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

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

**Eighteenth session**

**Kasane, Republic of Botswana**

**4 to 9 December 2023**

**Item 11 of the provisional agenda:**

**Reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention and proposal for related amendments to the Operational Directives**

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| **Summary**As an outcome of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, the sixteenth session of the Committee decided to launch a separate reflection to explore the full potential of Article 18 of the Convention. This document presents the progress made to advance the reflection on how to implement Article 18 of the Convention more broadly and beyond the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.**Decision required:** paragraph 20 |

**Introduction**

1. While it was innovative for a normative instrument to include a listing mechanism for sharing good practices in the sense of Article 18 of the Convention[[1]](#footnote-1), the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices has been underutilized compared to the other two listing mechanisms of the Convention (i.e. the Representative List and the Urgent Safeguarding List). One of the weaknesses identified in the functioning of the Register is that it has not been able to serve satisfactorily as a source of inspiration and information for communities and other stakeholders around the world seeking safeguarding advice. Only thirty-three good practices (corresponding to 31 States Parties) have been selected for inclusion in the Register (which is equal to 4.88% of 676 elements included in the listing system as a whole)[[2]](#footnote-2).
2. The governing bodies of the Convention have already accomplished a certain number of improvements for the operationalization of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices through the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14) and Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)), which are:
* Deletion of criterion P.9 (paragraph 7 of the Operational Directives)[[3]](#footnote-3), and
* Possibility for the Evaluation Body to recommend the inclusion of successful safeguarding experiences in the Register in the context of transfers of elements from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List (paragraph 39.3 of the Operational Directives).
1. It was decided at the same time and as a concrete outcome of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms to initiate a separate reflection to explore a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention (Decision [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/14) and Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)). The idea was not only to continue discussing issues raised concerning the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, but also to pay attention to the implementation of Article 18 of the Convention beyond the Register. This new reflection was made possible thanks to a generous contribution by the Kingdom of Sweden. The overall goal of this new reflection is to seek ways to bring the voices and aspirations of the communities to the fore, and to highlight their safeguarding experiences. The issues under the reflection on Article 18 were presented in detail to the Committee at its seventeenth session in 2022, which in turn established the reflection topics and a timeline with intergovernmental steps for the reflection (document [LHE/22/17.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-10-EN.docx) and Decision [17.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/10)).
2. The present document outlines the progress made since the previous session of the Committee, notably the results of a Category VI meeting of experts (Section A), which was convened to prepare for an Open-ended intergovernmental working group (Section B). The document also includes proposals for implementing the key recommendations of the working group, notably on draft amendments to the Operational Directives concerning selection criteria for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, as well as a plan for the establishment of an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences (Section C).
3. **Consultation with experts**
4. A Category VI meeting of experts took place from 19 to 21 April 2023 (Stockholm, Sweden) with the participation of 21 experts[[4]](#footnote-4), hosted by the Ministry of Culture of Sweden, the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO and the Institute of Language and Folklore. The experts discussed and adopted a report with recommendations which was put forward to the Open-ended intergovernmental working group (see document [LHE/23/18.COM EXP/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-EXP_ART18-4_EN.docx)).
5. Above all, the experts considered that Article 18 has far-reaching potential to fully achieve the purposes of the Convention. Their recommendations focused on a) how to include more good safeguarding practices through programmes, projects and activities in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, b) possible revisions to the Register’s selection criteria and c) ways to connect to other international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention. Moving beyond the Register itself, the experts advocated for the progressive creation of a moderated online platform for sharing good safeguarding practices, as essential for fully operationalizing Article 18. In addition, a series of concrete proposals were made to improve the participation of various stakeholders in its implementation.
6. **Open-ended intergovernmental working group**
7. The Open-ended intergovernmental working group in the framework of the reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention (hereafter ‘working group’) met at UNESCO Headquarters on 4 and 5 July 2023[[5]](#footnote-5). Chaired by Mr Martin Sundin (Sweden), five members of the Bureau of the eighteenth session of the Committee acted as the Bureau for the working group (which also assumed the responsibility of preparing the draft recommendations for discussion during the plenary session), namely: Estonia, Peru, Philippines, Angola and Morocco. More than 310 participants from 99 countries registered for the meeting. The high number of registered accredited non-governmental organisations was noteworthy (85 registered participants), which also included the members of the Executive Board of the ICH NGO Forum.
8. In summary, the discussions of the working group were structured around the three reflection topics:

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| Topic 1: **Improving the access to and increasing the visibility of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices** |

The first reflection topic was aimed at improving the utilization of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices itself. The working group discussed: (a) the selection criteria for the Register; (b) ways to increase the accessibility and visibility of the Register; and (c) the relation of the Register with other international cooperation mechanisms of the 2003 Convention.

