

Civil society organizations with interests and activities in the fields covered by the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

16 November 2023

Culture Sector

Ref : CLT/DCE/2023/L98

Subject: Participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the governing bodies of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Dear Sir or Madam,

In accordance with Rules 2.3 and 7.4 of the Rules of Procedure, respectively of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and of the Conference of Parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, “non-governmental organizations having interests and activities in the fields covered by the Convention” may be authorized by these bodies to participate in their work as observers, without the right to vote, at several of their sessions, at a single session, or at a specific meeting of a session, upon written request to the Director-General of UNESCO.

At its ninth session in June 2023, the Conference of Parties requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to optimize the process for the admission of civil society organizations to the meetings of the governing bodies in accordance with the Operational Guidelines on Article 11 "Role and participation of civil society"¹ (Resolution [9CP.6](#)).

In view of the forthcoming sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee and the Conference of Parties, I would therefore like to remind you of the [steps](#) that civil society organizations need to take in order to be admitted to the sessions of the Convention's governing bodies as observers until 2025 (i.e., for the 17th and 18th sessions of the Committee and the 10th session of the Conference of Parties).

1. Available at the following address:
[Basic texts of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions – UNESCO Digital Library.](#)

Eligible civil society organizations are requested to complete an application form and submit it in writing to the Director General. The eligibility criteria, as defined in the Annex to the operational guidelines mentioned above, are as follows:

- (a) to have interests and activities in one or more fields covered by the Convention;
- (b) to have a legal status in compliance with the established rules of the jurisdiction in the country of registration;
- (c) to be representative of their respective field of activity, or of the respective social or professional groups they represent.

The application, duly signed by the representative of the organization, must state the organization's wish to participate in the sessions of the Committee and the Conference of Parties until 2025. **With the exception of organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO²**, the request must be accompanied by the three documents indicated in paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned Annex, namely:

- (a) a copy of the organization's statutes or bylaws;
- (b) a list of its members or, in the case of non-membership entities (e.g. foundations), a list of board members;
- (c) a brief description of their recent activities, which also illustrates their representativeness in the fields covered by the Convention.

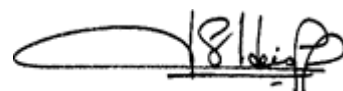
As you know, the organizations admitted to the work of the Convention's governing bodies as observers will be able to maintain an interactive dialogue with the Parties by expressing their views at the sessions before decisions are taken and are invited to take part in a working meeting with the Bureau of the Committee before each of its sessions.

Organizations entitled to take part in the meetings of the governing bodies will also be invited to take part in the Civil Society Forum, which has been held once every two years since 2017, with the [most recent edition](#) taking place on 5 June 2023.

If your organization wishes to be admitted as an observer to the sessions of the governing bodies of the Convention until 2025 and to take part in the fifth edition of the Civil Society Forum, please send your duly completed application to the following address: convention2005@unesco.org, **no later than 15 December 2023**.

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation, which will enable the Secretariat to update the profile of the wide and rich range of civil society organizations involved in implementing the objectives of the Convention through their activities, programmes and initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Toussaint Tiendrebeogo
Secretary of the Convention on the
Protection and Promotion of the
Diversity of Cultural Expressions

2. See the list by following this link:
https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/list_ngos_official_partners_unesco.pdf