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# Evaluation of UNESCO's Periodic Reporting on the Culture Sector's Conventions and Recommendations

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# Abstract and Acknowledgements

## Abstract

UNESCO supports the implementation of six Culture Conventions and two Protocols, as well as three Recommendations. To monitor the progress of their implementation, States Parties to five of the six Conventions commit to submitting periodic reports on their national implementation. All UNESCO Member States are required to submit reports on the implementation of three Culture Recommendations, albeit these are not legally binding. The evaluation purpose was to generate findings and recommendations on the effectiveness and efficiency of periodic reporting mechanisms. The evaluation found that periodic reporting requires significant human and financial resources from UNESCO staff and reporting countries. Although reports are unique data sources on the implementation of UNESCO's normative instruments in culture, the quality of the data contained within them was found to be mixed. Reports are also underutilized by stakeholders both within and outside UNESCO. The evaluation explored the feasibility of harmonizing and streamlining periodic reporting processes and found that all stakeholders see many benefits in embarking on such a process. Any future reform of periodic reporting should be driven by use and less so by process. The success of harmonization will rely on effective communication, collaboration, and adaptation to the unique characteristics of each convention.

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The evaluation team would like to thank all UNESCO staff working on periodic reporting for accompanying the evaluation team and providing valuable guidance and inputs. Particular thanks go out to the external experts for their time and insights. Finally, the evaluation thanks the representatives of 110 countries who shared perceptions on their experiences in participating in periodic reporting.

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# List of abbreviations

<b>1954 Convention</b>	1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols
<b>1970 Convention</b>	1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
<b>1972 Convention</b>	1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
<b>1980 Recommendation</b>	1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist
<b>2001 Convention</b>	2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
<b>2003 Convention</b>	2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
<b>2005 Convention</b>	2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
<b>2011 Recommendation</b>	2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions
<b>2015 Recommendation</b>	2015 Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society
<b>CLT</b>	UNESCO Culture Sector
<b>CRE</b>	Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board
<b>IOS</b>	Division for Internal Oversight Services
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

UNESCO supports the implementation of six Culture Conventions and two Protocols, as well as three Recommendations. Conventions are subject to ratification, acceptance, or accession by States and regional economic integration organizations. States Parties to five of the six Conventions commit to submitting periodic reports on their national implementation as part of the provisions of these treaties and/or their operational guidelines. Furthermore, every four years all UNESCO Member States are required to submit reports on the implementation of three Culture Recommendations, albeit these are not legally binding. These reports are key to determining how the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations are translated into legislation, policies and other measures by the concerned Parties, aiming to provide data on progress with regards to implementation, trends, practices and challenges.

## Objectives and methodology of the evaluation

The evaluation purpose was to generate findings and recommendations on the effectiveness and efficiency of periodic reporting mechanisms of UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach that included: desk review, interviews with 27 UNESCO staff; survey of UNESCO culture staff in Field Offices, interviews with 10 experts who analysed periodic reports; a survey of UNESCO Member States and States Parties to Culture Conventions (216 responses received from 110 countries<sup>1</sup>); comparison of reporting questionnaires; observation of governing bodies' discussions on periodic reporting (2003 and 1954 Conventions, Culture Commission of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Conference); mapping and analysis of human and financial resources dedicated to periodic reporting in the Culture Sector and tracking consultations of publications related to periodic reporting. An external expert performed a benchmarking exercise to extract key lessons from reporting mechanisms of other instruments and organizations.<sup>2</sup>

1 The survey was sent to all Permanent Delegations and National Commissions as well as to all known focal points for periodic reporting for all Conventions and Recommendations, including those that are States Parties, but not UNESCO Member States.

2 The benchmarking exercise covered the following UNESCO reporting processes: 2005 Anti-Doping Convention, 1960 Convention against discrimination in education, 1997 Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, Monitoring mechanisms of the CI Sector on the Safety of Journalists; and the following external organizations: OECD, Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, Treaty Mechanisms, Council of Europe, EU Schengen, OHCHR Annual Report

## Findings on reporting in practice

Periodic reporting represents a significant effort for States, with an average of 56 individuals contributing to reporting in a single State. Reporting is also resource intensive for the UNESCO Culture Sector, mobilizing more than 30 staff at Headquarters and nearly all in field offices, at least part-time. Financial resources also vary across instruments, with the 1972, 2003, 2005 Conventions having higher budgets for capacity building and specialized platforms to display data. Meanwhile, the 1970 Convention and the 2015 Recommendation lack resources for capacity building.

The evaluation identified several challenges encountered both by countries and by the UNESCO Culture Sector during the periodic reporting process. Countries identify the top four challenges to be (1) limited human resources to complete reporting, (2) data collection difficulties, (3) coordination issues between various entities at the country level, and (4) too many questions in the reporting forms. Interviews with Culture staff, external experts and the country survey also suggest significant overlaps both within and between questionnaires for periodic reporting.

## Findings on data quality

Although reports are unique data sources on the implementation of UNESCO's normative instruments in culture, the quality of the data contained within them was found to be mixed. This is due to (1) insufficient response rates, which make it difficult to draw regional and global patterns; (2) self-reported nature of data that is often unsourced and hard to verify; and (3) the nature of questions (often yes/no format) does not provide in-depth information. External experts who worked on data analysis also faced challenges accessing, interpreting, and producing regional and global trends. The varying quality of the data has consequences for its utility and ultimately affects to what extent it is used.

## Findings on use of periodic reports

Periodic reports feed into the development of regional assessments and subsequent action plans for the 1954 and 1972 Conventions. They also serve as key sources of data for UNESCO's capacity building programmes and project implementation and provide valuable input for briefings with Member States on the state of implementation of respective instruments. Data from periodic reports is also published on dedicated portals such as the Policy Monitoring Platform of the 2005 Convention and a dedicated site of the 2003 Convention, and individual reports are made publicly available on the UNESCO Conventions' websites (unless a State Party expressly opposes). However, the evaluation found that these platforms are not well known by Member States and are largely underutilized, with less than a quarter of country respondents reporting using any of them. Periodic reports on Conventions are presented to respective governing bodies and those on Recommendations go to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board and to the General Conference.

Overall, the evaluation found that periodic reports have much potential, but are currently underutilized both by stakeholders within and outside UNESCO. There is also no systematic tracking of how periodic reports are used. The country survey indicates that Member States would like to see information from periodic reports in an online database for them to use it.

## Towards harmonization of periodic reporting in culture

The evaluation explored the feasibility of harmonizing and streamlining periodic reporting processes and found that all stakeholders consulted (Culture Sector staff, Member States, and experts) see many benefits in embarking on such a process. Some of the advantages of harmonization include a simplified reporting processes with a single deadline and a reduced number of questions which would lead to greater efficiencies, more predictability in reporting schedules, ability to conduct analyses over time, increased synergies between instruments, and more collaboration both within and outside UNESCO for the collection of data. However, UNESCO Culture staff and experts also underline the necessity to consider the diversity of instruments and not disregard precious information related to their specificities.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The harmonization and any future reform of periodic reporting should first and foremost be driven by use and less so by process. Thought needs to be given to who will be using the data, how and for what purposes. The success of this exercise will rely on effective communication, collaboration, and adaptation to the unique characteristics of each Convention and/or Recommendation. As such, the evaluation issues the following three recommendations to the Culture Sector:

1. Develop a Theory of Change for the harmonization of periodic reporting with the end goal (impact) being the use of the data. Outline the various users (including UNESCO, Member States, those who analyse the data, etc.), outcomes and outputs within.
2. Create a community of practice of staff working across Conventions and Recommendations to drive the harmonization process. Once the process advances, create a dedicated, flexible team with representatives of all Conventions and Recommendations reporting to the Executive Office. Include Culture Sector staff from field offices and representatives of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in the discussions.
3. In redesigning reporting systems / creating a common reporting platform, consider the following:
  - Use and users of the platform(s)
  - Data storage and management
  - Required formats for experts to do data analysis
  - Ensure existing data does not need to be re-entered and can simply be validated
  - Include mechanisms that allow for data sourcing / verification
  - Ensure full access rights to staff and experts analysing the data (do not have to go through an external provider)



# Management Response

## Overall Management Response

The UNESCO Culture Sector agrees with the recommendations of the IOS evaluation to embark on a process of harmonizing the periodic reporting mechanisms of the UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations, notably to enhance its use across the Sector and its overall added value through improved data collection, management and visualisation, and contribute to a strengthened monitoring and measurement of the impact of culture for sustainable development. It also notes that this harmonization will also contribute to advancing the priorities identified by Ministers of Culture in the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, with a view to attaining sustainable development beyond 2030 by recognizing culture as a stand-alone goal.

Recommendations	Management response
<p>1. Develop a Theory of Change for the harmonization of periodic reporting with the end goal (impact) being the ultimate use of the data. Outline the various users (including UNESCO, Member States, those who analyse the data, etc.), outcomes and outputs within.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>The UNESCO Culture Sector will develop a theory of change in the first quarter of 2024 as a first step towards the harmonization of the periodic reporting mechanisms, which will be accompanied by a draft overall results framework in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 and the Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (42 C/5) that will help guide the successful implementation of two recommendations of the evaluation.</p>
<p>2. Create a community of practice of staff working across Conventions and Recommendations to drive the harmonization process. Once the process advances, create a dedicated flexible team with representatives of all Conventions and Recommendations reporting to the Executive Office. Include Culture Sector staff from field offices and representatives of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in the discussions.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p> <p>An Alignment Working Group for Periodic Reporting in the Culture Sector will be established early 2024 to ensure effective communication, collaboration, coherence and complementarity across the various instruments, while taking into consideration their unique governance and characteristics.</p> <p>The Working Group is foreseen to meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, in order to advance on the harmonization process, notably the development of a draft overall results framework, the alignment of the periodic reporting cycles, the revision and alignment of periodic reporting questionnaires, the creation of a common cultural data portal, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>In order to ensure proper coordination throughout this process, the proposed Alignment Working Group for Periodic Reporting in the Culture Sector will be composed of: (a) representatives from all six Conventions and three Recommendations; (b) regional focal points from specific UNESCO Offices; and (c) representatives of CLT/EO, UIS and BSP.</p>

3. In redesigning reporting systems / creating a common reporting platform, consider the following:

- Use and users of the platform(s)
- Data storage and management
- Required formats for experts to do data analysis
- Ensure existing data does not need to be re-entered and can simply be validated
- Include mechanisms that allow for data sourcing / verification
- Ensure full access rights to staff and experts analysing the data (do not have to go through an external provider)

**Accepted**

The UNESCO Culture Sector is currently developing a common reporting platform, the Cultural Data Portal, which is foreseen to be operational by the end of 2025, and will take into account the detailed elements of the recommendation.

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## 1.1. Background

### What is periodic reporting?

1. Advocating for standard-setting instruments is one of the five established functions of UNESCO. In the field of culture, UNESCO supports the implementation of six Culture Conventions and two Protocols<sup>3</sup>, as well as three Recommendations<sup>4</sup>. This normative architecture provides a unique and robust foundation to protect and promote cultural and natural heritage, as well as creativity, at national, regional, and international levels.
2. Conventions are subject to ratification, acceptance, or accession by States and regional economic integration organizations. States Parties to five of the six Culture Conventions commit to submitting periodic reports on their implementation as part of the provisions of these treaties and/or their operational guidelines (see Table 1 below with references to Conventions' Articles and Operational Guidelines on reporting). States Parties to the 2001 Convention submit reports on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, UNESCO Member States submit reports on the implementation of three Culture Recommendations, even if these are not legally binding. These reports are key to determining how the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations are translated into legislation, policies and other measures by the concerned Parties, aiming to provide data on progress with regards to implementation, trends, practices and challenges.

3. The reporting mechanisms' Parties, formats, cycles, and examination bodies differ among the Conventions and Recommendations, each one having been developed independently and at distinct points of time, following decisions of their respective Governing Bodies. Table 1 presents an overview of the diversity of periodic reporting mechanisms of all UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture.

### MONDIACULT

4. The MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, adopted unanimously by the participating 150 States at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, called for culture to be firmly anchored as a global public good and integrated as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda. It also called on UNESCO to produce a Global Report on Cultural Policies, on a quadrennial basis. This report will, for the first time, provide a comprehensive overview of the state of the culture sector with the aim of strengthening public cultural policies in the years to come, building on information, data and existing indicators provided by its Member States. Notably, the report will make use of the framework of the periodic reports of the UNESCO Culture Sector's complete set of normative instruments as well as related programmes and statistical and indicator frameworks. According to the Global Report's methodological note, much of the quantitative analysis will be based directly on Parties' responses<sup>5</sup>. The first such report is due to be presented at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies - MONDIACULT in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2025, with subsequent reports to follow every four years.

3 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (+ 1st and 2nd Protocols); 1970 Convention on Fighting Against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property; 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 2001 Convention on Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage; 2003 Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage -; 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

4 Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society (2015); Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (2011); Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (1980).

5 UNESCO (2022) <https://www.unesco.org/creativity/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/01/380474eng.pdf>

**Table 1.** Periodic reporting mechanisms for UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations

Instrument	States Parties <sup>6</sup>	Cycle length	Latest cycle	Examination body	Article on reporting	Operational Guidelines on reporting
<b>1954 Convention</b>	135	4 years	2017-2020	Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention	26.2	N/A
<b>1954 First Protocol</b>	112	4 years	2017-2020	Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention	N/A	N/A
<b>1999 Second Protocol</b>	88	4 years	2017-2020	Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	37.2	V.A Periodic Reporting
<b>1970 Convention</b>	144	4 years	2019-2022	Subsidiary Committee General Conference	16	Reports by States Parties (Article 16)
<b>1972 Convention</b>	194	6 years	2018-2023	World Heritage Committee General Assembly	29	V Periodic reporting on the implementation of the world heritage convention
<b>2001 Convention</b>	76	Voluntary basis	N/A	Conference of Parties	19*	N/A
<b>2003 Convention</b>	182 <sup>7</sup>	6 years	2020-2026	Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage General Assembly	29	VII Reports
<b>2005 Convention</b>	152	4 years	2021-2024	Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Conference of Parties	9	Article 9 – Information Sharing and Transparency
<b>1980 Recommendation</b>	194	4 years	2020-2023	Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of Executive Board General Conference	Preamble of Recommendation + UNESCO Basic Text	**
<b>2011 Recommendation</b>	194	4 years	2020-2023	Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board General Conference	UNESCO Basic Text	**
<b>2015 Recommendation</b>	194	4 years	2020-2023	Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board General Conference	UNESCO Basic Text	**

\* Article 19 of the 2001 Convention does not refer to Periodic Reporting, but to information-sharing: "...each State Party undertakes to share information with other States Parties concerning underwater cultural heritage, including discovery of heritage, location of heritage, heritage excavated or recovered contrary to this Convention or otherwise in violation of international law, pertinent scientific methodology and technology, and legal developments relating to such heritage."