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| Topic 2: **Towards the creation of an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences** |

Based on the ideas discussed previously by the governing bodies of the Convention[[6]](#footnote-6), it was deemed pertinent to explore the possibility of setting up an online and moderated ‘platform’ (previously also called an ‘arm’s-length body’ or ‘observatory’) that would allow communities in different parts of the world to benefit from the full potential of Article 18 of the Convention. The working group discussed the creation of such an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences, including: (a) the pertinence of an online platform; (b) its objectives; and (c) the administrative set-up, financial and operational implications of such a platform.

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| Topic 3: **Any other issues** |

In order to give the working group the opportunity to discuss aspects of the reflection that had not yet been covered, this topic was deliberately kept open. While numerous ideas were shared under this topic, many of them were integrated in the discussions under Topic 1 (e.g. ways to raise the capacity of States Parties to prepare proposals for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices) and Topic 2 (e.g. the pertinence of linking national registers of good safeguarding practices to the online platform that is to be established).

1. The recommendations of the working group are contained in [Annex I](#_Annex_I_-) to this document. The deliberations of the meeting are kept in the summary records which are made available to the present session of the Committee ([LHE/23/18.COM/INF.11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-INF.11_EN.docx)). Overall, an agreement was reached on general considerations, including the understanding that Article 18 has the potential to fully reflect the purposes of the Convention, as stated in its Article 1 (Recommendation 1). The working group also considered that the further implementation of Article 18 should be explored with reference to existing provisions of the Convention and its Operational Directives, the Overall Results Framework, and the [Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/ethics-and-ich-00866) (Recommendation 2) and also to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Recommendation 14), while linking Article 18 with other international cooperation mechanisms (Recommendation 7).
2. **Towards a broader implementation of Article 18**

Amendments to the Operational Directives: Selection criteria

1. Based on Recommendation 3 of the working group, the Committee may wish to consider amending paragraph 7 of the Operational Directives in order to adjust the selection criteria for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, as summarised below:
	1. Simplification of the selection criteria, implying the deletion of criteria P.2 and P.8 as well as the merging of criteria P.1/P.3, and P.6/P.7;
	2. Changes to the ‘chapeau’ of paragraph 7, with the understanding that the proposals for selection to the Register should satisfy **all** of the selection criteria;
	3. Rename the criteria as criterion G.1, G.2, G.3 and so on (instead of criterion P.1, P.2, P.3 and so on) in order to distinguish this new set of selection criteria from the previous system.
2. The Committee may wish to recommend to the tenth session of the General Assembly in mid-2024 to amend the Operational Directives as proposed in [Annex II](#_Annex_II_-). Once approved, **Form ICH-03** shall be adjusted to reflect the revised selection criteria and include references to the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (Recommendation 3). The adjusted Form ICH-03 would be available for the examination of the 2026 cycle’s proposals for selection to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, for which the submission deadline is in March 2025.

Further operationalization of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

1. The Committee may wish to take note of the other recommendations of the working group, which aim to further operationalize the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices:
	1. It is proposed to **index, in a searchable way**, projects, programmes and activities selected to be part of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (Recommendation 6). This recommendation may be implemented and shared through the online platform that is to be established (see paragraph 18).
	2. As regards the facilitation of **access to the International Assistance** **mechanism** (Recommendation 7(a)), safeguarding experiences implemented with assistance provided under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund may be shared through the online platform that is to be established (see paragraph 18). In parallel, States Parties and communities shall be further encouraged to request preparatory assistance for preparing requests for the Register[[7]](#footnote-7).
	3. A call made to **adjust the periodic reporting mechanism** to better connect it to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (Recommendation 7(b)) may need to be considered as a long-term goal. This is because the periodic reporting mechanism of the Convention itself is due for a rationalization as proposed to the present session of the Committee, to enable the preparation of the Global Report on Cultural Policies that was requested in the MONDIACULT 2022 Final Declaration (document [LHE/23/18.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-7.c_EN.docx)).
	4. The recommendation to **reinforce capacity-building initiatives** (Recommendation 17) may be accommodated in the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to better raise the awareness of stakeholders of the Convention, with a focus in the future on the scope and benefits of the full implementation of Article 18.

