

## **INTERVENTION BY BEAT SANTSCHI**

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### **13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

As this meeting marks a change of leadership at the secretariat of the Convention, we'd like to underline our recognition of the important work that has been done over the last years and the novel possibilities for civil society participation that have been established. An important indicator to us is the growing presence of civil society in both the Conference of Parties and the Intergovernmental committee meeting as expressed in the report.

We also wish to warmly welcome the new secretary, Toussaint Tiendrebeogo, and are offering our full cooperation for the many projects and work items that lie ahead of him and his team.

That being said, we are concerned by one aspect of the report.

We are pleased to see that many parties, and even non parties, dedicate funding to advance the mission of the Convention. But two paths seem to be offered: one that allows funders recognition for their involvement and the choice of what their funds are supporting, and another one which represents a collective effort to achieve coherent objectives.

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) doesn't currently allow for the same level of recognition, of public visibility of the contributors. Perhaps something could be changed in that regard as an incentive for more, and more regular contributions to the fund, so that we can move toward a greater consolidation of our efforts to implement the convention.