

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Deadline: 15 February 2023
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information requested below.
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

ხელოვნების საერთაშორისო ცენტრი

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Georgian Arts and Culture Center

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90390

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization:	Georgian Arts and Culture Center
Address:	7, Niko Nikoladze st. Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Telephone number:	+995 322931335
Email address:	Gacc@gaccgeorgia.org
Website:	www.gaccgeorgia.org
Other relevant information:	

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mrs
Family name: Dvalishvili
Given name: Mariam
Institution/position: GACC Director
Address: 7, Niko Nikoladze str., 0108, Tbilisi, Georgia
Telephone number: 995-599506448
Email address: maka@gaccgeorgia.org
Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC acts for the institutional development of the crafts sector to increase the number of competent sectoral bodies committed to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. With this view centre establishes the Heritage Craft Association of Georgia and contributed to its sustainability and creation of the organisational record.

In 2021 GACC elaborated the organizational structure and development strategy for the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regional crafts center which is in the process of establishment by the initiative of the Danish Refugee Council. The main mandate of both of these organizations is safeguarding crafts traditions and supporting ICH bearers.

GACC actively works with the local authorities for raising their awareness on ICH and craft in particular and build their capacity in the development and implementation of supportive measures. For this purpose, Center initiated and implemented several pieces of training.

At the same time, the organization systematically provides training for the craft sector actors to build their capacity and economic sustainability. For example, in 2020-2022 GACC implemented two USAID Economic Security Programme-funded projects for the development and upskilling of

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

crafts actors in the different stages of professional development.

Capacity building of craftsmen important component of EU funded project Crafting Europe, which developed two dedicated training programmes based on a good example of UK Crafts Council Hot House and Limerik Institute of Technology iAtelier Programmes. Within Erasmus+ project *Crafting 50 and beyond* GACC together with partner organizations developed and provided training in digital skills for the craftsmen beyond 50.

B.2. Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC possess a national wide informal network of craft actor which unites groups, individuals, craft-based businesses, sectoral organizations, and educational institutions. Center develops its strategy and future projects based on the systematic feedback from the network on their particular needs.

Within its EU-funded project "Crafts Platform in Action" GACC implemented a small grant scheme and funded 21 local crafts workshops. Development of apprenticeship programmes and tuition of a minimum of five young craftsmen was one of the requirements of the grant.

Within the projects *Future Workforce for Crafts Industry* and *Upskilling Crafts Workforce* funded by USAID Economic Security Programme and implemented in 2020-2022 GACC funded apprenticeship schemes at Master Craftsmen for youth to activate this mechanism of transmission of knowledge.

GACC as a local partner of the British Council Crafting Future programme under the leadership of Plymouth College of Art contributed to the development and accreditation of a new module for craft VET education. The training for the VET teachers has been also implemented.

B.3. Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC systematically conducts inventorying and research. Center is the author of the study methodology and provision of the countrywide studies of the Heritage Crafts sector in all 3 Caucasus states: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan; The study was the first inventory of the Heritage Crafts sector for these states. It provided detailed baseline information on legislative, institutional, and economic aspects, also deeper analyses including demographic characteristics, industrial structure, market analyses, a system of transmission of knowledge, etc.

<http://gaccgeorgia.org/Crafts/GACC%20Crafts%20Sector%20Study.pdf>

In 2021 GACC conducted a study of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region (Georgia) and developed recommendations for safeguarding and development. The staff of the center was involved in the repetitive study of the sector held under the leadership of Kim Bagley Arts University Plymouth. Both documents will be available online shortly.

GACC staff also served as local experts for the European Training Foundation project Craftsmanship and Skills for the Future – Case Study Report on Georgia.

In 2020 GACC initiated an online poll for the assessment of the effect of COVID-19 pandemic and submitted the short report to the ICH secretariat on March 21, 2021

GACC also conducted a study of ICH-based experiential and creative tourism business models and developed manuals for the sustainable development of ICH-based tourism and gift products.

B.4. Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC is active participant of decision-making process regarding Heritage Crafts field on

national level. Its director Mariam Dvalishvili was a member of team elaborating Cultural Strategy 2020-2025. She also served as an expert for the British Council Baseline survey of art and culture for Georgia.

In 2015 GACC signed a memorandum with Tbilisi City Hall and Assembly regarding joint actions for development of cultural entrepreneurship.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

For the promotion of ICH in society GACC implements several types of actions.

In 2015 center in terms of GACC EU project established the contest "Craftsmen of the Year" which is organized annually by Georgian Heritage Crafts Association. The contest theme is changing year by year and covers different aspects of the craft sector such as the transmission of ICH, safeguarding, innovation, etc.

Since 2016 GACC on the biennale principle organizes Tbilisi International Summit of Crafts and Design "EthnoFest" which gathers artisans from Georgia and neighboring countries and attracts a wide audience. Summit unites educational, awareness-raising, promotional, and networking activities. It also includes the contest "the Best Booth", where Contribution To Safeguarding the Traditions is one of 5 nominations.

GACC uses its traveling exhibitions as one of the tools for the promotion of Georgian crafts within society locally and internationally. Center also supports local craftsmen to participate in International Awards and exhibitions. In 2022 Center facilitated the participation of local craftsmen in Dutch Design week, Maison et Objet, the Global Eco Artisan Awards etc.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC systematically organizes different awareness-raising events.

In 2013 - International Conference - "Notion of Culture as a Force for Economic Growth, New Approach for South Caucasus",

in 2019 it hosted WCC Europe GA and International Conference - "40/40 HERITAGE Past, Present and Future".

