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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.