

Map of e-Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage

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<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FD79FwkU9BEFdtbeHCHGfaUenaA&usp=sharing>

One of the main objectives of inventorying elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is the systematized register and organization of knowledge produced in respect of this heritage. Article 12 of the Convention (UNESCO, 2003) refers to the need to promote the ICH inventory and all elements applying for enrolment in one of the two worldwide lists of ICH have, necessarily, to be listed in an Inventory. Mostly for this reason, in the last 10 years multiple processes of inventory have begun and, in order to comply with the recommendation of public access, resorting the Web became a logical option. The *Map of e-Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage* presented in this paper enables direct access to 158 e-inventories through the links marked in countries where these were carried out. This paper presents a preliminary analysis of some of the data that characterize these inventories, and calls for the participation in the review and update of this mapping.

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The Project

The construction of the *Map of e-Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage* aims to identify and collect data of Digital Platforms available on the Web and dedicated to this type of heritage. The definition of “ICH e-inventory” adopted by the project includes: online published inventories with free access,² of or about expressions of one or more domains of the intangible cultural heritage³ – oral traditions and expressions (including language as a vehicle of the ICH); performing arts; traditional craftsmanship; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (UNESCO, 2003). For this purpose, are not considered: inventories in preparatory stage without available content; web sites with exclusively touristic information or denominative lists in which do not appear, at least, a description or transcription of the cultural expressions included in the inventory.

The Map enables direct access to the e-inventories through the links marked on their respective countries and for each inventory, it displays the specified related information: format (database, website, or PDF); geographical level; promoter entity; domains of the ICH; main fields of the inventory; multimedia resources; language and associated social networks.

Calls for collaboration

With the publication of the prototype of this project, it is intended that *the Map of e-Inventories of ICH* should be subjected to reviews of collaborative methodology. As a work in permanent construction,

authored and coordinated by Memória Imaterial – a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) accredited by the UNESCO and based in Portugal –, it must be enriched by any additional information to update the mapped data. With the aspiration to promote this collaborative network we invite all practitioners of cultural expressions, heritage professionals (from public and private institutions), local associations, researchers, NGOs, and other interested parties on issues of cultural heritage, to share information on inventories of the ICH by contacting Memória Imaterial’s team, via e-mail:

memoriaimaterial@gmail.com

Geographical Distribution

In the current version of the *Map of e-Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage* (2017) are identified 158 inventories -88 national, 41 regional/local and 29 transnational (Fig. 1). The data were collected from periodic reports States Parties submitted to the UNESCO⁴ and from information gathered through Google search engine for these and other countries⁵. Concerning these data, 198 countries were analysed – 46 from Europe (Electoral Groups I and II of the 2003 UNESCO Convention); 31 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Electoral Group III); 37 Asia and the Pacific (Electoral Group IV); 42 countries of Africa (Electoral Group Va); 18 countries of the Arab States (Electoral Group Vb) and 24 countries that have not ratified the 2003 Convention (Fig. 2 and attached list).

² With or without registration, provided that the access is immediate and free of charge.

³ In the case of inventories that are dedicated to a single cultural expression, inventoried elements refer to the cultural diversity of the practice on a wider territory than the local (inter-municipal, regional, national or transnational); information in promotional sites are not considered in the map.

⁴ All reports of States Parties that have ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) published in <https://ich.unesco.org/en/submissions-and-deadlines-00861> [consultation from January to march, 2017]. In the case there were references to other types of inventory in these reports, namely publications in books, these have not been considered as they do not fit the project goals, which scope, as has been said, are the inventories published on the Web, with free access.

⁵ From the expressions “National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage [of country x]” and “Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage [of country x]”, in English and in the official language of the respective country.

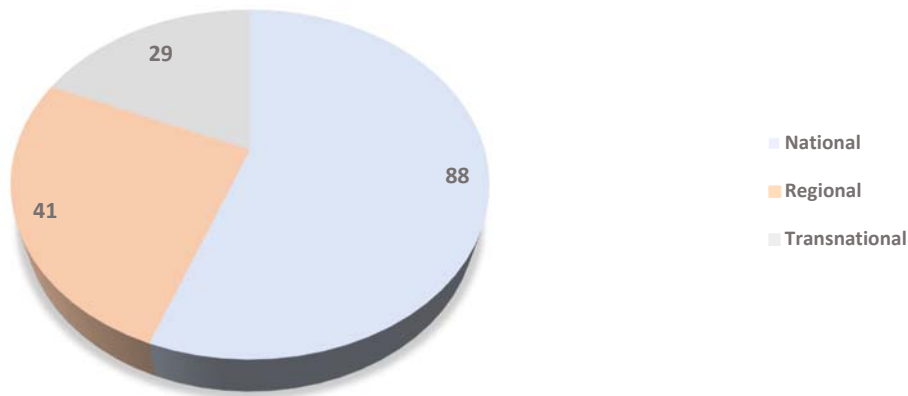


Figure 1 - Geographical level of the operationalization of the 158 mapped e-inventories.