\*\* Reporting on UNESCO Recommendations complies with the specific multi-stage procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of UNESCO Convention and Recommendations for which no specific institutional mechanism is provided in accordance with Article VIII of UNESCO's Constitution.

Source: UNESCO Culture Sector

<sup>6</sup> States Parties as of the latest cycle of reporting

<sup>7</sup> Libya ratified in November 2023 and has become the 182<sup>nd</sup> State Party to the Convention.

5. Member States have consistently identified a lack of relevant and available data and information required for evidence-based and transparent policymaking, a limited capacity to assess and monitor the impact of policies and measures for the culture sector and inadequate or insufficient collaboration between governments and civil society. On the dawn of the preparation of the first Global Report, strengthening periodic reporting is therefore a priority.
6. Conscient of the mammoth task ahead, UNESCO's Culture Sector is reflecting on how to enhance periodic reporting to maximize benefits from the data collected. Future reports aim to inform cultural policies and programmatic action, as well as advocate in favour of the role of culture for sustainable development and the integration of a specific goal for culture in the post-2030 international development agenda. The Culture Sector therefore requested this evaluation to inform future action.

## 1.2. Purpose, Users and Scope

7. The purpose of this evaluation is to generate findings and recommendations on the effectiveness and efficiency of periodic reporting mechanisms of UNESCO's normative instruments in culture. While the evaluation is mainly formative, it includes summative elements essential for learning about what has been working so far, why and under what circumstances, and what challenges have been encountered.
8. The primary users of this evaluation are the representatives of States that work on periodic reporting and UNESCO's Culture Sector Staff, who work on periodic reporting for Conventions and Recommendations' and who will be coordinating the development of a cultural data portal and the elaboration of a Global Report on Cultural Policies. The evaluation furthermore aims to be a useful input for the deliberations of Conventions' and Recommendations' Governing Bodies. The final evaluation is presented to the 219th session of UNESCO's Executive Board in spring 2024.
9. The evaluation assessed the periodic reporting mechanisms for the Culture Sector's normative instruments since the adoption of their respective latest formats and cycles but also looked back to previous cycles to examine any trends in reporting over time.<sup>8</sup> As this is the first time the Recommendations were assessed, the evaluation developed a baseline for future assessment. The evaluation furthermore built on previous evaluations of the Culture Conventions that have assessed the respective instruments' periodic reporting mechanisms.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The scope of assessment will be the last cycle of reporting. The period for each is as follows: **1954:** 2017-2020, **1970:** 2019-2022, **1972:** 2018-2023, **2001:** N/A, **2003:** 2020-2026, **2005:** 2020-2024, **1980:** 2020-2023, **2011:** 2020-2023, **2015:** 2020-2023

<sup>9</sup> The IOS Evaluation Office conducted six evaluations of the Standard-setting work of the Culture Sector, namely of the 1954, 1970, 1972, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Conventions between 2013 and 2019. In 2021 the standard-setting work under the 2003 Convention underwent a second evaluation.

## 1.3. Evaluation Questions

10. The evaluation questions were developed following scoping meetings with representatives of all Conventions and Recommendations, as well as the Assistant-Director General for Culture. The following provides an overview of questions by evaluation criteria; the full list of questions is in Annex A.

**Table 2.** Overview of evaluation criteria and corresponding questions

Criteria	Questions
<b>Relevance</b>	To what extent is the data obtained from periodic reporting relevant and useful for furthering the objectives of Conventions and Recommendations? To what extent can aligning the periodic reporting mechanisms make data collection more effective, useful and timely for future global reports such as called upon by MONDIACULT?
<b>Coherence</b>	To what extent is there overlap for the data collected by each periodic reporting mechanism? What can be learned from periodic reporting of other normative instruments, such as in the field of human rights?
<b>Effectiveness</b>	To what extent are the current periodic reporting mechanisms and related questionnaires effective in collecting reliable data on the implementation of the Culture Sector's normative instruments? How is the data collected from periodic reporting being used by UNESCO, its Member States and partners?
<b>Efficiency</b>	What are the current resource implications (human and financial) for the UNESCO Secretariat (across Headquarters and Field Offices) in supporting periodic reporting for all the Culture Sector normative instruments? How can the periodic reporting mechanisms be improved in terms of process, format, software and platforms used in view of achieving greater efficiency and user-friendliness?
<b>Sustainability</b>	How can capacity building towards periodic reporting be strategically oriented towards the collection of useful and reliable data? How can the periodic reporting mechanisms best contribute to the availability of quality and reliable data on the contribution of culture to sustainable development, including through future global reports, such as for MONDIACULT?

Source: Evaluation Terms of Reference

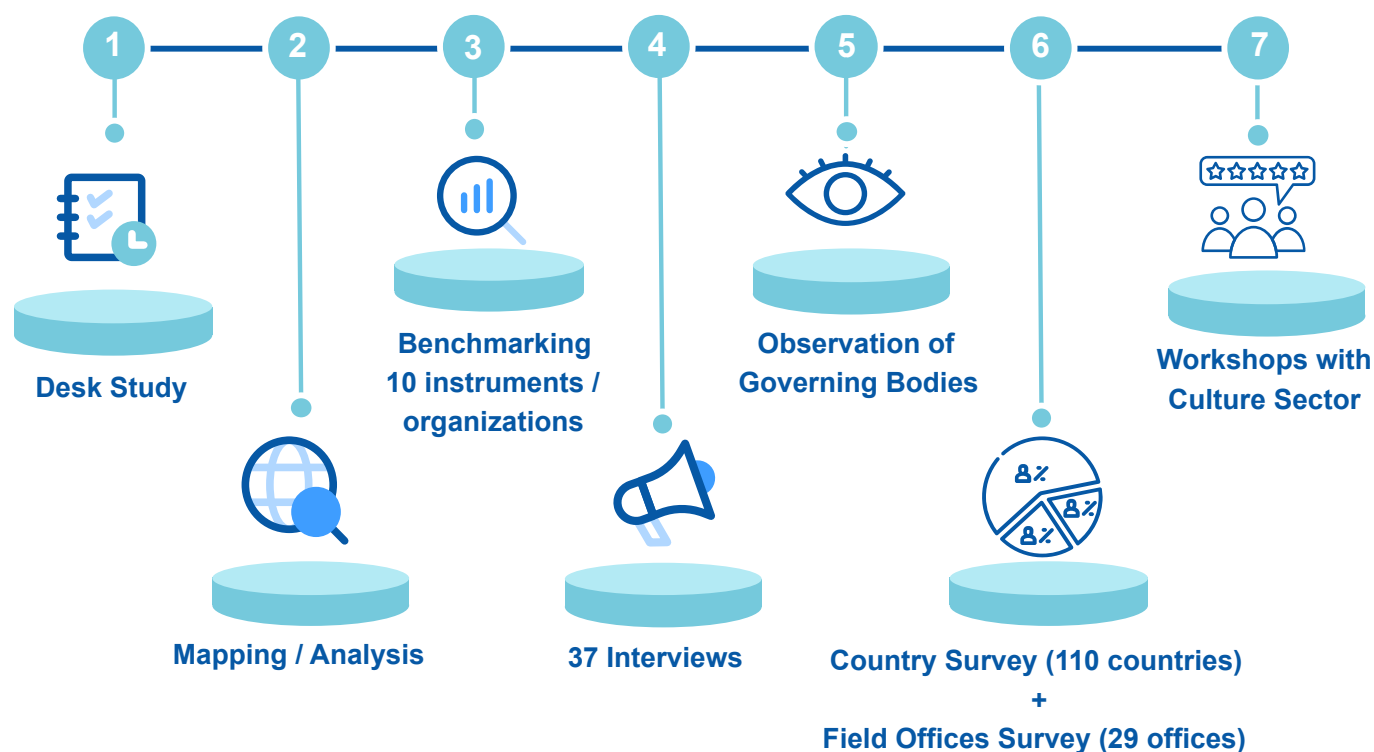
## 1.4. Approach and methodology

11. The evaluation applied a mixed method approach using qualitative and quantitative data, with all findings triangulated across multiple data sources (see Figure 1). The evaluation followed the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) evaluation norms and standards. An Evaluation Reference Group with members of the Culture Sector Executive Office and representatives of all Conventions and Recommendations helped with factual accuracy and overall quality assurance of process and deliverables.

12. The evaluation methodology consisted of:

- A desk study of Culture Normative Instruments, their Operational Guidelines, Reports on periodic reporting to Governing Bodies of all Culture Conventions as well as the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board. The study also included previous IOS evaluations of the Culture Sector's normative instruments, publications of the Culture Sector which are fed by data from periodic reports, modules, and guidance from capacity building on periodic reporting, reports from MONDIACULT 2022, all questionnaires related to periodic reporting, and Results Frameworks of the 2003 and 2005 Conventions.
- Mapping and analysis of human and financial resources dedicated to periodic reporting, as well as related workflows.

**Figure 1.** The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach



- Interviews with 27 UNESCO staff (18 women and 9 men) from the Culture Sector, the Legal Affairs Division, Digital Business Solutions, and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics.
- Interviews with 10 external experts (5 women and 5 men) involved in the analysis of data from periodic reports across all Conventions and Recommendations.
- Observation of governing bodies' discussions on periodic reporting (15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Convention, and 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage) in December 2023 as well as the meeting of the Culture Commission at the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in November 2023.
- Online survey of UNESCO Member States and non-Member States Parties of Conventions: 216 responses received from 110 countries<sup>10</sup>.
- Online survey of Culture Sector field office staff: 33 responses received from 29 offices (out of 38 UNESCO Offices that have Culture staff), with a 76% response rate.
- A benchmarking exercise was conducted by an external consultant to extract key lessons from other normative instruments and organizations' monitoring systems, both within and outside UNESCO, on ways they manage reporting, disseminate results, and make use of collected data. Normative instruments/organizations were grouped according to five criteria (dimensions) inspired by the Development Assistance Committee evaluation criteria. These included: (1) design dimension (equivalent to relevance); (2) input and synergies dimension (equivalent to efficiency); (3) uses and results (equivalent to effectiveness); plus two dimensions focused on (4) communication and visibility aspects, and (5) on knowledge management.
  - » UNESCO mechanisms included: 2005 International Convention against Doping in Sport, 1960 Convention Against Discrimination in Education, 1997 Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region, and Monitoring Mechanisms of the Communication and Information Sector on the Safety of Journalists.
  - » External organizations included: OECD, Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, Treaty Mechanisms, Council of Europe, EU Schengen, and OHCHR Annual Report.

- » The results of the benchmarking exercise were presented to Culture Sector staff on 30 November 2023 at an interactive online workshop during which participants self-assessed their work on periodic reporting against the five criteria above.
- » Finally, the Evaluation Office held an in-person workshop with the Culture Sector on 23 January 2024 to discuss preliminary findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

## 1.5. Challenges and limitations

13. The evaluation faced challenges reaching country focal points responsible for completing periodic reporting. Dissemination of the evaluation country survey required a double effort to secure a sufficient response rate. The survey was first sent to all Permanent Delegations and National Commissions, as well as to representatives of States Parties that are not UNESCO Member States. In parallel, it was sent to all known focal points for periodic reporting for all Conventions and Recommendations. Multiple reminders were sent during the six weeks the survey was open for input.
14. A second challenge was the short timeframe for conducting the evaluation. The evaluation began in October of 2023 and required completion by early February 2024 to feed into decision making for the Culture Sector and the 219<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. A timely delivery of work required that evaluators adapt and present findings at a workshop in January 2024, prior to the Culture Sector's annual retreat.
15. The evaluation did not explicitly address issues of gender, human rights and inclusion due to the technical nature of the topic. However, the evaluators made a conscious effort to consult stakeholders in all States that are involved in reporting. Furthermore, the analysis identified gender equality as a cross-cutting topic present in all questionnaires.

<sup>10</sup> The geographical distribution of responses by region is as follows: 25% (55) from Western Europe and North America, 24% (51) from Latin America and the Caribbean, 15% (33) from Eastern Europe, 13% (28) from Arab States, 12% (27) from Africa, and 11% (23) from Asia and the Pacific.

## Chapter 2: How periodic reporting works in practice

16. Submitting national reports is a requirement set in the texts of all normative instruments in the field of culture (as outlined in Table 1 in the introduction). This chapter examines the implications of this for UNESCO's Culture Sector and for countries that engage in reporting at both national and local levels.

### 2.1. Periodic reporting at UNESCO

17. UNESCO's Culture Sector at Headquarters houses the Secretariats for six culture Conventions and three Recommendations. Culture staff in 38 UNESCO field offices around the world support the work of these Secretariats. The Culture Sector's support to periodic reporting can be summarised as follows:

- Designing questionnaires and making them available online or through Word/PDF documents; following their examination by governing bodies of respective instruments;
- Informing States of procedures, calendars, and deadlines in reporting cycles;
- Developing guidelines and providing capacity building for reporting;
- Providing technical backstopping to States during reporting;
- Managing data coming in from States' reports;
- Overseeing the analysis of reports' data and preparing relevant publications;
- Drafting statutory documents on periodic reporting to Conventions' governing bodies, to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board and to the General Conference; and,
- Using the data from countries' reports

18. The evaluation assessed these processes and identified good practices and challenges, which are presented throughout this report.

### Periodic reporting is resource intensive and varies significantly between instruments

19. Periodic reporting is resource intensive for UNESCO's Culture Sector, mobilizing more than 30 staff at Headquarters and nearly all in field offices, at least part-time. However, only the 1972 Convention has a full-time staff member dedicated to periodic reporting. Other Secretariats have small numbers of fixed-term staff and thereby limited capacities to support periodic reporting. The 1972 and 2003 Conventions and the 2011 Recommendation furthermore have dedicated staff to support online systems built for reporting, whereas the other instruments rely on the support of IT colleagues working across several sections.
20. Periodic reporting represents a heavy workload (as described in paragraph 16), which, according to interviews with Culture staff, becomes a full-time job during certain periods in the reporting cycle, such as when platforms are open to receive States' responses. Handling technical issues and responding to States' questions requires steady availability of staff. Consequently, several Secretariats rely on temporary personnel to take on these roles, which is not always sustainable due to the unpredictability of financial resources. The shortage of staff dedicated to supporting reporting affects the Secretariat's ability to handle technical issues with data management and to conduct the analysis of reports. As such, analysis of data is almost always outsourced to external experts. Furthermore, the Secretariat relies on external funding, which is not always available, especially for smaller Secretariats.
21. Financial resources also vary across instruments (Refer to Table 3), with the 1972, 2003, 2005 Conventions having higher budgets for capacity building, specialized online platforms to display data and publications. Meanwhile, the 1970 Convention and the 2015 Recommendation are without resources for capacity building or specialized platforms for displaying reports, although the latter does produce a publication (more on this in Chapter 4).



