat affiliated to it to plan for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council to be held not earlier than May 2013, where the mentioned documents, as well as any other missing document could be discussed;
7. Further requests the Secretariat to provide the Members of the Governing Council with the drafts of the documents mentioned under 6 above in a timely manner, and, at least, two months before the mentioned Extraordinary Meeting;
8. Further, considering the need for including the duties of the Chairperson of the Governing Council within the Constitution of the Centre, requests the Secretariat to add the draft of the needed amended paragraphs under Article 5 of the Constitution, and to distribute the amended draft document among the Members of the Governing Council in the manner sketched under 6 and 7 above.

Decision 10/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Geographical Domain of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, especially Articles 1 and 6 thereof, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, including Articles 1 and 6 thereof;
2. Further takes note of the Draft Proposal on the Geographical Domain of the Centre provided to it for adoption;
3. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft Proposal;
4. Decides to adopt the Draft Proposal mentioned under 1 and 2 above as the Geographical Domain of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre).

Decision 11/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Staffing Table of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of Article 7.2.(b) to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Article 7.2.(ب) of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;
2. Further Takes note of the Draft Staffing Table of the Centre provided to it for adoption;
3. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft Staffing Table;
4. Having regarded the consensus reached at among the Members of the Governing Council on the fact that several sections of the mentioned draft document need to be rewritten according to the content of the Agreement mentioned under 1 above, and through considering the proposals by the participants in the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council;
5. Decides to adopt the overall organizational chart presented through the Draft Staffing Table mentioned under 1 and 2, as the interim Staffing Table of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre);
6. Requests the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to prepare a new version of the Draft Staffing Table of the Centre, in the light of the points made under 4 above, for adoption in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council to be held in May 2013;
7. Further requests the Secretariat to provide the Members of the Governing Council with the mentioned draft document in a timely manner, and, at least, two months before the mentioned Extraordinary Meeting.

Decision 12/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Executive Board Members' Specifications

The Governing Council

- 1 Takes note of Article 8 to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Article 8 of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;
- 2 Takes note of the standard procedure of UNESCO, by virtue of which bodies of the nature of the Executive Board affiliated to the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), as "subsidiary bodies", with their members being a sub-set of the members of the mother bodies;
- 3 Decides to adopt the nature of the Executive Board affiliated to the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), as a subsidiary body, composed of a sub-set of the Members of the Governing Council of the Centre, or, in the event of their absence, their fully authorized representatives;
- 4 Further decides to adopt the presence of expert individuals in the sessions of the Executive Board, provided that they will not enjoy any rights for voting, and that their presence will, solely, be for consultations on specialized issues;
- 5 Requests the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to follow up the job of drafting the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, and follow the steps sketched in Paragraphs 6 and 7 under **Decision 09/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, to provide the ground for their adoption in the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, in May 2013;
- 6 Further Requests the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to ask for the specifications of the candidates for membership in the Executive Board of the Centre, for adoption in the course of the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, in May 2013;
- 7 Further decides to adopt the presence of the Director of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre) as the Representative of the Centre's Secretariat, in the meetings of the Centre's Executive Board, to do the follow up of the related agenda.

Decision 13/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

Adoption of the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of Article 7.2.(b) to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Article 7.2.(ب) of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;
2. Takes note of the Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre provided to it for adoption;
3. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft Work Plan and Budget;
4. Having incorporated amendments by the Members of the Governing Council in the text of the mentioned draft document;
5. Decides to adopt the Draft Work Plan and Budget mentioned under 1 and 2 above, as amended by the 1st Meeting of the Governing Board of the Centre, as the Interim Work Plan and Budget for the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre).

Decision 14/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Adoption of the Website of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note that the Centre is required to be represented through an officially adopted website, that will publish the results of its activities, as determined through the related constitution, while enabling it to enter the network of the world Category 2 Centres on ICH, as well as the other UNESCO affiliated organizations and bodies;
2. Considers the need for a sufficient time specified for the creation, submission, evaluation, and adoption of a fully representative website, that is comprehensive enough in its structure to represent the full objectives and functions of the Centre, while remaining compatible with the network of the world Category 2 Centres on ICH, as well as the other UNESCO affiliated organizations and bodies;
3. Decides to adopt, as a first endeavor, open for future modifications in structure, graphic design, and content, the first webpage of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Tehran ICH Centre), submitted to its 1st Meeting, by the Secretariat of the Centre;
4. Further decides that the Temporary Logo of the Centre adopted during this 1st Meeting of the Governing Council must remain on the Website till the time of the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, where the finalized Logo of the Centre shall be adopted;
5. Further requires the Centre's Secretariat to follow up updating the Centre's Website;
6. Further requires the Centre's Secretariat to remain in close contact with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok for making the necessary arrangements to keep the Centre's Website geared to the compatibility standards being set for the ICH Category 2 Centres' Websites worldwide, and specifically on the Asia-Pacific Region.

Decision 15/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

Adoption of the Strategy, Long-term, and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of Article 7.2.(a) to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Article 7.2.(الف) of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;
2. Further Takes note of the Draft Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre provided to it for adoption;
3. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes;
4. Decides to adopt the Draft Strategy, and Long-term Programmes mentioned under 1 and 2 above as the Strategy, and Long-term Programmes of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre), and requires for medium term programmes of the Centre to be comprehensively redrafted according to the framework of activities and mandate of the Centre, and presented to the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, in May 2013;
5. Requests the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to follow up the job of redrafting the Medium Term Programmes of the Centre in a timely manner, and based on the steps sketched in Paragraphs 6 and 7 under **Decision 09/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, to provide the ground for their adoption in the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, in May 2013;
6. Requires the Centre, and the Secretariat affiliated to it, to follow up the needed arrangements to materialize the mentioned Strategy, and Long-term Programmes, with the collaboration of the Centre's Executive Board, and regularly put the related reports on the agenda of the future meetings of the Centre's Governing Council.

Decision 16/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

Adoption of the 1st Year Programmes of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the Draft 1st Year Programmes of the Centre provided to it for adoption;
2. Having studied the contents of the mentioned Draft 1st Year Programmes;
3. Further, Takes note that, based on **Decision 15/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, adopted on November 7th, 2012, the Medium Term Programmes of the Centre have not yet been approved;
4. Decides, on an interim basis, to adopt the Draft Programmes mentioned under 1 and 2 above the Programmes of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre), solely, for the 1st year following the 1st Meeting of the Centre's Governing Council;
5. Requires the Centre, as well as the Secretariat affiliated to it, to do the needed arrangements, and follow up the execution of the mentioned programmes, with the collaboration of the Centre's Executive Board, and put the related reports on the agenda of the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the Centre's Governing Council;
6. Requests the Director of the Centre to follow up execution of **Decision 15/TICHC/GC-001/11-12**, especially, Paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof, regarding the Medium-term Programmes of the Centre;
7. Further requests the Director of the Centre, and the Secretariat affiliated to it, to develop for the approval of the Governing Council, in its next Ordinary Meeting, future annual work-plans and budgets in line with the Strategy and Medium- and Long-term Programmes of the Centre.
8. Requires of the Centre to develop its future annual programmes and projects with special attention directed toward (i) promoting the 2003 Convention and its implementation in West and Central Asia; (ii) strengthening the capacities and cooperation for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying shared ICH and ICH in danger of disappearing, including taking stock of "good/successful safeguarding practices" in order to contribute to the safeguarding of this ICH; (iii) furthering and coordinating scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing and evaluating safeguarding measures for ICH present on the region; and (iv) reinforcing capacities in the States of the Region that are parties to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international levels, in particular concerning shared ICH, while operating in line with the



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

functions defined in the Agreement between the IRI Government and UNESCO and avoiding duplications of already accomplished activities.

Decision 17/TICHG/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

***Adoption of the Agenda, Date and Venue of the Next [Ordinary]/[Extraordinary] Meeting of the
Governing Council***

The Governing Council

1 Taking note that the 2nd Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre has been scheduled to be held one year after the present 1st Meeting, unless an extraordinary meeting is summoned by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative, or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, or of two thirds of its members, as stipulated through Paragraph 3 to Article 7 of the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as Paragraph 3 to Article 7 of the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011;

2 Regarding the undertakings of the Centre, as reflected in its adopted constitution, as well as the other adopted documents of the Centre;

3 Taking note of the urgent need felt by the GC Members, in the course of their 1st Meeting, for the adoption of the lacking documents to provide the Centre with the proper ground to continue its activities;

4 Decides to adopt **May 2013** as the Date of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre);

5 Further decides to adopt **Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**, as the Venue of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre);

6 Further decides to adopt the following as (part of) the Items on the Agenda of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting mentioned under 4 and 5 above:

-Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council,

-Discussion on the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board,

-Adoption of the Rules and Regulations of the Centre,

-Adoption of the Financial, Administrative and Personnel Management Procedures of the Centre,

- Adoption of the Methods of Participation for Regional Intergovernmental Organizations and International Organizations in the Work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions,
- Adoption of the missing items within the Centre's collection of Rules and Regulations, like: drafting a regular annual plan, defining Terms of Office for the Governing Council's Chairperson, etc,
- Adoption of the Centre's Medium-term Programmes,
 - Discuss any other issue/adopt any other document or amend Basic Texts in places which may be deemed necessary;

7 Requires of the Director of the Centre, as well as the Secretariat affiliated to it, to bring into the notice of the Governing Council Members the exact date of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting, as well as the detailed address of the place, in addition to any other needed information in this regard, in a timely manner;

8 Further requires of the Director of the Centre, as well as the Secretariat affiliated to it, to circulate the documents of the mentioned 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council among its members, in a timely manner, and not later than May 1st, 2013.

Decision 18/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

Adoption of the Report of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the Draft Decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre, prepared by the Secretary;
2. While Expressing gratitude toward the Secretary over the painstaking endeavor;
3. Having incorporated amendments in the mentioned Draft Decisions;
4. Decides to adopt the Draft Decisions mentioned under 1 above as Decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia;
5. Requests the Representative of Director-General of UNESCO in the Governing Council and the Director of the Centre, to agree on drafting the Final Report of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, and, having signed this very document, disseminating it to other respected Governing Council Members for their final approval through signing it. The time period specified to receive signed copies by the Members of the Governing Council will be 5 working days from the time of the reception of the Final Report.
6. Further requires of the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to add the mentioned Decisions to the archive of the documents of the Centre for future reference.
7. Further decides to adopt the signed Final Report described under 5 above in the course of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council, in May 2013, as the Final Report of the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category) (Tehran ICH Centre).

Draft Decision 19/TICHC/GC-001/11-12
(Adopted: November 7th, 2012)

Adoption of the Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the Draft Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre, drafted by MS. Tarja Virtanen, MS. Shakhlo Abdurakhimova, Mr. Rustam Muzaffarov, and Mr. Mazdak Anoushe, and Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, in the course of the 1st Governing Council Meeting;
2. While Expressing gratitude toward the abovementioned over the painstaking endeavor;
3. Decides to adopt the Draft Declaration mentioned under 1 above as the Declaration of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre);
4. Further requires the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre to add the mentioned Declaration to the archive of the documents of the Centre for future reference.

Part D:

Recommendations on the Nature and Future Activities of the Centre

45 The present part covers a number of recommendations on the nature and future activities of the Centre that were raised by the GC Members in the course of their first meeting. Listed and repeated below, these recommendations have been advised by the GC Members to be considered in devising the programmes of the Centre, and planning for its future activities.

46 The Basic Documents of the Centre, including its constitution, staffing table, strategy, etc, were emphasized to be compiled in a way that the goals and objectives emphasized in the Agreement between the Government and UNESCO be materialized, and the perspective pictured therein to manifest.

47 The Agreement was declared as the main source for drafting all types of documents, regulations, procedures, and the like, in relation to the Centre, to the extent that deviations from its spirit were declared as unacceptable, subject to rejection by the GC.

48 The need for drafting and submitting the collection of rules and regulations of the Centre, including, among others, specific rules of procedures for the GC, the EB, and the Centre, to accompany the adopted documents was announced as an urgent need for the Centre, to the extent that an extraordinary meeting of the GC was proposed to be held in May 2013 to cover the adoption of the mentioned regulations.