Establishment of a moderated online platform

1. The creation of a moderated online platform for sharing good safeguarding practices was considered by the working group as essential for fully operationalizing Article 18. In particular, it is the expectation of the working group that a wider participation of communities in this endeavour will highlight the role of living heritage safeguarding in addressing global challenges (Recommendation 8).
2. The main objective of such a platform would be to provide a space for communities and other stakeholders of the Convention to exchange, follow-up, communicate, collaborate and build capacities about good safeguarding practices (Recommendation 11). Ideas along these lines were raised earlier; for example, in the context of the Evaluation of UNESCO’s Standard-setting Work of the Culture Sector, conducted by UNESCO’s Division of Internal Oversight Services in 2013 (Decision [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1)). The idea was further developed when experts were consulted during the first phase of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (document [LHE/21/16.COM EXP/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-EXP-7-EN.docx)).
3. In summary, and in response to Recommendation 9 of the working group, an online platform could be established to ensure links with the implementation of various mechanisms of the Convention. This online platform could, for example:
	1. Form a ‘network of inscribed elements and practices’. This will enable the exchange of information regarding elements/programmes following their inscription/selection on the Lists and the Register, and the monitoring of safeguarding plans and sharing of safeguarding methods;
	2. Raise awareness about local, regional, national and international events related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, with direct inputs from communities.
4. In terms of practical considerations, it is important to manage the volume, quality and types of information to be exchanged on this online platform. A balance needs to be sought between two priorities. On the one hand, communities should be allowed to make direct inputs and share information through this platform. At the same time, the information flow needs to be managed in a meaningful way. Moderating ‘chats’ on a regular basis is labour-intensive but a minimum amount of intervention seems necessary. Other considerations discussed by the working group include:

**Online possibilities**: The online modality would open up possibilities that were not conceivable when the Convention was adopted two decades ago. It would, for instance, facilitate the dissemination of audio-visual materials created by communities, groups or individuals wishing to share their good safeguarding practices. The platform could be foreseen partially as a forum similar to social media, for informally and directly sharing knowledge regarding good safeguarding practices.

**Community participation**: A calendar could be established, to facilitate communities’ broad participation in the use and moderation of the online platform and enable them to share planned events.

**Ethical considerations**: Cooperating with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals must be based on full respect for the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage as well as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (in particular its Article 27), with specific reference to the principle of free, prior, sustained and informed consent. Sharing images or disseminating information that may lead to the identification of individuals may not be appropriate in many circumstances. It may be necessary to establish guidelines specifically geared towards sharing information online.

1. A preliminary analysis presented to the working group (document [LHE/23/18.COM WG ART18/3 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_WG_ART18-3_REV_EN.docx)) shows that the initial set up of an online platform (which should be established within the Secretariat), over a six-month period, would require a one-off budget of US$300,000, essentially for IT developments, content preparation, and the initial testing of the system. Once it is established, the running of the platform would require an annual budget of US$500,000, in order to provide a wide range of services to support the sharing of good safeguarding experiences. The budget would include contracts for external IT developers, UNESCO staff time and resources (for undertaking activities to encourage sharing of good safeguarding experiences and for coordinating content development with stakeholders of the Convention), as well as translation, equipment and other administrative requirements.
2. Taking into account the proposals put forward through the consultation with experts, the working group advocated for a **step-by-step approach** when establishing the online platform (Recommendation 12). A first set of concrete activities that could be undertaken are:
3. Mapping and indexing of safeguarding experiences from existing resources, including: programmes, projects and activities selected to the Register; safeguarding plans of elements inscribed on the Lists; capacity-building material; activities of accredited NGOs; projects funded through International Assistance; and periodic reports.
4. Establishment of a ‘network of inscribed elements and practices’, in order to identify good safeguarding experiences of communities related to elements inscribed on the Lists and Register of the Convention.
5. Creation of a subpage in the webpage of the Convention to visually showcase the indexed safeguarding experiences.
6. Gathering information on IT and other requirements for establishing a stand-alone platform to host good safeguarding experiences, in line with the recommendations of the working group.
7. The progress on the above-mentioned tasks may be reported to the twentieth session of the Committee in November/December 2025. Depending on the situation at that stage, the Committee may decide to initiate other steps required – such as the establishment of an advisory group, a wider call to collect examples of good safeguarding experiences as well as the actual establishment of a stand-alone platform. While the initial phase of the operation could be covered by the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in 2024 and 2025 (document [LHE/23/18.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-14_EN.docx)), the establishment and maintenance of a full online platform would require larger sources of funding and sustainable staffing within the Secretariat (Recommendation 9) to service the plan in a reliable manner.
8. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 11

