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COALITION CURRENTS: NEWSLETTER # 1

This is the first of UKCCD's newsletter to members. Please send us information or links with specific relevance to Convention/Coalition objectives & agendas which you wish to share. Please mark "newsletter" in subject box and send to ukccd1@gmail.com

1. The First Session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions took place in Ottawa, Canada, 10-13 December 2007

Key points:

- The Convention now counts 76 parties: 75 States and the European Community as a Regional Economic Integration Organization.
- IGC recognises the importance of the active participation of civil society in the implementation of its provisions. This is stressed in article 11 of the Convention. IGC establishes protocol for special pre-meeting with civil society organisations to be held before IGC meetings. The significance of integration of culture in development policy is also noted.
- The centrality of cooperation and partnership initiatives (articles 14 – 18) with developing world is stressed and IGC points out need to integrate culture into development policy.
- UK ratification welcomed, December 2005. (It will take 3 months to complete protocols but Convention will be legally in place in UK by April.
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=41526&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- An extraordinary session of the IGC will be held in June 2008 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The next ordinary session is set to take place during the month of December 2008 also at UNESCO Paris headquarters.

2. UNESCO-UK

UKCCD has made presentations to Cultural Committee and to the Communications Committee. Neither DCMS nor UNESCO-UK has disseminated any promotional material for the public viz Convention as yet.

<http://www.unesco.org.uk/Culture.htm>

3. UKCCD preparing Seminar Series, 2008

To enable greater understanding and promote implementation of the Convention UKCCD will hold 2 seminars to be hosted by London Metropolitan's Global Policy Institute. These will be held in early May and October and timed to feed into civil society representations at the next two IGC meetings in June and December. The June IGC will examine modalities for civil society involvement and continue a discussion of priorities for funding. The second will be dedicated to the North-South agendas of the Convention.

Partnership is being sort with UNESCO-UK, and DCMS.

4. Oxford Media Convention, 17.1.2008

Held at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. The Keynote speakers were Sir Michael Lyons, chairman, BBC Trust and Rt Hon James Purnell MP, former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The Oxford Media Convention 2008 considered the challenges facing the media industry and policy makers as digital switchover and convergence become consumer realities.

<http://www.ippr.org/events/archive.asp?id=2935&fID=239>

5. French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, to reshape France's public service broadcasting.

Sarkozy also stated that he is considering eliminating advertising from public TV. The President has stressed the importance of the use of French as the main language in public broadcast hinting his intention to reform French state television more along the lines of the BBC.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/jan/09/bbc.television2>