



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Culture Sector
Division for Creativity
Section of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

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

26 February 2018

Ref.: CLT/CRE/DCE/2018/L24

Subject: Ninth call for funding requests to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity

Sir / Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that UNESCO is launching both the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) ninth call for funding requests and the first edition of "U40 Empowered": a UNESCO – Sabrina Ho Initiative.

The Fund was established by the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. It invests in projects in developing countries (Annex 1) that lead to structural change through the introduction of policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions. Its investments reinforce and support local and regional cultural industries and markets. Projects supported by the IFCD cover a wide range of activities – from capacity-building and cultural mapping to policy analysis and development, as well as entrepreneurship support and cultural industries consolidation.

As you know, National Commissions for UNESCO play a crucial role in 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 final selection. National Commissions are also important in keeping applicants informed during the whole application process. Allow me to take the opportunity to thank you for your participation and contributions during the previous funding cycles.

Please note that all applicants will have to directly submit their funding requests through the IFCD online Application Platform. You may consult the IFCD website for information on the IFCD application and selection procedure. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you important information on the submission and selection procedures.

The deadline for the applicants to submit their funding requests through the online application platform is **Monday 16 April 2018, midnight CET**. All funding requests must be submitted through the official online platform and therefore will not be accepted in paper format or sent by email.

Pre-selection process

- In accordance with the Guidelines on the use of the resources of the IFCD (para. 12) (Annex 2), you shall form a **pre-selection panel** made up of representatives of the Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural 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. Kindly note that National Commissions and any other organizations participating in the pre-selection of funding requests to the IFCD are not eligible for IFCD funding.

- The pre-selection procedure will be conducted online. After 16 April 2018, each National Commission will receive an e-mail containing instructions for the next pre-selection steps.
- When examining the applications for pre-selection, please verify that the required official documents are included as they provide evidence of the legal status of the applicant whether a public authority/institution or an NGO from an eligible developing country. These documents must be submitted in English or French.
- For each pre-selected application, the IFCD National Commission Review Form must be duly completed on the online platform.
- National Commissions will be asked to finalize their **pre-selection activities online by Tuesday 15 May 2018 (midnight CET). Please recall that a maximum of four applications** can be submitted per country: a maximum of two from public authorities/institutions and a maximum of two from NGOs. Please make sure that you present the pre-selected applications well in advance of the deadline in order to avoid any potential technical problems with the reception of the documents on the online platform.

The eligible requests will be evaluated by an external panel of experts before being submitted to the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee in December 2018.

In addition, the Secretariat is launching “U40 Empowered”: a UNESCO – Sabrina Ho Initiative that expands on the work of the IFCD and specifically invites national and international NGO to submit project proposals aiming to support women entrepreneurs powering the digital and creative industries. In order to facilitate the project submission process, the IFCD platform will be used for “U40 Empowered”: a UNESCO – Sabrina Ho Initiative candidates.

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

Yours sincerely,



Danielle Cliche
Secretary of the Convention on the
Protection and Promotion of the Diversity
of Cultural Expressions

Annexes: Annex 1. List of eligible developing countries
Annex 2. Guidelines on the use of the resources of the IFCD

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