49 Respect for the standard procedures of UNESCO in announcing and organizing the GC and EB Meetings, among the other such gatherings, was emphasized, as a method to bring the Centre and its activities in line with the other international organizations.

50 A new round of correspondences was recommended to raise the number of the States Members of the Centre, and to widen the scope of its activities in a vaster geographical territory of the West and Central Asia.

51 Emphasize was put on *shared* ICH on the Region, and the ICH *in need of urgent safeguarding* in the Region; the strategy was announced as the best way to follow the duties of the Centre at sub-regional and regional levels. In this same relation,

52 The autonomy of the Centre was emphasized as a top priority among its features; the Director and the Secretariat supervised by him were required to take special care in this regard to keep with the mentioned nature.

53 The Director and the Secretariat were advised to take special care in order not to be involved in repeated programmes and/or not to interfere with the other Category 2 centres on ICH in their activities. In this same relation, the website of the Centre was emphasized to be compiled having the mentioned issue considered.

54 To contribute to the objective of establishing a network of the world Category 2 Centres on ICH, and creating an adequate network of their websites, the Centre was invited by the GC Members to follow the needed measures leading to successful joining of the Centre's Website to the mentioned network.

55 The Director of the Centre was also advised to take the necessary measures to enter cooperation with the other Category 2 Centres on ICH worldwide; continued collaborations with the Office of the Programme Specialist for Culture in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, was also emphasized, to keep the Centre fully linked with the Asia-Pacific Category 2 Centres and, by way of them, with their counterparts worldwide.

56 The Secretariat was, also, required to take the necessary measures to involve the local communities of the Region in the activities of the Centre; in this same relation, utilization of various methods by the Secretariat to attract the local experts toward the Centre was emphasized.

57 Identification of successful, good, or best practices in safeguarding ICH on the Region was, also, emphasized in the course of the mentioned discussions.

58 The West and Central Asian Region was declared by the GC as a vast territory with great potentialities in the field of ICH, that enjoys a great share in shaping the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; the Centre was emphasized to contribute to the materialization of the perspective.

59 The Centre was encouraged by the GC Members to attract financial contributions by interested (non-)governmental entities on the Region to improve its status and functions.

60 The Director of the Centre, as well as the Secretariat affiliated to it, were required to redraft the Staffing Table Document of the Centre in such a way that complexity comes down to a minimum in the proposed organizational structure: the less complex the organizational structure, the more effective the activities will be, and less money will be needed to pay for the salaries of the staff.

61 Regarding the diversified linguistic make up of the region, the Secretariat was encouraged to incorporate in the Centre's Website as many of the official languages over the region as possible, and take the needed measures, whenever and wherever possible, to translate the documents and texts of the Centre into them.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEXES

Part E:
Annexes

62. The present part encompasses the Annexes to the Final Report of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre). The documents annexed herewith cover:

- Some background documents and texts;
- Full-texts or abstracts of the addresses and speeches delivered in the course of the Opening Ceremony;
- Full-texts of Basic Documents of the Centre.

The order in which the mentioned Annexes have been arranged corresponds, roughly, to the order of the Agenda Items.



United Nations
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Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (1) The Agreement

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

AND

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

**REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT, IN TEHRAN, OF A REGIONAL RESEARCH
CENTRE FOR SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN WEST AND
CENTRAL ASIA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY 2)**

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter referred to as "the Government")

and

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"),

Taking into account that the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as "the 2003 Convention"), which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003, at its 32nd session, entered into force in April 2006,

Considering that the Director-General has been authorized by the General Conference to conclude with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran an agreement in conformity with the draft that was submitted to the General Conference at its 35th session,

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the contributions that shall be granted to the said Centre in this Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Establishment

The Government shall agree to take, in the course of the 2010-2011 biennium, any measures that may be required for the setting up in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), as provided for under this Agreement, of a Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, hereinafter called "the Centre".

Article 2

Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaborations between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the parties.

Article 3

Legal Status

1. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
2. The Government shall ensure that the Centre, while being associated to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, has an autonomous legal status and that it enjoys in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:
 - (a) to contract;
 - (b) to institute legal proceedings;
 - (c) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 4

Constitutive Act

The Constitutive Act of the Centre must include the following provisions:

- (a) a legal status granting to the Centre, under national legislation, the autonomous legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive subventions, obtain payments for services rendered and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;
- (b) UNESCO representation within its Governing Council.

Article 5

Participation

1. The Centre shall be at the service of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, and of territories as referred to in Article 33 of the 2003 Convention, that, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.
2. Member States and Associate members of UNESCO, as well as territories as referred to in Article 33 of the 2003 Convention, wishing to participate in the Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The Director of the Centre shall inform the parties to this Agreement, and other participating parties, of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 6

Objectives and Functions

1. The objectives of the Centre will be:

(a) to promote the 2003 Convention and its implementation in West and Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as "the Region");

(b) to strengthen capacities and cooperation in the Region for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying intangible Cultural heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;

(c) to further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing and evaluating safeguarding measures for intangible cultural heritage present in the Region;

(d) to reinforce capacities in States of the Region that are Parties to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international level, in particular concerning shared intangible cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States concerned.

2. The functions of the Centre will be:

(e) to create and keep up to date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, educational and information institutions, community organizations and individual experts involved in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperation through the Centre;

(f) to gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the intangible Cultural heritage present in their territory;

(g) to gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;

(h) to organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the viability of the intangible heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing the access to this heritage;

(i) to organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Intergovernmental Committee") for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the Convention;

(j) while maintaining a network of representatives of cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11 and 15 of the Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible cultural heritage;

(k) to organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention and for drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared intangible Cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;

(l) to cooperate and exchange information with other category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;

(m) to inform the Intergovernmental Committee and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention about relevant activities in the Region and to assist as appropriate in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

Article 7

Governing Council

1. The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Council, to be renewed every four years, and composed of:

(a) a representative of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization;

(b) a representative of two Member States that have sent notification, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 5, paragraph 2, above;

(c) a representative of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO;

(d) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;

(e) three specialists in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

2. The Governing Council shall:

- (a) approve the strategy and long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - (b) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre;
 - (d) issue the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre;
 - (e) elect the members of the Centre's Executive Board and appoint the Director of the Centre;
 - (f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions.
3. The Governing Council shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two thirds of its members.
4. The Governing Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article 8

Executive Board

1. In order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between the sessions of the Governing Council, the standing Executive Board shall:
- (a) supervise the execution of the Centre's programmes and activities;
 - (b) make recommendations to the Governing Council concerning the strategy and the long-term and mid-term programmes of the Centre;
2. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year and adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 9

Secretariat

1. The Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.
2. Decisions concerning the structure and the human resources of the Secretariat will be taken by the Governing Council.

3. The Governing Council shall appoint the Director of the Centre, who should have recognized academic standing and professional experience in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Article 10

Contribution of UNESCO

1. UNESCO shall provide assistance in the form of technical contributions for the activities of the Centre in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO.

2. UNESCO undertakes to:

(a) provide the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;

(b) include the Centre in various programmes that it implements and in which the participation of the latter seems beneficial to UNESCO's and the Centre's objectives;

(c) engage in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations;

(d) provide the Centre with relevant information on its programmes related to intangible cultural heritage.

3. In the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programmes and budget.

Article 11

Contribution of the Government

In the national Annual Budget Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran a separate budget index will be created for the Centre. The Government shall provide, through the intermediary of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre, including the resources needed for the staff of the Centre, for its premises, for the organization of activities of the Centre and for the organization of the meetings of the Governing Council and Executive Board. For the initial years an amount equivalent to at least US \$500,000 will be made available per year.

Article 12

Responsibility

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for it and shall bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

Article 13

Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to ascertain:

(a) whether the Centre makes an important contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO;

(b) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.

2. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.

3. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the contracting parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of the contents of this Agreement or of denouncing it, as envisaged in Articles 17 and 18. Notwithstanding this provision, the contracting parties agree to make every effort to remediate any problems identified in an evaluation before exercising the option of denunciation.

Article 14

Use of UNESCO's name and logo

1. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".

2. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letter-headed paper and documents in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO. Once the rules for the use of the logo of the 2003 Convention will have been established, the Centre will seek to be authorized to use that logo in combination with the UNESCO logo.

Article 15

Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force upon meeting the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by UNESCO's internal regulations.

Article 16

Duration

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six years as from its entry into force, and shall be deemed renewed unless it is expressly denounced by either party as provided for in Article 18.

Article 17

Revision

The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO.

Article 18

Denunciation

1. Each of the contracting parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement. Parties undertake, however, in conformity with Article 19, to settle any dispute that may arise between them and to make every effort to avoid denunciation.

2. A denunciation shall take effect sixty days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 19

Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if it is not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and the third, who shall preside over the tribunal, chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of the third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.

2. The Tribunal's decision shall be final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement.

DONE in two copies in the English Language.

For the Government

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Hamid Baghaei
Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
and Head of the Iranian Cultural Heritage,
Handicrafts and Tourism Organization

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Signed
Dated: 28 AVR. 2010



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (2)

Agenda of 1st Ordinary GC Meeting



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

AGENDA 1st ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English

Tuesday, 6 November 2012

Time	Agenda Item	Duration
09:00-09:30	Registration and Distribution of Documents	
09:30-10:30	OPENNING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recitations from the Holy Koran and National Antheme of the Islamic Republic of Iran - Address by Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO - Address by the Representative of ICHHTO to the Governing Council - Address by the Director Genral to the National Commission for UNESCO, Iran - Address by the Representative of the Director General of UNESCO to the Governing Council 	09:30-09:40 09:40-09:55 09:55-10:05 10:05-10:15 10:15-10:30
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break and Group Photo	10:30-11:00
11:00-12:30	Session One of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Morning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the Governing Council by Virtue of Age - Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre - Adoption of the Agenda - Adoption of the Governing Council Members' Specifications - Election of the Chairperson of the Governing Council - Shift of the Chairmanship of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Elected Chairperson - Adoption of the name of the Centre - Adoption of the Temporary Logo of the Centre - Election of the Director of the Centre and the Secretariat 	11:00-11:05 11:05-11:25 11:25-11:30 11:30-11:40 11:40-11:50 11:50-11:55 11:55-12:05 12:05-12:15 12:15-12:30
12:30-15:00	Lunch Break	12:30-15:00
15:00-16:30	Session Two of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Afternoon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the Constitution of the Centre - Adoption of the Geographical Domain of the Centre - Adoption of the Staffing Table of the Centre 	15:00-15:30 15:30-16:00 16:00-16:30
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break	16:30-17:00
17:00-18:30	Session Three of the Governing Council Meeting (1st Day, Afternoon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Members of the Executive Board - Adoption of the Annual Work Plan and Budget - Adoption of the Website of the Centre 	17:00-17:30 17:30-18:00 18:00-18:30

Wednesday, 7 November 2012

Time	Agenda Item	Duration
09:00-10:30	Session Four of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Morning) - Adoption of the Strategy, Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre - Adoption of the 1 st Year Programmes of the Centre	09:00-09:45 09:45-10:30
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	10:30-11:00
11:00-12:30	Session Five of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Morning) - Adoption of the Agenda, Date and Venue of the Next [Ordinary]/[Extraordinary] Meeting of the Governing Council - Discussion on the Report and Proclamation of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre	11:00-12:00 12:00-12:30
12:30-16:00	Lunch Break	12:30-16:00
16:00-17:00	Session Six of the Governing Council Meeting (2nd Day, Afternoon) - Adoption of the Report of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre - Adoption of the Declaration of the 1 st Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre	16:00-16:30 16:30-17:00
17:00-17:30	Coffee Break	17:00-17:30
17:30-18:30	ENDING CEREMONY - The Ending Address by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO - Further remarks and advice by the Governing Council Members	17:30-18:00 18:00-18:30



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (3)

Address by ICHHTO Chairman

**ADDRESS BY H. E. Mr. SEYYED HASSAN MOUSAVI
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND CHAIRMAN TO THE
IRANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE, HANDICRAFTS AND TOURISM ORGANIZATION
(ICHHTO)**

TO

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1ST GC MEETING

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Scholars,

Dear Members of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

It gives me great pleasure, today, to witness a determining step taken in the field of the culture of the ancient continent of Asia, and, specifically, the West and Central Asian Region. A region that, justifiably, constituted a birth-place for human civilizations, and has adopted in itself, in the course of its ever-developing history, a great number of Intangible Cultural Heritages.

