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Memory of the World

Update on the comprehensive review of the Memory of the World Programme

18th MOWCAP Bureau Meeting
16-17 May 2019
Gwangju, Republic of Korea

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Comprehensive
https://en.unesc

- 2015: IAC-led review
- April 2018: :
  - Revised General

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Review of the MoW Programme by IAC

Context in 2013

- Rise of digital documents
- Adoption of the new Recommendatio

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Comments of Legal Affairs and Ethics Office

UNESCO Legal Affairs

- Inconsistencies and lack of clarity, in particular in the relationship between different levels of the MoW Programme and the 3 Registers, and the concept of subsidiary bodies, subcommittees, national and regional committees
- 2002 Version of the General Guidelines better!

UNESCO Ethics Office

=> More like a Standard Operating Procedure

=> The MoW Code of Ethics do not apply to UNESCO staff bound by the Standard of Conduct for the International Civil Service

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Action Plan for the Comprehensive Review adopted in Sept 2018

Objectives

- Reinforce the impact of the MoW Programme and demonstrate that Registers are only a small part
- Consult and cooperate with Member States while continuing to seek guidance of the expert community
- Set the conditions for a possible relaunch of the nomination cycle for the International Register on the basis of the most appropriate legal framework to ensure transparency, dialogue and cooperation

Þ Based on the IAC-led review documents

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Action Plan for the Comprehensive Review

Action 1 – Further consultation of Member States on IAC-led review documents (online survey)

Action 2 – Examination of the most appropriate legal framework (Working Group of Member States)

Action 3 - Consultation with the expert community (joint meeting of IAC and experts designated by the Member States' Working Group)

Action 4 – Finalization of the review and decision-making on its outcomes (consolidated report to be submitted to the EXB in Oct 2019)

Online survey of the Member States on the review documents

- Do you agree with the revisions to be introduced into the General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage? Yes [ ] No [ ] Yes, with updates [ ]
- Do you agree with the amendments to be introduced into the Statutes of the IAC? Yes [ ] No [ ] Yes, with updates [ ]
- Do you agree that the draft Code of Ethics, as proposed, should be maintained? Yes [ ] No [ ] Yes, with updates [ ]

- **27** Member States, out of **193**, responded, as follows:

Number of Responses	UNESCO Geographical Region
0	Africa
1	Arab States
8	Asia and the Pacific
17	Europe and North America
1	Latin America and the Caribbean
27	

Do you agree with the revisions to be introduced into the *General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage*?

Absolute number of countries	Response type	Relative number of countries
11	Yes, entirely	5%
12	Yes, with updates	6%
4	No	3%
166	Did not respond	86%

Do you agree with the amendments to be introduced into the Statutes of the IAC?

Absolute number of countries	Response type	Relative number of countries
14	Yes, entirely	7%
9	Yes, with updates	5%
4	No	2%
166	Did not respond	86%

Do you agree that the draft Code of Ethics, as proposed, should be maintained?

Absolute number of countries	Response type	Relative number of countries
17	Yes, entirely	9%
9	Yes, with updates	5%
1	No	0%
166	Did not respond	86%

Among those who answered ‘Yes, with updates’ and ‘No’, they offer different views on five major issues	
Nature of MoW	‘Voluntary, non-governmental, expert-led’, ‘intergovernmental’ or the mix of both
Legal basis of MoW	- Necessity to elaborate a legal framework either for MoW as a whole or for the nomination process - Necessity to guarantee the transparency of the inscriptions processes - International convention
IAC	- Composition lacks clarity and IAC Bureau is geographically unrepresentative - Member States to select IAC members - Need to reinforce the independence of IAC members - Function of IAC to revise General Guidelines should be limited and subject to Member States’ approval
Governance model for MoW	− Inter-governmental committee as subsidiary body of General Conference to provide oversight for expert advisory body − Re-establish IAC as inter-governmental committee, Member States electing experts. − Strengthen existing IAC − Governance status of ‘regional committees’ has no ‘legal backing
International Register	Strengthen MoW Secretariat to pre-examine nominations so as to sift out nominations that go against the UNESCO mandate − Member States’ involvement in the Register − ‘Questioned nominations’ procedure variously interpreted − Criteria in revised General Guidelines is questioned (‘age qualification’, ‘historical significance’, etc.)

