

**To the National Commissions for
UNESCO of Parties to the 2005
Convention**

30 March 2026

Culture Sector

Ref.: CLT/DCE/26/L-35

Subject: Seventeenth call for funding requests to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) under the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that on **23 March 2026**, UNESCO launched its seventeenth call for funding requests to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).

The IFCD is a key instrument of international cooperation and assistance for the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Fund invests in projects that lead to structural and sustainable changes in the cultural and creative sectors in developing countries, through the development or implementation of policies and measures that promote the creation, production, distribution and access to a diversity of cultural expressions.

As you know, the National Commissions for UNESCO play a crucial role in the success of the IFCD, by widely disseminating the call and by ensuring the pre-selection of applications at the national level before submitting them to the UNESCO Secretariat for evaluation by the panel of experts. National Commissions are also responsible for keeping applicants informed of the results of the pre-selection procedure. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you again for your participation and contributions during the previous funding cycles.

Please note that all information related to the 17th call is available on the IFCD website (www.unesco.org/creativity/en/ifcd/apply). I would also like to share with you the following important information on the application and selection procedures:

- **The call for applications will be open** until Wednesday, **6 May 2026** (noon, Paris time).
- **All funding requests must be submitted through the IFCD online platform** and therefore will not be accepted in paper format or by email.
- **The pre-selection** of funding requests at the national level by National Commissions for UNESCO **will also be conducted online. After 26 May 2026**, each National Commission will receive an e-mail containing instructions to access the applications submitted from their country and to carry out the different steps of the pre-selection process.

To recall, in accordance with the Guidelines on the use of IFCD resources (para. 12), National Commissions for UNESCO are invited to form a **pre-selection panel** made up of representatives of the Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural and creative industries and of civil society organizations specializing in the field of culture to evaluate and pre-select funding requests to be submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat. To avoid any conflict of interest, it should be noted that National Commissions for UNESCO and any other organizations participating in the pre-selection of funding requests to the IFCD are not eligible for IFCD funding.

National Commissions for UNESCO will be asked to finalize their **pre-selection activities online by Tuesday, 30 June 2026 (noon, Paris time)**. Please note that it will not be possible to grant additional time for the finalization of the pre-selection process due to scheduling constraints related to the organization and holding of the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention, which will examine the projects recommended for approval in January 2027. I strongly recommend that you do not wait until the deadline to submit your preselection results in order to avoid any last-minute technical issues.

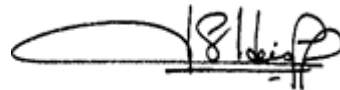
I would also like to recall that a **maximum of four (4) applications** can be pre-selected per country: two (2) from public authorities/institutions and two (2) from NGOs. Finally, I

would like to remind you that each applicant invests time and effort in developing their project proposals. Therefore, National Commissions are encouraged to recognize the work of applicants from their country by evaluating all proposals submitted, and by conducting the pre-selection within the deadlines.

Online information sessions on the application and pre-selection processes will be organized in English, French and Spanish at the beginning of April. An email will be sent to you later with further details.

Please do not hesitate to contact the UNESCO Secretariat at convention2005.ifcd@unesco.org should you have any questions or require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toussaint Tiendrebeogo', written over a horizontal line.

Toussaint Tiendrebeogo
Secretary of the Convention on the
Protection and the Promotion of the
Diversity of Cultural Expressions

cc Permanent Delegations of the Parties to the 2005 Convention
National Contact Points of the 2005 Convention
UNESCO Field Offices