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on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

The IFCCD would like to thank the secretariat for bringing forward the
important issue of preferential treatment to address the imbalance in trade
relations and obstacles to the mobility of artists and cultural professionals. As
noted in the working paper, only three of the 59 agreements examined in the
research contain a preferential treatment clause. This is, however, one of the
most binding provisions of the Convention.

We are concerned that the safety of the artist continues to be threatened with
regard to the ease of movement between countries. This particularly affects
artists from the South and artists who travel to countries where the level of
security is problematic. Everyone must contribute to the free movement of
artists and to safer conditions in the affected areas. We call on all countries
to return to the fundamental values of the 1980 Recommendation and to open
their borders to the enrichment of visiting artists.

We would also like to highlight the excellent initiative to develop training
material on this issue. We invite you to continue your efforts to make these
training materials accessible to as many people as possible. For example, the
IFCCD President suggested last year that the materials be shared with the
often changing staff of embassies and agencies that process visa
applications, to facilitate the mobility of artists.