**Table 3.** Human and financial resources vary significantly between instruments (all figures in USD)

	1954	1970	1972	1980	2003	2005	2011	2015
Number of personnel (part-time) dedicated to periodic reporting	3	2	1 full-time, 1 part-time + regional units	2	2 + regional officers	4	2	2
Platform cost	0	0	158 000	10 050	13 800	70 000	0	0
Data analysis cost	6 000	6 000	258 401	25 560	230 765	118 956	12 500	8 576
Publications cost	N/A	N/A	30 000	11 556	35 986	356 420	1 800	0
Capacity building budget	50 000	N/A	149 600	10 000	237 597	660 000	0*	N/A

The figures in the table reflect the costs incurred during the latest reporting cycle. For the 1972 and 2003 Conventions, this cycle is still ongoing.

The number of personnel is for Headquarters only and does not include Culture personnel in UNESCO field offices who support periodic reporting.

Platform cost includes the license, development, and maintenance.

Data analysis cost refers to the contract value of external experts to review and synthesize the data received in reports.

Publications cost includes authors' contracts, translation, design, and printing (wherever applicable).

Capacity building budget refers to dedicated resources for training, development of guidelines and tools specifically for periodic reporting.

\* The Secretariat of the 2011 Recommendation does not have a dedicated budget for capacity building but was able to organize sessions using internal staff resources.

Source: UNESCO Culture Sector

## Field office staff play key roles in supporting States with periodic reporting

22. According to the evaluation survey of Culture staff in UNESCO field offices, most of them support periodic reporting for various Conventions and Recommendations, covering technical assistance, financial support, capacity building, coordination, translation services, and engagement with national authorities. Field office staff tailor their support to the specific needs of each instrument, as well as to external challenges, as they are best placed to know the national and regional contexts. According to the survey, field offices support the 2003, 1972 and 2005 Conventions the most. This reflects the decentralization of the budget from these Conventions' Secretariats, particularly for capacity building activities.
23. The survey of field office staff also shows that 3 in 5 of them are fully informed by the Culture Sector at Headquarters on periodic reporting processes, whereas 2 in 5 are only somewhat informed. Overall, there is a consensus among field offices that they should continue to support Member States in periodic reporting processes, but also desire to play a more active and involved role from the onset of the processes. This includes providing technical support, facilitating communication, offering capacity building and training initiatives, and actively participating in the planning and

improvement of reporting processes. Additionally, ensuring that adequate financial resources are allocated to field offices for supporting periodic reporting activities is seen as essential. Interviews with several Culture Sector staff at Headquarters also underline the importance of getting field office staff onboard with periodic reporting, as they are best placed to liaise with national authorities responsible for reporting.

## UNESCO staff face several challenges in supporting periodic reporting processes

24. In addition to human resource shortages, UNESCO culture staff overseeing periodic reporting face several challenges. First, many staff report recurring problems with States' and experts' access to reporting platforms due to licence and technical constraints. Other issues concern the saving, extraction, and transfer of data. Consequently, UNESCO staff continuously provide technical support, particularly during peak reporting and analysis periods.
25. Second, while there are benefits to having external experts assess reports, the outsourcing of this task poses technical challenges. UNESCO staff need to relay incoming data between platforms and experts, which is time consuming and inefficient (more on this in the next section). Administrative procedures related to

contracting of experts further reduce the time available to produce analyses and related publications. Many staff call to reform reporting calendars to allow for more time to process incoming data and conduct related analyses.

26. Finally, the Culture Sector is required<sup>11</sup> to submit reports on the implementation of the three Recommendations to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board (hereafter the CRE) every six months. However, consultations with Member States on the implementation of these instruments take place once every four years. Therefore, substantial information cannot be reported to the CRE more frequently. This raises the question of the necessity of producing statutory documents on a six-monthly basis without new information. Indeed, staff spend a lot of time producing these documents and following the CRE sessions.

## 2.2. Periodic reporting at the country level

27. When States become Parties to Conventions, they commit to report on their implementation of these instruments. UNESCO Member States also commit to report on the implementation of Recommendations. In practice, these responsibilities can be summarized as follows:

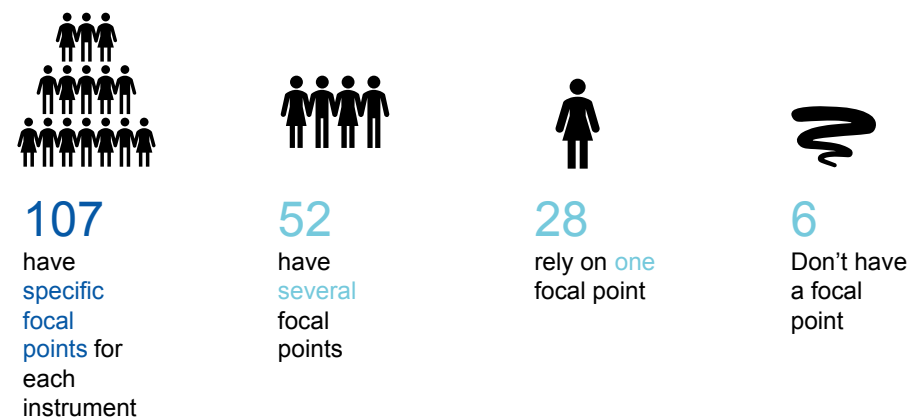
- Identifying one or several focal points for reporting;
- Understanding the data requirements for reporting;
- Coordinating with various entities and stakeholders, where applicable, for the collection of data;
- Engaging in processes to verify or validate the data collected; and,
- Ensuring the timely input of data into UNESCO's reporting platforms in English or French.

28. The evaluation inquired about States' experience in periodic reporting on various instruments through an extensive online survey, which was answered by 216 individuals from 110 countries, representing all regions. This presents valuable insights into how reporting works in practice at the country level.

## Periodic reporting mobilizes many stakeholders at the country level

29. Fulfilling reporting commitments is no simple task for States. The evaluation survey shows that a median of 10 and an average of 56 individuals (a range from 1 to 300) contribute to reporting in a single State. The top four entities involved in reporting at the country level are Ministries of Culture, National Commissions, Museums and Universities, but also include municipalities, regional administrations, civil society, and others.
30. As shown in Figure 2, nearly half of respondents to the survey indicate that their countries have specific focal points for periodic reporting for each instrument that their States are Parties to. A quarter of respondents rely on several focal points and others rely on just one or don't have designated people. This is echoed in interviews with Culture staff who actively seek out country-level focal points for reporting, as this facilitates the flow of information and follow-up, yet contact management is a very time-consuming activity.

**Figure 2.** Half of responding countries have specific focal points for periodic reporting for each instrument their State is a Party to



Source: Evaluation country survey

11 [Executive Board decision 182EX/31 on Monitoring the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments](#)

31. Countries report engaging in lengthy processes to complete their reporting obligations. Most establish coordination mechanisms through National Commissions, Ministries, or specific departments responsible for culture. These mechanisms facilitate communication, collaboration, and alignment with international guidelines. Many countries emphasize the importance of engaging various stakeholders such as government agencies, local communities, NGOs, academic institutions, and cultural heritage organizations in reporting processes. This involvement ensures comprehensive data collection and validation.
32. Countries employ various methods for data collection, including surveys, meetings, consultations, workshops, interviews, official letters, and online consultations. Some countries also utilize external consultants or specialized working groups to collect the requested information. The evaluation survey also shows countries' emphasis on ensuring the quality and accuracy of the compiled data through validation processes, reviews, and adherence to reporting formats. Some even attest to establishing processes to verify the accuracy and reliability of information prior to its submission to UNESCO, although the evaluation found that the quality of the data submitted varies significantly (more on this in the next chapter).
33. Overall, the evaluation determined that countries find periodic reporting useful for taking stock of progress, setting priorities, and facilitating dialogue between entities at the country level.

## Countries face numerous challenges in completing their reporting obligations

34. Countries identify the top four challenges to be:
  - (1) limited human resources to complete reporting,
  - (2) data collection difficulties,
  - (3) coordination issues between various entities at the country level, and
  - (4) too many questions in the reporting forms.
35. They further elaborate on the following additional challenges faced during reporting:
  - complexity and length of reporting forms plus vague or unclear questions, overlapping questions, and difficulties in understanding the scope and purpose of certain questions;

- short timeframes to collect data at the country-level and complete reporting by deadlines;
- language barriers, with many struggling to report in English or French and translation issues can delay the process and affect the quality of reporting;
- online systems that often complicate the submission process due to poor internet connectivity and/or unfamiliarity with online software;
- national representatives' lack of awareness of reporting processes and their importance impedes stakeholder participation in the collection of data at the country-level;
- multiple reporting requests from UNESCO which are perceived as a duplication of efforts;
- gaps in cultural statistics and low capacities of many countries to collect cultural data; and,
- high turnover rates among personnel responsible for reporting, as well as changes in government.

## States call for further support from UNESCO to enable them to complete reporting

36. States indicate several priority areas for support from UNESCO that would enable them to fulfil their reporting commitments more effectively and efficiently. First, they call on UNESCO to develop and implement training programmes tailored to the needs of different countries and stakeholders, covering topics such as report preparation, data management, and use of online platforms. Second, they ask for technical assistance to address specific challenges encountered during the reporting process, such as platform issues, data verification, and report formatting. Third, they request clear and comprehensive guidelines, tools, and resources to assist them in completing their reporting obligations, including simplified reporting forms, and translated materials. Fourth, they emphasize that the Secretariats need to continue raising awareness of the importance of reporting and provide information on reporting requirements, deadlines, and available support services. Finally, some States ask for financial support to cover expenses related to reporting, such as training costs, internet access, and data collection.

## 2.3. Analysis of periodic reporting format and content

37. This section examines the format and content of the questionnaires behind periodic reporting, as well as the platforms that support them.

### Periodic reporting formats and platforms vary

38. Table 4 shows that each Convention and Recommendation has its own reporting platform. Even those that use LimeSurvey are custom built to suit individual instruments' needs. This means that the Culture Sector maintains eight different platforms. Questionnaire formats also differ considerably. The 2003 and 2005 Conventions' questionnaires are based on these instruments' respective results frameworks and corresponding indicators. Other instruments do not yet have results frameworks in place, although the 1954, 1970 and 2001 Conventions are in the process of developing these. The questionnaires for the 1972 Convention and 2011 Recommendation have separate sections for national authorities and, respectively, for site managers and city officials. Staff and States acknowledge that reporting questionnaires are lengthy and that there is potential for shortening them.

39. Experts also reported that data was sometimes difficult for them to access directly. For example, for instruments using LimeSurvey, the Secretariat was relaying the collected data to the experts who could not be given direct access, thereby increasing the workload for UNESCO colleagues, and limiting the flexibility and timeliness of external experts' analysis. As a result, work and timelines were often disrupted as experts spent valuable time converting data formats to ensure accuracy of the data transfer process or constructing full databases themselves.

### Overlaps in survey questions are inefficient and lead to reporting fatigue

40. Culture Staff and countries suggested that repetitive information asked in instruments' questionnaires impacts the efficiency of the periodic reporting process. As there is little dialogue between Secretariats of the Conventions and Recommendations, staff were unclear on exactly where questionnaires repeated content, but alluded to potential overlaps in thematic areas and even within single questionnaires. Over half of country respondents (51%) also see some overlap between questions (7% to a great extent, 28% to some extent, 15% to a small extent). Consequently, this evaluation performed a mapping to identify areas where surveys replicate questions or cover similar themes.

The analysis focused on question formulation. It included an initial study of each instrument's questionnaires, noting main topics and question themes. Then, a search for key words and phrases charted any overlaps in question formulation. Overlaps were split into two categories: exact and thematic.

**Table 4.** Periodic reporting formats and platforms vary between instruments

Instrument	Linked to a Results Framework	Platform	Number of Questions
<b>1954 Conv. + 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Protocols</b>	No	Paper/Word (with online option)	43 9
<b>1970</b>	No	Web App.	68
<b>1972</b>	No	Web App.	Section I: 138 Section II: 220
<b>2003</b>	Yes	Web App.	120
<b>2005</b>	Yes	Drupal 7 (now Form Assembly and Salesforce)	89
<b>1980 Rec.</b>	No	LimeSurvey	78
<b>2011 Rec.</b>	No	LimeSurvey	Section A: 33 Section B: 43
<b>2015 Rec.</b>	No	LimeSurvey	59

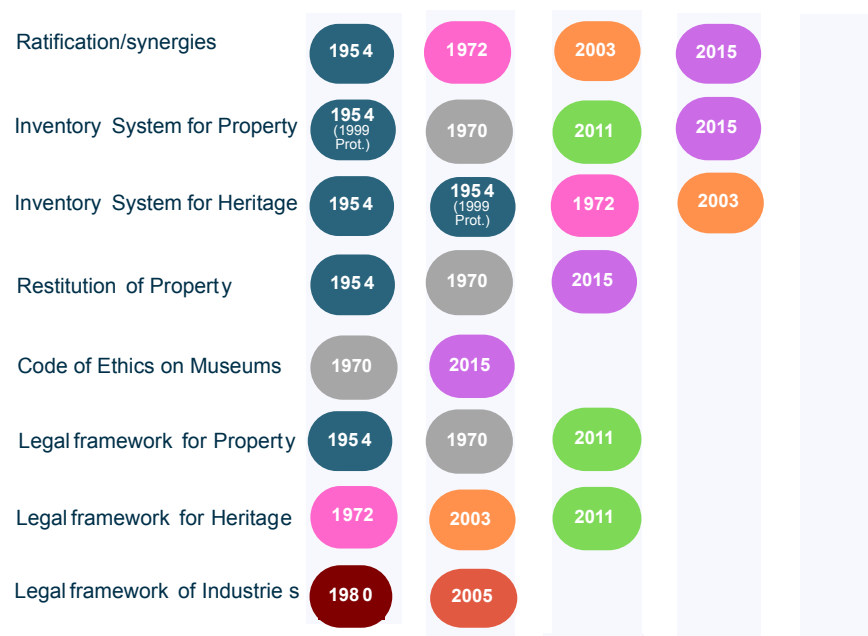
Source: UNESCO Culture Sector, Periodic Reporting questionnaires

41. Exact overlaps were questions that, regardless of phrasing, requested the same type of information in multiple questionnaires. For example, the 1954 Convention, 1972 Convention, 2003 Convention and 2011 Recommendation all ask respondents to report on their countries' "inventories of cultural heritage". To illustrate, the 1954 Convention asks to "explain steps undertaken to carry out inventories of cultural heritage, as well as the steps undertaken to ensure they are kept up to date, while specifying the authority responsible for ensuring coordination between various stakeholders and for ensuring the dissemination." The 1972 and 2003 Conventions have sections with multiple questions dedicated to information on inventories. Among other questions, their questionnaires ask whether an inventory for cultural heritage has been established, who compiles the inventory and whether it has been updated. The 2011 Recommendation asks: "How is the conservation and management of living heritage elements ensured in historic urban

areas" after which "inventories of cultural heritage elements..." is a possible answer with a long-response box for additional details.

