



Isfahan Declaration
ICCN General Assembly 2014

8-12 Oct., 2014
Isfahan, I.R. IRAN

Cultural Synergy for Sustainable Communities and World Peace

Upon deliberations and discussions over the four days of the event, we, the member cities and NGOs participating in the ICCN 2014 Festival and General Assembly held from 8 to 12 Oct., 2014, in Isfahan, IRAN,

Wishing to extend our deepest gratitude to the host city, Isfahan, for the excellent organization of the event and the warm hospitality extended to the delegates;

Being inspired by the principles of the UNESCO 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage;

Noting the role of ICH in human identity as well as enriching the livelihood and dynamism of local communities;

Recognizing the role of indigenous knowledge systems in building creative, knowledge-based communities;

Recognizing the valuable roles and functions played by indigenous knowledge systems in creating knowledge-based and creative communities;

Recognizing the roles women and youths have always played and continue to play in the development of ICH as the human legacy and its inter-generational transmission;

Acknowledging the pivotal role of ICH in boosting tourism, enhancing city diplomacy and local economies, shaping life styles, and empowering local communities, especially in the less privileged areas;

Expressing concerns about the present trend in globalization that jeopardizes local cultures and cultural diversity;

Emphasizing the role of ICH and its role in protecting human communities against cultural intolerance;

Bearing in mind that the human cultural legacy symbolizes the human dignity and embodies the wisdom achieved through millennia that can be adhered to for empowering communities against poverty, injustice, and inequality; and

Being aware of the requirements of modern human life styles that leave less of the individual's time and resources to afford inter-generational transmission of their local ICH as their true identity and as resources imbued with remedies to individual and social problems;

1. Recommend that local governments and NGOs as ICCN members muster their efforts and secure resources and funding to be used for safeguarding ICH;
2. Recommend ICCN members to adopt relevant policies and means to raise public awareness, train the youths and families, and develop curricula and educational programs at local, national, and international levels to safeguard the human ICH and to preserve cultural diversity;
3. Commend the city of Isfahan for its initiative to promote research on women's role in safeguarding ICH with the support from UNESCO Category II Centers;
4. Call upon ICCN members to adopt appropriate policies and exercise their powers to increase and expand ICCN membership on a global scale;
5. Recommend that ICCN members should raise vigilance and safeguard the true nature and value of ICCN underlying its Statute that evidently recognizes the rights of all communities to their identity and culture;
6. Recommend delegates and members to provide consultation and advice on designing and implementing a strong WEB-based network at ICCN that will provide the capability for sustained and online contacts among the members of the network and with facilities for sharing multi-media products on Intangible Cultural Heritage of member communities;
7. Approve and Affirm the recommendations in the Declaration of the Women's Forum held concurrently with the present ICCN GA Conference in Isfahan;

8. Request the relevant national and international authorities to provide assistance and lend support for the rehabilitation of the endangered Zayandehroud (life-giving) River in Isfahan as the city's natural resource heritage with a history of millennia that has supplied life to the city and nourished its rich culture.
9. Encourage members to facilitate participation of cultural groups in ICCN events and to support cultural study groups on visits to local events in member cities;
10. Propose that delegates and local governments shall set up national leagues of cities within their national borders for cultural exchanges and such capacity building activities as organizing training and workshops;
11. Recommend ICCN to adopt relevant policies that will lead to attracting support, both financial and in-kind, from international agencies and bodies for ICCN activities including, but not limited to, exchange programs, organizing international and/or multipartite events, and designing research projects;
12. Recommend ICCN to hire staffs sponsored by its members under such conditions as shall be decided upon by the Executive Board; and
13. Recommend the organizers of biennial ICCN events to make relevant provisions for ceremonies to duly honor both ancient and living pioneers and practitioners, whose ideas, intellect, solutions, creativity, and innovations are now recognized as intangible cultural heritage, including public policies and good practices in safeguarding ICH.