**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**Online**

**6 May 2022**

**3 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Paris time)**

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda:**

**Request by Ukraine to examine the nomination ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’**

**as a case of extreme urgency**

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| **Summary**  The State Party of Ukraine made a request for the Committee to examine the nomination ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’ for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List as a case of extreme urgency in the sense of Article 17.3 of the 2003 Convention. This document presents the background to this request and proposes a procedure that the Bureau may consider establishing for this case.  **Decision required:** paragraph 9 |

**Background**

1. The present document provides background on the request submitted by Ukraine to inscribe as soon as possible the nomination ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’ on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (hereafter, ‘the Urgent Safeguarding List’), in the sense of Article 17.3 of the 2003 Convention.
2. The nomination in question ([no. 01852](https://ich.unesco.org/en/ukraine-request-17com-3bur-01252)) was initially submitted in March 2021 for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (hereafter ‘the Representative List’), but it has not been treated so far due to the annual ceiling and the order of priorities. Since Ukraine is entitled to have at least one nomination to be examined in 2023 in application of priority (0), the Secretariat sent a letter on 12 April 2022 ([Annex 1](#Annex1)) to the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to enquire whether the country wishes the nomination to be treated under the 2023 cycle, for examination by the eighteenth session of the Committee. On 21 April 2022, the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine replied ([Annex 2](#Annex2)) to the above-mentioned letter to formally request the inscription of ‘**Culture of Ukrainian Borscht cooking**’, as a case of extreme urgency, on the Urgent Safeguarding List.

**Provisions under the 2003 Convention and its Operational Directives**

1. As regards the inscription as a case of extreme urgency, the relevant provisions – which, to date, have never been applied in the implementation of the 2003 Convention – concern Article 17.3 of the 2003 Convention as well as inscription criterion U.2(b) and U.6 under paragraph 1 and paragraph 32 of the Operational Directives, as follows:

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| Article 17.3 of the 2003 Convention |
| In cases of extreme urgency – the objective criteria of which shall be approved by the General Assembly upon the proposal of the Committee – the Committee may inscribe an item of the heritage concerned on the List mentioned in paragraph 1, in consultation with the State Party concerned. |

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| Operational Directives Chapter I.1 paragraph 1: Criteria for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding |
| U.2 (b) The element is in extremely urgent need of safeguarding because it is facing grave threats as a result of which it cannot be expected to survive without immediate safeguarding.  U.6 In cases of extreme urgency, the State(s) Party(ies) concerned has (have) been duly consulted regarding inscription of the element in conformity with Article 17.3 of the Convention. |

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| Operational Directives Chapter I.9: Nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to be processed on an extremely urgent basis |
| 32. In case of extreme urgency, and in conformity with Criterion U.6, the Bureau of the Committee may invite the State(s) Party(ies) concerned to submit a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding on an accelerated schedule. The Committee, in consultation with the State(s) Party(ies) concerned, shall examine the nomination as quickly as possible after its submission, in accordance with a procedure to be established by the Bureau of the Committee on a case-by-case basis. Cases of extreme urgency may be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the Committee by the State(s) Party(ies) on whose territory(ies) the element is located, by any other State Party, by the community concerned or by an advisory organization. The State(s) Party(ies) concerned shall be informed in a timely manner. |

**Proposed procedure**

1. As required by the above-mentioned provisions and in particular paragraph 32 of the Operational Directives, the Bureau is to establish an accelerated procedure on a case-by-case basis for the request at hand. In this regard, the Bureau may wish to consider the following two points:

Demonstrating a case of extreme urgency

1. Since the nomination file was initially prepared against the inscription criteria for the Representative List (criteria R.1 – R.5), it needs to be adjusted to demonstrate that the nominated element qualifies as a case of extreme urgency in fulfilment of the inscription criteria for the Urgent Safeguarding List.

