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Address by Jyoti Hosagrahar

At this point I want to share with you the good news that the Secretariat has signed its first strategic partnership agreement with a young cultural entrepreneur and philanthropist – Sabrina Ho – who we will work with over the next three years to support young creative entrepreneurs in the global South.

I am also happy to report that the global strategy for capacity-building adopted in 2013 has resulted in many useful operational tools.

In particular, a new training module is being currently developed on artistic freedom,

prepared by CSOs from different parts of the world, assessing the impact of the Convention and the challenges to be addressed.

I hope we can continue to bolster our partnerships with civil society organizations, which remain a unique feature of the Convention.

We know that the cultural industries require support and infrastructure. To ensure the continued diversity of cultural expressions, creators need space, opportunity, artistic freedom and support. We also need the engagement from the development community. This is why we organized yesterday a panel discussion with various representatives of organizations, regional banks and development agencies. We are hopeful that this will lead to new partnerships and cooperation schemes, as illustrated by the new project agreement we just signed two weeks ago with the German Cooperation to support the music industry sector in Morocco.

Lastly, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the governments of Italy, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the government of Québec for their invaluable support of the work of the Secretariat, and reiterate our ongoing efforts to mobilize further financial support from Parties, donors and development agencies.

Recently, Denmark and Norway have generously agreed to further support the implementation of the Convention's capacity-development programme, in the area of artistic freedom.

We are also hopeful that a new project with the European Union to support the Expert Facility and the establishment of regulatory frameworks for the cultural and creative industries in developing countries will be signed in a very near future.

Without this support, our success in building

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