

Joint intervention in defense of Civil Society

February 10, 16th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee

UNESCO, Paris

Following our first intervention on the 8th of February as well as the decision on item 2 taken by Parties by consensus yesterday with no further possibility of exchange prior to this with civil society representatives, the CSO present at the 16th IGC were forced to express through different means of action their deep concern since those decisions threaten directly the basic principles of the Convention as well as fundamental freedoms.

To underline the gravity of the situation, leaving the room was the only option left to deliver the message that the mutual trust built over years between Parties and civil society has been compromised. We thank those Parties that have introduced important amendments to the draft decision and all members of the Committee for the adoption of the decision on item 10 reinforcing the collaboration with civil society to implement the Convention.

Our return to this meeting is an expression of our good faith and our openness to dialogue. We come back into this meeting after having had a first dialogue with the UNESCO Secretariat and extensive exchanges among our organisations. We do not feel entirely reassured of being granted the safe space that we need for our contribution to the work of the Committee.

Our future presence at meetings of the governing bodies will be conditional on the outcome of a continued dialogue with the Secretariat as per the mandate given to it by the members of the Committee. This dialogue needs to happen within a set timeframe and aim to create the environment that will empower us to fully embrace the role given to civil society as per Article 11. Finally, we express our gratitude to the ADG for Culture and the Secretariat of the Convention for their proactiveness in reaching out to us.

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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)