In 2022 GACC organized International Hybrid Seminar 'Crafts in Local Development Agenda: Current Practices and Future Perspectives

GACC is actively cooperated with different media to increase visibility on ICH. As a result, the number of TV plots dedicated to the ICH bearers is increased.

Recently Center with close cooperation of local communities prepared several videos about the local traditional festivals, which will be used for raising of awareness the essence of these traditions.

GACC staff also were the consultants for the documentary Handmade Culture created by Georgian Film Director Gvantsa Meparishvili.

B.7. Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC closely cooperates with the crafts communities and ICH bearers as well as sectoral

organizations and other stakeholders. To facilitate their engagement in safeguarding ICH center acts in two directions:

It supports the establishment of new entities dedicated to the ICH safeguarding as well as works for the integration of the craft sector in the policy documents on a municipal, regional and national level. Center draws the attention of governmental bodies of different levels on the importance of safeguarding crafts traditions and consults them in drawing relevant supporting programmes. Center also works for the establishment of closer binds of the craft sector with merging sectors such as tourism, and education to engage stakeholders from these areas actively contribute to the safeguarding of ICH.

The second direction is building the capacity of the crafts community itself. Center through its projects creates opportunities for ICH bearers to transition of their knowledge to new generations, showcasing their works, improving their working conditions, and building capacity for economic sustainability as a tool for the livelihood of ICH.

B.8. *Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Center is actively involved in international cooperation on different levels. Center was part of the consortiums for large-scale European projects such as "Crafting Europe" (EU Creative Europe funding, 2000-2022) involving partners from Ireland, UK, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Ukraine, and Georgia and aiming to build the capacity of the European craft sector. At present consortium enlarged its geography and works on new proposal.

Currently, GACC is a local partner for another European project re-Discover led by Hungarian partners and targeting the craft sector.

GACC also led two regional projects aiming experience exchange in building the capacity of craft actors and sustainable use of craft resources for creative tourism development – *Heritage Craft Strengthening Creative Industries in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Heritage Crafts – Common Platform for Development and Tourism, Heritage and Creativity.*

Center as a partner also implemented several Erasmus+ projects such as "Network of UNESCO Cultural Spaces", "Together Towards a cultural understanding of the other", "Crafting 50 & beyond", "Network of UNESCO recognized values" etc.

These are only part of the international projects implemented by the Center

B.9. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC systematically supplies information to the ICH department of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia for the development of a national Periodic Report. The last completed request had been submitted in the fall 2021.

B.10. *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC has not participated in the preparation of nominations to UNESCO lists, although is planning to develop applications for several elements from the traditional craftsmanship domain.

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

Upon UNESCO's request GACC prepared a report on the implementation of Resolution 74/230 on Culture and Sustainable Development during the period from June 2019 to June 2021 from the perspective of our Organization for the development of the report of Secretary-General of the United Nations submitted to the General Assembly, at its 76th session in the autumn 2021.

GACC systematically cooperated with the ICH department of the National Agency of Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgian in drafting country reports.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC participated in the 7th session of the General Assembly (4 June 2018 – 6 June 2018) held in Paris, and in the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Committee held on December 9-14, 2019 in Bogota, Colombia. Also in the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Committee held online on 13-18 December 2021

During these sessions, GACC observed the working process of the committee as well as participated in the NGO Forum activities.

D.2 Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.

Not to exceed 100 words

Not so far

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

As mentioned GACC had not provided advisory services to the Committee so far, but we believe that our deep experience in heritage craft, building capacity of actors, sustainable use of the heritage assets for income generation for local communities, etc. makes us a suitable candidate for evaluation of nominations and proposals related to this domain. GACC would also be willing to get training and join UNESCO trained facilitators network.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC is actively involved in International projects, so English is one of the Center's working languages. GACC management team (4 persons) is fluent in English and can provide an evaluation of nominations, proposals, and requests.

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC's main field of focus is Heritage Craft and covers all technologies of the domain. As craft in many cases is a constituent part of other ICH domains such as performing arts, festive events, and social practices GACC experience has significant overlap with other ICH domains. At the same time, GACC has a vast network of experts in different ICH domains and can mobilize its resources.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC director Mariam Dvalishvili is a head of the jury of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Award in the category of Education, Training & skills. GACC staff also participated as an evaluator for the same award applications.

GACC had run several small grant programmes and thus is experienced in the evaluation of proposals.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC managerial staff (3 persons) has long experience in drafting collaborative projects for different EU calls with its international partners in English. At the same time, GACC staff has developed a number of publications on the topics of craft, creative tourism, and tangible cultural heritage.

E.5. Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

GACC is a member of World Craft Council Europe and actively participates in networking events to promote heritage craft locally and internationally, cooperating with network members for experience exchange, awareness-raising activities etc.

Center is also the local representation of Europa Nostra and through its programmes contributes to the exchange of good practices in the different areas of safeguarding of cultural heritage.

GACC a member of the Research Group of ICH NGO Forum and was participating in the development of an online dossier on ICH and Sustainable Tourism.

At the same time Center, as already stated above actively participates in different international cooperation projects focused on safeguarding of craft traditions, increment of sustainability of craft actors, ensuring of transmission of traditions etc.

In 2021 GACC was been awarded 5th International Crafts Awards 2021 for "The Organization for Sustainable Development of Crafts Sector; In 2016 GACC efforts in the transmission of Heritage crafts skills to the new generations and public awareness activities were awarded EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards 2017

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: Mariam Dvalishvili

Title: Director

Date: January 14, 2023

Signature:

