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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Ninth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**5 to 7 July 2022**

**Item 9 of the provisional agenda:**

**The global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention and**

**proposed revisions to the Operational Directives**

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| **Summary**  The present session of the General Assembly is requested to approve the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives in order to implement the recommendations made by the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (Part I, Part II and Part III meetings) in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention.  **Decision required:** paragraph 7 |

**Introduction**

1. The present session of the General Assembly is requested to approve the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives in order to implement the recommendations made by the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (hereafter ‘the working group’) in the framework of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention.[[1]](#footnote-1) The purpose of the global reflection was to reflect on the intent and purpose of the listing mechanisms and to seek solutions to a number of wide-ranging and interrelated issues identified through a decade of implementation.
2. Following the launch of the global reflection by the thirteenth session of the Committee in 2018 with the financial support of Japan, the fourteenth session of the Committee identified the following main reflection points:[[2]](#footnote-2) (a) the overall approach to the listing mechanisms; (b) issues related to the criteria of inscription; (c) issues related to the follow-up of inscribed elements; and (d) methodology for the evaluation of nominations (document [LHE/19/14.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-14-EN.docx) and Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)).
3. The reflection was an inclusive process involving a series of steps, including both expert consultations and intergovernmental discussions, as summarised below.

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| **Dates** | **Sessions** | **Outcomes** |
| 4–9 December 2017 | **Twelfth session of the Committee**  The Committee expressed the need for an overall reflection on the intent and purpose of the listing mechanisms. | Decision [12.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/14) |
| 26 November–1 December 2018 | **Thirteenth session of the Committee**  The Committee launched a global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention. | Decision [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10) |
| 9–14 December 2019 | **Fourteenth session of the Committee**  The Committee undertook a preliminary discussion, providing insights into the directions to be followed during the reflection. | Decision [14.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/10)  Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14) |
| 8–10 September 2020 | **Eighth session of the General Assembly**  The General Assembly formalized a dialogue process in the evaluation of nominations. This was an ‘early harvest’ of the reflection based on the positive experience gained from the 2019 cycle, which included this possibility on an experimental basis. | Resolution [8.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/10) |
| 14–19 December 2020 | **Fifteenth session of the Committee**  The Committee, which met on a reduced agenda basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, discussed the challenges of the current annual ceiling and priority system. | Decision [15.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/9) |
| 26 March–11 April 2021 | **Survey for experts**  The Secretariat undertook an online survey with approximately 200 experts to seek their views on the main challenges identified so far on the listing mechanisms as well as on possible approaches for finding solutions. | [Findings of the survey](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-5-EN.docx)  [Compilation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-INF.1.pdf) of the survey responses |
| 7, 26 and 27 May 2021 | **Category VI meeting of experts**  Experts were invited to reflect and provide their advice on four main themes of the reflection. A series of breakout group sessions took place between the plenary sessions. | Document [LHE/21/EXP/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-7-EN.docx) |
| 8–9 July 2021 | **Part I meeting of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group**  The working group discussed the recommendations of the Category VI meeting of experts in order to decide on a general approach for the reform of the listing mechanisms of the Convention. | Document [LHE/21/16.COM WG/Recommendations](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-Recommandations_EN.docx) |
| 9–10 September 2021 | **Part II meeting of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group**  On the basis of its Part I meeting, the working group adopted a set of recommendations on priority reflection issues for examination by the sixteenth session of the Committee. | Document [LHE/21/16.COM WG/Recommendations](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM_WG-Recommandations_EN.docx) |
| 13–18 December 2021 | **Sixteenth session of the Committee**  The Committee recommended that the General Assembly revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of the recommendations of the Part I and Part II meetings of the working group. | Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14) |
| 25–26 April 2022 | **Part III meeting of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group**  The working group adopted a set of recommendations on additional issues, as identified by its Part I and Part II meetings and by the sixteenth session of the Committee. | Document [LHE/22/17.COM WG/Recommendations](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_WG-Recommendations_EN.docx) |
| 1 July 2022 | **Fifth extraordinary session of the Committee**  The Committee recommended that the General Assembly revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of the recommendations of the Part III meeting of the working group. | Decision [5.EXT.COM 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/5.EXT.COM/4) |
| 5–7 July 2022 | **Ninth session of the General Assembly**  The present session of the General Assembly isrequested to approvethe proposed revisions to the Operational Directives in order to implement the recommendations of the working group (Part I, Part II and Part III meetings). | Draft Resolution 9.GA 9 (see below) |

1. The substantive reflection process was undertaken by the Open-ended intergovernmental working group, which was convened in a three-part meeting:

Part I (8 -9 July 2021) and Part II (9-10 September 2021)

a. The working group focused on three core issues of the reflection as specifically requested by the Committee: criterion R.2, specific procedures for removing or transferring elements from and between Lists, and the extension of multinational nominations. The recommendations of the Part I and Part II meetings were presented (document [LHE/21/16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx)), in the form of amendments to the Operational Directives, to the sixteenth session of the Committee who, in turn, recommended that the General Assembly revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirt of those recommendations (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)).

Part III (25 – 26 April 2022)

b. The working group addressed issues related to the annual number of files (including related aspects such as the composition and working methods of the Evaluation Body and other technical issues that were identified as requiring further reflection). The recommendations of the Part III meeting were presented (document [LHE/22/5.EXT.COM/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-5.EXT.COM-4_EN.docx)), also in the form of amendments to the Operational Directives, to the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee who, in turn, recommended that the General Assembly revise the Operational Directives on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of those recommendations (Decision 5.EXT.COM 4).

1. The above-mentioned revisions to the Operational Directives are presented in the [annex](#annex) for the attention of the present session of the General Assembly.

* The texts highlighted in grey pertain to the revisions recommended by the sixteenth session of the Committee, based on the recommendations of the working group’s Part I and Part II meetings.
* The texts highlighted in blue relate to the revisions recommended by the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee, based on the recommendations of the working group’s Part III meeting.

1. A number of recommendations made by the working group are not reflected in the form of the revisions to the Operational Directives. They will instead be implemented through the revisions of nomination forms (e.g., the issues related to the criterion R.2), through decisions of the Committee (e.g., adjustments to the priority system as regards multinational files) or as general practices (e.g., the use of gender-neutral and inclusive language). In this regard, it is also worth noting that the global reflection gave rise to a new initiative to reflect on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention. This new reflection includes the continuation of discussions on how to enhance dialogue and communication amongst stakeholders of the Convention. Already supported by Sweden, it is planned that a Category VI expert meeting will be convened in early 2023 in order to prepare an intergovernmental open-ended working group to be held in late 2023.
2. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 9.GA 9

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined document LHE/22/9.GA/9 and its annex,
2. Recalling Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/14?dec=decisions&ref_decision=16.COM) and document [LHE/21/16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx) as well as Decision [5.EXT.COM 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/5.EXT.COM/4) and document [LHE/22/5.EXT.COM/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-5.EXT.COM-4_EN.docx),
3. Takes note of the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives endorsed by the sixteenth session of the Committee, based on the Part I and Part II meetings of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group;
4. Further takes note of the proposed revisions to the Operational Directives endorsed by the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee, based on the Part III meeting of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group;
5. Thanks Japan for having supported the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention;
6. Expresses its appreciation to the Open-ended intergovernmental working group and the experts who took part in the consultation for their work, dedication and engagement;
7. Also takes note of a separate initiative launched to reflect on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention, further thanks Sweden for supporting this initiative and requests that the Secretariat report on the progress to the tenth session of the General Assembly;
8. Decides to approve the revisions to the Operational Directives as contained in the annex of the present Resolution.

**ANNEX**

**Proposed amendments to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention**

**Note 1**: The proposed revisions to the Operational Directives highlighted in grey pertain to the revisions endorsed by the sixteenth session of the Committee (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14)), on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of recommendations of Part I (8 and 9 July 2021) and Part II (9 and 10 September 2021) meetings of the working group.

