

**NGO STATEMENT TO THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE 2005 UNESCO CONVENTION**

**CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

1 December 2010

Thank you Madam Chair. This statement is made on behalf of the International Music Council, International Network for Cultural Diversity, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, International Federation of Musicians, International Federation of Arts Councils and Funding Agencies, Traditions for Tomorrow and the International Federation of University Women. We appreciate this opportunity to contribute to your discussion.

Throughout the development and elaboration of the Convention, your civil society partners have been unanimous in supporting the International Fund for Cultural Diversity as a key element. If the objectives of the Convention are to be realized, developing countries need to implement cultural policies appropriate for their circumstances. Their officials often require assistance to undertake the policy development process. It is also essential to develop the capacity of artists, cultural producers and managers to bring works to the local and global markets. To be effective, these kinds of programs, and many others, need to be funded adequately and it is here that the International Fund for Cultural Diversity has a role to play.

We continue to call on all States Parties to make substantial and regular contributions to the Fund.

We need a Fund that is sustainable and a process that is relatively predictable.

We are pleased now to be at a stage where projects are being launched with support from the Fund, including projects developed by non-governmental organizations and an important project from one of our colleague international NGOs. We submit that it is already time to begin to learn some lessons about the operation of the Fund so that we can improve it for future rounds.

Since all of the available funds effectively will be allocated in the current process, you might even consider the pilot period concluded and propose changes to the Operational Guidelines for consideration by the 2011 Conference of Parties.

For civil society, the most important thing which the Committee should do is to review the funding criteria. In the current funding round, there was little guidance to potential applicants about the kind of projects that would receive priority consideration and there was no focus in the call for proposals. If there are regional issues that are to be taken into account, these should be specified upfront. Thus, we recommend that, for the next round, the Committee establish and publish a clear timeframe, rules and criteria, including whatever regional and other balances are needed, and decide how much total funding will be made available. We trust that you will release information about which projects have been funded in this round. Both of these actions will help

inform potential applications and will make the process more predictable.

We are hopeful that we will jointly organize a general exchange session between Parties and civil society prior to the Conference of Parties in 2011. As many of you will recall, we had a very successful exchange session in 2009. We would propose that part of such a meeting could be focused on the Fund and an informal marketplace where Parties and civil society groups which are considering potential projects can meet together informally to review the concepts and explore whether synergies can be found. If two or three groups are considering similar ideas, they might be able to join together in a larger project that would be more efficient and effective. We would like to encourage the broadest possible cooperation between Parties and civil society and see this as one mechanism to achieve that goal.

We want the Fund to work, both for the States Parties and civil society, and we hope you will give serious consideration to our views.

Thank you Madam Chair.