

Chairman's conclusions
On the Seminar on the Implementation of the Convention of the
Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

Organised by
Germany's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and
Germany's National Commission for UNESCO
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1. While implementation of the 2005 Convention will begin in Ottawa with the first Intergovernmental Committee meeting of State parties (December 10-13, 2007) speakers and participants noted that the Convention has already made its impact:

- The Convention has led to increased awareness of the relevance of its issues at the political level in general and within parliaments of member states. It has equally influenced in very concrete ways the formulation of national cultural policies in some countries that are state parties to the Convention, and it has helped pave the way to innovative preparation of medium-term-strategies for Cultural Policies in some countries that are state parties to the Convention, including the planned creation of new channel of public service broadcasting.
- In Europe, the Convention and its implementation are an important part of a new cultural agenda of the European Union as expressed in the Resolution of the Council of Ministers, taken in Brussels on November 16, 2007
- The Convention has added legitimacy and political weight to cultural ministries in countries that are parties to the Convention. It has led to increased government and political debate and awareness among the stakeholders of the relevance of strong cultural sectors also for social and economic development.

2. Participants were of the opinion that an important challenge for the successful implementation of the Convention is the question of coherent approaches by national governments and at the international level. Practical questions of government coordination as well as proper alignment of policies under the Convention with positions put forward i.a. in WTO and WIPO contexts are of relevance. Taking a fresh look at existing international frameworks could be envisaged in that regard.

3. Other important considerations the Intergovernmental Committee must take into account while developing a concept and the rules and regulations for the implementation of the Convention are:

*Good governance, a strong legal basis at national levels and fulfilment of obligations under the Convention by national governments.

*With regard to capacity building, the establishment of creative industries as well as the development of sustainable cultural policies, broad based discussions that involve all stakeholders and the grass root level are essential.

*While developing its policies and guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention the Intergovernmental Committee should pay attention that such integrated approaches are applied as they are needed in order to come to solutions that enjoy the necessary legitimacy based on a broad consensus, that are effective and also sustainable.

*In most cases, such an approach to the development of cultural policies requires also time and (human) resources for capacity building, involving expert knowledge and tailor made approaches, in order to enable cultural stakeholders to make informed choices and to give substantial feedback to decision makers in government and parliament.

- The Intergovernmental Committee should in this context pay attention to contributions the private sector might be willing to make, both in terms of finances as well as the establishment of partnerships with the cultural sector/creative industries.

4. Great care needs to be given to the fact that successful development of capacities and establishment of creative industries need to take into account the specifics of a given national environment that may vary from country to country. Several speakers outlined in this context, that capacity building as well as the establishment of cultural industries should, if possible, be based on existing structures and networks. It should be examined, how these existing structures could be further developed into strategic platforms.

5. At the same time, the development of national cultural policies and the establishment of creative industries at national level need the reinforcement by regional approaches.

6. Participants and speakers also pointed to the need of systematically increasing the artistic exchange and the exchange of cultural knowledge between neighbouring countries as an important dimension for reaching the objectives of this Convention.

7. Participants underlined, that while many combined international efforts have gone into the finalisation of the text of the Convention, the complexity and urgency of the task of developing its implementation will also require a continued and sustained exchange of views

on best practices, knowledge organisation and aspects related to coherence of UNESCO's member states and between the state parties to the Convention, involving also resource persons and experts. Governments and politicians should consider themselves primarily as facilitators of this process of bringing the Convention to life and support the different cultural actors and professionals who should be the ones to implement it in everyday practice.

Paris/ Bonn, 28 November 2007

For more info

<http://www.unesco.de/60.html?&L=0> (German)

<http://www.unesco.de/60.html?&L=1> (English)