**Note 2**: The proposed revisions highlighted in blue pertain to the revisions to be endorsed by the fifth extraordinary session of the Committee (Decision [5.EXT.COM 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/5.EXT.COM/4)) on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of recommendations of the working group’s Part III meeting (25 and 26 April 2022).

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| **Operational Directives (2020 edition)** | | | **Proposed amendments** | | |
| **I.3** | **Criteria for selection of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention** | | **I.3** | [No change.] | |
| 7. | […]  P.9 The programme, project or activity is primarily applicable to the particular needs of developing countries. | | 7. | […]  ~~P.9 The programme, project or activity is primarily applicable to the particular needs of developing countries.~~ [[3]](#footnote-3) | |
| **I.6** | **Inscription on an extended or reduced basis** | | **I.6** | [No change.] | |
| 16. | The inscription of an element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity can be extended to other communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals at the national and/or international level upon the request of the State(s) Party(ies) in whose territory(ies) the element is present, with the consent of the concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals. | | 16.1 | The inscription of an element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity can be extended to other communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals at the national and/or international level upon the request of the State(s) Party(ies) in whose territory(ies) the element is present~~, with the consent of the concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals~~.[[4]](#footnote-4) | |
| - | - | | 16.2 | State(s) Party(ies) are encouraged to announce their intentions to join in existing inscribed elements on an extended basis, in a timely manner, through the webpage of the Convention, using the dedicated online form.[[5]](#footnote-5) | |
| - | - | | 16.3 | At the international level, newly joining States(s) Party(ies) is/are required to demonstrate that its/their inclusion in the extension satisfies all of the required criteria for inscription. Concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals that gave their consent for the submission of the original nomination and subsequent extensions must agree with the proposed extension and their participation in ongoing, newly proposed or updated safeguarding measures with the newly joining communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned and authorities.[[6]](#footnote-6) | |
| - | - | | 16.4 | At the national level, the State Party is required to demonstrate that the extension satisfies the required criteria for inscription, taking into account the criteria already satisfied through the original nomination. Concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals that gave their consent for the submission of the original nomination and subsequent extensions must agree with the proposed extension and their participation in ongoing, newly proposed or updated safeguarding measures with the newly joining communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned and authorities.[[7]](#footnote-7) | |
| 17. | The inscription of an element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity can be reduced at the national and/or international level if the State(s) Party(ies) in whose territory(ies) the element is present so request(s), with the consent of the concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals. | | 17.1 | The inscription of an element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity can be reduced at the national and/or international level if the State(s) Party(ies) in whose territory(ies) the element is present so requests~~, with the consent of the concerned communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals~~.[[8]](#footnote-8) | |
| - | - | | 17.2. | State(s) Party(ies) is/are required to demonstrate that the communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals who are proposed to be removed from the inscribed element, give evidence of their free, prior and informed consent to the reduction of the element.[[9]](#footnote-9) | |
| **I.7** | **Submission of files** | | **I.7** | [No change.] | |
| 20. | Form ICH-01 is used for the nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, ICH-02 for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, ICH-03 for the proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention. | | 20.1 | Form ICH-01 is used for the nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and includes an option for simultaneously requesting International Assistance; this form is also used for the nominations to the same List on an extended or reduced basis at the national and/or international level.  Form ICH-02 is used for the nominations to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; this form is also used for the nominations to the same list on an extended or reduced basis at the national and/or international level.  Form ICH-03 is used for the proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention. | |
| - | - | | 20.2 | Form ICH-01 RL to USL is used for the transfer of an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and includes an option for simultaneously requesting International Assistance.  Form ICH-02 USL to RL, attached to the periodic reporting Form ICH-11, is used for the transfer of an element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.[[10]](#footnote-10) | |
| 21. | States Parties may request preparatory assistance for the elaboration of nomination files to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and for the elaboration of proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention. | | 21. | States Parties may request preparatory assistance, in consultation with communities, groups and where appropriate, individuals concerned,[[11]](#footnote-11) for the elaboration of:   1. nomination files to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding~~, and for the elaboration of~~ 2. proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, 3. requests for the transfer of an element from one List to another,[[12]](#footnote-12) and 4. nomination files on an extended or reduced basis of already inscribed elements.[[13]](#footnote-13) | |
