

The Czech Republic Declaration

The 2010 ICCN International Round Table of Mayors

On State/Local Government's approach to Intangible Cultural Heritage and

The cultural policies of countries around the world

(Vlcnov, Uheraske Hradiste and Prague, the Czech Republic, 9-11 September 2010)

We, the participants of the 2010 ICCN Round Table of Mayors, meeting in Vlcnov, Uheraske Hradiste and Prague, the Czech Republic, from 9 September to 11 September 2010,

Expressing our gratitude to the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, host cities, organizers and other organizations who have supported this meeting with their cordial welcome, hospitality and excellent organization of the meeting,

Referring to the existing efforts at the local, national and international levels in the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and, in particular, actions of local governments under the spirit of the Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network, hereafter the ICCN, and Gangneung Declaration of 2004,

Considering the importance of Intangible Cultural Heritage in contributing to each community's sense of identity, strengthening social cohesion, to sustainable local development, and promoting cultural peace,

Recognizing that local governments are the significant authority of the communities, groups or individuals, which are the principal actors in the safeguarding, transmission and revitalization of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

Confirming that local governments are the direct actors in taking mutual, immediate action for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and in confronting the threats of indiscreet globalization and development,

Calling upon the interactive cooperation at the local, national and international levels with recognition that local governments stand at the forefront for the safeguarding and promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage and for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression,

Adopt the present Declaration of 11 September 2010 and support as listed below:

We, the mayors, members of the ICCN and other participants of the 2010 ICCN Round Table of Mayors, are calling on

a) The ICCN members and other local authorities,

1. *To recall* that it is essential to establish a positive environment to produce effective and creative cultural policies for the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

2. *To establish* a concrete and continuing communication method with communities who safeguard, transmit and recreate Intangible Cultural Heritage,

3. *To persuade* other towns and municipalities that have significant intangible cultural heritage to become ICCN members,

4. *To provide* a culture friendly environment for the youth, through the formation of the Youth forum, to help raise awareness of Intangible Cultural Heritage among the youth, and encourage participation of youth practitioners who possess knowledge and skills of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,

5. *To organize* a Joint Projects among the ICCN members for sharing and promoting the values of intangible cultural heritage at the international level, and to make every endeavor for its success in cooperation with the international community,

6. *To encourage the participation of* NGOs in the safeguarding activities;

7. *To inform* the central bodies and National Commissions for UNESCO of the members' countries of this Declaration

b) States Policy Makers,

1. *To recognize* their responsibility to promote and preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage in their territories by providing a legal, political and economic environment that will support the efforts of local governments,

2. *To encourage* the local authorities in their countries to participate in the activities of

ICCN, to enhance their capacity in the safeguarding and promotion of their intangible cultural heritage,

3. *To establish* regular communication among local governments, states, and the National Commissions of UNESCO on the issue of safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

c) The National Commissions for UNESCO

1. *To recognize* that local governments are the significant actors in implementing the 2003 UNESCO Convention with its interdependent relationship with the communities and individuals,

2. *To consider* how to appeal to UNESCO to strengthen the cooperation with local governments while preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage,

3. *To consider* how to better exchange any of its own experiences with ICCN member cities that may lead to a greater safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.