

Address by M r Kishore Rao, Director of the World Heritage Centre

on the occasion of the seventh ordinary session of the Intergovernmental  
Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

UNESCO, 10 December 2013

Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Avant de commencer nos travaux, permettez-moi de vous inviter tous à observer une minute de silence en la mémoire de Nelson Mandela dont les funérailles ont lieu aujourd'hui en Afrique du Sud.

[MINUTE DE SILENCE]

C'est un plaisir de vous accueillir aujourd'hui à l'UNESCO pour la 7<sup>ème</sup> session de ce Comité.

La Directrice générale, Madame Irina Bokova, s'est rendue aux obsèques de Nelson Mandela et

Ces rapports nous engagent et nous inspirent. Il y a là un socle qui sert de façon décisive notre plaidoyer sur l'intégration de la culture dans l'agenda du développement après 2015.

Our aim today is that these various activities converge and progressively build a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the Convention, adapted to country needs and priorities. Such a programme, presented to this session as a specific information document, must become part of a global strategic investment in capacity development.

As I said, very encouraging preliminary ground work has started. Capacity-development is, however, a long-term process. Necessary extra-budgetary funds need to be mobilized as a matter of priority.

In this context, I also call your attention to the document IGC/13 which sets out for the Committee the main elements for a potential work plan with activities to be pursued in 2014, including timelines and estimated budget requirements.

I can assure you that the Secretariat will do its utmost, despite the increasing workload with decreasing funding, to respond efficiently to the priorities identified by Member States. To achieve this, and as recommended by the IOS audit of the working methods of the Cultural Conventions, we are suggesting the creation a sub-fund within the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) for strengthening the human resource capacities of the Secretariat. I hope you will support this proposal, already approved in the context of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we prepare for the celebrations in 2015 of the 10th anniversary of the Convention, a powerful message is emerging from the first results of implementing the Convention.

We are also learning about what solutions can be found to address emerging challenges, such as the impact of the development of digital technologies on the Convention, the role of public service broadcasting or the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention.

Sharing these experiences is at the heart of the Convention and its international cooperation agenda. As we go forward in the articulation of our future agendas and priorities, we must continue working together to demonstrate how investments in culture are proving to make a difference in achieving economic and social development goals

The UN Creative Economy Report features selected case studies and examples from across the world that provide such evidence of the Convention in action and can help us move the Culture and development agenda forward together. At the end of this afternoon's session, the Report will be presented at the UN in New York and I invite you all to watch the live webcast in this room at 6 pm.

I wish you very fruitful debates and thank you for your attention.