| 22. | As far as preparatory assistance is concerned, Form ICH-05 is used for requests for preparatory assistance to elaborate a nomination for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and Form ICH-06 is used for requests for preparatory assistance to elaborate a proposal of a programme, project or activity for selection and promotion by the Committee. All other requests for International Assistance, whatever amount is requested, shall be submitted using Form ICH-04. | | 22. | ~~As far as preparatory assistance is concerned, Form ICH-05 is used for requests for preparatory assistance to elaborate a nomination for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and Form ICH-06 is used for requests for preparatory assistance to elaborate a proposal of a programme, project or activity for selection and promotion by the Committee. All other requests for International Assistance, whatever amount is requested, shall be submitted using Form ICH-04.~~  Requests for all preparatory assistance shall be submitted by using Form ICH-05. Requests for International Assistance shall be submitted using Form ICH-04~~, irrespective of the amount requested~~[[14]](#footnote-14) except for requests submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. | |
| **I.8** | **Evaluation of files** | | **I.8** | [No change.] | |
| 27. | On an experimental basis, the evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and of International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000 shall be accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’. The Evaluation Body will make recommendations to the Committee for its decision. The Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage. | | 27. | ~~On an experimental basis, t~~[[15]](#footnote-15)The evaluation of nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, of proposed programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, and of International Assistance requests ~~greater than US$100,000~~[[16]](#footnote-16) submitted simultaneously with nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, shall be accomplished by a consultative body of the Committee established in accordance with Article 8.3 of the Convention, to be known as the ‘Evaluation Body’. The Evaluation Body will make recommendations to the Committee for its decision. The Evaluation Body shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Committee: six experts qualified in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage representatives of States Parties non-Members of the Committee and six accredited non-governmental organizations, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and various domains of intangible cultural heritage. | |
| 30. | The Evaluation Body shall submit to the Committee an evaluation report that includes a recommendation:   * to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * to select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity, or to refer the proposal to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or * to approve or not to approve the International Assistance request, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information. | | 30. | The Evaluation Body shall submit to the Committee an evaluation report that includes a recommendation:   * to inscribe or not to inscribe the nominated element (including the transfer from one List to another, the extension or the reduction of an already inscribed element) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, or to refer the nomination to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * to select or not to select the proposed programme, project or activity, or to refer the proposal to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * to approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * to approve or not to approve the International Assistance request submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, or to refer the request to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or * to maintain or to remove the inscribed element from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, in case of ‘enhanced follow-up’. | |
| **I.10** | **Examination of files by the Committee** | | **I.10** | [No change.] | |
| 33. | The Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles. This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000. | | 33. | The Committee determines two years beforehand, in accordance with the available resources and its capacity, the number of files that can be treated in the course of the two following cycles which in total is set at no more than sixty.[[17]](#footnote-17) This ceiling shall apply to the set of files comprising nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention ~~and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000~~.[[18]](#footnote-18) | |
| 34. | The Committee shall endeavour to examine to the extent possible at least one file per submitting State, within the limit of this overall ceiling, giving priority to:   1. files from States having no elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved, and nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; 2. multi-national files; and 3. files from States with the fewest elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved, in comparison with other submitting States during the same cycle.   In case they submit several files during the same cycle, submitting States shall indicate the order of priority in which they wish their files to be examined and are invited to give priority to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. | | 34. | The Committee shall endeavour to examine to the extent possible at least one file per submitting State, within the limit of this overall ceiling, giving priority to:  (0) files from States which had no file treated during the preceding cycle;[[19]](#footnote-19)   1. files from States having no elements inscribed, best safeguarding practices selected ~~or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved~~, and nominations to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;   (ii) multi-national files; and   1. files from States with the fewest elements inscribed~~,~~ and best safeguarding practices selected ~~or requests for International Assistance greater than US$100,000 approved~~, in comparison with other submitting States during the same cycle.   In case they submit several files during the same cycle, submitting States shall indicate the order of priority in which they wish their files to be examined and are invited to give priority to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. | |
| 35. | After examination, the Committee decides:   * whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as a best safeguarding practice, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or * whether or not an International Assistance request greater than US$100,000 shall be approved, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information. | | 35. | After examination, the Committee decides:   * whether or not an element shall be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or whether the nomination shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information; * whether or not a programme, project or activity shall be selected as a best safeguarding practice, or whether the proposal shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information; or * whether or not an International Assistance request submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding ~~greater than US$100,000~~ [[20]](#footnote-20)shall be approved, or whether the ~~proposal~~ request shall be referred to the submitting State(s) for additional information. | |