The present meeting is a gathering of scholars and experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage. You are well aware that this heritage type does not limit itself within the political and official borders of countries, and is spread over vaster geographical territories. Perhaps this type of cultural heritage can be interpreted as best reflecting the concept of "shared heritage", due to the fact that few manifestations of Intangible Cultural Heritage can be found without specific counterparts in other countries and among other nations.

In this same relation, the West and Central Asian Region is quite outstanding. Apparently, this geographical territory functions as a gathering place for a considerable number of nations, ethnicities, religions, language communities, and races, each enjoying a rich background in various domains of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: special oral traditions, specific rituals, customs and traditions, unique performing arts, original corpuses of traditional knowledge, and special traditional craftsmanship. However, a careful detailed examination of all these manifestations, interestingly, reveals a shared cultural core among them. I would like to refer to this shared cultural core as the "West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage"; I am confident that the same understanding encouraged the sides to the Agreement on the establishment of our Centre to sign it. We are aware of the existence of a number of manifestation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage that can be referred to with the phrase "West and Central Asia" as an adjective: "West and Central Asian Rituals", "West and Central Asian Architecture", "West and Central Asian Traditional Medicine", "West and Central Asian Mythology", "West and Central Asian Music", "West and Central Asian Performing Arts, and the like.

However, and in spite of the mentioned rich background, the West and Central Asian Region is urgently in need of "awareness raising" and "capacity building" to behave properly in relation to this heritage type, and to learn about the proper way of utilizing it: especially, when we speak about shared Intangible Cultural Heritage. We, like all other nations on the Region, are in need of the latest scientific and expert contributions in the field; we need to become acquainted with the Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Region; we need to learn the methods for safeguarding it; and require to know those ways of utilizing it that do not cause dangers on its existence. Questions like these abound.

Anyway, we are witnessing an opportunity in our capital provided for the states on this vast region to share their interests and concerns in this regard, and make proper decisions. The opportunity, above all, contributes to peace and friendship over the Region, encourages dialogue among the nations, and, at the same time, provides the ground for identification, documentation, research, safeguarding, revitalization, and proper utilization of Intangible Cultural Heritage, this time on the vast regional scale.

I would like to express my warmest welcomes to the scholars who have attended the present gathering, and long for a successful meeting with plenty of good results.

No doubt, the first steps are, always, the steps to get experience. I wish for this first step to be accompanied with great experiences, and to throw light on future fruitful actions.

I hope for the day, in near future, that the interactions between our Centre and the international organizations and institutions will lead to rapid expansion of its activities over larger levels on the Region, to the extent that, finally, the overall West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage domain is seen accompanied with it.

I would like to bring my speech to an end with expressing my sincere gratitude toward all those who have contributed fully and sincerely to this meeting:

- The Director General of UNESCO,
- The Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO,
- UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office,
- Iranian National Commission for UNESCO,
- National Commissions for UNESCO over the Region, especially, those working in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan,
- The Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO,
- The Research Institute to ICHHTO, especially the Linguistics, Anthropology, and Traditional Arts Research Centres affiliated to it,

And

- The personnel of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2).

Best wishes for ever-increasing success,

Seyyed Hassan Mousavi

Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and

Chairman to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO)



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (4)

Address by ICHHTO Representative to the Governing Council

**ADDRESS BY Mr. MASOUD ALAVIAN SADR
DEPUTY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE, IRANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE, HANDICRAFTS
AND TOURISM ORGANIZATION (ICHHTO)
AND
ICHHTO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

TO

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1ST GC MEETING

In the Name of the Almighty God

Excellencies,
Dear Scholars,
Dear Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to represent the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) in the course of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO. I would like to express my warmest welcomes over the presence of high-ranking Iranian and international figures, guests from foreign embassies in Tehran, the leading figures active in cultural and administrative affairs, the UNESCO representatives, scholars engaged in cultural heritage, especially, Intangible Cultural Heritage affairs, as well as the Members of the Governing Council to the Iranian Category 2 Centre on ICH, to the 1st Meeting of this Council.

In spite of the fact that it has attracted international attention only recently, the subject of Intangible Cultural Heritage does not present the Iranian Scholars with an unprecedented concept and methodology. For a period of years we have witnessed publications of valuable ethnographies and ethnologies by Iranian scholars. To these, one must add a number of joint research projects at the sub-regional level, in which the Iranian scholars had taken part. The experience and expertise gained in this way is outstanding. The outcomes of the mentioned background for Iran include, among others, achievement in inscribing nine ICH elements on the UNESCO lists in the course of the previous three cycles, membership in the Intergovernmental Committee of the States Members to the 2003 Convention, membership in the network of the trainers on ICH, representing the ASPAC Group in the Subsidiary Body responsible for evaluating the ICH nominations for possible inscription on the Representative List in the 2012 Cycle, and membership in the Bureau of the coming Intergovernmental Committee Session.

It has been due to this same experience and expertise that the Director-General, as well as the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, of UNESCO were convinced to support the establishment, in Iran, of a Category 2 regional research centre under the auspices of UNESCO, specialized for West and Central Asia.

The establishment of the mentioned Category 2 Centre will define us with a starting point for a series of safeguarding activities in relation to the Intangible Cultural Heritage over the West and Central Asian

Region. The mentioned activities will provide the States on the Region with a novel perspective for collaboration, dialogue and development.

On these same lines, extensive awareness-raising, capacity-building, documentation, and research endeavors are expected at the regional level. Regional expert conferences, regional festivals, shared publications, pre-planned preservation and revitalization campaigns, identification of successful/best practices over the Region, and joint safeguarding projects directed toward the elements of ICH that are in need of urgent safeguarding constitute, only, part of the activities expected of our Category 2 Centre.

Asia, the ancient, densely populated, and culturally diversified continent, constitutes a territory of great capacities in relation to Intangible Cultural Heritage. Our continent has been greatly active in this same relation; to justify this claim, it is sufficient to mention that four of the five UNESCO Category 2 Centres on ICH are located in Asia. The Iranian Category 2 Centre is the fourth among the Asian Centres, and has been agreed to follow research projects directed toward safeguarding ICH on the vast West and Central Asian Region.

The West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage, however, needs to be identified and introduced to the world. The Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia is expected to follow the following as topics for part of its activities:

- Identification of successful practices for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage over the Region,
- Identification of national laws, rules and regulations for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for utilization at sub-regional and regional levels,
- Identification and safeguarding shared and endangered ICH elements over the Region,
- Effective cooperation with the other Category 2 Centres on ICH, as well as the international organizations and institutions interested in the subject,
- Planning and executing awareness-raising and capacity-building activities over the Region, with special attention directed toward the countries having recently joined the 2003 Convention,

And

- Identification of the local communities, non-governmental organizations, and expert groups and individuals involved in affairs related to safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage over the Region, and contributing to have them involved in the activities of the Centre.

I hope that in the course of this 1st Meeting of the Governing Council we will be able to adopt as many agenda items as is needed by the Centre to start its functions.

I, too, would like to bring this speech to an end by expressing my sincere thanks toward all the people who have been involved in organizing this meeting.

Masoud Alavian Sadr

Deputy for Cultural Heritage,

Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), and

ICHHTO Representative to the Governing Council of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (5)

Abstract of Address by Representative of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to the Governing Council

**ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS BY Mr. ABDOLMAHDI MOSTAKIN
CHIEF OF CULTURE SECTION, IRANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
AND
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

TO

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1ST GC MEETING

Abstract

The speech by Mr. Abdolmahdi Mostakin was constituted by an introduction to the nature of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its role in institutionalizing peace, solidarity and development. References to the shared West and Central Asian ICH and the need for harmonizing efforts at the regional level to safeguard this heritage followed the abovementioned introduction. Selections of the works by the great Iranian literary figures were presented to the audience to support the idea that the concept Intangible Cultural Heritage and its functions had been known to the people over the Region for Centuries.

Mr. Mostakin, then, reminded the audience of the role of UNESCO Category 2 Centres in helping the mother international organization to follow its duties and functions. He made special reference to the urgent need over the Region for awareness-raising and capacity-building, and expressed hope that the Category 2 Centre in Iran could succeed in accomplishing these objectives over the vast West and Central Asian Region. He, also, emphasized the potentiality on the part of the mentioned Centre to consolidate dialogue among the communities and states over the region through encouraging regional cooperation to safeguard shared ICH.

Mr. Mostakin brought his speech to its end with expressing thanks toward the organizers of the Meeting.



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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (6)

Address by Representative of the Director General UNESCO to the Governing Council

**ADDRESS BY MS. TARJA VIRTANEN
DIRECTOR OF UNESCO TEHRAN CLUSTER OFFICE AND
UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE TO IRAN AND TURKMENISTAN
AND
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO
TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

TO

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1ST GC MEETING
(TEHRAN, 6 NOVEMBER 2012)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to represent the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, and to join you for the first meeting of the Governing Council of the **Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia**.

I wish to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its engagement in the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

This is true in World Heritage, where the Islamic Republic of Iran has 15 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List -- from the from the the Zigorat of Choghazanbil to the Jeme Mosque of Isfahan.

This is also the case for intangible cultural heritage, where the Islamic Republic of Iran has currently two items on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding – the Naqqāli story-telling and the skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats – and seven elements included on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage – including the Pahlevani and Zoorkhanei rituals, Radif of Iranian music and (together with six other countries of the region) Novruz.

These are precious for the Iranian people, and they part of the wider heritage of humanity.

This engagement reflects values that have deep roots in Iranian society.

The inauguration of the Tehran Centre and its first Governing Council meeting are timely, because they occur a few weeks before the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage in early December in Paris.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has just completed a two-year term as a member of that Committee, and it served in 2012 on the Subsidiary Body evaluating nominations to the Representative List.

The Director-General and the Secretary of the Convention, Ms Cécile Duvelle, would like to thank you for that effective contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

Intangible cultural heritage is our bridge from the past to the future.

It is the way we understand the world and the means by which we shape it. Intangible cultural heritage is the precious possession of communities, groups and individuals – only they can safeguard it and pass it on to generations to come.

Our role, as international organizations and Governments, is to support these efforts in every way we can.

This is the goal of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Convention provides an opportunity to discover living cultural expressions from across the world.

It is also a tool for social cohesion and a way to safeguard practices that are vital for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Our starting points are clearly set out in the text of the Convention: intangible cultural heritage must be compatible with human rights, it should promote mutual respect among communities, and it should support human, social and economic development.

More than 146 States have rallied around these objectives. The Islamic Republic of Iran was quick to ratify, in 2006, as the 40th State Party to the Convention. You have now been followed by all of your neighbours here in the region – most recently Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan within the last twelve months.

Robust in meaning, intangible cultural heritage is also vulnerable to the pressures of change.

This makes safeguarding it all the more vital.

The stakes are high, so we must set solid foundations now on which to build.

Institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO – in our jargon, Category 2 Centres – are important here.

As you know, such Centres are created and funded by Member States to help advance UNESCO's strategic objectives and priorities.

They are centres of excellence with unique expertise.

They amplify our messages in societies and regions across the world. And they promote networking and the exchange of information.

Through all of this, Category 2 Centres play a key role in reinforcing UNESCO's impact.

The **Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia** here in Tehran is important at all of these levels. This Centre is one of four in Asia.

As approved by the UNESCO General Conference, these Centres should work through a harmonious and effective division of labour.

The Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia will support a broad range of safeguarding efforts in the Islamic Republic of Iran, its neighbouring countries and other Member States in the region.

The three other Asia-Pacific Centres have more narrow specializations. The Centre in Nakai, Japan, is devoted to research on safeguarding. The Centre in Beijing, China, concentrates on training and capacity-building, while the Centre in the Republic of Korea supports information and networking. The Tehran Centre takes in all of these activities, while focussing its activities in a smaller region.

As approved by the General Conference of UNESCO, the Tehran Centre has four objectives:

- (a) to promote the 2003 Convention and its implementation;
- (b) to strengthen safeguarding capacities and international cooperation in the Region for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying intangible cultural heritage;
- (c) to support research aimed at developing, managing and evaluating safeguarding measures;
- (d) to reinforce capacities in States for actively participating in the Convention's implementation on the regional and international level, in particular concerning shared intangible cultural heritage present in the territories of two or more States.

