



Statement, read by IFCCD General Secretary Marie-Julie Desrochers

I am the Secretary General of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, and the Executive Director of the Canadian Coalition for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The IFCCD is a leading civil society actor in UNESCO's work on the Convention. Our members vary in legal and organizational form, but represent creators, artists, independent producers, distributors, broadcasters and publishers in the book, film, television, music, performing arts and visual arts sectors. In other words, a plethora of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are represented. Simply by adding up the members of this category of the Canadian, French and Austrian Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, we represent more than 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises.

In many cultural sectors, the diversity of cultural expression relies on the ability of creators to either become entrepreneurs themselves to give life to their work and make a living from it, or to turn to local independent businesses to support them in all the steps leading to the public. The voices of these entrepreneurs are very important to the IFCCD and are taken into consideration in every consultation or speaking engagement.

We understand the desire to ensure that these voices are adequately represented, but we want to emphasize that they already are. At last year's meeting of this Committee, we opposed the creation of a parallel advisory mechanism, seeing the risk of marginalizing the contribution of other civil society organizations. We maintain this position: we must avoid multiplying the number of mechanisms and make sure to improve those that already exist.

In this context, considering the very limited resources of the Secretariat and taking into account the fact that business voices are already represented at the Civil Society Forum scheduled for June, through organizations such as ours, we believe that Option 1, which provides for online consultations, is preferable to the second. We offer our collaboration to the Secretariat to more specifically include the voices of those members we represent, if they so desire.



Statement, read by Vice-President Americas Alejandra Diaz

I am Alejandra Diaz, President of the Paraguayan Coalition for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity.

First, let me remind you, as the IFCCD's Secretary General did this morning, that the members of the Coalitions for Cultural Diversity include creators, artists, independent producers, distributors, broadcasters and publishers in the book, film, television, music, dance, theater, circus and visual arts sectors. In other words, cultural organizations and institutions in favor of the diversity of cultural expressions are represented.

Cultural centers, festivals, theaters, cinemas, book fairs, libraries and art galleries are crucial to guaranteeing the diversity of cultural expressions and we understand the will to mobilize these actors in connection with the 2005 Convention. **Nevertheless, the IFCCD has concerns about all three proposals and we believe it is premature to make a decision because too many questions remain unanswered, despite the explanations provided today.**

With respect to the first proposal, we believe that authorizing the use of the emblem, which involves an evaluation process, would require significant resources. This is tantamount to creating a new UNESCO network, which will only add to the workload of the Secretariat and the various UNESCO networks involved, whose resources are already inadequate. In the documentation provided, we did not find anything to allay these fears. How would what would look like a new network be managed? Who would be responsible for the evaluations and the accreditation process?

With regard to the second proposal, we would like to remind you that the Civil Society Organizations Forum is only one day long. While the objective of giving a voice to as many civil society stakeholders as possible is noble in itself, we must be careful about the ways in which this is achieved. By multiplying the channels of consultation and segmenting speeches, the space given to collective voices that act, upstream, as effective forums for dialogue and represent a diversity of consensus points of view is diluted. How does the Secretariat intend to integrate this new segment without penalizing the already active civil society organizations?

Finally, the third proposal seems very demanding in terms of financial and organizational resources. In the context of the Secretariat's very limited resources, we

believe that this is undesirable and would risk weakening civil society participation. Again, we note a lack of explanation of this in the documentation provided.

The IFCCD believes that it would be important to obtain more information on each of the proposals and to defer the decision to the Conference of the Parties.