| **I.11** | **Transfer of an element from one List to the other or removal of an element from a List** | | **I.11** | [No change.] | |
| 38. | An element may not simultaneously be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A State Party may request that an element be transferred from one List to the other. Such a request must demonstrate that the element satisfies all of the criteria for the List to which transfer is requested, and shall be submitted according to the established procedures and deadlines for nominations. | | 38.1 | An element may not simultaneously be inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A State Party may request that an element be transferred from one List to the other. ~~Such a~~ The request ~~must demonstrate that the element satisfies all of the criteria for the List to which transfer is requested,~~ shall be initiated by the State(s) Party(ies) with the free, prior and informed consent of the communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned,[[21]](#footnote-21) and shall be submitted according to the established procedures and deadlines~~for nominations~~. | |
| - | - | | 38.2 | Communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned may express directly to the Secretariat their wish to transfer an element from one List to the other. Such a request is then transmitted to the State(s) Party(ies) concerned and the Committee is informed accordingly.[[22]](#footnote-22) | |
| 39. | An element shall be removed from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the Committee when it determines, after assessment of the implementation of the safeguarding plan, that the element no longer satisfies one or more criteria for inscription on that list. | | 39.1 | ~~An element shall be removed from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the Committee when it determines, after assessment of the implementation of the safeguarding plan, that the element no longer satisfies one or more criteria for inscription on that list.~~[[23]](#footnote-23) An element shall be transferred from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the Committee when it determines, after assessment of the transfer request and taking into account the criteria already satisfied through the original nomination, that the element satisfies all criteria for inscription on that List. The request for such transfer, using Form ICH-01 RL to USL, shall include:   1. In relation to criterion U.1 - Updated description of the element, including justification for the need for urgent safeguarding; 2. In relation to criterion U.3 - Adequate safeguarding plan; 3. In relation to criterion U.4 - Consent from the concerned communities, groups and individuals that had agreed to the inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.[[24]](#footnote-24) | |
| - | - | | 39.2 | An element shall be transferred from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the Committee when it determines, after assessment of the transfer request and taking into account the criteria already satisfied through the original nomination, that the element satisfies all criteria for inscription on that list. The request for such transfer, using Form ICH-02 USL to RL, shall include:   1. In relation to criterion R.1 - Updated description of the element addressing the changes in the viability of the element with reference to the original criterion U.2; 2. In relation to criterion R.2 - Demonstration of the contribution of the nominated element to encouraging mutual respect and dialogue among communities, groups and individuals, and indicating how the element contributes to sustainable development; 3. In relation to criterion R.3 - Assessment of the implementation of the safeguarding plan described under the original criterion U.3 through the periodic reporting[[25]](#footnote-25) and safeguarding measures planned for the future; 4. In relation to criterion R.4 - Consent from the concerned communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that had agreed to the inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.[[26]](#footnote-26) | |
| - | - | | 39.3 | The Evaluation Body may also recommend, following its evaluation of the request for transfer, that the Committee include the successful safeguarding experience in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.[[27]](#footnote-27) | |
| 40. | An element shall be removed from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the Committee when it determines that it no longer satisfies one or more criteria for inscription on that list. | | 40.1 | An element shall be removed from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the Committee when it determines that it no longer satisfies ~~one or more criteria for inscription on that list~~ the required criteria, paying particular attention to criteria U.1/R.1 and U.4/R.4.[[28]](#footnote-28) The removal can be requested by the concerned State Party, communities, groups or, where appropriate, individuals, or any other third party and such a request shall be treated through the steps described below.[[29]](#footnote-29) | |
| - | - | | 40.2 | 1. A removal request from the submitting entity (i.e. State Party concerned, communities, groups and/or where appropriate, individuals concerned or a third party) is registered by the Secretariat. 2. The Secretariat transmits the removal request, as the case may be, to the State Party, the nomination contact person and representatives of communities, groups and/or where appropriate, individuals (as identified in the nomination file), who may provide a response and complementary information. 3. If the submitting entity, other than States, wishes to remain anonymous, the Secretariat transmits an edited version of the original removal request. 4. If the removal request is submitted by the State Party concerned as identified in the nomination file:    1. The Secretariat gathers information in particular in relation to Article 2 of the Convention. The removal request is then directly transmitted to the Committee, together with a response, if any, from the State Party and/or communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned, as well as any information gathered.    2. The Committee may then decide to: 5. Place the element under ‘enhanced follow-up’ status as an interim measure if it considers that additional information is needed. 6. Remove the element from the List if it considers that the information is complete and there is enough ground for removal, with the possibility of placing it in an Intangible Cultural Heritage Repository (end of the procedure). 7. In other cases: 8. The Secretariat may gather information in particular in relation to Article 2 of the Convention and share the results of that information with the concerned State Party and gather its response, if any. The removal request is then transmitted to the Bureau that recommends whether or not to include the case on the agenda of the next Committee session. 9. The Committee may then decide to: 10. Maintain the element on the List, if it considers that the information is complete and there is insufficient ground for removal (end of the procedure). 11. Place the element under ‘enhanced follow-up’ status as an interim measure, if it considers that additional information is needed.[[30]](#footnote-30) | |