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/23/18.COM/11 and its annexes,
2. Recalling Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9), as well as Decisions [8.COM 5.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/5.c.1), [9.COM 9.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/9.b), [10.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/10.COM/10), [13.COM 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/5), [14.COM 5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/5.b), [16.COM 14](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/16.COM/14?dec=decisions&ref_decision=16.COM), [5.EXT.COM 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/5.EXT.COM/4), and [17.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/10),
3. Renews its gratitude to the Kingdom of Sweden for supporting the reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the Convention;
4. Takes note of the outcomes of the expert consultation and thanks the experts for their pertinent contributions;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the work of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group for advancing the reflection on how to implement Article 18 of the Convention more broadly and beyond the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, and further thanks its members for their engagement and cooperation;
6. Further takes note of the plan proposed by the Secretariat to initiate the establishment of the online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences, and requests that the Secretariat report on the progress made for examination by the twentieth session of the Committee;
7. Invites States Parties and other stakeholders to financially support the development of the online platform through the modality of their choice;
8. Recommends that the General Assembly amends the Operational Directives as [annexed](#_Annex_II_-) to this decision, on the basis of and reflecting the spirit of the recommendations of the working group.

# **Annex I - Recommendations of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group in the framework of the reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the 2003 Convention** (see document [LHE/23/18.COM WG ART18/4 Rev](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_WG_ART18-4_REV_EN.docx).)

General considerations

1. Article 18 of the Convention has the potential to fully reflect the purposes of the Convention, a broader implementation of which will open up new possibilities for supporting safeguarding efforts and contributing to the further development of the Convention.
2. The further implementation of Article 18 must be explored with reference to existing provisions of the Convention and the Operational Directives, the Overall Results Framework of the Convention, the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, while linking it also with the periodic reporting and International Assistance mechanisms of the Convention.

Topic 1: Improving the access to and increasing the visibility of the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

1. The selection criteria for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices are to be adjusted taking into account the following specific proposals:
2. **Criteria P.1 and P.3** are to be merged in order to focus on the description of the programme, project or activity in the sense of Article 2.3 of the Convention, including its principles and objectives:
	* The revised criterion should refer to the relevant Operational Directives and the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.
	* Form ICH-03 should be revised to include references to the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, in particular principles 1, 3, 4, 10 and 12.
3. **Criterion P.2** is to be deleted, since it may unnecessarily limit the diversity of the Register by focusing on regional, subregional and/or international levels;
4. **Criterion P.4** is to be kept, since the demonstration of the effectiveness of the programme, project or activity should remain a requirement for selection in the Register. Form ICH-03 should be revised to include a description of the initial situation which called for safeguarding and the situation after the successful execution of safeguarding measures;
5. **Criterion P.5** is to be kept, as the participation of the communities concerned should remain an important requirement for selection and the word ‘sustained’ should be added between ‘prior’ and ‘informed’. Form ICH-03 should be revised to include a reference to Ethical Principle 4 on free, prior, sustained and informed consent of communities;
6. **Criteria P.6 and P.7** are to be merged and adjusted to refer to ‘good practices’ instead of ‘best practices’. The revised criterion should also demonstrate how the safeguarding practices can inspire coordination and cooperation between States Parties, communities and other stakeholders, including at the local level (moving away from the idea of good safeguarding practices as ‘models’ but rather as a source of inspiration);
7. **Criterion P.8** is to be deleted, as the requirement to carry out an assessment of the results of the selected programme, project or activity could be redundant in light of the requirement of criterion P.4;
8. **‘Chapeau’ paragraph 7 of the Operational Directives**: the working group is of the opinion that the current chapeau text should be adjusted to understand that proposals should satisfy all of the selection criteria.
9. The working group requests that the Secretariat presents all its recommendations for examination by the eighteenth session of the Committee to be held in Botswana in December 2023, together with a set of draft amendments to the Operational Directives for those recommendations which would require them.
10. On the issue of whether the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices should be separated from the nomination process, including the priority system and the annual ceiling of nominations to be examined, the working group expressed that since extensive discussions took place in the context of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (2018 – 2022), the issue should not be re-opened in the present reflection.
11. Good safeguarding practices should be analyzed and presented in such a way that they can easily be searched using an indexing system, so that communities and other stakeholders can understand and apply various approaches used to address safeguarding issues. Such an indexing system could be connected to the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its further development.
12. The implementation of Article 18 should be broadened:
13. to facilitate cooperation and provide assistance to States Parties and communities in particular in emergency situations in planning, implementing and following up on their safeguarding efforts with reference to Articles 19 and 24 of the Convention. Capacity-building and awareness raising actions should be undertaken to facilitate access to International Assistance for States Parties with regard to the implementation of Article 18;
14. to better connect to the periodic reporting mechanisms by soliciting information on the follow-up and monitoring of ongoing programmes included in the Register; the reflection year for the periodic reporting may provide an opportunity to consolidate the necessary changes and identify avenues for a broader implementation of sharing good safeguarding practices; caution was raised, however, not to overburden the already heavy system.

