

To National Commissions of Parties to
the 2005 Convention on the Protection
and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural
Expressions

4 October 2022

Culture Sector

The Assistant Director-General

Ref: CLT/DCE/2022/L187

Dear Secretary-General,

Pursuant to the decision taken by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression in February 2022 (Decision 15.IGC.11 paragraphs 10-13, attached), I would like to request your collaboration for the dissemination of a call for written contributions addressed to civil society organizations in your country, including micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises as well as cultural institutions and organizations.

Recognizing the fundamental role of civil society in the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the Committee wishes to encourage civil society organizations to submit regular written contributions on a targeted number of specific issues decided by the members of the Committee.

Within the framework of the 2022 call for written contributions, the Committee has identified the following two themes:

- (i) the challenges faced in the context of COVID-19 in relation to the diversity of cultural expressions, both offline and online; and
- (ii) the importance of the participation of micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises.

Civil society organizations, micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises as well as cultural institutions and organizations are invited to submit their written contribution by **28 November 2022** by using the dedicated online platform, which can be accessed at the following address:

<https://survey.unesco.org/3/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=458857&lang=en>

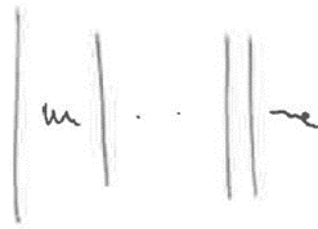
The contributions may be submitted in either one of the working languages of the Committee, in English or in French.

The written contributions received will be made available as an Information Document at least one month before the sixteenth session of the Committee, which will be held from 7 to 10 February 2023 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Furthermore, during the sixteenth session, the Secretariat will organize an online exchange session between interested civil society organizations and members of the Committee on the basis of the key issues raised in the written contributions.

I would be grateful if you could kindly share this call for written contributions among civil society organizations in your country that are involved in the implementation of the 2005 Convention, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as cultural institutions and organizations.

The Secretariat of the Convention remains at your disposal should you have any questions or require further information at the following address: convention2005@unesco.org.

Thanking you for your cooperation, please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a series of vertical lines and a small flourish at the end.

Ernesto Ottone R.

cc : Permanent Delegations of Parties to the 2005 Convention
National focal points to the 2005 Convention
UNESCO Field Offices

Annex: Decision 15.IGC 11 of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of cultural expressions

The Committee,

1. Having examined Document DCE/22/15.IGC/11 and Information Documents DCE/22/15.IGC/INF.11a and DCE/22/15.IGC/INF.11b,

2. Recalling its Decisions 1.IGC 5c, 1.EXT.IGC 5, 5.IGC 4, 8.IGC 7a, 9.IGC 9, 10.IGC 6, 11.IGC 6, 11.IGC 10, 13.IGC 10, and 14.IGC 15, and the Resolutions of the Conference of Parties 2.CP 7, 4.CP 13, 6.CP 12 and 7.CP 14,

3. Recalling also the fundamental role of civil society in the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and its contribution to the efforts of Parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention, pursuant to Article 11 thereof,

4. Bearing in mind the importance of statutory meetings as effective fora for dialogue and unique exchange platforms amongst all stakeholders of the Convention,

5. Bearing in mind also that civil society organisations are fundamental actors to face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors,

6. Takes note that the Committee, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, may invite at any time public or private organisations or individuals to participate in its meetings for consultation on specific issues, pursuant to Article 23 (7) of the Convention, and highlighting the provisions of paragraph 9 of the Operational Guidelines related to Article 11 of the Convention,

7. Acknowledges with satisfaction the ongoing contribution of civil society to the work of the governing bodies of the Convention;

8. Takes note also of the conclusions of the third Civil Society Forum, in particular the recommendations related to resources, feedback mechanisms, and involvement based on calls for manifestation of interest;

9. Further takes note with satisfaction of the reports submitted by civil society organisations on their activities;

10. Invites the Secretariat to encourage civil society organisations, including micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises, as well as cultural institutions and organisations, to submit regular written contributions through existing mechanisms, with the cooperation of National Commissions and UNESCO Field Offices if applicable, on a targeted number of specific issues decided by the Committee;

11. Decides that the specific issues of the 2022 written contributions shall focus on the challenges faced in the context of COVID-19 in relation to the diversity of cultural expressions, both offline and online, and on the importance of the participation of micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises;

12. Invites also the Secretariat to ensure that the written contributions received from civil society are made accessible as Information Document at least one month before its sixteenth session, and to organise, at its next session, an online exchange with

interested civil society actors, including cultural institutions and organisations, on key issues raised in the written contributions;

13. Encourages civil society actors, including cultural institutions and organisations, to submit written contributions highlighting, discussing and/or analysing specific issues that would need the attention of the Parties to the Convention;

14. Requests the Secretariat to continue the efforts undertaken to facilitate the admission process of civil society representatives to its sessions, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines related to Article 11 "Role and Participation of Civil Society", and encourages civil society representatives who meet the criteria defined in the aforementioned Operational Guidelines, and which have not yet done so, to submit an admission request;

15. Requests also the Secretariat to present to it, at its sixteenth session, an update on the process for the admission of civil society organisations to its sessions, together with an analysis and preliminary proposals to optimise this process;

16. Further requests the Secretariat to submit to it, at its sixteenth session, preliminary proposals for the organisation of the fourth Civil Society Forum;

17. Further encourages Parties to provide financial or in-kind resources to support and facilitate the participation of civil society representatives in its sessions.