



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

In the Name of God

1st EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(21 & 22 May 2013, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)

DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMMES

English

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

The debates of the 1st Ordinary 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 (Category 2), on the Strategy, Long-, and Medium-term Programmes of the Centre, dated November 7th, 2012, resulted in partial adoption of the **Decision 15/TICHG/GC-001/11-12**, (reproduced hereunder for ease of reference), where the Draft Strategy and Long-term Programmes were approved, as amended, and the section on Medium-term Programmes was decided upon to be redrafted and presented to the 1st Extraordinary Session of the mentioned Governing Council.

**[Decision 15/TICHG/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/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. 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.]

The present document consists of a collection of Medium-term Programmes for Tehran ICH Centre, redrafted as stipulated above.

ARTICLE 2

Medium-term Programmes

Regarding the vast geographical territory specified for the Center's activities, taking note of the varied levels of awareness observable among the states on the Region, also, considering the great number of manifestations of the West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage waiting to be identified, documented, and safeguarded, the following have been determined as the Center's Medium-term programmes. The Medium-term Programmes listed below have been edited in the light of the Strategy and Long-term Programmes of the Centre, adopted in the course of the 1st Ordinary GC Meeting, on 6 and 7 November 2012:

2.1. West and Central Asian Automated Information System on ICH

Duration:

Initial Establishment: 5 years following adoption

Regular Updating: To be continued

Objectives: This programme aims at:

- Creation and keeping up-to-date of an automated information system to register and link 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 West and Central Asian States that have expressed the wish to cooperate through the Center, within the geographical area as approved by the Centre;
- Gathering and disseminating 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 territories;
- Gathering and disseminating information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Center;

- Cooperation and information exchange with other Category 2 centers in and beyond Asia that are active in safeguarding ICH;

2.2. West and Central Asian Regional Workshops and Conferences on ICH

Duration: To be continued following adoption

Objectives: This programme will follow the following as its objectives:

- Organizing workshops and conferences on 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;
- Organizing workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Center 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;
- Organizing workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Center, 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 Center;

2.3. Tehran ICH Centre: West and Central Asian Focal Point on ICH

Duration:

- **Initial Establishment:** 2 years following adoption
- **Functioning:** To be continued following establishment

Objectives: This programme has the following as its initial objectives:

- Creation of 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;

- Functioning as base to provide the Intergovernmental Committee, and the Secretariat of, the 2003 Convention, with the needed information on 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;

2.4. Tehran ICH Centre: West and Central Asian Medium for cooperation on ICH

Duration:

- **Initial Establishment:** 2 years following adoption
- **Functioning:** To be continued following establishment

Objectives: This programme has the following as its initial objectives:

- Cooperation with governmental, regional or international cultural organizations on West and Central Asian ICH;
- Cooperation on promoting the concept of the shared West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage, encouraging safeguarding measures on the subject;
- Cooperation on planning and implementing regional scientific conferences and regional research festivals on West and Central Asian ICH, with the collaboration of the States on the region;
- Cooperation in publications on ICH in general, as well as West and Central Asian ICH.

The Draft 1st Year Programs of the Centre, submitted to the 1st Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Governing Council has been edited with extractions from the abovementioned Medium-term Programs of the Centre.