

The following is a summary of ideas on the Fund for Cultural Diversity discussed at the INCP Working Group on Cultural Diversity and Globalization meeting held in Prangins, Switzerland, on February 1 and 2, and the INCP Mid-Year Officials Meeting held in Madrid, Spain, on April 19 and 20, 2007.

Issue

Article 18 of the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* provides for the establishment of an International Fund for Cultural Diversity (thereby called “the Fund”). However, some of the key elements of the Fund have yet to be defined.

As agreed at the First Session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the Intergovernmental Committee is asked to submit guidelines to the CoP on the use of the Fund.

Guiding Principles

The following principles may be used to guide the development of the future structures and provisions of the Fund.

What Type of Fund?

Faithful to Convention objectives:

The Fund and resulting projects should embody the Convention’s broad orientations as well as support its objectives (article 1) and be based on the guiding principles (article 2) and provisions of the Convention related to cooperation for development (article 14).

Focused on international cooperation:

The Fund should give priority to projects from less developed and developing countries. These projects could be developed with a view to build the capacity of these countries to develop policies that protect and promote the diversity of their cultural expressions.

Targeted:

The Fund should aim at occupying a specific niche while being complementary to other cultural Funds that already exist on the international scene, either at UNESCO or in other international organizations (i.e. l’Organisation internationale de la Francophonie). Avoiding such overlap would enhance the Fund’s true relevance and effectiveness.

Structural effects:

The Fund should avoid supporting purely sporadic activities, and focus instead on funding projects that generate structural effects that contribute to lasting improvements to institutional infrastructure (capacity building) related to cultural policies, initiatives and cultural creation.

A Fund for Whom? By Whom?

Targeted recipients:

The Fund should target less developed and developing countries, particularly through regional partnerships. Projects that focus on exchanges between developing countries should also be encouraged.

Active canvassing of contributors:

The Fund should have a sufficient level of resources to make a significant impact. To maximize this resource level, an extensive and diverse set of stakeholders should be called upon: State Parties, civil society, private sector, cultural professionals, major international organizations involved in culture and development, etc.

How Should the Fund Be Administered?

Needs-based:

The Fund should focus on the needs expressed by cultural stakeholders, mainly in developing countries. In an effort to ensure sound and diligent management of resources and prevent the delusion and dispersal of resources, the Fund should also target specific areas all the while taking into account the needs expressed by developing countries.

The following areas may prove to be interesting possibilities:

- building capacity in targeted cultural sectors (music, publishing, etc...) through the exchange of information, expertise and best practices, including human resources training; and
- strengthening the cultural industries of developing countries by targeting selected cultural sectors (music, publishing, etc.), and by supporting their creative work.

Tangible results

The Fund should focus on managing its resources with a view to achieving tangible results. A project promoter, when submitting an application, could commit to achieving concrete results. In addition to requiring such a degree of commitment from recipients, the Fund's provisions could also call for periodic reports on actual results and achievements. The process for administering the Fund should remain simple, effective, and low-cost to ensure that maximum resources are directed to the projects submitted.