

INTERVENTION BY NATHALIE GUAY
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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**

We would first like to thank the 40 parties who generously contributed to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD). We were struck by the fact that 4 parties contributed for more than half of the donation, namely Canada, including Quebec's contribution, France, Belgium and Brazil. As generous as these contributions are, we need more parties to contribute regularly to the IFCD. Last year, 480 projects were submitted and only 9 can now receive funding.

We want to highlight that 85 of those projects were rejected because 21 National Commissions did not participate to the process. This needs to change. Submitting a project represents many, many hours of work, which, in the case of civil society, is a real challenge. There might be excellent projects in that rejected pile, and civil society in these countries might never have a chance to receive IFCD support. We want to thank the 67 National Commissions that have filled their duty.

We are concerned about the increasing amount of work this process represents for applicants and evaluators at different levels. Austria's proposal for a two-stage submission should be seriously evaluated, so that those who have no chance of being selected, for a variety of reasons, can be notified and do not waste more time on the application, and so that those who assess do not review as many applications.