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Establishment of Member States' Working Group

- **Open-ended working group**
  - Chairs: **Albania and Palestine**
  - Vice-Chairs: **Greece, Lithuania, Uruguay, Myanmar, Ghana and Algeria**
- **Mandate to examine the most appropriate legal framework for MoW**
  - Reflect on the nomination and inscription process for the International Register to **increase transparency** and propose solutions for the **handling of contested nominations**,
  - Reflect on options for the most appropriate **legal framework** for the MoW Programme as well as on the **overall nature of the Programme and its governing structure**,
  - Adopt the final report of the Working Group and make recommendations.
- **Output: Consolidated report** of the comprehensive review => **Oct 2019 session of the Executive Board**

Joint meeting of IAC and experts designated by the Member States

Jan Bos, Chair of the Register Subcommittee

- The **basis of the MoW Programme**, its vision and mission **is not under question**
- The Programme and its register are **successful**
- The International Register is just one out many activities of the MoW. **MoW concern is with the preservation and accessibility of documents**
- The experts are essential for the assessment of doc heritage of such diversity, **importance of expert-led character**
- The vast majority pf nominations does not deal with politically sensitive issues, **only 5% are contested nominations**
- **All nominations should be processed in the same way**
- A “small” problem in a successful programme does not justify a big structural changes, it has

Joint meeting of IAC and experts designated by the Member States

Recommendations from the IAC Online survey results and Presentation of David Fricker on a Perspective from IAC

- Restore an appropriate **balance between documents at risk and globally significant documents**
- MoW to advance awareness and research to **protect documentary heritage in digital forms**
- MoW to examine **synergies with other heritage programmes**
- Redesign the **MoW website** (modern search engine, link to digitized documents, regional sites, training programmes, etc)
- **'Questioned nominations' – more time for dialogue, joint nomination or inscription without the controversial aspects**
- **Controversial nominations should be resolved or excluded** – Study past examples from the **WH nominations in resolving conflicts**
- Mechanism for **the state of preservation report of inscribed items**
- **Regionally specific strategies for the development of MoW Committees** (toolkits, trainings for underrepresented countries, etc)

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- A few additional meetings of the Working Group
- Oct 2019: Final consolidated report on the comprehensive review of the MoW Programme

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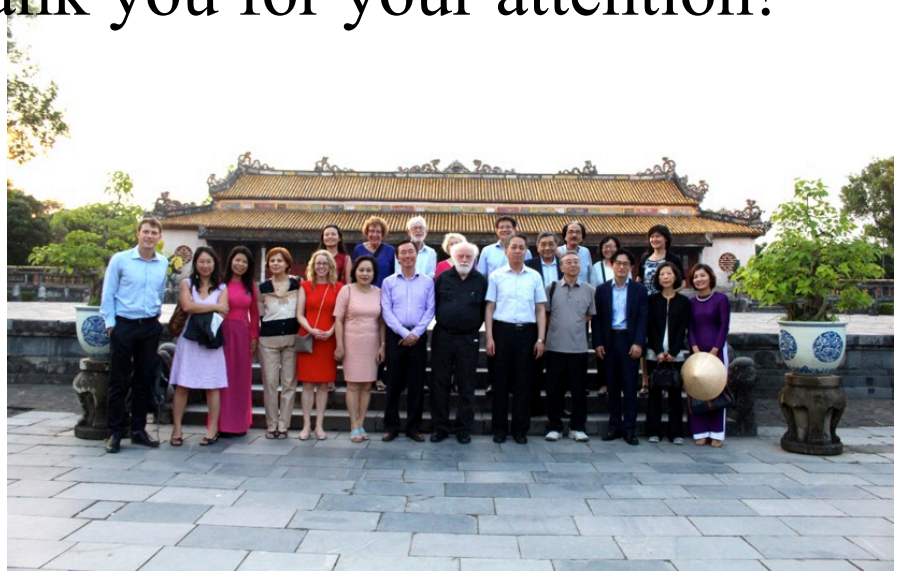
Thank you for your attention!