



*dé*livré par *Madame Françoise Rivière,*  
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Monsieur le Président du Comité intergouvernemental,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et chefs de délégations,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Enfin, à titre plus personnel, je voudrais rendre un hommage appuyé à l'Ambassadeur Gilbert Laurin, qui présidera pour la troisième et dernière fois ce Comité. Son savoir faire, sa rigueur et son sens du consensus ont toujours été essentiels à l'avancée de nos travaux. Je le remercie donc, en notre nom à tous, de conduire à nouveau cette session avec cette compétence et cette patience qui le caractérisent si bien.

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Fort du mandat qui vous été donné par la Conférence des Parties en juin 2007, l'ordre du jour de votre session est à nouveau très impressionnant. Après avoir adopté des projets de directives opérationnelles pour les articles 7, 8, 11, 15 et 17 de la Convention, vous devez maintenant examiner le

In considering the draft operational guidelines for Articles 12, 13 and 14 your debates and decisions will go to the heart of UNESCO's work to promote cultural diversity both as a driver of development and a provider of meaning, identity and dialogue. The themes you will be addressing: international cooperation; the integration of culture into development policies; cooperation for development and the role of preferential treatment in this regard are pivotal to the Convention and to the fulfilment of UNESCO's strategic objectives in the domain of culture.

In this regard, I would like to express my thanks to the 29 States Parties whose written proposals in relation to the implementation of Article 13 form the basis of the information document prepared to assist your discussions. I should also like to underscore that the draft takes into account the outcomes of two decisive encounters relative to international thinking about the integration of cultural policies in development strategies: the action plan adopted in 1998 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development in Stockholm; and the conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

Of course, development strategies are not formulated solely in a national context. That is why the document devoted to Article 14 on "Cooperation for development" fully reflects the principles of international solidarity and cooperation, complementarity of economic and cultural aspects of development, and sustainable development. It also specifies that Parties must undertake to support cooperation for sustainable development and reduction of poverty, especially in relation to the specific needs of developing countries, in order to foster the emergence of a .300048( 6

received from Andorra, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Monaco, Quebec, Saint Lucia and India. In addition, contributions have been pledged by Cameroon, China, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and Uruguay, as well as the Communauté française de Belgique and Monaco, which has committed to make a second contribution. The generosity of these Parties is much appreciated. However, the fact remains that this amount is insufficient to the task.

Unlike the Funds established under the 1972 and 2003 Conventions, the International Fund for Cultural Diversity is composed of voluntary contributions. I very much hope this does not become an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention. While we are all aware of the difficulties arising from the present financial crisis, I hope that States Parties and other potential donors will recognize the heightened importance of culture in times of emergency and demonstrate renewed solidarity by providing the funding needed to help meet our shared objectives.

This session will also be asked to take note of the expert reports on preferential treatment for developing countries. Allow me to express my thanks to the two experts chosen to coordinate this work – Mr Pierre Defraigne of Belgium and Ms Vera Helena Thorstensen of Brazil. They will be with you on Thursday to present the 6 expert reports and to provide an overview of how preferential