42. In a similar vein, the 1999 Protocol to the 1954 Convention, the 1970 Convention and the 2015 Recommendations ask respondents to report on "inventories of cultural property". Moreover, questions on legal frameworks for the protection of cultural property, heritage, and industries are formulated in a way that may gather repetitive responses across instruments. Figure 3 shows some of the exact areas of overlaps between questions and the instruments concerned.

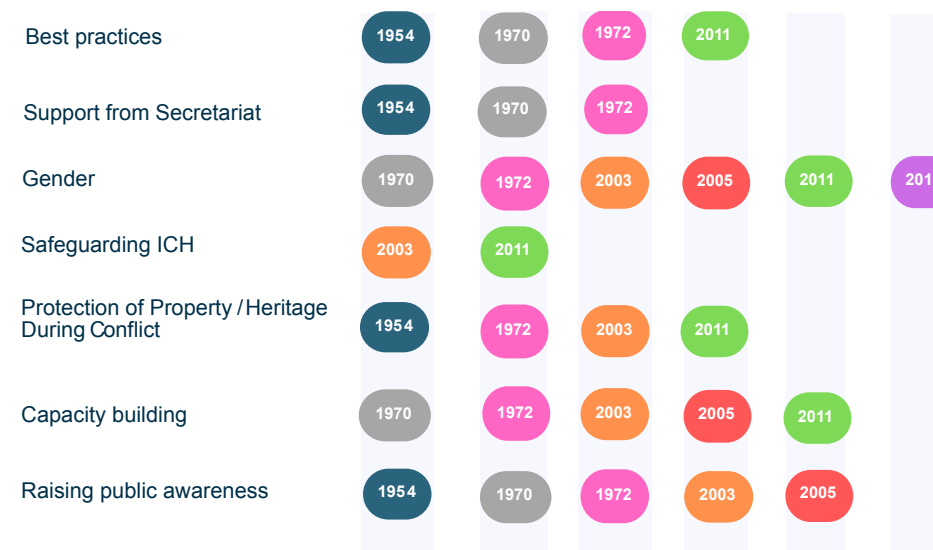
**Figure 3.** Exact overlaps in question formulation were found across at least eight topics



Source: Analysis by evaluators based on instruments' questionnaires

43. On thematic overlaps, questions address the same topic, but actually gather information on the specificities of each instrument. For instance, five instruments ask questions on capacity building. Although countries answer questions on this theme, the capacity building support they receive is unique to each instrument. Similarly, although four instruments ask respondents to discuss the sharing of best practices, the types of practices revealed through the responses may differ per instrument. Figure 4 shows the thematic overlaps found across questionnaires.

**Figure 4.** Thematic overlaps found across 7 topics



Source: Analysis by evaluators based on instruments' questionnaires

44. Both types of overlaps contribute to potential inefficiencies. For exact overlaps, the questions are formulated in a way that may gather the same information across instruments. For example, in responding to questions on synergies with other instruments, a State will provide the same answers across surveys. Thematic overlaps gather information on the specificities of each instrument, but the themes of questions repeat across surveys.
45. Under both types of questionnaire overlaps, there are areas for improvement in terms of efficiency. Interviews with Culture staff suggested that repetitive information between questionnaires led to survey fatigue. This idea was supported by the country survey where "too many questions in the forms" was reported as a top challenge for countries. Interviews with external experts reiterated these statements. According to several experts, a more efficient data collection process would involve streamlining survey design to reduce duplication as much as possible. According to experts, an aligned questionnaire platform could involve more precise question formulation and general sections by theme with drop-down responses to single-out specificities by instrument. As the Culture Sector considers the alignment of questionnaires, a look into overlaps, both exact and thematic will be useful for any efforts towards simplification and harmonization.

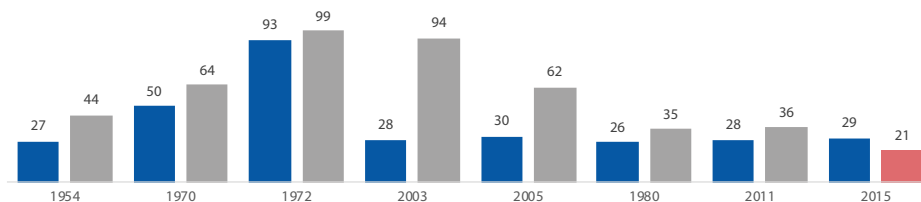
## Chapter 3: Outcomes of periodic reporting

46. This chapter explores the outcomes of periodic reporting: the response rates, the support received by countries from the UNESCO Secretariat and the quality of the data submitted.

### Reporting rates have risen for nearly all instruments since the last cycle

47. Reporting rates have risen in the latest cycle for all instruments, except one (refer to Figure 5). Nearly all States Parties to the 1972 and 2003 Conventions have reported on their implementation of these instruments, albeit not all regions have yet been due to report for the latter. The 1954, 1970 and 2005 Conventions also saw significant increases in reporting rates with the latter two receiving responses from more than two-thirds of States Parties. While improving during the last cycle, reporting rates for the three Recommendations continue to be low, with less than one-third of UNESCO Member States submitting reports on the implementation of these instruments.

**Figure 5.** Periodic reporting rates (in percentages\*) have generally risen since the last cycle



The evaluation compared figures from the most recent cycle for each to the previous ones. The first (blue) column represents the previous reporting cycle, whereas the second (grey) column represents the most recent reporting cycle. The second column for the 2015 Recommendation is red to indicate the decrease in the reporting rate between the two cycles.

Reporting cycles differ for each instrument as follows: 1954: previous cycle (2013-2016), recent cycle (2017-2020); 1970: previous cycle (2015-2018), recent cycle (2019-2022); 1972: previous cycle (2008-2015), recent cycle (2018-2023) – only regions that have submitted are counted; 2003: previous cycle (2018), recent cycle (2020-2026) – only regions that have submitted are counted; 2005: previous cycle (2018), cycle for which figure is presented (2020); 1980, 2011 and 2015: previous cycle (2015-2019), recent cycle (2020-2023)

\*The percentage is calculated based on the number of States Parties that had ratified each Convention at the time of reporting and on the number of UNESCO Member States for the three Recommendations (193 for the previous two reporting cycles).

Source: documents of periodic reporting prepared by CLT

### Capacity building efforts are bearing fruit

48. UNESCO has stepped up its efforts to support countries in their reporting obligations during the most recent reporting cycles (see overview in Table 5). The 1972 and 2003 Conventions have dedicated regional capacity building programmes, while the 1954 and 2005 Conventions targeted capacity building efforts towards Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Secretariats of the 1980 and 2011 Recommendations organized information and capacity building sessions for Member States. Evidence of capacity building's fruitful results can be seen in the consistent rise in response rates, particularly in regions that received recent support (refer to Figure 5).

49. Guidelines, videos and other tools to support States in their reporting obligations can be found on several instruments' websites (refer to Table 6 for an overview of resources available by instrument). A good practice that is easy to replicate can be found on the website of the 2011 Recommendation with simple instructions, a glossary and a frequently asked questions section (FAQ). As discussed earlier, the Secretariats of all Conventions and Recommendations also continued online technical support to States, which was much appreciated by countries as evidenced in the evaluation survey. However, resources for capacity building are limited for some instruments (1954 Convention) and lacking for others such as the 1970 Convention and the 2015 Recommendation, as discussed in the previous chapter. This compromises their Secretariats' ability to further support States Parties in their reporting obligations.

**Table 5.** Overview of capacity building activities in support of periodic reporting during the last cycle

	1954 Conv.	1972 Conv.	1980 Rec.	2003 Conv.	2005 Conv.	2011 Rec.
<b>Training on periodic reporting during last reporting cycle</b>	No formal programme in place. Targeted support provided to select States Parties in Africa.	Regional programme spanning 5 years	Open exchange sessions were organized as well as on-demand trainings for more than 120 governmental actors from 38 countries to raise awareness	Six-months capacity-building programme serving on region after the other spanning 5 years	Capacity building was provided to 8 beneficiary African countries of the SIDA project and an additional 7 SIDS	24 capacity building workshops with local authorities were carried out, attended by 165 national and local focal points from 76 Member States
<b>Tools to support reporting</b>	<a href="#">Model questionnaire</a> with guidelines on preparation of national reports;  List of National Focal Points	Video tutorials, guidebooks and an FAQ on the process.	Toolkit that includes a re-edition of the text of the 1980 Recommendation, a bilingual User Guide and brochure	<a href="#">Capacity building Units</a> 56-62 cover periodic reporting;  Online form for test  10 Handouts to address FAQs on how to plan the reporting process at the national level	On-demand provision of training materials to facilitate national workshops with multisectoral teams; Users Guide to enable better use of the online submission platform; and FAQ section on the website	<a href="#">Resources</a> include a glossary, instructions, a video tutorial and FAQ

Source: Conventions' websites and Documents on Periodic Reporting prepared by CLT: 216 EX/19.I, DCE/23/16.IGC/5, DCE/22/15.IGC/5

50. In the evaluation survey, States indicated the types of support received from UNESCO for reporting on culture conventions/recommendations. More than half of respondents answered that their countries had received capacity building trainings or workshops to enhance the capacities of individuals or teams responsible for reporting. Others benefited from technical support through navigating online platforms; consulted the available guidelines, tools, translations of questions and Word versions of questionnaires. In addition, country respondents benefited from networking and coordination with site managers, reporting Focal Points, or even experts hired by UNESCO to help them complete reporting. Overall, countries rate UNESCO's support as quite high (with a score of 7.92/10).

51. The newly-developed capacity building programme of the 2003 Convention was assessed by an IOS evaluation<sup>12</sup> in late 2021 and found positive outcomes that went beyond high report submission rates: "One of the positive results of the regional capacity-building on periodic reporting was the creation of sub-regional networks in the English-speaking Caribbean and Spanish-speaking Latin American countries to enable exchange among focal points. A European network of focal

points was furthermore created under the leadership of Finland and Italy with the aim of continuing awareness-raising and information-sharing on how individual countries were proceeding to collect information from a variety of stakeholders, including communities, for the reporting and for the purpose of collaborating in their safeguarding efforts. This appears to have made a significant difference and has been valued by States Parties." Interviews with Culture staff for the present evaluation reveal that that practice has continued in other regions.

52. UNESCO's capacity building programmes in periodic reporting are showing promising results, particularly when using regional approaches and spanning longer periods of time. These approaches, however, require significant resources, as mentioned earlier. Countries will continue to ask for support from UNESCO, particularly on Conventions and Recommendations which are less known to them. UNESCO staff furthermore recognize that capacity building should focus not only on increasing submissions but also on ensuring the quality of reports.

<sup>12</sup> See the 2021 IOS [Evaluation of UNESCO's action in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) for analysis of the 2003 Convention's Periodic Reporting.

## Data quality of incoming reports is mixed

53. Periodic reports are unique data sources on the implementation of UNESCO's normative instruments in culture, but the overall quality of data from reports is mixed. Many States with the capacity to collect and store data and resources to organize the reporting process, consistently provide detailed reports with reliable data. Others submit incomplete reports or fail to submit at all. The heterogeneity of data across reports leads to the overall quality of extracted data to be low. Ten external experts responsible for the analysis of reports were consulted for this evaluation. They found response rates too low for most instruments to conduct meaningful analysis, unverifiable self-reported data with very little sourcing, and problems with interpreting survey questions that limited analysis. Data management problems also impaired the analysts' work.
54. Most experts interviewed saw the reporting processes' potential to provide rich data sets useful for longitudinal studies on issues where UNESCO adds value in being one of, if not the only, organization collecting data on such topics. That said, experts reported that the data quality falls short of its potential for several reasons.
55. First, aside from the 1972 and 2003 Conventions which see high response rates across regions, the response rates of other instruments are low. There are gaps in data sets and an imbalance in regional responses, particularly for the Global South. Insufficient response rates prevent analysing regional and global trends. Interviews with Culture staff and experts revealed some possible reasons behind this gap. Some countries reportedly lack access to a reliable internet connection, which creates problems for saving and sending work. Similarly, countries found language requirements of answering in English or French to be an obstacle for reporting. These statements were corroborated by the evaluation country survey, where many respondents described difficulties reporting in English or French.
56. Experts also saw gaps in information between cultural sectors, where some States required input from multiple ministries or other actors who should, in theory, be involved in the process but in practice were not. As a result, those filling in the report were sometimes lacking necessary information.
57. Second, the self-reported data provided by States was often unsourced and hard to verify. Although experts reported that some States sent attachments or provided links to websites that helped check answers, many reports did not include supporting evidence. Culture staff acknowledged the innate challenges with self-reported data and the difficulty of verification. Moreover, Secretariats do not have the mandate to verify data. Interestingly, States also viewed data verification as an issue. When asked how UNESCO can verify the data from reports, the suggestion of a "review by expert bodies" was the most common choice by half (108) of all respondents. Meanwhile, "no need to verify" was only selected by 16% of respondents.
58. The benchmarking exercise found that external instruments have adopted a variety of measures to improve and/or to verify the quality of data. Several organisations make use of third-party participation. For example, some have made use of self-assessments and included verification means through peer review systems (Universal Periodic Review). In this case, data quality is strengthened through submission requirements calling for three types of documentation, including UN reports, third party and national reports.
59. Third, unclear question formulation limited the quality of responses. All instruments' questionnaires make use of closed-response questions to some extent. Although yes/no questions are easier to answer and can reduce survey fatigue, analysts can only draw basic descriptive statistics with the results and deep statistical analysis is not possible. Closed response questions also do not allow States to explain why they responded yes or provide useful details for verifying their response. Some experts reported discrepancies between how States responded to the same question from one cycle to the next, with no way to elaborate on why the answer had changed.
60. Issues with the clarity of questions created further difficulties in response interpretation. While some experts were instructed not to interpret respondents' answers and to report the data as is, others were responsible for interpreting the meaning behind responses and whether a question was answered logically. At times, respondents seemed to not understand the question itself, or some surveys lacked a standard definition for terms like "museum" or "NGO" leading to misinterpretation. Moreover, several experts reported that there were issues between the English and French versions of the same questionnaire, with questions conveying different meanings between the two versions.
61. Challenges with data quality have a direct impact on its use and this is discussed in the next chapter.