Topic 2: Towards the creation of an online platform for sharing good safeguarding experiences

1. The working group recognises that the creation of a moderated online ‘platform’ for sharing good safeguarding experiences is beneficial for further operationalizing Article 18. It is also expected that a wider participation of communities in this endeavour will highlight the role of living heritage safeguarding in addressing global challenges.
2. While the working group noted that this was a worthy proposal, some raised questions about the financing of the implementation and maintenance costs of such a platform, but hopes were expressed to find solutions.
3. The working group recommends that the relation between the elements on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and the practices to be found on the platform be clarified.
4. The main objective of such an online ‘platform’ would be to provide a space for communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals, as well as the contact persons for elements already inscribed and selected practices, non-governmental organizations accredited under the Convention, the ICH NGO Forum, country focal points for periodic reporting, Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs and facilitators of the global capacity-building programme of the Convention, to share good safeguarding experiences, particularly in terms of exchanges, follow-up, communication, collaboration and capacity building:
* The principle of equitable geographic distribution amongst participants must be respected. To this end, low-cost and widely-accessible technology should be prioritised.
* The UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace must be taken into account, as well as ethical considerations concerning the free, prior, sustained and informed consent of participants.
* The platform should also serve to share experiences and to call attention to safeguarding living heritage in emergency situations, as well as support bearers of such practices.
* The possibility of integrating this platform with other existing applications with which the communities might be more familiar or have better access should be explored, to achieve the objective of sharing good safeguarding experiences.
1. The online platform could be created through the following step-by-step approach:
2. Better highlight the safeguarding experiences already selected for the Register through the webpage of the Convention;
3. Establish the online platform to provide opportunities for the contact persons for elements already inscribed and selected practices, non-governmental organizations accredited under the Convention, the ICH NGO Forum, country focal points for periodic reporting, Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs and facilitators of the global capacity-building programme of the Convention to exchange information regarding elements/programmes following their inscription/selection on the Lists and the Register and to share safeguarding plans and methods;
4. The online platform could include safeguarding experiences in the widest sense, beyond those already selected in the Register and safeguarding plans of elements inscribed on the Lists, including intangible cultural heritage identified within States Parties. The Committee may call for proposals characterized by international cooperation and/or focusing on specific priority aspects of safeguarding with reference to paragraph 4 of the Operational Directives;
5. An advisory group could be formed to accompany the creation of the online platform, with members selected from contact persons for elements already inscribed and selected practices, non-governmental organizations accredited under the Convention, the ICH NGO Forum, country focal points for periodic reporting, Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs and facilitators of the global capacity-building programme of the Convention, respecting the principle of equitable geographical distribution among participants.
6. The working group requests the Secretariat to present to the eighteenth session of the Committee a detailed plan for establishing the online platform, including administrative set-up as well as expected financial and operational implications for each of the steps outlined in paragraphs 11 and 12, and possible funding options.

