

VI. Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding of ICH

The Islamic Republic of Iran, like all other countries that enjoy the existence of numerous national and shared ICH elements on their territories, has felt an urgent need in classifying its ICH properties in a way that is best for devising and applying appropriate safeguarding strategies. Entry into new fields of activities on ICH is the other issue that is of great importance to Iranian cultural authorities.

In these two relations, the following issues and questions are among the most important and determining ones that need to be tackled by the organizations concerned:

A. Iranian understanding of the basics of the ICH

To the Iranian authorities and organizations concerned with cultural issues, the definition and manifestations presented for ICH through the 2003 Convention need to be supplemented to cover some other areas, at least at the national level, that have been neglected at the international level. To this end, the 2003 Convention has been claimed to be in need of some re-interpretation at the national level to cover such areas. A preliminary list of such neglected areas covers the following:

- Dead ICH
- Living Human Treasures
- Human Treasures of the Past
- Linguistic Heritage
- Cultural/spiritual values
- Communal Shared Heritage
- etc.

B. Entry into new fields of activities on ICH

- Periodic reporting on internationally inscribed Iranian ICH
- Planning and executing appropriate revitalization measures on Iranian ICH inscribed on Urgent Safeguarding List

- Submission of nominations for the other ICH lists: Best Practices, International Assistance, etc.
- Submission of new multinational nominations on ICH for international inscription
- Providing Tehran ICH Centre with appropriate support to conduct effective research projects on safeguarding ICH on the West and Central Asian Region
- Providing UNESCO with new initiatives on promoting the spirit of the 2003 Convention and providing it with the needed instruments.