The Assistant Director-General for Culture

To the Non-Governmental Organizations and other civil society organizations

Ref.: CLT/CRE/DCE/14/7503

15 Oct. 2014

Subject: UNESCO 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist – Survey for consolidated report

Sir/Madam,

The Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1980. It remains vital for our Member States to adhere to this important standard-setting instrument, which aims to strengthen policies and measures around the professional, social and economic status of artists, thus enabling them to work, create and organize successfully in an enabling environment. Today, artists face increasing challenges and opportunities because they operate in a globalized and digital age, marked by economic and/or social transitions, shifting communication, trade and consumption trends, and rapidly evolving technologies.

The Recommendation (attached) is both concrete and comprehensive, addressing training, social security, employment and tax conditions, and recognizing the right of artists to be organized in trade unions or professional organizations. Thus, it remains very pertinent to contemporary issues faced by artists and deserves our attention.

In view of the fact that it is a UNESCO standard-setting instrument, the implementation of the Recommendation is monitored by Member States. The last consolidated report on the implementation of the Recommendation was submitted, by the 187th session of the Executive Board (Document 187 EX/20 Part VII), to the 36th session of the General Conference (Document 36 C/57). Following examination of the report, the General Conference invited the Director-General to transmit to its 36th session, in 2015, the next consolidated report on the implementation of the Recommendation (36 C/Resolution 103).

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I am pleased, therefore, to address to your organization the attached survey, which should be completed carefully and returned to the UNESCO Secretariat by 15 January 2015, in line with the instructions provided in survey document.

I wish to emphasize the importance of this exercise, which will furnish us with fresh data regarding the status of the artist nationally, regionally, and globally. The results of the survey will be analyzed and reflected in the next consolidated report presented to the General Conference. This undertaking is valuable as it will shed light not only on the implementation of the Recommendation, but also on important, related perspectives of culture and sustainable development, as well as on the cultural and creative industries.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Danielle Cliche, Chief of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Section in the Culture Sector (tel.: +33 1 45 68 44 55; e-mail: d.cliche@unesco.org or r.roca-hachem@unesco.org).

I look forward to your submission of the completed survey.

Yours sincerely,

Alfredo Pérez de Arminán

Encs. : 2