PLAN for the meeting of the ICH NGO Forum and ethics at 13.COM

1. INTRODUCTION
2. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES for the ICHNGO Forum - Preamble - Ethical principles of the 2003 Convention
3. ACTION PLAN - Considering, inter alia, the decision 10.COM/15.a of the Intergovernmental Committee and the Global Results Framework, notably its core indicators 20 and 21, we propose:

Proposals to the NGO Forum

(decision to be taken during general meeting of the Forum in Port Louis during 13.COM)

   I.   That the members agree with the Preamble/Declaration and appropriate the 12 ethical principles;
   II. That in the ICH NGO Forum Rules be adopted the principle that any NGO joining the Forum declares itself bound by the ICH ethical principles as formulated in the decision of the Forum on Ethics (Mauritius, 13.COM, Nov. 2018);
   III. That the Ethics Working Group continue its work;
   IV. That the following proposals be adopted by the Forum directed towards UNESCO and its organs:

Proposals to UNESCO and its organs

   I.   **To develop a dynamic and rich online platform, including ethics tools (see 10.COM/15.A/9) and practical guidance.**
        a. To think about how to set up this platform. It may be managed or conducted by a cross-cutting working committee, including ethics experts, States Parties and accredited NGOs.
        b. In the platform could be included tools such as:
           i. Free, prior, sustained and informed consent forms (existing or to be developed);
           ii. Tools collected, adapted or created in relation to ethics that can be inspired by the work done at UN and UNESCO as well as other international organizations active on the relevant themes. (Eg. : in the areas of protection of moral and material interests, tourism, health, food and agriculture, labor, sustainable development, etc.)

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1. At the UN: CBD.int (Convention on Biological Diversity 1992), HABITAT, ...
2. UNESCO: COMEST or GEObs in the field of science and technology, or access to cultural and natural places and artefacts related to ICH
3. In other organizations: FAO, ILO, WIPO, UNTWO, WHO ...
4. > See for example the website of: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/tk_experiences.html

    iii. Capacity building initiatives for concrete situations, and in a participatory way, including eg. webinars, trainings and exercises.

II. **Reflect on the creation of a global ethics observatory** composed of experts in ethics and the safeguarding of ICH as well as accredited NGOs, reflecting the model, for example, of COMEST or GEObs in the field of science and technology, within UNESCO itself. A steering committee on the ethical web platform could possibly provide a starting point for the development of such an observatory.

DECISION 10.COM 15.a, The Intergovernmental Committee

8. Encourages States Parties and other national and local organizations to develop, promulgate and update their own – national or sector-specific – codes of ethics based on these principles, through a participatory process involving communities, groups and relevant stakeholders;

9. Requests the Secretariat to develop an online platform with a toolkit based on the ethical principles annexed to this decision and comprising practical guidance and examples of existing codes of ethics to facilitate the development of specific codes by national and local entities, as encouraged in paragraph 8 of the present decision;

10. Invites accredited non-governmental organizations to participate in enriching, sharing information, following-up, and contributing to update the online platform with tools of ethics for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;

11. Requests the Secretariat to include ethical considerations in the global capacity-building programme by developing training materials sensitizing governments, communities, groups and other relevant stakeholders and intermediaries to ethical concerns in the safeguarding of intangible cultural

heritage and guiding governments, communities, groups and other relevant stakeholders and intermediaries in the development of specific codes and tools of ethics, as well as by integrating ethical insights in existing materials wherever relevant;

ICH NGO Forum Mauritius Declaration on the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

The ICH NGO Forum, in its General Meeting on November 26th 2018,

Recalls the important role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whether or not accredited by UNESCO, for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) at the local, national or international levels,

Expects that all the cultural actors working to develop the various elements of ICH adopt and promote initiatives carried out with respect, including respect for human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, and that in a spirit of sustainable development, equity, representativeness, citizen participation and, where relevant, peer evaluation,

Stresses that across a wide range of domains, cultural elements and contexts, NGOs must act ethically in all their activities and spheres of work,

Reiterates the desire expressed by the ICH NGO Forum to collaborate with the various stakeholders of the 2003 Convention in promoting and putting into practice the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Accepts the invitation of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to accredited NGOs (Decision 10.COM/15.a/10) to participate in enriching, sharing information, monitoring and contributing to the updating of the online platform with ethical tools for the safeguarding of ICH,

Affirms that the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage can assist NGOs and all stakeholders who act both within and with them, whether on a paid or voluntary basis, and that these principles can act as a complement to other types of codes of conduct and existing ethical instruments to prevent and manage certain problems or tensions, or more broadly to guide action, reflection or decision-making,

Recognizes also that some NGOs themselves embody communities or groups of tradition bearers, particularly associations that include practitioner members,

Endorses the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

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1. Communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should have the **primary role** in safeguarding their own intangible cultural heritage.

2. **The right of communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals** to continue the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage should be recognized and respected.

3. **Mutual respect** as well as a respect for and mutual appreciation of intangible cultural heritage, should prevail in interactions between States and between communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals.

4. All interactions with the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals who create, safeguard, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage should be characterized by **transparent** collaboration, dialogue, negotiation and consultation, and contingent upon their **free, prior, sustained and informed consent**.

5. **Access** of communities, groups and individuals to the instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural and natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage should be ensured, including in situations of armed conflict. Customary practices governing access to intangible cultural heritage should be fully respected, even where these may limit broader public access.

6. Each community, group or individual should assess the value of its own intangible cultural heritage and this intangible cultural heritage should **not be subject to external judgements of value or worth**.

7. The communities, groups and individuals who create intangible cultural heritage should **benefit from the protection** of the moral and material interests resulting from such heritage, and particularly from its use, research, documentation, promotion or adaptation by members of the communities or others.

8. The **dynamic and living nature of intangible cultural heritage** should be continuously respected. Authenticity and exclusivity should not constitute concerns and obstacles in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

9. Communities, groups, local, national and transnational organizations and individuals should carefully assess the direct and indirect, short-term and long-term, potential and definitive **impact** of any action that may affect the viability of intangible cultural heritage or the communities who practise it.

10. Communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should play a significant role in determining what constitutes **threats to their intangible cultural heritage** including the decontextualization, commodification and misrepresentation of it and in deciding how to prevent and mitigate such threats.

11. **Cultural diversity** and the identities of communities, groups and individuals should be fully respected. In the respect of values recognized by communities,

groups and individuals and sensitivity to cultural norms, specific attention to **gender** equality, **youth**involvement and **respect for ethnic identities** should be included in the design and implementation of safeguarding measures.

12. The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is of **general interest to humanity** and should therefore be undertaken through cooperation among bilateral, sub regional, regional and international parties; nevertheless, communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals should never be alienated from their own intangible cultural heritage.