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General debate on the implementation of the Convention by stakeholders, Conference of the Parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

First of all, I would like to thank the secretariat of the 2005 Convention for its support in organizing the Civil Society Forum, where we had very rich discussions yesterday, on the role of civil society and on several important topics.

The challenges of civil society participation are real, but the vitality of civil society in the cultural sector is very important.

The IFCCD will organize a pan-African conference as part of its 6th congress to be held in Lomé, Togo, from 9 to 11 October 2019, which is supported by the International Organization for la Francophonie. For this occasion, we reach out to government representatives and other civil society organizations to join us in the public conference we are organizing, which aims to foster partnerships between governments and civil society in the development of public policies, particularly in Africa.

The topics we need to discuss together are many: intellectual property, digital reality, women's participation, trade agreements and cultural clauses and other topics to implement the 2005 Convention.