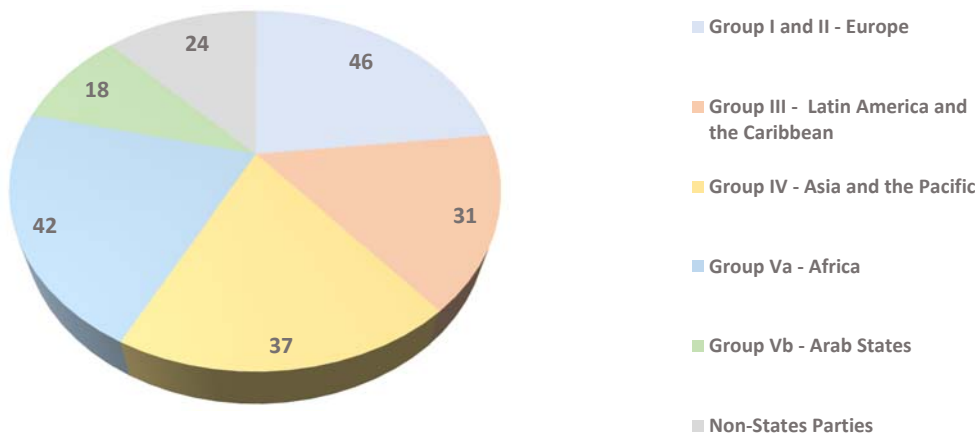


Figure 2 – Distribution of the 198 countries by Region/Electoral Groups of the UNESCO Convention (2003).

In a first analysis, observing the coloured spots on the Map, it is possible to conclude that there are disparities with regard to the number of e-inventories found and recorded by geographical region.

There is no register of e-inventories in 129 countries, 65% of the total number of countries analysed. The largest number of countries without inventories is registered on the African continent - 38 countries, representing 90% of the total number of countries in this group. In the Asia and the Pacific group, 26 countries have no records and both in the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, 15 countries are without e-inventories. The lowest number of countries

with no records is in Europe - 10 in Central Europe, and only 4 in Western Europe.

By contrast, as would be expected in view of the previous data, among the 69 countries with registered ICH e-inventories (35% of the total of countries analysed), stands out the embodiment of the European countries, with 83 mapped inventories (53% of total inventories). There are 35 inventories in Latin America and the Caribbean (22%); 21 in Asia and the Pacific (13%); 7 in Africa (5%), 5 in the Arab States (3%) and 7 in the countries that have not ratified the Convention (4%) (Fig. 3).

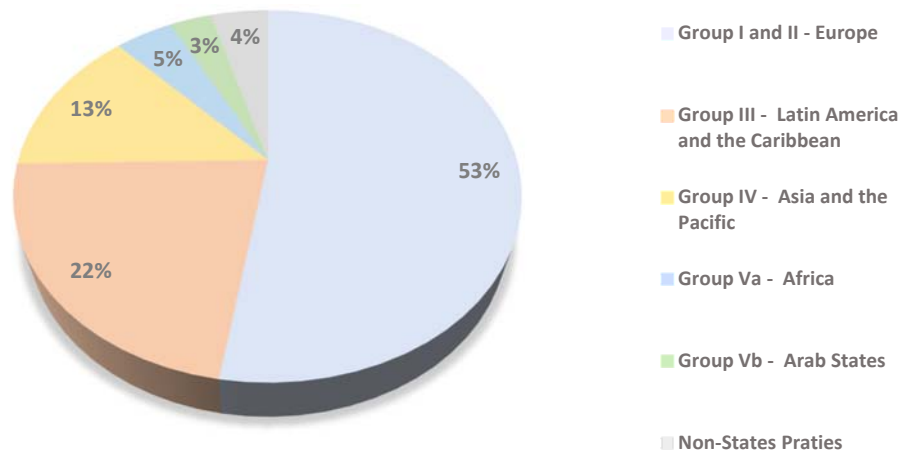


Figure 3 - Percentage of e-inventories mapped by Geographical Distribution.

It is also in Europe that is found the largest number of countries with 2 or more e-inventories (12 countries) and with the largest number of regional inventories (32). Often, the countries with the highest number of inventories are those with more regional projects. For example, Spain has 15 inventories recorded in the World Map and, of these, 12 are regional inventories; in Italy, 6 inventories are identified, of which 5 are regional; in Switzerland, 5 of 6 inventories are regional; of the 4 inventories of Belgium, 3 are regional. These results allow the hypothesis that countries with regional administrative divisions, produce more decentralised inventories and report different geographical levels (national and regional).