## Chapter 4: Periodic Reporting in Use

62. UNESCO's Culture Sector and States put in a lot of effort to support and complete periodic reporting. It was therefore essential for the evaluation to explore how the data from these reports is used. This chapter looks at the use of periodic reports by UNESCO, States and other stakeholders, to the extent that information is available.

### Periodic reports inform programme design and guidance to States Parties to some extent

63. For the 1954 and 1972 Conventions, periodic reports feed into the development of regional assessments and subsequent action plans. The 1972 Convention's regional approach to reporting consists of a five-stage process (1) States submit reports; (2) regional reports are developed; (3) regional reports are examined by the World Heritage Committee and recommendations are formulated; (4) regional action plans are formulated with priorities and goals; and (5) States Parties are to implement these regional action plans.<sup>13</sup> The data collected during the Periodic Reporting exercise is made available to all stakeholders including National Focal Points and Site Managers for decision-making.
64. Similarly, a Regional Needs Assessment was elaborated based on reports of the 1954 Convention and fed into an Action Plan that proposes activities in response to the needs expressed by States Parties presented in late 2023.<sup>14</sup> The aim for the Regional Assessment is to enable the Convention Secretariat and UNESCO Regional Field Offices to tailor their activities and strategies to countries' needs.
65. Drawing from States Parties' Periodic Reports, the Secretariat of the 1954 Convention furthermore elaborated guidance on establishing a National Advisory Committee, Military services to secure respect for cultural property and guidance to conduct training and educational programmes for military authorities.<sup>15</sup>
66. Culture staff further indicate that the reports serve as key sources of data for UNESCO's capacity building programmes and information sessions around all Conventions and Recommendations. For example, the 2003 Convention has used good practices from reports in its Capacity-building materials repository. The

1970 Convention also relies on information from national reports to prepare its awareness-raising sessions with States.

67. Periodic reports also feed into project design and implementation such as on culture in emergencies, the status of the artist, and cultural heritage preservation. The reports also provide valuable input for briefings with Member States and partner organizations. According to the survey of field office staff, 76% use information from periodic reports in their work. When asked to elaborate on use, staff said periodic reports help them understand States' needs and challenges related to implementing Conventions and Recommendations at the national and regional levels. The reports are also instrumental in programming objectives and action plans for field offices.
68. Almost all staff interviewed see much more potential for using reports in their future work. Nevertheless, most entities express concerns about being overwhelmed by workload and spending too much time producing reports rather than using the information contained within for advocacy and strategic planning.

### Periodic reporting is always a stand-alone item for Governing Bodies, but little time is dedicated to discussion and follow-up

69. As a statutory obligation, the Secretariats of each instrument provide information on and from periodic reports for their respective governing bodies:
- The 1954 Convention has a meeting of High Contracting Parties to review its implementation. There is also a Committee on the Second Protocol that meets once a year and examines reports thereon.
  - For the 1970 Convention, the Subsidiary Committee reviews national reports before submission of a summary to the General Conference.
  - The 1972 Convention prepares a final report to summarize each region's national reports to its General Assembly.

13 See <https://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>

14 See document C54/22/17.COM/INF.529.

15 See documents C54/22/17.COM/8.INF.II, C54/22/17.COM/8.INF.III, C54/22/17.COM/8.INF.IV.

- The 2003 Convention submits reports to the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
  - The 2005 Convention submits reports to its Intergovernmental Committee.
70. The Conventions' committees can also revise and introduce guidelines and questionnaires, subject to approval by assemblies of all States Parties. For the 2003 Convention, only changes to the Operational Directives require approval by the General Assembly of States Parties. The 1980, 2011, and 2015 Recommendations prepare information collected over the reporting period for the attention of the CRE of the Executive Board, which is held twice a year. The CRE then submits reports on the instruments' implementation to the General Conference.
71. The preparation of these documents requires much effort from the instruments' Secretariats. Although the human resource cost spent on these documents is high, little time is then dedicated to discussions of periodic reporting during the actual governing body meetings, thereby resulting in limited up-take of the data. Country respondents and UNESCO staff say that the reports should inform the agendas of future meetings. They also ask for introducing follow-up mechanisms to periodic reporting in the agendas of governing bodies.
72. The evaluation's benchmarking exercise found that external monitoring mechanisms generally lack adequate metrics to verify causality and determine impact. However, instruments such as the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport, EU Schengen, and Universal Periodic Review provide States Parties with follow-up tools to implement recommendations and enhance compliance. For example, The Universal Periodic Review has facilitated the creation of national mechanisms for reporting and follow up.

## Information from periodic reports is disseminated through data portals and in specialized publications

73. Data from periodic reports is published on dedicated portals such as the Policy Monitoring Platform of the 2005 Convention and a dedicated site of the 2003 Convention, and individual reports are made publicly available on UNESCO's conventions' websites (refer to Table 6 for an overview). In a few instances, such as for the 1970 and 2001 Conventions, confidentiality issues prevent the Secretariats from publishing all reports. Countries that reported using the portals highlight their benefits for comparative analysis, for learning and exchange of good practices, and for policy development and project implementation. However, the evaluation found that

these platforms are not well known by States and are largely underutilized, with less than a quarter of country respondents reporting using any of them. Most of the uses highlighted by countries relate to cultural and natural heritage conservation, with less mention of platforms relating to other instruments.

74. Several countries utilize the data for research, advocacy, and policy-making related to cultural and natural heritage conservation. The data provides an overview of the international situation and allows countries to compare their activities with those of others. Some respondents suggest that a more robust process of data validation by UNESCO would incentivize comparing data with other conventions/platforms. The country survey also indicates that States would like to see information from periodic reports in an online database for them to use it.
75. Several instruments produce publications in addition to statutory documents (refer to Table 6 for an overview). The UNESCO Global Report, *Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity – Addressing culture as a global public good*, is designed to monitor the implementation of the 2005 Convention and has published three editions. It provides an overview of data and trends relating to culture and creative industries. The Global Report first uses data from reports to understand trends across creative industries and compliments findings through secondary sources.
76. Every four years, the 1980 Recommendation publishes a consolidated report based on a consultation with Member States. The most recent report covers data on the fifth consultation on thematic areas of legal and regulatory frameworks, fair remuneration and access to financing, social and economic rights, digital environment, preferential treatment, artistic freedom, equality, inclusion, diversity, and responses to COVID-19.
77. Based on national reports, the 2011 Recommendation addresses the management of historic cities and settlements. A recent publication reports on six areas of implementation: strengthening governance mechanisms and planning tools, inventorying local heritage values and attributes, fostering inclusive and participatory decision-making, developing equitable economic benefits, responding to climate change impact, and building capacity in the use of digital technologies for managing urban heritage.
78. The consolidated report of the 2015 Recommendation national reports presents regional statistics on museums and looks at how Member States implement policies and legislation to strengthen the work of museums. Importantly, the report discusses best practices and challenges faced by Member States in guiding museums to fulfil their duties.

**Table 6.** Latest publications prepared with data from periodic reports and related data portals

Instrument	Publications	Platform	Publishes Individual Reports
<b>1954 Convention</b>	Analytical Report on the implementation of the 1954 Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols	<a href="#">Web page for the 17th Meeting of the Committee</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<b>1970 Convention</b>	Summary of National Reports presented to the Subsidiary Committee	<a href="#">Web page for Subsidiary Committee</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a> , unless States Parties object
<b>1972 Convention</b>	Progress reports on latest cycle; Regional action plans	<a href="#">Web page for periodic reporting</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<b>2003 Convention</b>	Examination reports on implementation of the Convention after latest cycle, analytical reports on latest cycle	<a href="#">Web page on the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the ICH</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<b>2005 Convention</b>	 <p>RE Shaping Policies for Creativity; Summaries of quadrennial reports</p>	<a href="#">Publication's web page</a> <a href="#">Policy Monitoring Platform</a> <a href="#">Webpage for QPR</a> <a href="#">Web page for statutory meetings</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<b>1980 Recommendation</b>	 <p>Consolidated report on the 1980 Recommendation concerning the status of the artist; implementation reports to the CRE of Executive Board</p>	<a href="#">Publication on UNESDOC</a> <a href="#">Web page on the monitoring process</a>	No
<b>2011 Recommendation</b>	 <p>Urban heritage for resilience: consolidated results of the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape; 3rd Member States Consultation</p>	<a href="#">Publication on UNESDOC</a> <a href="#">Publication web page</a> <a href="#">Web page on statutory processes</a>	No
<b>2015 Recommendation</b>	 <p>Report on the implementation of the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on Museums &amp; Collections</p>	<a href="#">Recommendation's web page</a>	No

79. Although these flagship publications synthesize key takeaways from reporting cycles and require much time and effort to produce, their use is not systematically tracked. The 2011 Recommendation, for instance, reportedly sends the final report to 3000 people on their mailing list of UNESCO National Commissions, focal points, and site managers. The dissemination of the report has potential for powerful reach, but how many people download or open the report is unknown. Overall, the instruments do not have systems in place to determine how often their products are downloaded or who is making use of the publications, which is a missed opportunity.

### **Overall reports are valuable, but not always useful**

80. External analysts had many ideas about who the intended users of the reports may be, i.e. governments, communities, non-for-profit organizations, educational institutions but none were able to give concrete examples of the report in use, either through downloads or citations. Interviews with Culture staff confirmed that there is no systematic tracking of how periodic reports are used. The 1972 Convention did systematically track downloads of reports for some time, but after changes to their data portal system, has stopped collecting information on downloads for the time being. The same was reported for the 2005 Convention's Policy Monitoring Platform. The remaining instruments do not track views or downloads of reports.

81. Overall, the evaluation found that periodic reports have much potential, but are currently underutilized both by stakeholders within and outside UNESCO. According to country respondents, platforms presenting data from periodic reports would attract more users if they were available in more languages, if the presentation of data was simplified, and if best practices were highlighted in summaries of reports. Moreover, enabling a search function within the platforms and providing training on how to use and navigate them were also included as suggestions for increasing active use.

## Chapter 5: Towards Harmonization of Periodic Reporting

82. The evaluation explored the feasibility of “harmonizing”, “aligning” or “rationalizing” periodic reporting processes. This could entail aligning reporting calendars for all instruments and moving towards a single global submission date for all States. Furthermore, this would imply putting in place revised reporting forms, setting up a new common cultural data portal for reporting and displaying results, and developing a joint capacity-building approach for reporting on all Conventions and Recommendations.<sup>16</sup>
83. All stakeholders consulted for this evaluation (Culture Sector staff, Member States, and experts) see benefits in embarking on such a process. The two governing body meetings (15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Convention, and 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage) observed by the evaluators in December 2023 were also in favour of proceeding with suggested reforms of periodic reporting.
84. To reiterate, periodic reporting is resource intensive within the Organization and at the country level. For UNESCO's Culture Sector, more than 30 staff contribute to reporting at least on a part time basis. Involvement at the country level ranges from 1 to 300 persons (median of 10) involved in the process. Culture staff interviews revealed concerns related to the periodic reporting workload. According to staff members, those completing surveys experience reporting fatigue linked to long questionnaires, multiple reporting requirements and short timeframes for completion. Efforts (such as technical assistance or capacity building) from Secretariats to ensure high quality submissions are extensive and time-consuming.
85. In alignment with revelations from staff interviews, in the country survey, the most common challenge encountered during the reporting process was “limited human resources to complete reporting requirements”. When asked how the reporting process can be improved, respondents’ first recommendation was “simplifying and shortening report questions” with the second as “including information previously submitted in the reports for validation/correction.”<sup>17</sup>
86. A key step in simplifying the reporting process should involve trimming redundancies in questionnaires. As stated earlier, there are exact overlaps in questionnaires where countries are asked to repeat the same information for multiple instruments. There are also thematic overlaps that can be addressed in fewer questions. According to Culture staff and country respondents, streamlining the process should consider how a new platform might condense overlapping questions.
87. The benchmarking exercise revealed practices towards enhancing working processes of the monitoring systems. For example, the Treaty Mechanism has a simplified reporting procedure where a Treaty body sends a questionnaire largely based on previous recommendations to a State Party. Many States have indicated that they found it more helpful to reply to a set of focused questions, rather than provide information on all aspects of a treaty. The questionnaire has a maximum of 25 questions and reports are not longer than 60 pages.
88. Country respondents view simplified reporting processes with a single deadline and a reduced number of questions as a step in the right direction. This would lead to greater efficiencies, more predictability in reporting schedules, greater comparability of data across time, increased synergies between instruments, and more collaboration both within and outside UNESCO for the collection of data. However, there are concerns about the capacity of all countries, especially smaller ones, to adapt easily to a new global process.
89. UNESCO Culture staff also emphasize the importance of maintaining the specificity of each instrument. There is a concern that an overly harmonized system might lead to a loss of unique expertise and specific mechanisms associated with individual conventions and recommendations. Finally, all emphasize the need for funds and personnel to develop and sustain a common platform and aligned reporting processes.

<sup>16</sup> A detailed proposal and calendar were presented to the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in document LHE/23/18.COM/7.c.

<sup>17</sup> See Annex D for survey results.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

90. Periodic reporting is a statutory requirement for all culture instruments that is here to stay. Yet, there is much possibility for improvement of the existing complex and resource-intensive systems. First and foremost, periodic reporting processes need to be driven by use and users of the data. Most stakeholders currently agree that reports are not used enough, prompting questions about why there are such heavy procedures in place. On the process side of things, periodic reporting can be improved by:

- Simplifying and reducing the number of questions;
- Defining and clarifying concepts prior to asking about them;
- Including information previously submitted in the reports for validation / correction;
- Capacity building on collection of cultural data and on reporting;
- Improving user friendliness of reporting platforms;
- Allowing for sourcing of data that facilitates its verification and validation; and,
- Introducing follow-up measures that motivate States to improve both in reporting and in implementation

91. In 2025, UNESCO will prepare the first Global Report on Cultural Policies for the World Forum on Cultural Policies – MONDIACULT 2025. States view the purposes of the future report in the following order of importance: (1) to obtain an overview of the state of the culture sector, (2) to understand the contribution of culture to sustainable development and (3) to obtain data on the implementation of UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations. This ranking indicates general interest in the culture sector and its role in sustainable development, rather than in the specifics of each normative instrument in culture. UNESCO should prioritize future efforts on collecting data to understand culture holistically.

