REPORT CIOFF – UNESCO 2011

proposed by Magdalena Tovornik, Representative of CIOFF to UNESCO, October 2011

1.During the 40. CIOFF Congress in Tahiti, November 2010, I was elected Representative of CIOFF to UNESCO. In this capacity I also became a member of Executive Council of CIOFF and assisted the meeting of EXCO in Waynesville, USA in May 2011.

My new function is directly related to more intense cooperation with CIOFF Cultural Commission –also for the preparation of Cultural Conference which is regulary an important part of CIOFF Congress. This was the case already during EXCO meeting in Waynesville – to prepare well the Cultural Conference in 2011 in Recife we had a fruitful meeting with the President of Cultural Commission Mr. Renaud Albasini, President of CIOFF Brazil Mrs. Soccoro Maciel, President of Youth Forum Miss Irene Pimpinella....we discussed the organisational and substance questions and I offered my help to involve better the UNESCO institutions of Brazil to this important event during our 41th Congress in Recife.

2.UNESCO IN 2011

The year 2011 in UNESCO was mainly dedicated to the biggest event – the General Conference, which will start on 27.October 2011 in Paris. There are many issues which will be discussed, but for us – as a NGO with consultative status to UNESCO – the new DIRECTIVES concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs proposed by the Director General of UNESCO, is a very important issue.

This document and another one - The revision of terms of Reference of the Committe on International NGO – were submitted by DG UNESCO also because an indipendant external evaluation of UNESCO, presented in 2010, showed clearly that UNESCO needs to develop a comprehensive strategy for partners that look outwards to civil society and to make UNESCO more accessible and less bureaucratic. These two basic observations are of great importance for better cooperation and relations on the line NGO - UNESCO. DG proposed a new simplified framework in which UNESCO – NGO partnership can develop in he most favorable conditions. UNESCO really wants to make NGOs associate and consultative partners in their acivities and objectives more important and more visibile and efficient.

There will be only two possible relations between UNESCO and NGO - associate and consutative- , more transparancy, frequent reporting, new regulations how and when to use UNESCO logo ( important also for CIOFF), more possibility for participation to UNESCO governamental bodies as General Conference, Executive Council, different Intergovernamental Committees...

In the second document DG is proposing to improve the rules of Reference of UNESCO –NGO Liaison Committe - all UNESCO regions must be represented, single term of office for 10 members(4 associate,6 consultative) and also the President of the Committe can be elected only once.

All these proposels deliver a clear message : UNESCO wants to make civil society – NGO- A GENUINE PARTNER WHICH WILL ALSO INFLUENCE THE WORK OF GOVERNAMENTAL BODIES OF UNESCO!!!

3.CIOFF ACCREDITATION TO THE CONVENTION ON SAVEGUARDING OF INTENGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH )

In 2010 CIOFF sent a request to UNESCO ICH Intergovernamental Committee to be accredited to provide adisory services to the ICH Committee. Our request was officially APPROVED by the ICH Committee during its meeting last year in November in Nairobi, Kenia. The accreditation is now waiting to be approved by the General Assembly of State Parties of ICH Convention which will meet in 2012. Our position and role in ICH domain can substentially improve after getting this accreditation – both on local, national and international levels!

4.PARTICIPATION OF CIOFF REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO MEETINGS IN 2011

4.1.INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NGOs in official relations with UNESCO, December 2010 was organised by NGO – UNESCO Liaison Committee, the theme was''Growth or De-growth, the world at the crossroads''. Inspite of this global theme I was positively surprised by the concluding remarks-speech, made by Marie-Ange Theobald, chief of section for NGOs, who said that ''the idea of the power of culture as a motor for sustainable devlopment is now taking a new form,...culture is a vector for the appropriation of development by social cohesion, stability and community resilience,...preservation and promotion of culture and cultural diversity is essential ''....

My presence at this meeting was an exellent opportunity also to talk to other participants and to make new contacts. A long discussion with the President of this Committee alowed me to inform him not only about CIOFF in general but also about CIOFF Congress 2012 in Paris and to ask him for his support in UNESCO. More detailed report was sent to Secretary General of CIOFF.

4.2.NGO DAY – International conference organised by NGO- UNESCO Liaison Committee, June 2011 was another good opportunity to make new contacts, especially with Vice President of this Committe, Mr. Diego Gradis who is very much devoted to traditional cultur and ICH. He said he will propose for one of next NGO DAY IN UNESCO the discussion about the implementatiom of Convention ICH - we support very much this theme and are ready to cooperate. A great part of may stay in Paris was dedicated to organise the participation of Brasilian National Commission of UNESCO (with an important help of Ambassador of Brasilia to UNESCO) at CIOFF Cultural Conference during our Congress in Recife. I also maneged to establish relations with a new President of UNESCO National Commission of France! More detailed report was sent to Secreaty General.

4.3. In December this year UNESCO is organising another INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NGOs and I will participate to this event.

4.4. Intergovernamental Committe of ICH Convention will meet on 22nd November in Bali – my participation is not possible this year but after CIOFF will officialy be accredited to this Committee I will regulary attend all meetings of this Committee.

4.5. In October this year CIOFF was invited to participate UNESCO Youth Forum in October.The theme was very political and not covering CIOFF activities - so we decided not to participate this year but to follow closely this event and to participate in the future when theme will be more close to CIOFF work.

5. CIOFF STARTEGY FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

CIOFF with its consultative status wit UNESCO and with the accreditation to the ICH Convention is well placed to improve and inlarge the existing relations with UNESCO. Our next Congress 2012 in Paris can be a good prove for it (some measures are already taken..).

5.1. On INTERNATIONAL level we continue to assist as many inetresting meetings in UNESCO as possible and useful, to establish personal contacts with NGO Secretariat of UNESCO and with Cultural division of UNESCO , to develop better cooperation with similar NGOs ...

5.2. On NATIONAL level we must establish a dialogue with the UNESCO National Commissions – the cooperation with them is vital for increasing our role in ICH field. Once officially accredited to ICH Convention Intergovernamental Committee we must inform all National Institusions and the Ministry for Culture – all those who are involved in prepering the List of ICH on the National level and for UNESCO. Cioff National sections must become a partner - as it is clearly written in ICH Convention!

5.3.CIOFF must continue to incorporate well the cultural dimension in its structure and policy. The Cultural Conference which is now well incorporated in CIOFF Congress must become more important, if possible we must include other partners (including governamental bodies)...The CIOFF festivals must develop their ''cultural dimension'' by organising seminars, round tables, expositions etc. during festivals....(an exellent exampl is CIOFF International Folklore Festival in Gorizia, Italy !!!).

And finally, let us never forget - CIOFF was created many years ago because a few extraordinary men had a clear vision of the value of the promotion and preservationof traditional culture and art - the World's Intangible Cultural heritage- even far before UNESCO started to work on it and adopted ICH Convention....it is our constant duty to develop CIOFF in such an organisation which will remain a bright lighthouse in this domain also in the future!

Magdalena Tovornik, Representative of CIOFF to UNESCO

Recife, november 2011