

# UNESCO CONVENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## NEWS

- Ratification by **Guinea** of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005)
  - Ratification by **Guinea** of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003)
  - Accession by the **Syrian Arab Republic** to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005)
  - Ratification by **Uzbekistan** of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003)
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## AGENDA

- Kenyan National Meeting on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage · 5 - 6 [March](#) 2008 Nairobi, [Kenya](#)
  - Athens International Conference on the “Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin” · 17 - 18 [March](#) 2008 Athens, [Greece](#)
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## NEWS

**Ratification by Guinea of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005)**

On 20 February 2008, Guinea deposited with the Director-General its instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In accordance with the terms of its Article 29, the aforementioned Convention will enter into force with respect to Guinea three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument, that is to say on 20 May 2008.

*UNESCO. Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs. Published: 5-3-2008*

**Ratification by Guinea of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003)**

On 20 February 2008, Guinea deposited with the Director-General its instrument of ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In accordance with the terms of its Article 34, the aforementioned Convention will enter into force with respect to Guinea three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument, that is to say on 20 May 2008.

*UNESCO. Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs. Published: 5-3-2008*

**Accession by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005)**

On 5 February 2008, the Syrian Arab Republic deposited with the Director-General its instrument of accession to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In accordance with the terms of its Article 29, the aforementioned Convention will enter into force with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument, that is to say on 5 May 2008.

*UNESCO. Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs. Published: 29-2-2008*

**Ratification by Uzbekistan of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003)**

On 29 January 2008, Uzbekistan deposited with the Director-General its instrument of ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In accordance with the terms of its Article 34, the aforementioned Convention will enter into force with respect to Uzbekistan three months after the date of the deposit of its instrument, that is to say on 29 April 2008.

*Author(s) Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs. Publication Date 21 Feb 2008*

## AGENDA

**Kenyan National Meeting on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

*5 - 6 March 2008  
Nairobi, Kenya*

Following Kenya's ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in October 2007, the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services and the UNESCO Office in Nairobi are jointly convening a two-day meeting on the implementation of the Convention.

Some sixty participants, representing ministries, provincial administrations, universities, non-governmental organizations and individuals working in the field of culture will attend the meeting.

The objectives of the workshop are to provide stakeholders with the information relating to the 2003 Convention and to discuss a national strategy for its implementation, with particular attention to the:

1. preparation of an inventory or inventories of intangible cultural heritage on Kenya's territory;
2. preparation of nomination files to the Representative List and to the List of Intangible Heritage in Urgent Need of Safeguarding, and;
3. enhancement of the existing national mechanism, including the participation of communities, for promoting and safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in Kenya.

Organizers: The Department of Culture of the Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services and the UNESCO Office in Nairobi  
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More info: [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=36481&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36481&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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## Athens International Conference on the "Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin"

*17 - 18 March 2008  
Athens, Greece*

In the framework of the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation, Greece will host an international conference for lawyers, museum professionals and experts in the field of the return of cultural property on 17 and 18 March 2008 at the New Acropolis Museum in Athens.

This conference is the first in a series of international gatherings organized by UNESCO and its Member States to foster awareness and provide fora for reflection and exchanges on the issue of the return of cultural property. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to consider means of strengthening the action of the Intergovernmental Committee.

This first international conference will bring together a select number of high profile professionals who have been involved in discussions leading to the

return or reunification of cultural property. The first day of the conference will be devoted to the presentation of individual return cases by those involved. On the second day, discussions will be held around four thematic workshops related to the debate on returns. The proceedings of the conference will be published and made available for the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation, scheduled for June 2009.

Organizers: UNESCO  
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More info: [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=36430&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36430&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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## Sub-regional Conference on the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

*27 - 28 March 2008  
Castries - Saint-Lucia*

This Conference is a direct follow-up to the meeting held in Quito, Ecuador in November 2007. Ten participants from Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines take part in this event.

### **The objectives are to:**

enhance awareness in Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) of the importance of ratifying the Convention;

increase the countries' capacity to deal with issues involved in the ratification process, and

develop an advocacy plan for promoting the ratification of the Convention in the Caribbean.

The UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, Kingston and OECS

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More info: [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=36455&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36455&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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## Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

*27 - 28 March 2008  
Pretoria, South Africa*

The workshop is a follow-up to the sub-regional meeting that the Section of Intangible Cultural Heritage organized on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and ICH inventorying in November 2006 in Dar es Salaam. It is the first of a series of three to be organized for African states; the second one will involve States non parties to the Convention in Central and Western Africa; and the last workshop will bring together States Parties to the Convention from all of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Considering the rapid development of the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the international level and the fact that many States Parties to the Convention have already started preparing nomination files for the Lists, UNESCO considers it timely to organize a workshop whose objective is to further inform African Non-States Parties to the 2003 Convention about the Convention with special attention to the preparation of nomination files for inscriptions on the Lists of the Convention and requests for international assistance. Through the workshop, UNESCO hopes to encourage the ratification of the 2003 Convention.

Section of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO  
More info: [http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=EN&meeting\\_id=00095#meet\\_00095](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=EN&meeting_id=00095#meet_00095)

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