Category 2 Centres are part of a global network that is 84 strong – 25 of which work in the field of culture, 6 supporting UNESCO's work in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

In addition to the four Centres in Asia, the remaining two Centres in this field are in Bulgaria and Peru.

There is no shortage of work to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

To reach our goals, it is important we craft a single voice and we coordinate action. This calls for regular consultation, between Centres and also with the Secretariat, to develop effective programmes.

The Director-General has asked that the work of the Centres in Asia and the Pacific be followed closely by Mr Tim Curtis, culture officer in the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, and he will take on the responsibility of serving as her representative in future meetings of this Governing Council.

The UNESCO Office in Tehran will of course continue to provide our support as the Centre now begins its operational phase.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Managing the diversity of States has always been a central question of international relations.

Today, managing diversity within States is becoming a core issue.

This is the inspiration of UNESCO's ground-breaking Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, whose 10th anniversary we celebrated in 2011.

The Universal Declaration declares cultural diversity to be [I quote] "the common heritage of humanity."

Cultural diversity is a wellspring of identity, social cohesion and renewal. It is also a motor for innovation and development.

The Universal Declaration helped clear the ground for rapid agreement on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Our position is unambiguous.

Intangible cultural heritage must continue to be practised and transmitted for humanity to create a more peaceful and sustainable future, based on dignity and equal respect.

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its leadership in taking this forward.

She and I wish the Tehran Centre every success as it moves from its planning phase to an active phase of serving as a regional resource for the countries of West and Central Asia.

As the Convention soon begins its own tenth year, it is time to reflect upon the lessons learnt and to take our accumulated experience further.

UNESCO looks forward to working with the **Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia** to create new networks across the region and to disseminate our message as widely as possible.

Thank you.



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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (7)

Outline of the Report by the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre

**OUTLINE OF THE REPORT BY Mr. YADOLLAH PARMOUN ON THE HISTORY OF THE
REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN WESET AND CENTRAL ASIA, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO
(CATEGORY 2)**

PRESENTED TO

THE 1ST MEETING OF THE GOVERINIG COUNCIL OF THE CENTRE

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE: Background, History, Current State, Programmes

1. BACKGROUND

- History of Anthropological Studies in Iran
- Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO)
 - The Research Institute
 - Anthropology Research Centre
 - Linguistics Research Centre
 - Traditional Arts Research Centre
 - Tourism Research Centre
 - Archaeology Research Centre
 - Monuments and Texture Research Centre
 - Preservation Research Centre

1.1. ICHHTO: MAJOR ICH PROJECTS (National Level)

- Linguistic Atlas of Iran
- Anthropological Atlas of Iran
- Archive of Iranian Ethnographies
- Tentative List of Iranian ICH
- Internationally Inscribed Nominations
 - Nowrouz
 - Radif of Iranian Classical Music
 - Ta'ziye
 - Kashan Carpet
 - Fars Carpet
 - Pahlevaani and Zoorkhaane'i Rituals
 - Music of Bakhshis of Northern Khoraasaan
 - Naqqaali: Iranian Drammatic Story-telling

- Traditional Knowledge of Constructing Iranian Traditional Lenj Boats and Sailing with them in the Persian Gulf

1.2. ICHHTO: MAJOR ICH PROGRAMMES (Sub-regional and Regional Levels)

- Yearly Gatherings of Nowrouz Celebrating Nations
- Nowrouz Website
- Regional Conferences on Shared Heritage
- Regional Workshops on Cultural Heritage
- Regional Safeguarding Endeavors
- Multinational Publications on Cultural Heritage
- Regional Festivals (Performing Arts, Handicrafts, Games, ...)
- Capacity Building Endeavors
 - UNESCO Trend
 - Multinational Safeguarding Collaborations (Inscription, Documentation, Preservation, Revitalization, ...)
 - Tehran ICH Centre
 - First Gathering of Iranian Experts on ICH (May-June 2011)

2. HISTORY (Governmental Level)

- The Proposal to the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICHHTO Chairman
- The 2009 Approval of the UNESCO General Conference
- The 2010 (April 28th) Agreement between the Director-General to UNESCO and the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICHHTO Chairman
- Bill of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), Approved by the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in August 2010
- Act of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), Approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran in May 2011
- Act of Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), Approved by the Council of Guardians, Islamic Republic of Iran, May 2011

⇒

- ICHHTO Empowered to Follow the Establishment of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)

3. HISTORY (ICHHTO Level)

- The Supreme Policy-maker Council
- The Deputy in Cultural Heritage
 - The Director
 - The Shorter Name: Tehran ICH Centre
 - The Place
 - The Budget
 - The Preliminary Activities
 - Documentation
 - Domain (Geographical, Theoretical, Methodological, ...)
 - Participation in International Events
 - The Training of Trainers Workshop
 - The Bali Meeting

4. CURRENT STATE

- The Invitation Letters
- The Logo
- The Website Design (Make-up, Links, Icons, Tabs, Working Languages, Logos, ...)
- Programmes and Projects

⇒

- Official Inauguration
- The Governing Council
- The Constitution
- The Organizational Chart

5. PROGRAMMES

- The Philosophy and Methodology
 - Research-based Safeguarding
 - Perspective (Yearly, 5-year, 20-year)
 - Objective: Balance Throughout the Continent
 - Activities
 - Capacity-building
 - Safeguarding (Identification, Documentation, Research, Preservation, Revitalization, ...)
 - Equitable Expertise and Experience Distribution

- Cooperation with Iranian Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations in Directing (Sub-) Regional Projects Toward the ICH Domain
 - Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance (Artistic Projects, Publications, Exhibitions, ...)
 - Iranian Islamic Promotion Organization (Cultural Projects, Publications, Exhibitions, ...)
 - Related Departments in Iranian Universities
 - Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) (Artistic/Documentary Productions, Festivals, ...)
 - Iranian Society of Advocates of Intangible Cultural Heritage
 - Iran House of Music
 - Iran House of Cinema
 - Iran House of Theatre
 - Iranian Society of Traditional Performing Arts
 - Provincial Directorates of ICHHTO
 - ICHHTO Bases
 - Iranian World Heritage Sites

- Identification of Regional Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations, Working on ICH, as well as ICH Practitioner Communities, Groups, and Individuals for Cooperation



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (8) The Constitution



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

CONSTITUTION

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Properly safeguarded and promoted cultural heritage enjoys the potential to reinforce peaceful co-existence and rapprochement among varied cultures through encouraging mutual inter-cultural understanding and respect for cultural diversity. The outcomes will include, among others, peace and sustainable development virtually at the international level.

The unending trend of drastic developments in the domains of media and technology continues to exert negative impacts on cultural heritage; though the same trend has its own positive effects, even in the same domain, too. In the face of the increasing popularity of world media, the Intangible Cultural Heritage will, no doubt, prove as more vulnerable due to its live nature, to the extent that its endurance, coherence, and survival will be endangered. Regarding the mentioned facts, the world community, headed by UNESCO, has highlighted in its agenda the issues of safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and preserving Cultural Diversity through planning and executing a number of novel strategies.

The enactment, in 2003, of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter, the "2003 Convention") defined the field with a determining turning point. The execution of the Convention message, however, requires full-fledged commitment on the part of the Member States, local societies, as well as the world community. On these same lines, UNESCO continues to reiterate the issues of collaboration of nations and cooperation of states to promote the 2003 Convention, especially in relation to their shared Intangible Cultural Heritages.

The West and Central Asia (hereinafter, called "the Region") constitutes a geographical territory that encompasses rich shared historical and cultural backgrounds. Collaborations of the region's states shall promote identification, documentation, research, inscription, and revitalization, as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building, and, on the whole, safeguarding of the mentioned shared Intangible Cultural Heritages.

Empowered as per Resolution 34C/DR12, whereby the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter, "the Government") was granted, by the 34th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the permission to establish, on its territory, a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II) (Hereinafter, "the Centre"), the related legal and official proceedings were followed by the Government of Iran and UNESCO.

Edited based upon the Agreement concluded, on 28 April 2010, between the Government, represented by the Vice President and Chairman to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (hereinafter, called "ICHHTO"), on the one hand, and Director General of UNESCO, on the other, "regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" (hereinafter, called "the Agreement") the present text consists of the Constitution of the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II).

ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

The following define the Centre with its objectives:

- A. To promote the 2003 Convention and its implementation in West and Central Asia;
- B. To strengthen capacities and cooperation in the Region for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;
- C. To further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing and evaluating safeguarding measures for Intangible Cultural Heritage present in the Region; and
- D. To reinforce capacities in States of the Region that are Parties to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementations on the regional and international levels, in particular concerning shared intangible cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more States concerned.

ARTICLE 3 FUNCTIONS

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

The following constitute the Functions of the Centre:

- (a) to create and keep up to date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, educational and information institutions, community organizations and individual experts involved in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperation through the Centre;
- (b) to gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the intangible Cultural heritage present in their territory;
- (c) to gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;
- (d) to organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the

viability of the intangible heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing the access to this heritage;

(e) to organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Intergovernmental Committee") for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the Convention;

(f) while maintaining a network of representatives of cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11 and 15 of the Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible cultural heritage;

(g) to organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention and for drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared intangible Cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;

(h) to cooperate and exchange information with other category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;

(i) to inform the Intergovernmental Committee and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention about relevant activities in the Region and to assist as appropriate in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

ARTICLE 4 LEGAL STATUS

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

The Centre shall enjoy the status of an autonomous international institution affiliated to UNESCO as a Category II centre, under the auspices of UNESCO. This enables it to enter relations with the states on the Region and, where appropriate, other states, according to the existing shared cultural heritage backgrounds to create the ground for mutual cooperation.

While keeping its autonomy, the Centre shall remain related to ICHHTO, shall be based in Tehran, Capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and, within the framework of the laws and regulations of the Government,

shall endeavor to enjoy the legal status it deserves and utilize the potentials it needs to materialize its objectives and perform its duties. While remaining respectful to the Iranian National Law, the Centre shall enjoy the legal authority and autonomy for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to:

- A) Contract
- B) Institute legal proceedings,
- C) Acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

ARTICLE 5 ORGANIZATION

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

The Centre shall enjoy the existence of the following as its organizational administrations:

5.1. Governing Council

The Centre shall be guided and supervised by its Governing Council, composed of the following as its members:

- a. A Representative of ICHHTO,
- b. Representatives of two Member States to the Centre (One representative from each state),
- c. A Representative of the Director General of UNESCO,
- d. A Representative of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO,
- e. Three prominent experts in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage from the Region.

5.1.1 The members of the Governing Council shall be assigned for periods of four years.

5.1.2. In the Course of its first meeting, the Governing Council is required to elect its own Chairperson for a period of four years, through voting.

5.1.3. Proposals on election of a new Chairperson prior to the termination of the mentioned 4-year period shall win 2/3 of the votes of the Members of the Governing Council.

5.1.4. The Chairperson of the Governing Council is authorized to issue the Director of the Centre's order of action/letter of appointment, after he/she has been elected through voting by the Members of the Governing Council, in the course of one of their meetings (Cf. 5.3).

5.1.5. The Governing Council is authorized to invite more representatives from other states to its meetings.

5.1.6. The Governing Council shall, also, enjoy the authority to invite representatives of the local communities nominated by its Member States, as well as more prominent experts in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, to follow its specialized agenda.

5.1.7. The presence of the invited sides mentioned under 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 in the meetings of the Governing Council is, solely, to satisfy consultation needs; they shall enjoy no rights to vote.

5.1.8. Duties of the Governing Council

The Governing Council of the Centre shall hold its *Ordinary Meetings* on regular basis, at least once every calendar year. It shall meet in an extraordinary session if summoned by its Chairperson either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two thirds of its members.

