

## **Joint intervention to defend civile society – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> session of the ICG**

### **UNESCO, Paris**

Based on the Basic texts of the Convention 2005, we would like to underscore that the role of Civil Society within this Convention is one of the pillars on which this Convention is based, this is explicitly recognized in Article 11.

The criteria on which CSO are recognized as observers to the Convention are clear and have been reiterated in yesterday's discussions. We welcome the independence of this procedure and that the Rules of Procedures of the Convention – adopted by Parties – give this responsibility to the UNESCO Secretariat.

On the basis of the above mentioned criteria approved by Parties, we the undersigned would like to affirm:

The developments in the opening session of the 16th IGC have the potential to seriously undermine mutual trust between Parties and all civil society organisations that have completed their admission process and were invited to this session. This would further create a dangerous precedent also for all other UN International Treaties that include other stakeholders. We would be forced to address this incident within the global community.

Restrictions on civil society organisations – which include judicial harassment, labelling, bans as well as other measures – are part of efforts to delegitimize the role of civil society organisations worldwide, and risk negatively impacting human rights policy and practice. Public debates at the UN level have reiterated the role of civil society actors in ensuring that human rights and in this case, the diversity of cultural expressions are promoted and are protected by individual states.

We therefore call upon Parties to reject the proposal to exclude any civil society organization that has been accredited after a process of verification respecting all criteria requested.

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AFRICALIA

International Music Council

European Theatre Convention

International Affiliation of Writers Guilds

International Theatre Institute

Coligação Portuguesa de Diversidade Cultural

International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity

International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication

Coalición Paraguaya para la Diversidad Cultural

Coalition Suisse pour la diversité culturelle

Coalition Malienne pour la Diversité Culturelle

Fundación Arte al Paso Colombia

Coalition for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Canada) La Coalition pour la Diversité des Expressions Culturelles (Canada)

Coalition togolaise pour la Diversité Culturelle

Coalition Française pour la Diversité Culturelle

Culture et Développement

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

CID International Dance Council

Nhimbe Trust

Cultura Contra Conflict

CFW- Culture Funding Watch

PEN International

Asociación Cultural Baizara

Association Nationale Cultures du Monde

European Writers' Council (EWC)

Zone Franche, World Music Network

NGO - UNESCO Liaison Committee

Fédération Internationale des Musiciens (FIM)

Fondation Marcel Hicter pour la démocratie culturelle

Culture, Paix et Développement (Togo)

Culture All Nippon (CAN)