| - | - | | 40.3 | 1. The Evaluation Body will evaluate the element placed under ‘enhanced follow-up' status, paying particular attention to Article 2 of the Convention, on the basis of additional information gathered through exchange and dialogue, as appropriate. The Evaluation Body shall transmit its report and recommendation to the Secretariat. 2. On the basis of the recommendation from the Evaluation Body, and paying particular attention to criteria R.1/U.1 and R.4/U.4, the Committee may decide to: 3. Continue to place the element under ‘follow-up’ for a period to be determined, if the issues persist. The Committee recommends the implementation of reconciliatory/mediatory measures and specifies a session of the Committee in which the issue will be reported back by the State Party for a final decision by the Committee. 4. Remove the element from the List, if there is enough ground for removal, with the possibility of placing it in an Intangible Cultural Heritage Repository (end of the procedure). 5. Maintain the element on the List, if there is insufficient ground for removal (end of procedure).[[31]](#footnote-31) | |
| **I.14** | **International Assistance** | | **I.14** | [No change.] | |
| 47. | International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 (except requests for preparatory assistance) and emergency requests regardless of the amount can be submitted at any time. | | 47. | ~~International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 (except requests for preparatory assistance) and emergency requests regardless of the amount can be submitted at any time.~~  International Assistance requests (including for preparatory assistance) shall not exceed US$100.000, except for emergency requests and requests submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.[[32]](#footnote-32)  International Assistance requests can be submitted at any time, except for those requests that are examined and approved by the Committee for which the timetable under I.15 shall apply. Moreover, requests for preparatory assistance shall be submitted by the deadline of 31 March. | |
| 49. | Requests up to US$100,000, including preparatory assistance, are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. | | 49. | ~~Requests up to US$100,000, including preparatory assistance, are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee.~~  International Assistance requests (including for preparatory assistance) up to US$100,000 and emergency requests regardless of the amount are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. | |
| 51. | Requests greater than US$100,000 are evaluated by the Evaluation Body described in paragraph 27 above, and examined and approved by the Committee. | | 51. | ~~Requests greater than US$100,000 are evaluated by the Evaluation Body described in paragraph 27 above, and examined and approved by the Committee.~~  International Assistance requests submitted simultaneously with a nomination to the List of intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding or in the context of the request to transfer an element from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding are evaluated by the Evaluation Body and examined and approved by the Committee. | |
| **I.15** | **Timetable – Overview of procedures** | | **I.15** | [No change.] | |
| 54. | Phase 1: Preparation and submission | | 54. | Phase 1: Preparation and submission | |
| 31 March  Year 0 | Deadline for preparatory assistance requests for the elaboration of nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the objectives of the Convention (Article 18). | 31 March  Year 0 | Deadline for preparatory assistance requests. ~~for the elaboration of nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the objectives of the Convention (Article 18).~~ |
| - | - | 15 December[[33]](#footnote-33) Year 0 | Deadline for submission of transfer requests from the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. |
| 31 March  Year 1 | Deadline by which nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, proposals for programmes, projects and activities and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000 must be received by the Secretariat. Files received after this date will be examined in the next cycle. The Secretariat posts on the website of the Convention, in their original language, files as received. | 31 March  Year 1 | Deadline by which nominations for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (including those submitted simultaneously with International Assistance requests) and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as well as proposals for programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention ~~and International Assistance requests greater than US$100,000~~[[34]](#footnote-34) must be received by the Secretariat. Files received after this date will be examined in the next cycle. The Secretariat posts on the website of the Convention, in their original language, files as received. |
| 30 June  Year 1 | Deadline by which the Secretariat will have processed the files, including registration and acknowledgement of receipt. If a file is found incomplete, the State Party is invited to complete the file. | [No change.] | [No change.] |
| 30 September  Year 1 | Deadline by which missing information required to complete the files, if any, shall be submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat. Files that remain incomplete are returned to the States Parties that may complete them for a subsequent cycle. As files revised by submitting States reach the Secretariat following its requests for additional information, they are posted online and replace the original files received. Their translations into English or French are also posted online as they become available. | [No change.] | [No change.] |
|  | - | - |  | 31 January[[35]](#footnote-35)  Year 2 | Deadline by which transfer requests from the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding must be received by the Secretariat. The Secretariat registers the requests. The requests are transmitted to the Evaluation Body on the same year of their submission, without checking whether a file is complete.[[36]](#footnote-36) |