5.1.8.1. The Governing Council of the Centre shall be responsible for the following duties:

- (a) Adopt its own rules of procedure;
- (b) Elect its own Chairperson;
- (c) Approve the Centre's Strategy and Long-term and Medium-term Programmes;
- (d) Approve the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Centre;
- (e) Approve the structure and human resources of the Secretariat (Staffing Table);
- (f) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre;
- (g) Issue the Rules and Regulations to determine the Financial, Administrative and Personnel Management Procedures of the Centre;
- (h) Elect the members of the Centre's Executive Board, appoint the Director of the Centre, as well as elect the Centre's expert/consultative committees (under the condition that such committees are established);
- (i) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations, and international organizations in the work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions.

5.2. EXECUTIVE BOARD

In order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between the sessions of the Governing Council, a standing Executive Board shall be established with five members elected and assigned by the Governing Council. The Executive Board shall hold its meetings two times a year.

5.2.1. The Executive Board shall function according to the Executive Board's Rules of Procedure to be drafted by the Secretariat in the course of the first year following the first Meeting of the Governing Council (Cf. 5.4), and approved by the same Executive Board during its First Meeting.

5.2.2. The composition of the Executive Board shall be determined through the Executive Board's Rules of Procedure.

5.2.3. In the Course of its first Meeting, the Governing Council shall elect and assign its representatives to the Executive Board for the first year, who will function as Interim Members of the Executive Board for the period of one year prior to the compilation and approval of the Centre's Rules of Procedure.

5.2.4. The Executive Board's Rules of Procedure will determine the procedure of electing and/or re-electing the Members of the same.

5.2.5. Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Centre shall:

(a) supervise the execution of the Centre's approved programmes and activities,

(b) examine the Centre's projects and budget, as well as drafts of the decisions of the Governing Council, to make recommendations to the Governing Council concerning the Strategy and the Long-term and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre.

5.3. DIRECTORSHIP

The Director of the Centre shall be appointed for a period of four years, after winning 2/3 of the positive votes of the members of the Governing Council in one of its meetings.

5.3.1. Having for the appointment been confirmed through an order of action/a letter of appointment issued by the Chairperson of the Governing Council, the Director of the Centre shall be authorized to open an account at one of the accredited banks in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to take the necessary measures, according to the related national rules and regulations, to transfer the Centre's budget into the mentioned account.

5.3.2. All of the financial documents of the Centre shall become binding when signed by the Director of the Centre and, also, the Chief of the Financial and Human Resources Affairs Section of the Centre (Cf. the Staffing Table Document: 2.4.2.2.2).

5.3.3. The Governing Council may re-appoint the same person as the Director of the Centre for consecutive periods of office.

5.3.4. Proposals on appointment of a new Director prior to the termination of the mentioned 4-year period shall win 2/3 of the votes of the Members of the Governing Council in the course of one of its meetings.

5.3.3. Duties of the Director

The Director of the Centre shall be authorized to:

- (a) Identify and assign competent personnel needed for proper functioning of the Centre's Secretariat (Cf. 5.4),
- (b) Direct the Centre's Secretariat,
- (c) Direct the undertakings of the Secretariat according to the Work Plan and Budget approved by the Governing Council, as supervised by the Executive Board and the Governing Council of the Centre,
- (d) Submit the draft proposals on the Work Plan and Budget of the Centre to the Governing Council,
- (e) Draft the agenda of the Meetings of the Governing Council/Executive Board, with the assistance of the Executive Board, as well as draft other possible documents or amendment to the existing documents as may be required in preparations of the Governing Council meetings.

5.4. SECRETARIAT

The Centre enjoys the existence, within its organizational chart, of a permanent Secretariat consisting of such staff as is necessary for its proper functioning. The Secretariat shall be directed by the Centre's Director.

5.4.1. Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Centre shall be responsible for:

- (a) assisting the Director in drafting the Centre's documents and procedures for submission to the Governing Council;
- (b) assisting the Director in drafting the Centre's Programmes and Budget for submission to the Governing Council;
- (c) assisting the Director in drafting the agenda's for the Governing Council and the Executive Board's meetings, as well as in drafting their reports;
- (d) assisting the Director in drafting for submission of proposals on establishment of Expert/Consultative Committees to the Governing Council, in line with the overall strategy of shifting the execution of projects to expert bodies to encourage capacity-building among local communities;
- (e) assisting the Director in coordinating the affairs among the Centre's Expert/Consultative Committees, as well as between them and the Centre, and editing the related reports for submission to the Centre's Governing Council.

5.5. EXPERT/CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

Considering the vast domain of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the hoard of manifestations thereof, also to materialize the spirit of the 2003 Convention that emphasizes the involvement of the local communities and non-governmental organizations in the related safeguarding campaigns, the majority of the technical and executive commitments of the Centre shall be performed in line with the overall "out-sourcing strategy" which requires bodies outside the Centre to be involved. On these same lines, the Centre shall function as a Secretariat to create harmony in this regard, and to trigger proper functioning of the bodies which shall collaborate with it.

Consequently, the Centre undertakes to establish Expert/Consultative Committees on various domains of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to improve its functions and programmes. Having done this, the Secretariat shall function as a medium linking the Expert/Consultative Committees together, on the one hand, and with the Executive Board and the Governing Council, on the other.

The themes and compositions of the mentioned Expert/Consultative Committees shall be determined based on proposals by the Director of the Centre, and approval of the Chairperson of the Governing Council.

ARTICLE 6 FINANCING

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

6.1. The Government undertakes to provide the Centre with a yearly budget of 500,000 US\$, for the starting years following establishment, as asserted through the Agreement it has concluded, to this effect, with UNESCO.

6.2. The yearly amounts of budget for the periods to follow the starting years shall be determined according to the agreement signed with UNESCO.

6.3. The Centre is allowed to benefit from financial supports granted by Member States and/or various national, regional and international bodies and/or non-governmental organizations and institutions, and/or real and legal entities/bodies.

6.4. The Governing Council shall be the sole body authorized to make decisions on the methods of allocating and spending the mentioned amounts of money.

6.5. Proposals on the kinds of financial contributions by States Members to the Centre shall constitute an agenda for the Meetings of the Governing Council.

ARTICLE 7

COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

UNESCO and the Centre shall remain collaborating with each other as far as their related authorizations and duties will permit. To this effect, the following contributions are foreseen:

7.1. CONTRIBUTION OF UNESCO

7.1.1. UNESCO shall provide assistance in the form of technical contributions for the activities of the Centre in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO.

7.1.2. UNESCO undertakes to:

- (a) provide the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;
- (b) include the Centre in various programmes that it implements and in which the participation of the latter seems beneficial to UNESCO's and the Centre's objectives;
- (c) engage in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations;
- (d) provide the Centre with relevant information on its programmes related to intangible cultural heritage.

7.1.3. In the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programmes and budget.

7.2. CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT

In the national Annual Budget Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran a separate budget index will be created for the Centre. The Government shall provide, through the intermediary of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre, including the resources needed for the staff of the Centre, for its premises, for the organization of activities of the Centre and for the organization of the meetings of the Governing Council and Executive Board. For the initial years an amount equivalent to at least US \$500,000 will be made available per year.

ARTICLE 8

GEOGRAPHY

(Adopted: November 6th, 2012)

Considering the impossibility of delimiting the Intangible Cultural Heritage within the official political borders of countries, due to its dynamic nature which contributes to its continuous propagation, the Centre

will devote its activities to the geographical territory on which the, so called, West and Central Asian Culture exists.

Consequently, the West and Central Asian region, as asserted in the available UN documents, and their immediate neighbourhood, bearing cultural communalities, will constitute the geographical territory of the Centre's activities.



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (9) The Geographical Domain



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

DOCUMENT ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DOMAIN OF THE CENTRE

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia is the fifth Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, worldwide, that is interested in the subject of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. At the same time, the Centre constitutes the fourth such centre in the Asia and Pacific Region, with the other three centres being based in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and China.

Regarding the fact that the majority of the Category 2 centres on ICH are based in Group 4 States to UNESCO (namely, the ASPAC Group), the possibility of overlaps of interests, undertakings, and duties have become a major concern for UNESCO. Although working in the same geographical territory (i.e. the Asia-Pacific Region in its totality), the Korean, Japanese, and Chinese centres have been justified, by their founders, as being thematically different, with announcing "networking", "training", and "research" as their respective themes. The issue has, however, remained as challenging, regarding the difficulty of defining each of the mentioned themes without reference to the other two.

The Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, has a clearly cut theme for its activities; the theme is "safeguarding-directed research" which makes it distinct from "research in general".

The Centre has, also, been agreed by the sides to the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, and signed by the Director-General of UNESCO, on one side, and the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, on the other, as a Centre with activities directed toward the West and Central Asian Region. This geographical specification makes the Iranian Centre completely distinct from the other three Asian Category 2 centres; nevertheless, the phrase "West and Central Asian Region" requires elaboration.

The present document encompasses argumentations on the issue edited to justify the mentioned phrase and its terminological makeup.

ARTICLE 2

ARGUMENTS

2.1. On the Nature of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

It is unanimously agreed by all specialists and practitioners of ICH worldwide, that the Intangible Cultural Heritage is a live heritage that is constantly recreating itself in response to the changing temporal and spatial conditions. On these same lines, this heritage is, truly defined, as not being confined to the official borders of any country (Cf. the text of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).

Consequently, regionally based identification, documentation, research, and, on the whole, safeguarding programmes define this domain with a major need.

2.2. On the Effectiveness of (sub-)Regional Endeavors to Safeguard ICH

The vast geographical territory classified, by UNESCO, as the Asia-Pacific Region encompasses a rich collection of highly varied and diversified ICH. Countless oral expressions and traditions, ritualistic behaviors and festive events, performing arts, traditional knowledge corpuses, as well as numerous types of traditional craftsmanship, are observed as scattered throughout the Pacific Sub-region, the South-eastern Sub-region, the Southern Sub-region, the Far East, the Northern Sub-region, the Central Sub-region, and the Western Sub-region.

In order for the mentioned ICH manifestations to be safeguarded most properly, sub-regional centres will, no doubt, prove as more effective; in this way larger numbers of ICH manifestations will be safeguarded simultaneously.

2.3. On the Conventional Nature of Varied Regional Classifications by International Organizations

The majority of the grouping conventions proposed by the United Nations, as well as the organizations affiliated to it, including UNESCO, as well as the other international organizations, are not able to delimit the exact territories on which the Intangible Cultural Heritage manifestations prevail.

To this fact one must add the fact that the same country is, at the same time, a member to different groupings.

2.4. On the Shared Intangible Cultural Heritage of West and Central Asia

The region proposed, through the present document, as the West and Central Asia, has been described, through a variety of scientific documents as holding a shared core of ICH distributed among the various states on the region, which has given rise to a variety of manifestations. These shared ICH manifestations include:

- *Oral Traditions and Expressions*: A number of Indo-European, Asiatic, and Hamito-Semitic oral traditions and expressions are vastly used by a majority of the states on the region. These traditions and expressions include the shared West and Central Asian mythology, religions, folk songs, fables and stories, among others.

- *Rituals, Customs and Festive Events*: Throughout the long history of the region, in the course of which the West and Central Asian nations have lived in the neighborhood of one another, a number of shared rituals, customs and festive events have been adopted by all of them. Among these, "Nowruz", "Yalda", "Islamic Festivities", "Ancient Asian Mythological Festive Events", "Traditional West and Central Asian Games", and the like are worth mentioning.

- *Performing Arts*: A number of various manifestations of performing arts are shared by the West and Central Asian nations. Among these, "Maqami Music", "Traditional West and Central Asian Theatre", "Traditional West and Central Asian Dance", "Traditional West and Central Asian Puppet Theatre", "Traditional West and Central Asian Poetry Recitation Gatherings", "West and Central Asian Calligraphy", etc, are worth mentioning.

- *Traditional Knowledge*: Living in a more or less homogeneous geographical territory of vast deserts and high mountains, the West and Central Asian nations have been able, through the long history of the region, to

develop a shared body of traditional knowledge in relation to the nature and the universe. Among these, the traditional West and Central Asian "Astrology", "Medicine", "Architecture", "Agriculture", "Utilization of Non-fossil Energy Resources", and "Knowledge of the Migration Routes for the Nomad Communities on the Regions", and "Traditional West and Central Asian Cuisine", among others are but a few examples.

- *Traditional Craftsmanship*: The West and Central Asian handicrafts enjoy international fame. These include "Carpets", "Textiles", "Wooden Crafts", "Pottery", "Metal-work", "Jewelry", "Tile-work", "Glass-work", and the like.

