



**Carpathian Convention Working Group
on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
Fourth Meeting
25 – 27 March 2014, Bratislava, Slovak Republic**

Draft Report

Opening of the meeting; Welcome and opening remarks

The head of the UNEP Vienna Office – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC), Mr. Harald Egerer together with Ms. Pavlina Misikova, as a representative of the host country and Presidency of the Carpathian Convention, opened the meeting and welcomed the meeting participants.

Election of the Chair

Ms. Pavlina Misikova, Slovak National Focal Point to the Carpathian Convention, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, was elected the chair of the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda Item 6. was changed according to the proposal of the Czech Republic, then the document was unanimously agreed by the participants.

Update on a current stage of the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage

Mr. Harald Egerer together with Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, UNEP GRID Warsaw, presented the activities of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge performed so far and updated the meeting participants on the current situation of the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage.

Discussion on the most suitable instrument to implement Art. 11 of the Convention and the timeframe for its finalization

The meeting participants presented their national position regarding the future Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.



Due to the time limitation for the further consultation on the draft text Protocol on Cultural Heritage, it was agreed at the meeting that a soft law instrument under Art. 11 of the Carpathian Convention will be elaborated and submitted to COP 4 for its consideration. The document - *the Road Map to achieve the objective of Art 11 of the Carpathian Convention* – will express the will for cooperation and will prepare the way for the hard law instrument (Protocol) in the future. The Road Map will be intermediate step towards the Protocol, until COP5, when the Protocol will be adopted.

Accordingly, the draft Road Map was discussed and developed.

The meeting participants discussed and agreed also on the Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathians, which will be proposed for adoption at the COP4. The above mentioned Road Map will be an annex to the Declaration.

The COP 4 Decision related to the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention were revised and agreed.

As agreed at the meeting, the interim Secretariat will amend the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, as well as the Programme of Work and then circulate both documents to the meeting participants.

The draft text of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage was discussed. Romania expressed its reservation towards the title of the Protocol proposing a protocol on “mountain cultural and traditional knowledge of the Carpathians” instead of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge. However, other Parties expressed a preference to keep the current draft unchanged.

The meeting participants agreed to deal with the key definitions in the context of the further development of the draft Protocol.

The ISCC suggested to ask for the scientific contribution of Science for the Carpathians (S4C) for finding a common agreement on the key definitions included in the Protocol and to organize a joint event on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge during the next Forum Carpaticum, which will be held in September this year.



Next steps

Updated COP 4 Decisions related to the Art. 11 of the CC will be circulated to the meeting participants together with the draft Ministerial Declaration, the draft Road Map, and the slightly revised draft text of the Protocol. The amended ToRs of the Working Group and the Programme of Work will be sent as well.

It was agreed that the Parties will provide the ISCC with comments to the documents circulated, as well as will submit their ideas for project proposals. The Czech Republic and Hungary briefly presented their ideas during the meeting. These provided ideas will be also attached to the follow up email.

Closure of the meeting

Ms. Pavlina Misikova closed the meeting and thanked all participants for the valuable comments and inputs to the discussion as well as for their contribution to the great progress, which was made during the meeting.