1. See also the dedicated webpage for the global reflection: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/global-reflection-on-the-listing-mechanisms-01164>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In addition, at different sessions the Committee and the General Assembly requested that certain specific issues be addressed during the global reflection. Requests to consider topics such as the revision of criterion R.2 (Decision [13.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/10), Decision [14.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/10) and Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)), the procedure for the removal and transfer of elements (Decision [10.COM 19](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/19), Decision [12.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/14), Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14) and Resolution [8.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/11)), the follow-up of inscribed elements (Decision [13.COM 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/9) and Decision [15.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/7)) were followed later by requests to consider issues related to the annual nomination ceilings (Resolution [8.GA 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/11)), the preparation of multinational nominations (Decision [15.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/8)) as well as the procedure for their extension (Decision [14.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/14)), and how living heritage safeguarding contributes to sustainable development through the listing mechanisms (Decision [15.COM 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/15.COM/8)). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Part I and Part II Recommendation 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See new paragraphs 16.3 and 16.4 for community consent. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Part I and Part II Recommendation 7, Step 0, bullet 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Part I and Part II Recommendation 7, Step 1.a and b [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Part I and Part II Recommendation 7, Step 1.a and b [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Part I and Part II Recommendation 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Part I and Part II Recommendation 7, step 1.a and b [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 1, bullet 5 and 9 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 0, bullet 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 0, bullet 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Part I and Part II Recommendation 7, step 0, bullet 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Part III Recommendation 7 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Part III Recommendation 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Part III Recommendation 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 1, bullet 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 0, bullet 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. See new paragraph 40.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 1, bullet 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 2, last bullet [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Part I and Part II Recommendation 6, step 6 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Part I and Part II Recommendation 6, step 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Part I and Part II Recommendation 6.a [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Part I and Part II Recommendation 6, step 5 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Deadline for reports on the status of an element that has been inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, every four years after inscription of the element. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Part III Recommendation 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 1, bullet 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Part I and Part II Recommendation 5, step 3, bullet 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-36)