92. Aligning and harmonizing reporting for all UNESCO Culture Conventions and Recommendations is a step in the right direction. Streamlining processes will save time, energy and resources for both UNESCO and its Member States. It also promotes a more comprehensive understanding of culture, improves coordination and cooperation both within UNESCO and at the country level, and provides an overall picture of culture's contribution to achieving SDGs. However, careful consideration of

each instrument's specificities is essential to ensure effective implementation of this approach.

93. Any reform, harmonization or alignment of periodic reporting should first and foremost be driven by use and less so by process. Thought needs to be given to who will be using the data, how and for what purposes. The success of harmonization will rely on effective communication, collaboration, and adaptation to the unique characteristics of each Convention and Recommendation.

94. The evaluation issues three recommendations to the UNESCO Culture Sector:

1. Develop a Theory of Change for the harmonization of periodic reporting with the end goal (impact) being use of the data. Outline the various users (including UNESCO, Member States, those who analyse the data, etc.), outcomes and outputs within.
2. Create a community of practice of staff working across Conventions and Recommendations to drive the harmonization process. Once the process advances, create a dedicated, flexible team with representatives of all Conventions and Recommendations reporting to the Executive Office. Include Culture Sector staff from field offices and representatives of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in the discussions.
3. In redesigning reporting systems / creating a common reporting platform, consider the following:
  - Use and users of the platform(s)
  - Data storage and management
  - Required formats for experts to do data analysis
  - Ensure existing data does not need to be re-entered and can simply be validated
  - Include mechanisms that allow for data sourcing / verification
  - Ensure full access rights to staff and experts analysing the data (do not have to go through an external provider)



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# Annex A. Terms of Reference

## Evaluation of UNESCO's Periodic Reporting on the Culture Sector's Conventions and Recommendations

### 1. Background

#### Brief description of periodic reporting

1. Advocating for standard-setting instruments is one of the five established functions of UNESCO. In the field of culture, UNESCO supports the implementation of six Culture Conventions and two Protocols<sup>1</sup>, as well as three Recommendations<sup>2</sup>. This normative architecture provides a unique and robust foundation to protect and promote cultural and natural heritage, as well as creativity, at national, regional, and international levels.
2. Conventions are subject to ratification, acceptance, or accession by States and regional economic integration organizations. States Parties to five of the six Culture Conventions commit to submitting periodic reports on their national implementation as part of the provisions of these treaties and/or their operational guidelines. States Parties to the 2001 Convention submit reports on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, UNESCO Member States submit reports on the implementation of three Culture Recommendations, even if these are not legally binding. These reports are key to determining how the fundamental principles and concepts of the Conventions and Recommendations are translated into policies and measures by the concerned Parties, providing data on implementation, progression, and promotion of the instruments' values.
3. The reporting mechanisms' formats, cycles, and platforms differ significantly among the Conventions and Recommendations, each one having been developed

independently and at different points in time, following the decisions of respective Governing Bodies of the Conventions and Recommendations. (See table below for an overview of the periodic reporting mechanisms of all UNESCO's normative instruments in the field of culture). As such, the periodic reporting systems lack a harmonized and complementary vision. Furthermore, they present challenges with the individual collection of data and its analysis. The design of the standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and the support and guidance to States in the use of these is managed by a fairly big group of UNESCO staff (at least 15 staff at HQ and additional consultants) in each Convention/Programme Secretariat within the Culture Sector, both at Headquarters and in Field Offices. The support to periodic reporting is time intensive and revolves around capacity building, technical backstopping, and the preparation of detailed analyses and related publications with the data collected. In the context of the Recommendations, the Secretariat is further mobilized for the preparation of the questionnaires shared with Member States on a quadrennial basis, whose reporting is examined by the Executive Board.

4. Periodic reporting processes are important commitments that often require significant effort from States that become Parties to the Conventions. The challenges faced by States to complete their periodic reporting obligations are evidenced in the fluctuating numbers of incoming submissions, and also in the varying quality of data submitted. Indeed, previous IOS evaluations of UNESCO's Culture Conventions<sup>3</sup> have found periodic reporting to be valuable, but also strenuous for the States Parties concerned.

1 1954 Convention on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1st Protocol and 2nd Protocol) – adopted by 133 Member States; 1970 Convention on Fighting Against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property – adopted by 133 Member States; 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – adopted by 195 Member States; 2001 Convention on Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage – adopted by 72 Member States; 2003 Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage – adopted by 181 Member States; 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions – adopted by 152 Member States

2 Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society (2015); Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (2011); Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (1980).

3 For example, see the 2021 IOS [Evaluation of UNESCO's action in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) for analysis of the 2003 Convention's Periodic Reporting.



### Overview of Periodic Reporting Mechanisms for UNESCO's Culture Conventions and Recommendations

Instrument	State parties	% That submit*	Cycle	Due date	Regional or individual	Examination body	Reflection year	Platform	Human resources
<b>1954</b>	134	44	4 years	30th June	Individual	Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	2023	Paper/Word	2 staff, 2 ext. consultants
<b>1999 Second Protocol</b>	84	54.7	4 years	30th June	Individual	Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	2023	Paper/Word	2 staff, 2 ext. consultants
<b>1970</b>	143	47.5	4 years	30th June	Individual	Subsidiary Committee		Azure	1 staff, 1 ext. consultant
<b>1972</b>	194	98.8**	6 years	31st July	Regional	World Heritage Committee	2024	Website application	2 staff
<b>2001</b>	72	29.1	Voluntary basis	N/A	Individual	CR Committee of Executive Board	2024,2025		1 staff
<b>2003</b>	181	85 ***	6 years	31st December	Regional	Committee on ICH	2026	Intranet application	1 staff, 1 SC, 1 ext. consultant, Regional Officers
<b>2005</b>	151	69.9	4 years	30th June	Individual	Intergovernmental Committee	2025	Drupal 7	3 staff
<b>1980 REC</b>	194	34.7	4 years		Individual	CR Committee of Executive Board, General Conference	N/A	Drupal 7	1 staff, 2 SC
<b>2011 REC</b>	194	28.4	4 years	30th September	Individual	CR Committee of Executive Board, General Conference	N/A	LimeSurvey	3 staff
<b>2015 REC</b>	194	19.1	4 years	Determined by date of Exec. Board	Individual	CR Committee of Executive Board, General Conference	N/A	LimeSurvey	2 staff, 1 ext. consultant

\*Submission rates are based on data from the most recent round of submissions

\*\* As the 1972 Convention reports regionally, the rate reported is the average across regions for reports submitted at the national level

\*\*\* The 2003 Convention rate is based on data available for only 3 regions

Human resource calculations are based how many persons work, in some capacity, on a given convention or recommendation. Designated staff may have other responsibilities in addition to work on a convention or recommendation.

For both recommendations, the 194 States Parties refers to the recent inclusion of the USA. For prior reporting periods, the count was 193.

Sources: Convention/Recommendation webpages and scoping interviews

## Towards a Global Report on Cultural Policies

5. The MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, adopted unanimously by the participating 150 States at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, called for culture to be firmly anchored as a global public good and integrated as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda. It also called on UNESCO to produce a Global Report on Cultural Policies, on a quadrennial basis. This report would, for the first time, provide a comprehensive overview of the state of the culture sector with the aim of strengthening public cultural policies in the years to come, building on information, data and existing indicators provided by its Member States. Notably, the report will make use of the framework of the periodic reports of the UNESCO Culture Sector's complete set of normative instruments as well as related programmes and statistical and indicator frameworks. The first such report is due in 2025 with subsequent reports to follow every four years.
6. Member States have consistently identified a lack of relevant and available data and information required for evidence-based and transparent policymaking, a limited capacity to assess and monitor the impact of policies and measures for the culture sector and inadequate or insufficient collaboration between governments and civil society.

## Rationale for this Evaluation

7. The present evaluation was requested by the Culture Sector in the context of its efforts to enhance the periodic reporting processes and mechanisms, including strengthening synergies among them. Two years prior to the preparation of the first Global Report on Cultural Policies and on the dawn of several conventions' (notably the 1970, 1954 and 2005 Conventions) individual reflections for improving their respective periodic reporting mechanisms, the time is opportune to take stock of achievements and challenges of these complex systems and reflect on a way forward.

## 2. Purpose and Use

8. Against this background and upon request from the Culture Sector, UNESCO's IOS Evaluation Office will undertake an evaluation to assess the existing periodic

reporting mechanisms of the normative instruments in the field of culture. The main purpose of the evaluation is to generate findings, lessons learned, good practices and recommendations regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of the periodic reporting mechanisms of UNESCO's normative instruments.

9. While the evaluation will be mainly formative in its orientation – in line with the above purpose of envisaged continuous improvement – it will include summative elements as it is essential to learn what has been working so far, why and under what circumstances, and what the challenges have been in order to extract lessons and identify possible improvements to ensure effective implementation of future reporting mechanisms. The evaluation will also focus on the alignment and complementarity of the periodic reporting mechanisms with UNESCO's global priorities Africa and Gender Equality, SIDS and its continued relevance, notably in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union<sup>4</sup>.
10. The evaluation aims to help the UNESCO Culture Sector, Senior Management and the Governing Bodies of the Organization's Culture Conventions strengthen, refocus, and draw quality data from the instruments' periodic reports as well as generate stronger synergies between existing mechanisms. Finally, the evaluation shall serve as a learning exercise for UNESCO staff, Member States, and partners working on periodic reporting processes with the purpose to enhance coordination, efficiency and measurement of the impact of the Culture Sector's actions.
11. The final evaluation report will be submitted to the UNESCO Culture Sector and may be presented to the Governing Bodies established under each Convention. The evaluation will furthermore be presented to the 218<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in spring 2024.

## 3. Objectives and Scope

12. The evaluation will assess the periodic reporting mechanisms for the Culture Sector's normative instruments since the adoption of their respective latest formats and cycles but will also look back to previous cycles in order to examine any trends in reporting over time.<sup>5</sup> As this is the first time the Recommendations will be assessed; the evaluation will develop a baseline of comparison in line with the Conventions. It will build on the previous evaluations of the Culture Conventions that have assessed the

<sup>4</sup> See the [Agenda 2063 Popular Version](#), particularly Aspiration 5 for 'An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics'

<sup>5</sup> The scope of assessment will be the last round of submissions after which the Conventions/Recommendations made changes to their mechanisms. The time period for each is as follows: 1954: 2021-2024, 1970: 2020-2023, 1972: 2018-2023, 2001: N/A, 2003: 2020-2025, 2005: 2021-2024, 1980: 2022-2025, 2011: 2019-2022, 2015: 2022-2025.

respective instruments' periodic reporting mechanisms.<sup>6</sup> The following are preliminary questions structured by evaluation criteria. These questions were developed based on initial desk study and scoping interviews with 14 staff, including the Assistant-Director-General for Culture, the Executive Office and staff working on periodic reporting for each of the Conventions and Recommendations. They may be further adjusted during the inception phase of the evaluation.

### Relevance

- To what extent is the data obtained from periodic reporting relevant and useful for furthering the objectives of Conventions and Recommendations?
- What are the conditions that need to be in place to encourage UNESCO Member States to comply with their reporting obligations, even for normative instruments that are not binding?
- How can Member States be better supported for the development of comprehensive cultural policies through the periodic reporting mechanisms?
- To what extent can aligning the periodic reporting mechanisms make data collection more effective, useful and timely for future global reports such as called upon by MONDIACULT?

### Coherence

- To what extent is there overlap for the data collected by each periodic reporting mechanism?
- What can be learned from periodic reporting of other normative instruments, such as in the field of human rights?

### Effectiveness

- To what extent are the current periodic reporting mechanisms and related questionnaires effective in collecting reliable data on the implementation of the Culture Sector's normative instruments?
- What has been working well with the current periodic reporting mechanisms? What have been the challenges?

- How is the data collected from periodic reporting being used by UNESCO, its Member States and partners?
- To what extent is the analysis and findings of the periodic reporting used by UNESCO and its Member States for programming and establishing priorities for improvements?
- How effective is the examination process of the periodic reporting mechanism?
- How effective are the capacity development initiatives (training, tools, guidance, technical support...) in supporting Member States in their reporting obligations? How can UNESCO, at HQ and Field Office level, further support Member States in this regard?
- What are some good practices, in the areas of governance, coordination, and management of periodic reporting in both UNESCO and in other international treaties that can serve as examples for the Culture Conventions?

### Efficiency

- What are the current resource implications (human and financial) for the UNESCO Secretariat (across HQ and Field Offices) in supporting periodic reporting for all the Culture Sector normative instruments?
- To what extent do UNESCO Member States have the capacity to complete periodic reporting for all the normative instruments that they are party to?
- How can the periodic reporting mechanisms be improved in terms of process, format, software and platforms used in view of achieving greater efficiency and user-friendliness?
- To what extent can the periodic reporting mechanisms be harmonized in view of achieving greater efficiency? What are the implications of this for the UNESCO Secretariat, the Governing Bodies of the Culture Conventions and UNESCO Member States?

<sup>6</sup> The IOS Evaluation Office conducted six evaluations of the Standard-setting work of the Culture Sector, namely of the 1954, 1970, 1972, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Conventions between 2013 and 2019. In 2021 the standard-setting work under the 2003 Convention underwent a second evaluation.

## Sustainability

- How can capacity building towards periodic reporting be strategically oriented towards the collection of useful and reliable data?
- How can the UNESCO Culture Sector's human and financial resources be optimized for best results in periodic reporting, including through enhanced mobilization of extra-budgetary funding?
- How can the periodic reporting mechanisms best contribute to the availability of quality and reliable data on the contribution of culture to sustainable development, including through future global reports, such as for MONDIACULT?

## 4. Methodology

13. The evaluation will utilize a mixed method approach making use of qualitative and quantitative data. All findings will be triangulated from multiple data sources. Triangulation facilitates validation of data through cross verification and means that all evaluation findings must be supported by at least three distinct data sources. Possible data collection methods include:

- **Desk Study:** UNESCO's Culture Normative Instruments, Operational Directives, Reports on periodic reporting to Governing Bodies of all Culture Conventions as well as the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the Executive Board and the related global comprehensive reports, previous IOS evaluations of the Culture Sector's Normative Instruments, all publications of the Culture Sector which are fed by data from periodic reports, modules and guidance from capacity building efforts directed at periodic reporting, reports from Mondiacult 2022, formats of all questionnaires related to periodic reporting, etc.
- **Review of existing Results Frameworks of the Culture Conventions** and their indicators, as well as related guidelines
- **Review of existing periodic reporting formats and related questionnaires**
- **Mapping and analysis** of human and financial resources dedicated to periodic reporting, as well as related workflows, including for related capacity building initiatives.
- **Key Informant Interviews** with UNESCO staff, representatives of Member States, partner organizations and experts involved in the analysis of the responses.

- **Online Survey** of UNESCO Member States and Parties to Conventions that are non-Members.
- **Benchmarking exercise** to extract key lessons learned from periodic reporting mechanisms of other normative instruments, such as in the field of human rights, or other fields to be decided.
- **Participatory workshop** with the Culture Sector to steer the evaluation and to discuss preliminary findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

14. The evaluation will be led and managed by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Evaluation Office. The evaluation will be led by a team composed of a Senior evaluator from the IOS Evaluation Office and a junior IOS consultant. The Senior evaluator will assure compliance with the UNESCO Evaluation Policy and the IOS Quality Assurance Framework (contained in the [UNESCO Evaluation Manual](#)). The evaluation team will be supported by the IOS data officer proposing data sources and methods. This is in line with ongoing IOS efforts at integrating data analytics into evaluation reports. In addition, an external consultant will develop the section on benchmarking, reviewing experiences with other periodic reporting exercises, such as Universal human rights treaties. IOS is the owner of the reports, the data collection tools and the raw data.
15. An Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) will be established to guide the evaluation process and ensure the quality of associated deliverables. The group will be composed of the IOS Evaluation Office, the Culture Sector Executive Office, and representatives of the Culture Sector working on periodic reporting for the six Conventions and three Recommendations. The ERG will provide advice and quality assurance at different stages of the evaluation process. More specifically the role of the ERG is to:
  - Provide feedback on the different evaluation products (draft evaluation TOR and draft evaluation report)
  - Provide relevant information to the evaluation team e.g. suggestions for stakeholders to be consulted, documents, etc.
  - Participate in the evaluation inception and debriefing workshop and contribute to the discussions
  - Provide support to the follow-up of the evaluation through facilitating the implementation of key recommendations

## 6. Deliverables and Timeline

16. The evaluation is taking place between July 2023 and February 2024.

### Deliverables

- Deliverables by external expert(s): Analytical paper (benchmarking) on other UN entities' experience with periodic reporting mechanisms plus additional input into the data collection.
- Draft evaluation report: The draft evaluation report should be written in English, be comprised of no more than 30 pages and follow the IOS Evaluation Office template. The draft report will be shared with the Evaluation Reference Group and to relevant stakeholders in the Culture Sector for their input and to clarify inaccuracies.
- Communication outputs: The evaluation team will prepare communication products targeting different users: PowerPoint presentations for the Stakeholder Workshop, including to update the Evaluation Reference Group on progress and to present preliminary findings, presentations for the governing bodies of the Culture Conventions, a 2-page synthesis of the main findings from the evaluation, and any other products to be decided.
- Final evaluation report: The final evaluation report should incorporate comments provided by the Evaluation Reference Group without exceeding 30 pages (excluding Annexes). It should also include an Executive Summary and Annexes. The final report must comply with the [UNEG Evaluation Norms and Standards](#) and will be assessed against the [UNEG Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports](#) by an external reviewer. The evaluation will refer to the [UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation](#).

### Schedule

Activity / Deliverable	Date
Desk Study, Scoping Interviews and Draft Terms of Reference	July 2023
Finalization of Terms of Reference	Early August
Call for Proposals and Selection of Expert	August
Inception Note	September
Data Collection and Analysis	September - January
Consultants' deliverables	November
Stakeholder Workshop with Presentation of Preliminary Findings	End January 2024
Draft Evaluation Report	End January
Final Evaluation Report in English	February
Presentation of Evaluation to the 219 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board	March 2024 To be confirmed
Presentations to governing bodies of the Culture Conventions	To be defined

## 7. Qualifications for external Evaluation Consultant

17. Given the specific and technical nature of the evaluation, external expertise is being sought in reporting mechanisms for other normative instruments in the field of human rights (benchmarking exercise). Expressions of interest will be sought from individuals with the following qualifications:
- No previous involvement in the implementation of UNESCO activities under review (occasional attendance of events or meetings may be accepted)
  - University degree at Master's level or equivalent in law, social / political sciences, economics or related field
  - Strong knowledge and understanding of periodic reporting mechanisms for normative instruments (demonstrated with examples of previous evaluation, research, publication, etc. on the subject area)
  - Desired experience with periodic reporting in organizations other than UNESCO
  - Familiarity with UNESCO or UN mandates and its programming in the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda
  - Demonstrated understanding of UN mandates in Human Rights and Gender Equality
  - Excellent writing skills in English and ability to work in French (read documents, conduct interviews, send emails)
  - Knowledge of other UN languages particularly Spanish is an asset.
18. Proposals should consist of a technical and a financial proposal to be submitted as separate documents. Verification of qualifications will be based on the provided curriculum vitae and may include a reference check. Names, titles and contact details of three references should be provided as well as a web link or an electronic copy of one recently completed report with relevance to the assignment. It is mandatory that no team member has had any previous involvement in the development or implementation of the activities under review.

## 8. Key Resources

- UNESCO [Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 \(37 C/4\)](#)
- UNESCO [Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 \(41 C/4\)](#)
- UNESCO's [6 Culture Conventions](#)
- UNESCO's [3 Recommendations](#)
- [Mondiacult Declaration](#)
- UNESCO [Evaluation Policy 2022-29](#)
- UNESCO [Evaluation Manual](#) (2023)
- UNEG (2008) [Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation](#)
- UNEG (2017) [Norms and Standards for Evaluation](#)

## Annex B. Literature

- Baltà, J. (2023, October). UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: Review of QPR Form. UNESCO.
- Consolidated Report on the Third UNESCO Member States Consultation on the Implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. (2023). UNESCO. Retrieved from <https://whc.unesco.org/document/199857>
- Empowering creativity: Implementing the UNESCO 1980 Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist; 5th global consultation. (2023). UNESCO. <https://doi.org/10.58337/iejf3179>
- Evaluation of the feasibility of the proposal to modify the national reporting procedure (C70/22/10.SC/8.REV). UNESCO. (2022, May).
- Final Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO (212 EX/21.II.INF). UNESCO. (2021, September).
- Implementation of the 1980 Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist- Consolidated Report on the Implementation of the Recommendation (217 EX/20.III). UNESCO. (2023, August).
- Periodic reporting mechanism under the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols (C54/23/25.HCP/5). UNESCO. (2023, October).
- Progress report on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the other regions (WHC/23/45.COM/10C). UNESCO. (2023, July).
- Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plans for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the other regions (WHC/23/45.COM10D). UNESCO. (2023, September).
- Progress report on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the other regions (WHC/23/45.COM10E). UNESCO. (2023, September).
- Quadrennial periodic reports: Transmission of new reports and proposal to rationalize their submission cycles (DCE/23/9.CP7). UNESCO. (2023, May).
- Quadrennial Reports to the 2005 Convention: Form for Civil Society Organizations (DCE 218.CP9 QPR). UNESCO.
- Questionnaire for State Party Reporting (UCH/23/9.MSP/8 INF.2). UNESCO. (2023, June).
- Re]Shaping Policies for Creativity – Addressing culture as a global public good. (2022). UNESCO. Retrieved from <https://www.unesco.org/reports/reshaping-creativity/2022/en>
- Report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (217 EX/45). UNESCO. (2023, October).
- Report on the Implementation of the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on Museums & Collections. (2019). UNESCO. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371549>
- Report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific (WHC/23/45.C/10A). UNESCO. (2023, July).
- Report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Latin America and the Caribbean (2023, WHC/23/45.COM10B). UNESCO. (2023, July).
- Report on the results of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Arab States (WHC/21/44.COM/10A). UNESCO. (2021, June).
- Results framework for the implementation and monitoring of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH/23/9.MSP/8 INF.1). UNESCO. (2023, June).
- Transmission of new quadrennial periodic reports and proposals to rationalize their submission cycles (16/IGC/5/QPR). UNESCO. (2023, January).
- Transmission of new Quadrennial Reports (DCE/215.IGC5). UNESCO. (2022, January).
- UNESCO. (n.d.). 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage. "Global Capacity-Building Programme". Retrieved from <https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building>
- UNESCO. (n.d.). 2005 Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions. "Capacity building". Retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/capacity-building>

## Annex C. Persons interviewed

The evaluation team interviewed 37 people – of whom 23 women and 14 men – over the course of this evaluation. Within each category, the interviewees are listed in alphabetical order.

### UNESCO staff

Gender	Surname	First name	Sector	Unit	Title
Ms	Altnoder	Sunna	CLT	Movable Heritage and Museums	Head of Unit
Ms	Ashraf Ali	Mirna	CLT	World Heritage Programme	Programme Assistant
Ms	Aubert	Frederique	CLT	Policy and Statutory Meetings	Head of Unit
Ms	Besançon	Anne Sophie	CLT	Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties	Associate Programme Specialist
Ms	de Sancristobal	Berta	CLT	World Heritage Centre/ Europe and North America	Head of Unit
Ms	Duarte de Paula	Fabiana	CLT	World Heritage Centre/Arab States	Associate Programme Specialist
Mr	Esquivel	Eric	CLT	Policy and Statutory Meetings	Web and Lan Administrator
Mr	Etowar	Valentino	CLT	Policy and Statutory Meetings	Associate Project Officer
Ms	Garcia de Ugarte	Sara	CLT	Executive Office	Programme Coordination Officer
Ms	Gonzalez Medina	Ana	CLT	Capacity Building and Heritage Policy	Programme Specialist
Ms	Hosagrahar	Jyoti	CLT	World Heritage Programme	Deputy Director
Ms	Huang	Patricia	CLT	Programmes and Stakeholder Outreach	Associate Project Officer
Mr	Joseph	George	CLT	Movable Heritage and Museums	Associate Programme Specialist
Ms	Malecot	Louise	CLT	Movable Heritage and Museums	Associate Programme Specialist
Mr	Mustafaev	Tural	CLT	Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties	Associate Programme Specialist
Ms	Lee	Doyun	CLT	Programmes and Stakeholder Outreach	Head of Unit
Mr	Ottone Ramirez	Ernesto	CLT	Executive Office	Assistant Director General
Mr	Pessoa	Jose	UIS	UNESCO Institute of Statistics	Programme Specialist
Mr	Pikkat	Krista	CLT	Culture and Emergencies Entity	Director
Mr	Planche	Edouard	CLT	Underwater Cultural Heritage	Head of Unit a.i.
Ms	Schneider	Lucie	CLT	Programmes and Stakeholder Outreach	Associate Project Officer
Ms	Schnuttgen	Susanne	CLT	Capacity Building and Heritage	Head of Unit
Ms	Sidorenko	Anne	CLT	Culture and Emergencies	Head of Unit
Ms	Soraide Duran	Rosario	CLT	Programmes and Stakeholder Outreach	Project Officer
Ms	Tamas	Ioana	CLT	Programme Management Unit	Associate Project Officer
Ms	Thiboutot	Gabrielle	CLT	Programmes and Stakeholder Outreach	Associate Programme Specialist
Mr	Trasancos	Guillermo	LA	Conventions and Recommendations	Chief of Section



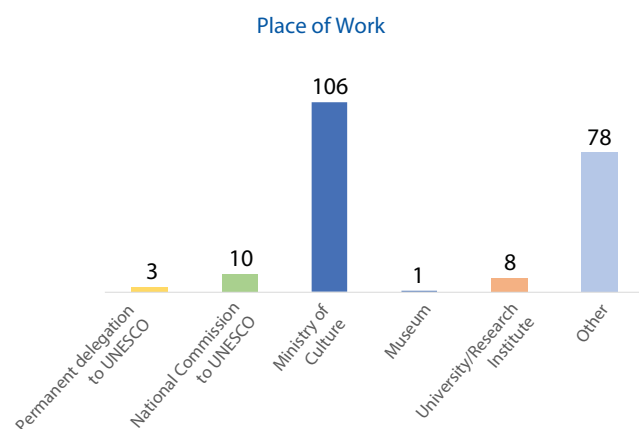
## CLT External Experts

Gender	Surname	First name	Sector	Unit
Mr	Baltà	Jordi	External analysis for 2005 Convention	Consultant, researcher and trainer in cultural policy and international affairs
Ms	Deacon	Harriet	External analysis for 2003 Convention	Historian and consultant
Mr	Ellis	Simon	External analysis for 1954 and 1972	Archaeologist and international consultant
Mr	Flemming	Tom	External analysis for 1980 Rec	Consultant in cultural and creative industries
Mr	Mairesse	François	External analysis for 2015 Rec	Professor and museologist
Ms	Marana	Maider	External analysis for 1972 Convention	Independent consultant on public policies and human rights
Ms	Rajagopal	Champaka	External analysis for 2011 Rec	Independent practitioner and researcher in urban policy, planning and governance
Ms	Sementchouk	Ioulia	External analysis for 1954 and 1972	Senior data analyst at UNIS
Mr	Steck	Piotr	External analysis for 1972 Convention	Director of the Institute of Legal Studies w Uniwersytet Opolski
Ms	Schmidt	Katherin	External analysis for 1980 Rec	Expert and consultant in culture and creative industries

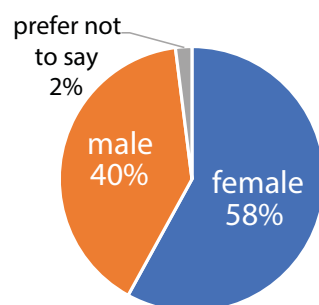
# Annex D. Member State Survey Questions and Results

Please select your country:

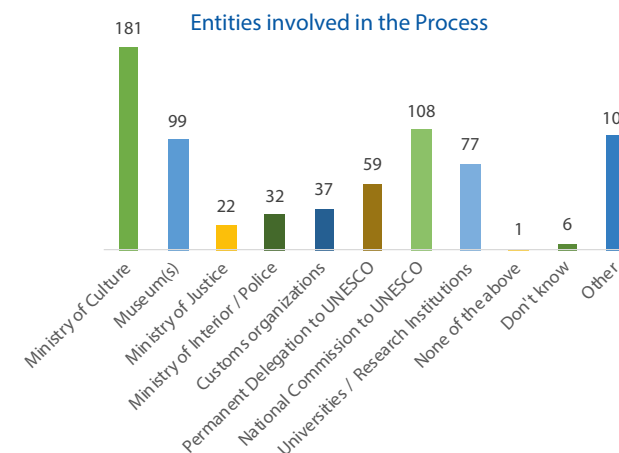
1. Please indicate your place of work:



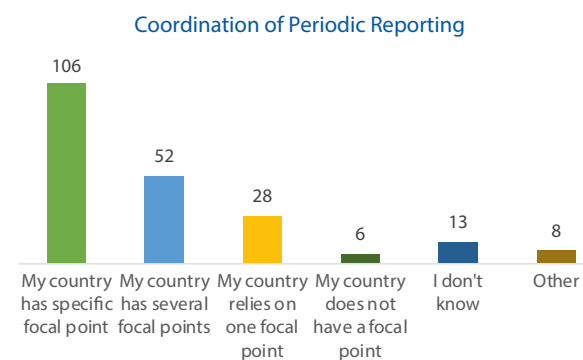
2. Please indicate your name (optional):
3. Please indicate your position within your organization (optional):
4. Please indicate your gender:



5. What entities have been involved in reporting on UNESCO's culture conventions / recommendations?

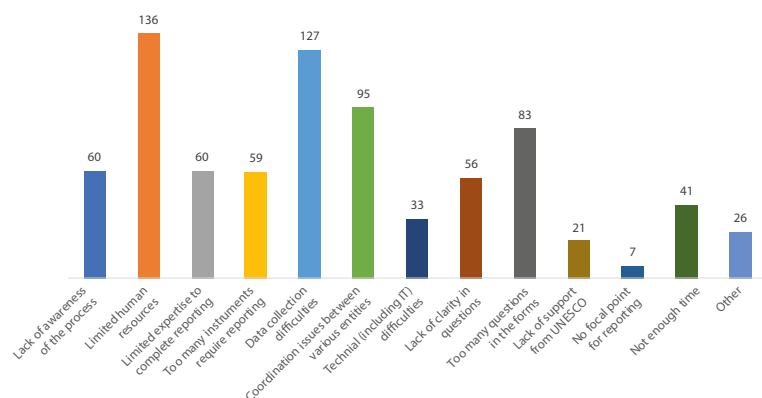


6. Please indicate an estimated number of people involved in the reporting on culture conventions / recommendations in your country.
7. How does your country compile data from various entities for reporting on culture conventions / recommendations?
8. Please indicate the following regarding the coordination of reporting on culture conventions / recommendations:



9. What challenges does your country face in reporting on UNESCO culture conventions/ recommendations? Please check all that apply.

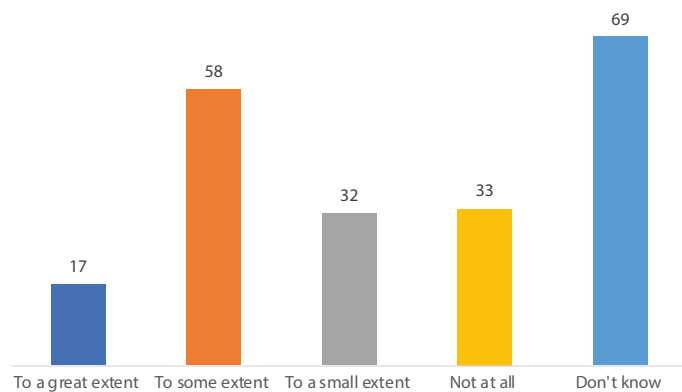
Challenges your country faces



Please describe any challenges that your country faced during reporting.

10. In your view, to what extent are there overlaps between questions in the different reporting mechanisms on culture conventions / recommendations?

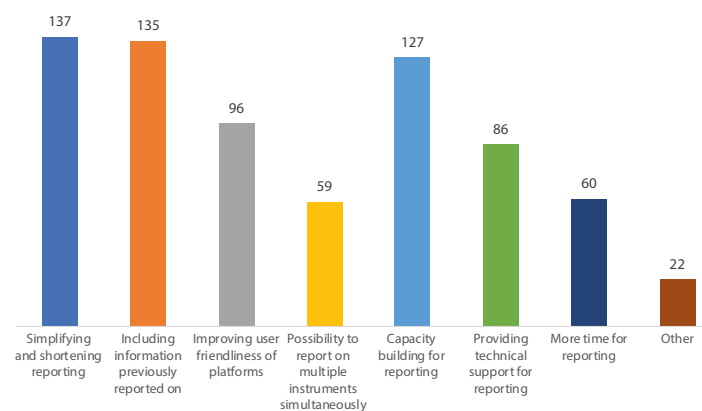
Overlaps between questions



11. Please provide any insights on the specific areas and instruments where you see overlaps in reporting?

12. How can the reporting processes for UNESCO culture conventions / recommendations be improved? Please check all that apply.

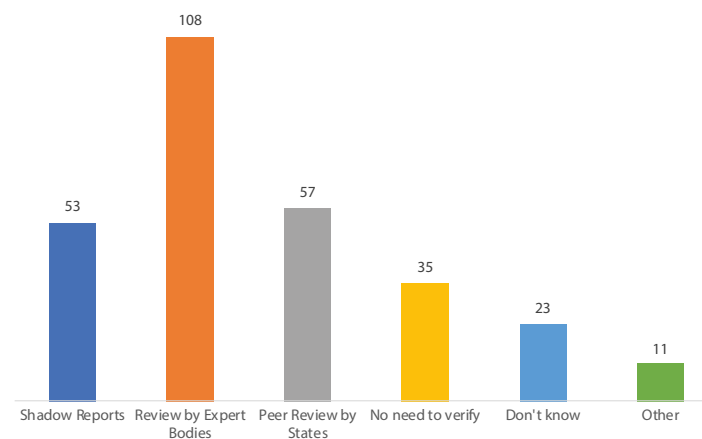
How can the process be improved?



13. How useful is periodic reporting on culture conventions / recommendations for your country? If it is not very useful, what would make it useful (please indicate in the "other" category)?

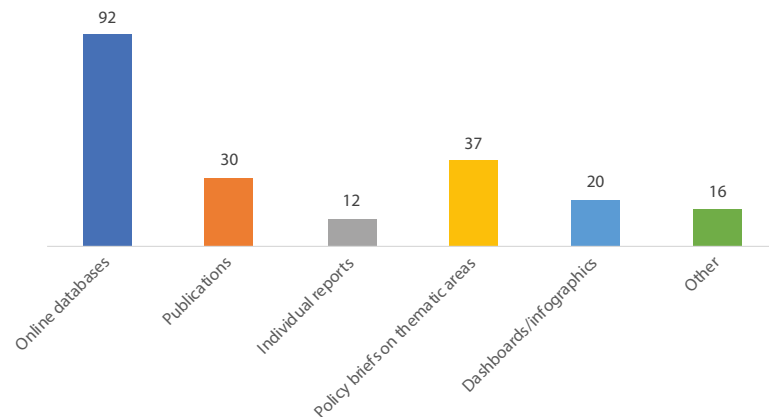
14. In your view, how can UNESCO verify the quality of data received in reports on culture conventions and recommendations ?

How can UNESCO verify the Data from Reports?



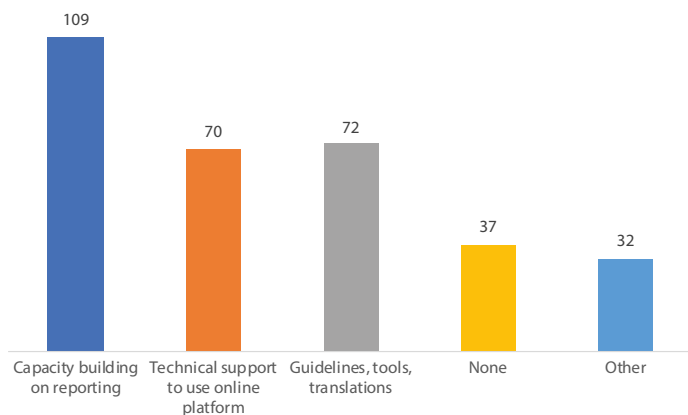
15. How do you use the data from these platforms? If you do not use the data, what are some incentives for using the data in the future?
16. How should information from periodic reports be presented and communicated so that you can use it?

How should information be presented and communicated?

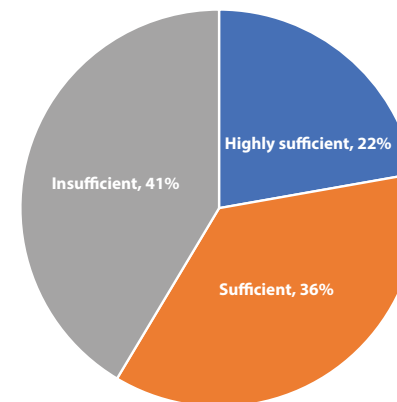


17. What kind of support has your country received from UNESCO for reporting on culture conventions / recommendations? Please specify the types of support received in the "other" category.

What kind of support has your country received?



18. To what extent was UNESCO's support sufficient to enable your country to complete your reporting obligations for all culture instruments that your country has ratified?



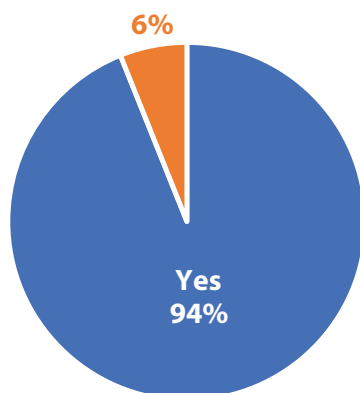
19. What support can UNESCO provide to your country to enable you to complete all your reporting commitments?
20. What, if any, benefits do you see in aligning / harmonizing reporting for all UNESCO culture conventions / recommendations?
21. What do you expect from the future Global Report on Cultural Policies? Please rank in order of importance.
22. Please share any other views on reporting on UNESCO culture conventions / recommendations here.

## Annex E. Survey of Field Office CLT Staff

Please select your field office.

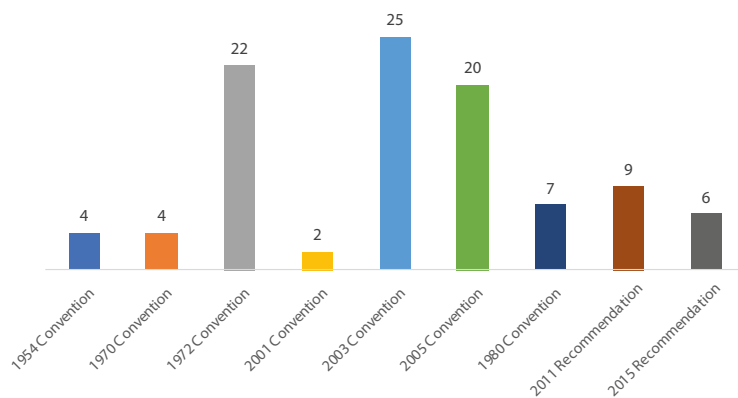
1. Have you supported periodic reporting for normative instruments in culture in any of the countries under your responsibility?

Have you supported Periodic Reporting?



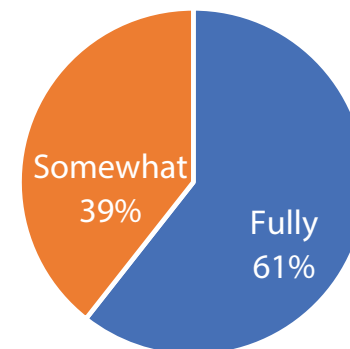
2. Please indicate the culture instrument(s) for which you have supported periodic reporting :

What instruments have you supported?



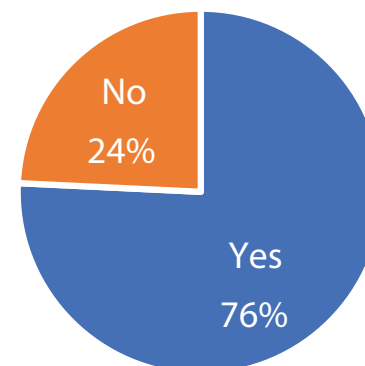
3. Please tell us why you have not supported periodic reporting for any instrument in culture:
4. Please indicate the type of support you provided and for which conventions/recommendations:
5. Are you informed by the Culture Sector at Headquarters on periodic reporting process?

Are you informed by HQ on the periodic reporting process?



6. Do you use the information from periodic reports for your work?

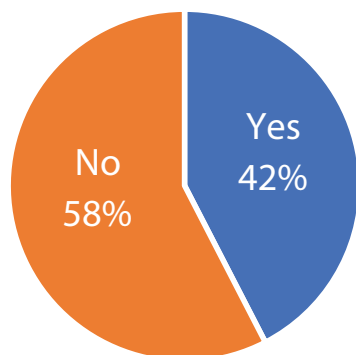
Do you use the information for your work?



Please elaborate on how you use the information from periodic reports for your work:

7. Are you aware of current discussions on aligning / harmonizing periodic reporting for UNESCO culture conventions / recommendations?

Are you aware of harmonization efforts?



8. What, if any, benefits do you see in aligning / harmonizing reporting for all UNESCO culture conventions / recommendations?
9. In your view, what role should UNESCO field offices play in supporting periodic reporting in the future?

## Annex F. Biodata of the evaluation team

Ekaterina Sediakina-Rivière is a Principal Evaluation Specialist at UNESCO's Evaluation Office. Ekaterina has managed and conducted several evaluations on UNESCO's standard-setting instruments in the Culture Sector (1954, 2001 and 2003 Conventions), as well as well as in Social and Human Sciences (2005 Convention against Doping in Sport). Prior to joining UNESCO, Ekaterina was at the Independent Evaluation Unit of the UNODC in Vienna and worked in institutional communication in the public and private sectors in France. Ekaterina has a Master's degree in International Law and Administration from the Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne and a Master's degree in Political Science and Communication from the Institute of Political Science in Aix-en-Provence.

Savannah Saunders is an Associate Evaluator with UNESCO's Evaluation Office. Prior to joining UNESCO, Savannah held positions at the OECD and UNESCO-IIEP where her work focused on comparative education policy and gender equality in education planning. Savannah holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Swarthmore College and a dual master's degree in economics and psychology from The Paris School of Economics and The Sorbonne.



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