Topic 3: Any other issues

1. Specific attention should be paid to the ways in which safeguarding experiences identified and shared through a broader implementation of Article 18 can be connected to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as well as to the elaboration of the post-2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
2. Encouragement should be given to communities, groups and individuals for sharing their safeguarding experiences through the meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention, for instance, by organizing side events.
3. Capacity-building initiatives should be reinforced to better raise the awareness of stakeholders of the Convention about the scope and benefits of the full implementation of Article 18.
4. In order to encourage a higher number of proposals to the Register and to promote extended sharing of safeguarding practices, it is proposed to enable and to support exchange programmes between practitioners and communities, groups and, if applicable, individuals associated with selected programmes, projects or activities on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

# **Annex II - Proposed amendments to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention**

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| **Operational Directives (2022 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. | From among the programmes, projects or activities proposed to it, the Committee shall select those that best satisfy all of the following criteria:P.1 The programme, project or activity involves safeguarding, as defined in Article 2.3 of the Convention.P.2 The programme, project or activity promotes the coordination of efforts for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage on regional, subregional and/or international levels. P.3 The programme, project or activity reflects the principles and objectives of the Convention. P.4 The programme, project or activity has demonstrated effectiveness in contributing to the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned. P.5 The programme, project or activity is or has been implemented with the participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent. P.6 The programme, project or activity may serve as a subregional, regional or international model, as the case may be, for safeguarding activities. P.7 The submitting State(s) Party(ies), implementing body(ies), and community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned are willing to cooperate in the dissemination of best practices, if their programme, project or activity is selected. P.8 The programme, project or activity features experiences that are susceptible to an assessment of their results. | 7. | From among the programmes, projects or activities proposed to it, the Committee shall select those that ~~best~~ satisfy all of the following criteria:~~P.1~~ G.1 The programme, project or activity involves safeguarding, as defined in Article 2.3 of the Convention, reflecting the principles and objectives of the Convention. ~~P.2 The programme, project or activity promotes the coordination of efforts for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage on regional, subregional and/or international levels.~~ ~~P.3 The programme, project or activity reflects the principles and objectives of the Convention.~~ ~~P.4~~ G.2 The programme, project or activity has demonstrated effectiveness in contributing to the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned. ~~P.5~~ G.3 The programme, project or activity is or has been implemented with the participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior, sustained and informed consent. ~~P.6 The programme, project or activity may serve as a subregional, regional or international model, as the case may be, for safeguarding activities.~~ ~~P.7~~ G.4 The submitting State(s) Party(ies), implementing body(ies), and community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned are willing to coordinate and cooperate in the dissemination of ~~best~~ good practices, if their programme, project or activity is selected. They may serve as a source of inspiration at local, subregional, regional or international levels, as the case may be, for safeguarding activities**.** ~~P.8 The programme, project or activity features experiences that are susceptible to an assessment of their results.~~ |

1. According to Article 18 of the 2003 Convention, the ‘Committee shall periodically select and promote national, sub-regional and regional programmes, projects and activities for the safeguarding of the heritage which it considers best reflect the principles and objectives of this Convention, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.’ In order to implement this provision, the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices was established in 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Full information on each of the selected good practices can be accessed through the [webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists) of the 2003 Convention. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A concrete outcome of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms was the deletion of criterion P.9 (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/9)), which previously stated the following: ‘the programme, project or activity is primarily applicable to the particular needs of developing countries’. The deletion of criterion P.9 did not mean that the needs of developing countries were not important, but rather that specific safeguarding practices may be relevant for communities and countries everywhere in the world. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The experts were identified through a call launched in February 2023 for States Parties, and complemented by the identification made by the Secretariat, taking into account their profiles and experience, as well as geographical balance and gender. The selected experts participated in a private capacity and did not represent any particular government or organization (see the [dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/meeting-of-experts-category-vi-01306) of the expert meeting for further details). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See the [dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/meeting-of-experts-category-vi-01306) for the meeting of the working group, including the agenda and timetable as well as other working documents. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. See document [LHE/23/18.COM WG ART18/3 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_WG_ART18-3_REV_EN.docx) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. To date, only four preparatory assistance requests have been granted: (a) ‘Aymara Cultural Universe’ (Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile and Peru, 2008); (b) ‘Conservation and enhancement of Imraguen intangible cultural heritage’ (Mauritania, 2009); (c) ‘National Folk Festival of Gjirokastra (NFFoGj), 50 years of best practice in safeguarding Albanian intangible heritage’ (Albania, 2018); and (d) ‘Nomadic Mongolia festival’ (Mongolia, 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)