* Preliminary analysis by the Secretariat indicates that the information already presented under criteria R.1, R.4 and R.5 can be used to consider whether the nomination meets criteria U.1, U.4 and U.5, respectively. Considering the current situation in Ukraine, the Committee may request the Ukrainian authorities to submit a more detailed safeguarding plan at a later stage as required by criterion U.3, by adjusting and updating the safeguarding measures submitted with reference to criterion R.3.
* In application of Article 17.3 of the Convention, the nomination should be adjusted to satisfy criteria U.2(b) and U.6, in order to demonstrate that the inscription of the element qualifies as a case of extreme urgency.

Proposed steps forward

1. Following from the above, the Bureau may invite the national authorities of Ukraine to provide any further information as regards criteria U.2(b) and U.6 in addition to that provided in the letter of 21 April 2022. On the basis of the feedback, the nomination dossier may be transmitted to the 2022 Evaluation Body for assessment during its June meeting (planned for 20 to 25 June 2022), with a request by the Bureau to treat the file as a case of extreme urgency.
2. The Bureau may then wish to convene again to take stock of the progress made, review the recommendation of the Evaluation Body and discuss the next steps to bring the nomination to the Committee for its examination. In this regard, the proposal of the Bureau may be either to present the nomination at the seventeenth session of the Committee (28 November to 3 December 2022) or to call for an earlier extraordinary session of the Committee around the ninth session of the General Assembly in July 2022 (in the latter case, an electronic exchange with the Committee members would be necessary, pursuant to Rule 2.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee).
3. The steps to be taken with the timeline may be summarised as follows:

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| **Steps** | **Actions** | **Timeline** |
| 1 | Request from the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine transmitted by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the Secretary of the 2003 Convention | 21 April 2022 |
| 2 | A **first Bureau** **meeting** of the seventeenth session of the Committee of the 2003 Convention to discuss and establish the procedure | 6 May 2022 |
| 3 | Updating of the nomination dossier to demonstrate its fulfilment of the inscription criteria for the Urgent Safeguarding List (U.2(b) and U.6 in particular) | May/June 2022 |
| 4 | Full evaluation of the nomination dossier by the **Evaluation Body** during its June meeting. The recommendations of the Body will be prepared in the form of a draft Committee decision | 20 – 25 June 2022 |
| 5 | Publication of the report of the Evaluation Body on the nomination ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’ with its recommendations | Late June 2022 |
| 6 | A **second Bureau** **meeting** of the seventeenth session of the Committee, as needed, to take stock of the progress and discuss the next steps to bring the nomination to the Committee for its examination | Late June/early July 2022 |
| 7 | An **electronic exchange of the Committee** to decide on the decision-making timeline | Late June/early July 2022 |
| 8 | Option a). A **sixth extraordinary session of the Committee** to examine the draft Committee decision as prepared by the Evaluation Body | July 2022 (before or after the ninth session of the General Assembly) |
| Option b). The **seventeenth ordinary session of the Committee** to examine the draft Committee decision prepared by the Evaluation Body | 28 November – 3 December 2022 |

1. The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 17.COM 3.BUR 3

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/17.COM 3.BUR/3 and its annexes,
2. Takes note of the request by Ukraine to examine the nomination ‘Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking’ (initially submitted for possible inscription on the Representative List) for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List as a case of extreme urgency in the sense of Article 17.3 of the Convention;
3. Further notes that in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 32 of the Operational Directives, the Bureau is to establish a procedure, on a case-by-case basis, to treat this request with particular focus on inscription criteria U.2(b) and U.6;
4. Invites Ukraine to submit any additional information in addition to what has been provided, particularly as regards inscription criteria U.2(b) and U.6 and requests the Secretariat to include the information in the nomination file, in consultation with the submitting State;
5. Further requests the 2022 Evaluation Body to evaluate the nomination file, during its June meeting, with specific consideration of inscription criteria U.2(b) and U.6 and provide its recommendation to the Bureau as soon as possible thereafter;
6. Decides to meet again, after the June meeting of the Evaluation Body, in order to take stock of the progress of the process, review the recommendation of the Evaluation Body and discuss the next steps to bring the nomination to the Committee for its examination.

**Annex 1**



**Annex 2**

**N°2710/24/22**

**20 April 2022**