While numerous, the manifestations of the abovementioned ICH domains, at the same time, define the whole West and Central Asian Region as distinct from the other Asian and Pacific sub-regions.

2.5. On the Inadequacy of the UNESCO Grouping Conventions with the West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage

The region proposed, through the present document, as the West and Central Asia, encompasses a vast territory which encompasses nations from three UNESCO Electoral Groups:

- *Asia and the Pacific (7 countries)*: Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
- *Europe (6 countries)*: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, The Russian Federation, Turkey, Uzbekistan
- *Arab States(12 countries)*: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

As documented frequently, the mentioned nations share a number of ICH elements, which define them as a states on a distinct region of the world. Examples of these shared elements were given above, under 2.4.

A number of neighboring countries on the region belong, at the same time, to different electoral groups. Iran constitutes a good example in this regard: Among the countries neighboring Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey belong to the Group of the European States, Iraq, all of the Arab nations bordering the Persian Gulf are members of the Group of Arab States, and Afghanistan and Pakistan are members of the Asia-Pacific Group.

According to some groupings, Pakistan, one of the immediate Eastern Neighbors of Iran has, even, been grouped among the South-Asian States.

The situation is at work with a number of the other States on the Region.

2.6. On the Traditional Exchange Routes Among the West and Central Asian Nations

In the course of the long history of the region, a number of modes of exchanges of cultural and scientific properties among the nations have been developed. Among these modes, the ancient and historical roads linking nations with each other have been of great importance. On these roads, a number of cultural properties have long been exchanged and borrowed by the states, especially, the neighboring ones.

Among these roads, "the Shahi Road", "the Spice Road", "the Persian Gulf Marine Routs", "the Caspian Sea Marine Routes", and the "West and Central Asian Sections of the Silk Road" are worth mentioning.

2.7. On the Possibility of Membership of One State in Several Thematically Distinct Category 2 Centres

One single state may, simultaneously, participate in the activities of several Category 2 Centres as a member, to the extent that the mentioned Category 2 Centres are thematically different. Considering the fact that the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO, is thematically distinct from all of the other Category 2 Centres on ICH, any of the abovementioned 25 States can freely become a member of it, and, at the same time, join any other Centre in accordance to any other criterion.

ARTICLE 3 PROPOSAL

Regarding the fact that the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage is based in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, also considering that the territory covered by the 25 countries named above (Cf. 2.5) defines the Centre with a vast geographical domain, it is proposed that the Centre starts with defining its geographical domain by first inviting and introducing the countries from the sub-regions described below. In so doing, it is proposed that the joining process follows the order of the five groupings presented below, and justified through publishing supporting arguments and negotiations on the subject). (Note that some of the names below appear under more than one group. This shows that they can be regarded as candidates for membership in the Centre with regard to more than one criterion):

(1) The Central Asian States (6 countries): Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

(The successful collaboration of these countries as members of the Nowruz-celebrating group, to which Pakistan, India, Azerbaijan, and Turkey must be added, supports the idea.

(2) The States neighbors to Iran (7 countries):

- Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan

(3) The Arab-States on the coasts of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, as well as the Arabian Peninsula (8 countries): Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

(4) The Caucasian States, and States neighbors to the Caspian Sea: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan

(5) West Asian Arab States (4 countries): Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
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ANNEX (10)

The *Interim* Staffing Table



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

STAFFING TABLE (INTERIM)

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1

INTRODUCTION

Due to its unique nature, the Intangible Cultural Heritage easily crosses the political-official borders between countries and enters the neighboring geographical domains. Consequently, the best method to study and safeguard this category of cultural heritage is constituted, in most cases, through conducting trans-border (i.e. sub-regional, regional, or international) campaigns. The *Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO*, decided to be referred to with the abbreviated name *Tehran ICH Centre* (hereinafter, "the Centre") has been established according to the same approach. The major undertaking of the Centre is to conduct studies on the Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia with an aim to safeguard it. Accordingly, the details of the activities of the Centre include, among others, such categories as "study", "documentation", "research", "promotion", "awareness raising", "capacity building", and "revitalization".

A category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, the Centre shall enjoy the existence of the comprehensive, systematically arranged, staffing table reflected in the present document, to be able to fulfill the commitments asserted in its constitution. The organizational components introduced through the present document shall appear according to their related organizational status, in a descending order, and each shall be accompanied by its related mandate and commitments.

1.1. Objectives

Regarding the abovementioned, the Centre shall follow the fulfillment of the following objectives:

- A. To promote the 2003 Convention and its implementation in West and Central Asia;
- B. To strengthen capacities and collaboration among Region's states for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;
- C. To further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at development, managing, and evaluating safeguarding measures for Intangible Cultural Heritage present in the Region;
- D. To reinforce capacities of States of the Region that are Parties to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international levels, in particular concerning shared Intangible Heritage elements in the territories of two or more of the States concerned.

1.2. Commitments

Generally, the principal commitments of the Centre include promotion of harmony, collaboration, and information exchange among the bearer states to reinforce safeguarding measures in relation to the Intangible Cultural Heritage. To be able to fulfill the mentioned general commitments, the following shall constitute the Centre's detailed undertakings:

- (A) To create and keep up-to-date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, education and information institutions, community organizations and individual experts involved in safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperate through the Centre;
- (B) To gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in their territory;
- (C) To gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;
- (D) To organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the viability of the intangible heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing the access to this heritage;
- (E) To organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Intergovernmental Committee:") for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the Convention;
- (F) While maintaining a network of representatives of cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11 and 15 of the Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible cultural heritage;
- (G) To organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention and for drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared intangible cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;
- (H) To cooperate and exchange information with other category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;
- (I) To inform the intergovernmental Committee and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention about relevant activities in the Region and to assist as appropriate in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

1.3. Nationality of the Centre's Human Resources

Regarding the fact that the Centre enjoys the status of a regional centre, the human resources are allowed to be nationals of any of the member states, provided that they satisfy the requirements of the assigned organizational position.

1.4. Legal Status

The Centre shall enjoy the status of an autonomous international institution affiliated to UNESCO as a Category II centre, under the auspices of UNESCO. This enables it to enter relations with the states on the Region and, where appropriate, other states, according to the existing shared cultural legends to create the ground for mutual cooperation.

While keeping its autonomy, the Centre shall remain related to Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), shall be based in Tehran, Capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and, within the framework of the laws and regulations of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, shall endeavor to enjoy the legal status it deserves and utilize the potentials it needs to materialize its objectives and perform its duties. While remaining respectful to the Iranian National Law, the Centre shall enjoy the legal authority and autonomy for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to:

- A) contract,
- B) institute legal proceedings and its Rules of Procedure,
- C) acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property,

ARTICLE 2 GOVERNING BODIES

The Centre shall enjoy the existence of the following as its organizational administrations:

2.1. Governing Council

The Centre shall be guided and supervised by its Governing Council, composed of the following as its members:

- a. A Representative of ICHHTO,
- b. Representatives of two Member States to the Centre (One representative for each state),
- c. A Representative of the Director General of UNESCO,
- d. A Representative of the Director General to the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO,
- e. Three prominent experts in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage from the Region.

2.1.1 The members of the Governing Council shall be assigned for periods of four years.

2.1.2. The Governing Council of the Centre shall be directed by a Chairperson elected through voting from among the Governing Council's members.

2.1.3. In the Course of its first meeting, the Governing Council is required to elect its own Chairperson for a period of four years, through voting.

2.1.4. Proposals on election of a new Chairperson prior to the termination of the mentioned 4-year period shall win 2/3 of the votes of the Members of the Governing Council.

2.1.5. The Governing Council is authorized to invite more representatives from other states to its meetings.

2.1.6. The Governing Council shall, also, enjoy the authority to invite representatives of the local communities nominated by its Member States, as well as more prominent experts in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, to follow its specialized agenda.

2.1.7. The presence of the invited sides mentioned under 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 in the meetings of the Governing Council is, solely, to satisfy consultation needs; they shall enjoy no rights to vote.

2.1.8. The Director of the Centre's Secretariat (or the Director of the Centre) (cf. 2.3) shall attend all of the meetings of the Governing Council as the Fix Secretary of the mentioned meetings.

2.1.9. The Centre's Director's presence in the meetings of the Governing Council shall, solely, be to provide the mentioned meetings with the needed content, to report, and to guide the negotiations; the Director shall not enjoy the right to vote in any of the mentioned meetings of the Governing Council.

2.1.10. Duties of the Governing Council

The Governing Council of the Centre shall hold its *Ordinary* Meetings on a yearly basis. *Extraordinary* Meetings shall be held following proposals to this effect by the Director General of UNESCO and/or the Director of the Centre (Cf. 2.3) and/or 2/3 of the Members.

The Governing Council of the Centre shall be considered as responsible for the following duties:

(a) Electing the Chairperson to the Governing Council,

- (b) Approving and issuing the Centre's rules and regulations,
- (c) Editing and approving the procedures needed for the proper functioning of the Centre's Human Resources, Financial and Administrative Affairs Management,
- (d) Approving the Centre's long- and short-term plans and projects,
- (e) Approving the Centre's plans and budgeting,
- (f) Review of the reports submitted by the Director of the Centre,
- (g) Decision-making on cooperation with regional, as well as international, non-governmental organizations,
- (h) Electing the Centre's Director (Cf. 2.3) and the Heads of the Centre's Expert/Consultative Committees (under the condition that such committees are established: Cf. 2.5).

2.2. EXECUTIVE BOARD

In order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between the sessions of the Governing Council, a standing Executive Board shall be established with five members elected and assigned by the Governing Council. The Executive Board shall hold its meetings two times a year.

2.2.1. The Executive Board shall function according to the Centre's Rules of Procedure to be drafted by the Secretariat in the course of the first year following the first Meeting of the Governing Council (Cf. 2.4), and approved by the Governing Council during its second Meeting.

2.2.2. Composition of the Executive Board

The five members of the Executive Board shall be as follows, and elected among individuals with the desired expertise:

- a) Auditor
- b) Inspector
- c) Legal Advisor, expert in the structure of international organizations
- d) Management Expert
- e) ICH Expert

2.2.3. To ensure creation of effective relationship between the Executive Board and the Centre, on the one hand, and with the Governing Council, on the other, the Director of the Centre shall attend all of the sessions of the Executive Board as the Secretary.

2.2.4. Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Centre shall function as a consultative body for the Chairman of the Governing Board, and in the course of the intervals between the meetings of the Governing Council shall perform the duty of supervising the Centre's proper functioning. Accordingly, the Executive Board undertakes to:

- (a) supervise the execution of the Centre's approved programmes and activities,
- (b) examine the Centre's projects and budget, as well as drafts of the decisions of the Governing Council

ARTICLE 3 STAFFIGN TABLE

3.1. DIRECTORSHIP

The Director of the Centre shall be appointed for a period of four years, after winning 2/3 of the positive votes of the members of the Governing Council in one of its meetings.

3.1.1. The Governing Council may re-appoint the same person as the Director of the Centre for consecutive periods of office.

3.1.2. Proposals on election of a new Director prior to the termination of the mentioned 4-year period shall win 2/3 of the votes of the Members of the Governing Council in the course of one of its meetings.

3.1.3. In performing its undertakings, the Centre shall function as a Secretariat (cf. 2.4), and shall plan and direct the safeguarding research activities at the regional level, while keeping in constant contact with the Governing Council and the Executive Board. The Secretariat of the Centre shall be chaired by the Director of the Centre.

3.1.4. Duties of the Director

According to the text above, the Director of the Centre shall be authorized to fulfill the duties listed below:

- (a) Identify and assign competent personnel needed for proper functioning of the Centre's Secretariat (Cf. 2.4),
- (b) Direct the undertakings, including the functioning of the Centre's Secretariat, the safeguarding research projects, among other related duties, as asserted through the projects approved at the Governing Council, and under the supervision of the Executive Board of the Centre,
- (c) Submit the draft proposals on the projects and budget of the Centre to the Executive Board and the Governing Council,

(d) Submit the agenda of the Meetings of the Governing Council and the Executive Board, as well as drafts of possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Centre, to the Executive Board and the Governing Council.

3.2. SECRETARIAT

The Centre enjoys the existence, within its staffing table, of a permanent Secretariat with the structure that follows. The Secretariat shall be directed by the Centre's Director.

3.2.1. Staffing Table of the Secretariat

To ensure proper functioning of the Centre in all expert and executive domains, the Secretariat of the Centre shall consist of the following specialist Offices, each composed of some sections and departments:

(A) Programme Office

The Programme Office shall include the following sections:

- a) Programming Section
- b) Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

(B) Administration Office

The Administration Office shall include the following sections:

- c) Legal Affairs Section
- d) Financial and Human Resources Affairs Section
- e) Public and International Affairs Section
- f) Protocol Section

3.2.2. Organizational Structure of the Offices of the Centre

The offices listed above shall collaborate to follow the administrative and programming affairs of the Centre to materialize its objectives, and fulfill its undertakings and authorizations, as asserted through the decisions of the Centre's Governing Council, and under the supervision of the Centre's Executive Board. Accordingly, each of the mentioned offices shall be constituted by its own specialist sections and departments, as listed below:

3.2.2.1. Programme Office

The Programme Office shall fulfill the materialization of the main objective, for which the Centre has been established: "Research directed for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia". Regarding the fact that safeguarding efforts on Intangible Cultural Heritage encompass a comprehensive set of programmes and measures, the duties of the Programme Office are envisaged as varied and numerous.

The Programme Office shall be constituted by the following sections and departments:

3.2.2.1.1. Programming Section

The Centre's short-, medium-, and long-term programmes shall be drafted in its Programming Section. Regarding the Centre's geographically vast domain, the Programming Section shall be subdivided into the following specialist departments:

- Department of Central Asia,
- Department of Arab States,
- Department of Caucasia and Asia Minor.

3.2.2.1.2. Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Section undertakes to follow the procedures that lead to the realization of the Centre's major research goals. Due to its specialist and fundamental nature in the structure of the Centre, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section shall be constituted of the following expert departments:

- Research Department,
- Documentation Department,
- Promotion and Safeguarding Department,
- Expert/Consultative Committees Affairs Department (cf. 2.5).

3.2.2.2. Administration Office

The function of the Administration Office of the Centre has been envisaged, specifically, as to facilitate the circulation of the jobs in the Programme Office introduced above. In other words, the Administration Office shall provide the ground for the planning and execution of the safeguarding-based research programmes of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, that shall be planned and executed in the Programming Section described above.

The Administration Office shall be constituted by the following Sections:

3.2.2.2.1. Legal Affairs Section

The legal affairs shall be followed by the Legal Affairs Section. Regarding the fact that the Centre's legal affairs shall manifest at national and international levels, the mentioned section shall have, included in its organizational structure, the following departments:

- Department of National Law
- Department of International Law

3.2.2.2.2. Financial and Human Resources Affairs Section

The employment of the needed human resources, as well as following the financial affairs of the Centre constitute the undertakings of the Financial and Human Resources Affairs Section. Due to its administrative and executive nature, the section shall consist of the following departments:

- Department of Human Resources,
- Department of Auditing,
- Department of Commodities and Logistics.

3.2.2.2.3. Public and International Affairs Section

The undertakings of the Public and International Affairs Section include a vast domain with various affairs, including computer and networking affairs, publications, archives, and gatherings, to public affairs and transborder relations. Accordingly, the mentioned section shall be composed of the following departments in its organizational structure to enable it to cover the mentioned undertakings properly:

- Information Department,
- Publications Department,
- International Affairs Department (International Organizations, Central Asia, Arab States, Caucasia and Asia Minor)
- Public Affairs Department (News, Library, Document Centre, Audio-visual, Gatherings, Exhibitions, and Festivals)

3.2.2.2.4. Protocol Section

Functioning as a regional centre with a vast geographical territory, the Centre shall remain in constant contact with its Member States, UNESCO, other Category 2 Centres, as well as other countries. Consequently, the vast Protocol affairs envisaged for it shall, necessarily, be followed in an autonomous expert section. The mentioned section shall, accordingly, be composed of the following departments:

- Department of Travel,
- Department of Guests' Affairs,
- Department of Gatherings.

3.2.3. Duties of the Secretariat

For their major part, the duties of the Secretariat of the Centre shall be as follows, determined according to the undertakings of the sections and departments affiliated to it:

- (a) Drafting the Centre's documents and procedures for submission to the Governing Council,
- (b) Drafting the Centre's programmes and budget for submission to the Governing Council,
- (c) Drafting the agenda's for the Executive Board, as well as the Governing Council's meetings,
- (d) Drafting for submission of proposals on establishment of Expert/Consultative Committees (Cf. 2.5) to the Governing Council, in line with the overall strategy of shifting the execution of projects to expert bodies to encourage capacity-building among local communities,

(e) Coordinating the affairs among the Centre's Expert/Consultative Committees, as well as between them and the Centre, and editing the related reports for submission to the Centre's Governing Council.

2.5. EXPERT/CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

Considering the vast domain of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the hoard of manifestations thereof, also to materialize the spirit of the 2003 Convention that emphasizes the involvement of the local communities and non-governmental organizations in the related safeguarding campaigns, the majority of the technical and executive commitments of the Centre shall be performed in line with the overall "shifting strategy" which requires bodies outside the Centre to be involved. On these same lines, the Centre shall function as a Secretariat to create harmony in this regard, and to trigger proper functioning of the bodies which shall collaborate with it.

Consequently, the Centre undertakes to establish Expert/Consultative Committees on various domains of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to improve its functions and programmes. Having done this, the Secretariat shall function as a medium linking the Expert/Consultative Committees together, on the one hand, and with the Executive Board and the Governing Council, on the other.

The issues of establishing such Expert/Consultative Committees, as well as determining the related themes, compositions, and activities can constitute part of the agenda of the first Meeting of the Governing Council.



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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
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Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (11)

The Annual Work Plan and Budget (Interim)



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET (INTERIM)

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1

INTRODUCTION

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

Stipulated through the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, as well as the related law approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, also asserted by the Constitution, as well as the Staffing Table, of the Centre to be approved in the course of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council (Cf. Decisions **09/TICHG/GC-001/11-12** and **11/TICHG/GC-001/11-12** on the Agenda of the 1st Meeting) the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) shall function as a secretariat, to organize and guide the approved safeguarding-based research programmes in West and Central Asia, with the help of the Centre's Executive Board (Cf. Decision **12/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**), and under the supervision of the Centre's Governing Council.

The present document proposes an annual work plan as well as a method of budgeting for the undertakings of the Centre.

ARTICLE 2

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

The method specified for the fulfillment of undertakings at the Secretariat affiliated to the Centre shall consist of outsourcing the programmes to the outside specialist/expert (non-)governmental organizations, as well as bodies, groups, and, where applicable, individuals. The Centre, through its Secretariat, shall guide, supervise and monitor the outsourced programmes, providing them with the needed financial backing, ensure they are duly documented and reported to the Centre, , as well as evaluate their impact in line with the Centre's objectives.

As a result, the Annual Work Plan of the Centre can be represented as follows:

- 2.1. Ensuring the over-all planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the work of the Centre;
- 2.2. Drafting of the agenda and other documents for the Governing Council's annual meetings;
- 2.3. Drafting of the agenda [and other documents?] for the Executive Board's meetings;
- 2.4. Attending the meetings of the Governing Council and the Executive Board as the Secretary, to guide the debates based upon the related agenda;

- 2.5. Drafting of the reports and declarations of the meetings of the Governing Council and the Executive Board;
- 2.6. Performing the follow up of the decisions made by the Governing Council and the Executive Board;
- 2.7. Managing and updating the Document Archive of the Centre;
- 2.8. Managing and updating the Centre's Website;
- 2.9. Concluding contracts with expert sides on the programmes adopted by the Governing Council through its previous meetings;
- 2.10. Conducting the identification of the competent sides to execute the Centre's programmes;
- 2.11. Managing and publishing the Centre's international quarterly;
- 2.12. Planning, managing and supporting the Centre's gatherings and conferences;
- 2.13. Composing the Centre's annual calendar, and planning the Centre's affairs according to it;

ARTICLE 3

BUDGET

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

As stipulated by the basic documents listed above (Cf. Article 1 herein), the Centre shall be fed with a yearly minimum amount of US\$ 500,000. The Constitution of the Centre (Cf. Decision **09/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**) asserts the possibility of attracting other financial sources into the Centre, where the money can be utilized for a number of purposes. Nevertheless, regarding the fact that the mentioned amount of US\$ 500,000 is, at least for the time being, the only amount that one side to the abovementioned Agreement (Cf. Article 1 herein) has undertaken to provide regularly, and based on an officially approved procedure, the present Document proposes the following as the method of classifying and specifying the mentioned budget, at least for the first year, in terms of percentages. The method may change in future due to developments in the budgeting methods:

- 3.1. Staff: 20%;
- 3.2. Programmes and Outsourcing: 40%;
- 3.3. Travel: 20%;
- 3.4. Running Costs of the Centre: 20%.

Within the overall budget the Director is authorized to amend the ceilings upto 5% and shall report these changes to the next meeting of the Governing Council.



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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
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ANNEX (12) The Strategy, and Long-term Programmes



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
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TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

STRATEGY AND LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES OF THE CENTRE

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1

INTRODUCTION

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

Titled "Objectives and Functions", Article 6 of the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)", dated 28 April 2010, proposes a collection of 4 objectives and 9 functions for the mentioned centre. Article 6 of the Law, titled the same, approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Certified, on 31 May 2011, by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as indicated in the document No. 491/17798, dated 12 June 2011, stipulates the same as the objectives and functions of the Centre.

The present document comprises the strategy and long-term programmes of the Centre, extracted from the content of the abovementioned Agreement and its related Law, especially Article 6 thereof.

ARTICLE 2

STRATEGY

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

The Strategy of the "Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" shall be the materialization of the Objectives stipulated for it, through the agreement signed between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Cf. Article 1 above). The mentioned strategy has been summarized as the following paragraphs:

2.1. To promote the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its implementation in West and Central Asia;

2.2. To strengthen capacities and cooperation in West and Central Asia for identifying, inventorying, documenting, and studying Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;

2.3. To further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing, and evaluating safeguarding measures for Intangible Cultural Heritage present in West and Central Asia;

2.4. To reinforce capacities in West and Central Asian States Members to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international levels, in particular concerning shared Intangible Cultural Heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States concerned.

ARTICLE 3

LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

To materialize the Strategy pictured above, the Centre shall undertake the following as its Long-term Programmes:

- 3.1. To create and keep up to date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, educational, and information institutions, community organizations, and individual experts involved in the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperate through the Centre;
- 3.2. To gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage present in their territory;
- 3.3. To gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;
- 3.4. To organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the viability of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing access to this heritage;
- 3.5. To organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the mentioned Convention;
- 3.6. While maintaining a network of representatives of Cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of Intangible Cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the 2003 Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11, and 15 of the mentioned Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible Cultural Heritage;
- 3.7. To organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention, and for drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared Intangible Cultural Heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;

3.8. To cooperate and exchange information with other Category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage;

3.9. To inform the Intergovernmental Committee, and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention, about relevant activities in West and Central Asia, and to assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

ARTICLE 4

MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMMES

The approval of the medium-term programmes was suspended to be redrafted for the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council in May 2013 (November 7th, 2012)



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
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ANNEX (13)

The 1st Year Programmes

(Interim)



United Nations
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Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

1st YEAR PROGRAMMES (INTERIM)

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

The Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), hereinafter, "the Tehran ICH Centre" or "the Centre" undertakes to plan and execute research projects aimed at safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, as reflected in its Constitution. The safeguarding efforts envisaged as the activities of the Centre include, among others, the ordinary identifications, documentations, and researches, to promotion and revitalization campaigns.

The present document includes in itself abstracts of some programmes prepared and submitted to the first meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre (6 and 7 November 2012) for final approval and entering the execution with an aim to trigger the activities of the Centre to start during the first year following its official establishment.

The mentioned programmes have been planned in the two fields of research and execution.

ARTICLE 2 BUDGET

Adopted on an Interim Basis: November 7th, 2012

The budget specified for the 1st-year proposed programmes amounts to 250,000 US dollars, which is equal to 40% of the total budget of the Centre. The remaining 200,000 US dollars shall be used for payments of the salaries, the financial needs in logistic affairs, as well as the expenses incurred by the foreseen formality events.

Each programme herein shall be accompanied by a total amount as its specified budget. The details of payments shall be explained thoroughly by the time of the actual drafting and signing of the contract with the contractor, and in the same contract document.

ARTICLE 3 METHOD OF INTERACTION WITH THE CONTRACTOR

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

As asserted in the Constitution as well as the Organizational Chart of the Tehran ICH Centre, the safeguarding research projects of the Centre are constituted by out-sourced activities to expert non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions, groups, or individuals with the desired degree of expertise. In this same relation, the Tehran ICH Centre shall act as a Secretariat, and will be occupied with the needed harmonizing efforts and follow-ups.

The programmes drafted in the present document shall enter the execution phase following the approval by the Governing Council of the Centre, and after signing of the related contracts with expert individuals, groups, or non-governmental organizations with the needed experience in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Centre. The details of the methods of interaction between the Centre and the contractor, as well as the payment procedures for the installments, shall be determined through the specific contract to be drafted and signed by the sides to that effect.

ARTICLE 4 PROGRAMMES

Adopted on an interim basis: November 7th, 2012

4.1. Workshop on Shared Concerns over the West and Central Asian Region on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Duration: 5 days

Place: Tehran, Tehran ICH Centre Headquarters

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Awareness raising regarding ICH and its safeguarding methods, and exchanges of experiences among the states on the region on the issue,

Instructors: At least, two of the internationally known lecturers or trainers on ICH

Approximate Date: 1st half of the year 2013

Participants: 2 individuals from each of the States Members of the Centre

Abstract

Regional research cooperations depend upon a background of mutual understanding among the states on the related fundamentals and methodologies to be guided in the desired direction. The concept finds full justification, specifically, in relation to safeguarding research on Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia.

The subject of Intangible Cultural Heritage constitutes a new theme throughout the world, and not only in West and Central Asia, to the extent that disputes avail on a number of the related fundamental issues. Nevertheless, as regards the region, specifically, an urgent need for awareness raising and constructing a shared ground for planning safeguarding research activities is felt. The regional workshop proposed by the present programme has been planned with an aim to raise awareness in the West and Central Asian countries, and it is hoped that, by the time it has completed its programme, the ground needed for future specific capacity building activities directed toward individual states on the region will have been prepared. It is also hoped that the workshop will provide for facilitated processing of future safeguarding research programmes of the Tehran ICH Centre in the states on the region to the extent that proper feedback is hoped to be gathered for them.

The execution of the workshop shall be accomplished through shifting the transportation, accommodation, payment of the salaries, as well as other executive affairs to a competent contractor and through signing a contract to this effect.

4.2. Map of Successful Practices for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Phase 1)

Duration: 9 months, following the completion of Programme 4.1, above

Place: One country from each of the four geographical groups of the Centre

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Identification and documentation of successful safeguarding practices on ICH in West and Central Asia

Approximate Date: 1st Quarter of the year 2013.

Abstract

Safeguarding research activities on the West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage shall be properly guided and shall lead to desired outcomes, only when the fundamental concept of "West and Central Asia" is defined scientifically and the related limits are determined in a justified way. There is a need for a map of the territory encompassing the mentioned ICH on which the manifestations are identified and the convergences and divergences are presented properly, so that the ground is best prepared for future safeguarding measures to be planned.

Considering the fact that the geographical territory determined for the Centre is vast and encompasses a number of states, and that, on the other hand, the number of identifiable manifestations of ICH in each country is great, the programme proposed here will not be completed in a single time period. As a result, the project "Map of West and Central Asian ICH" shall remain on the agenda of the Tehran ICH Centre as a continuous project, and every year a new phase shall be followed in relation to a new country and/or a new domain of the ICH on the region; the project will be terminated by the time all of the ICH manifestations on the region have been taken care of. It is worth mentioning that, simultaneously, other projects of the Tehran ICH Centre shall be defined and executed parallel to this major programme.

In the course of Phase 1, the project "Map of West and Central Asian ICH" will focus on part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of four selected countries from the four geographical groups defined for the Centre (namely, Central Asia, Arab States, Caucasia and Asia Minor, and North Asia), with one country selected from each group. to the extent

The major objective followed in this phase, in addition to documenting part of the ICH on the West and Central Asian Region, will be to draft and examine a collection of fundamental aspects and methodological doctrines for proper description of West and Central Asia from the point of view of Intangible Cultural Heritage. No doubt, the outcome of this phase will provide the ground upon which the rest of safeguarding activities of future will be formed.

As for the execution phase, the project will be shifted to a contractor or a group of contractors with the needed expertise, and the outcomes will be gathered at the Centre for future utilizations.

In Future, Phase 1 of the programme will be followed by its Phase 2, titled "Research", and Phase 3, titled "Mapping". The Phases 2 and 3 can be planned and executed for the regions in which, at least, part of Phase 1 has been completed, and can be followed parallel to phase 1, to guarantee the proper timing of the outcome of the whole project.

4.3. Publication of the Centre's Specialized International Bilingual Quarterly

Duration: 9 months, following the completion of 4.1. above

Place: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Specialized articles on West and Central Asian ICH

Approximate Date: As of March 2013

Abstract

The Intangible Cultural Heritage constitutes a new field and the related theoretical foundations as well as its methodology are still subjects of intensive scientific and expert disputes. The mentioned subjects are needed to be studied extensively to result, among other outcomes, in the drafting of finalized and uniform rules and regulations for various executive affairs.

At the same time, an effective method to raise awareness among various nations consists of the gatherings of the practitioners and experts of the field to compose specialized, as well as promotional articles on the subject. Through publishing the proposed journal, the visibility of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of West and Central Asia will, no doubt, be guaranteed at an international level. The Centre's specialized international journal will provide a place for the publication of research-based, as well as promotional, articles on the ICH on the region by a great number of the experts and practitioners. The information published in this way will, gradually, enrich the international archive of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and will result in its visibility at the international level.

In order for a vaster population of readers to be covered by the journal and for more of the specified money to be saved, an electronic version of each issue is proposed to be published first, to provide for a sufficient number of hard copy print-outs to be disseminated accordingly.

4.4. Collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) in the Programmes for Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Duration: 12 months (January-December 2013)

Place: Islamic Republic of Iran

Budget: Has been provided by ICHHTO

Approximate Date: As of January 2012

Abstract

The year 2013 is the commemoration date for the 10th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention). The Intergovernmental Committee of the States Members to the mentioned Convention has, by way of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, invited the Member States to organize special programmes to commemorate the event.

In response to the mentioned invitation, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) has, on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, prepared and submitted a list of cultural events planned in this relation. A subsection of the mentioned list includes initiatives by ICHHTO, while the rest are the events which the mentioned organization will collaborate with some other bodies and organizations to take place.

In this same relation, the Tehran ICH Centre has committed itself to contribute with its expert potentials, to, in compensation, benefit from the related rights, including the inclusion of its emblem on the related documents, posters, brochures, or banners, receiving its needed cultural products, and receiving salaries.

The list of the mentioned events is as follows:

- 4.4.1. The First Regional Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Central and West Asia,
- 4.4.2. The *Nowruz* Festival of 2013, in Collaboration with the *Nowruz* Celebrating States,
- 4.4.3. The First Round of National Iranian Competitions on *Radif* of the Traditional Iranian Music,
- 4.4.4. The 2013 Festival of Traditional and Ritualistic Theatre,
- 4.4.5. Live Exhibition of Iranian Inscribed ICH,
- 4.4.6. Marine Tour of Persian Gulf on Iranian Traditional *Lenj* Boats, Accompanied by Exhibitions and Cultural Performances,
- 4.4.7. Inauguration Ceremonies for Preservation and Revitalization Campaigns on Iranian Inscribed ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding,
- 4.4.8. Publication of Documented Material on the Traditional Knowledge of Designing and Executing Iranian Architectural Structures and the Related Decorative Arts,
- 4.4.9. Publication of Audio-visual Material on Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage.

As mentioned above, the budget required for the execution of the mentioned projects has, already, been provided by the concerned bodies and organizations.



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Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

ANNEX (14) The Declaration

DECLARATION OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO THE REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR SAFEGUARDING THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

(TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 6 & 7 NOVEMBER, 2012)

RATIFIED 2012-11-07

The participants of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council to the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia would like to extend warm gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran over for the establishment of such important regional institution under the auspices of UNESCO.

The participants noted valuable participation of Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), the National Commissions for UNESCO in Iran, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, and UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office for organizing its 1st Meeting.

The Governing Council, hereby, asserts that the Centre will be at the service of the Member States in West and Central Asia to further the following strategic objectives:

- Promotion of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its implementation in the participating States concerned,
- Strengthening capacities and cooperation in order to contribute to the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
- Furthering and coordinating scientific and technical studies aimed and developing, managing, and evaluating safeguarding measures for the Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Region,

And

- Reinforcing capacities in States on the region for actively participating in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

The Governing Council invites the Secretariat of the Centre to implement concrete activities in line with the said objectives.

Also, it invites the Center:

- To follow up its activities regarding the extension of its membership through inviting more UNESCO Member States on the region to participate in it;
- To facilitate identifying, enhancing, and disseminating the successful and good practices in safeguarding the similar Intangible Cultural Heritage elements on the region;

- To facilitate capacity building in participating states with giving priority to new members to the 2003 Convention;
- To organize workshops and conferences to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on the region, and to carry out other relevant activities.

The Governing Council, hereby, asserts that the Intangible Cultural Heritage is our bridge linking the past to the future, and consequently, its proper safeguarding will guarantee intergenerational dialogue,

The Governing Council members also reiterate that Intangible Cultural Heritage is an essential component of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and that its safeguarding is central to create a more peaceful and sustainable development based on dignity and mutual respect.



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ANNEX (15)

Documents of Participants in the 1st Ordinary GC Meeting

Participants at the 1st GC Meeting of the Centre

- GC Members

The 1st GC Meeting of the Centre was attended by the following individuals as its Members:

(i) Mr. Masoud Alavian Sadr, Deputy for Cultural Heritage to ICHHTO, as the representative of ICHHTO to the GC, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(j) Ms. Tarja Virtanen, Director of the UNESCO Office in Tehran and UNESCO Representative to Iran and Turkmenistan, as the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO for the 1st GC Meeting, in the absence of Mr. Timothy Curtis, the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO to the GC, as asserted through the letter CLT/CEH/ITH/12/6533, dated 17 October 2012, signed by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture (Original English);

(k) Mr. Rustam Muzafarov, Secretary of the National Committee on Safeguarding the ICH of Kazakhstan, Coordinator of the UNESCO Observatory on Art Education in Central Asia, as the representative of the Government of Kazakhstan to the GC, as asserted through the letter 07-3/1024, dated 29 October 2012, Astana, signed by Secretary General to the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO (Original English);

(l) Ms. Shahlo Abdurahimova, Secretary General of Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO, as the representative of the Government of Tajikistan to the GC, as asserted through the letter 262, dated 05/11/2012, signed by Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairperson of Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO (Original English);

(m) Mr. Ablolmahdi Mostakin, Head of the Department of Culture to the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, as the representative of the Director-general of the National Iranian Commission for UNESCO to the 1st GC Meeting, in the absence of Mr. Mohammad Reza Saeidabadi, Director-general of the National Iranian Commission for UNESCO, and the representative thereof to the GC, as asserted through the letter 912-2-2554, dated 06/11/2012, signed by Director of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO (Original Persian);

(n) Mr. Mohammad Mirshokraei, Iranian specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(o) Mr. Mazdak Anoushe, Iranian specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian);

(p) Ms. Atousa Mo'meni, Iranian Specialist on ICH, as asserted through the letter of appointment 91210/350, dated 06/11/2012, signed by the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman to ICHHTO (Original Persian).

- Secretary

The 1st GC Meeting of the Centre was, also, attended, as its Secretary, by Mr. Yadollah Parmoun, the Pro Tempore Director of the Centre, as asserted through the letter of appointment 90/2/10132, dated 06/07/2011, signed by Deputy for Cultural Heritage, Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) (Original Persian).

The letters and documents mentioned above, are attached herewith.