The second group presenting a higher number of countries with 2 or more inventories is Latin America and the Caribbean (9 countries) though, in this particular case, the data are influenced by projects promoted by CRESPIAL⁶ (Category 2 UNESCO Centre). These are transnational processes of inventory, in PDF format and shared with several countries, such as the inventory of *Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Aymara Communities of Bolivia, Chile and Peru*.

It is also among the inventories of the European countries that there is greater resource to the geo-

referencing of elements: 30 of the total of 41 inventories with geographical information about the ICH are in this group, the majority of which being regional inventories that use tools made available by Google Maps. Also on this point, the group of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are ranked second, with 8 inventories where the elements appear geo-referenced. The other 3 inventories mapping cultural expressions are, respectively, from Bhutan, East Timor and Canada.

As an example of inventories with geolocation, we highlight the *Audiovisual Map of Peru's Intangible Cultural Heritage*; the *Bhutan Cultural Atlas* and the *Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Flemish Community of Belgium* (which crosses the data with the National inventory).

Characterization of the inventories

The inventories present, in its majority, database formats (74%) and include cultural expressions related to the 5 domains of the ICH (84%). Among these inventories (with database format), the majority, in addition to using different software and different default templates, present a "traditional" organisation divided into data fields. More frequently they display 5 information fields about the element⁷: name, the ICH domain, location, description (summary or

⁶ Centro Regional para la Salvaguardia del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de América Latina.

⁷ Descriptive statistical analysis – mode - the number of fields most frequent.

detailed) and pictures. The majority of these inventories organised in databases are searchable in 3 ways, by using: keywords, name of the element and/or the ICH domain.

Featuring a “less traditional” appearance are the inventories with geo-referencing of the elements referred to above, on which the first page refers to a mapped signage (illustrating the domain of cultural expression, or the type of audiovisual resource used in the record - text, image, audio, or video). Another model less conventional is used in 6 inventories, the Wikipedia system: in Senegal the *“WikiFatick” – Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the region of Fatick*; in Switzerland, the *Wiki Portal of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Valais*; in Finland, the *Wiki-inventory of Living Heritage*; the *ICHPEDIA – Encyclopedia of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* in the Republic of Korea; the *Inventory of Living Culture in Scotland* and the *Sahapedia* in India.

Furthermore, considering the total of the inventories, in addition to the more frequent number of fields to

be 5, however, we find a minimum of 2 fields and a maximum of 31. The average number of entries in the inventories is 225, but also with a minimum of 2 entries in an inventory and a maximum that exceeds 8000 entries, in another inventory. That is, considering the amount and type of information available, these data reveal discrepancies and different processes of inventory, being identified inventories with more or less profound approaches, some more intensive, others more extensive, some more informative, others are more illustrative.

Also present in smaller numbers on the Map are inventories in PDF format (20%), usually query able and shareable e-books available online and thematic sites, searchable as well, at least by keyword (6%) (Fig. 4).

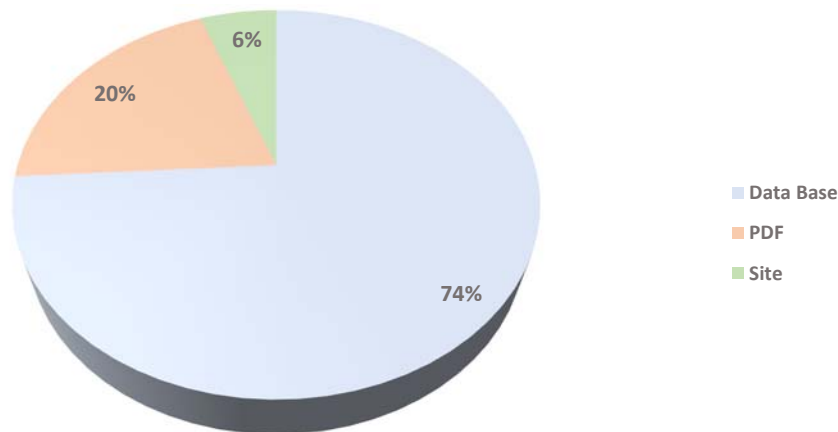


Figure 4 - Percentage of e-inventories mapped according to format.

All inventories use text to inform on the cultural expressions, 49% exclusively in the official language of the country; 35% in official language, but also with the pages translated into English,⁸ and 16 % in more than one language, but without translation into English, where are prominent the e-inventories in French and inventories in Portuguese and Spanish (in the latter case, among the countries of the group of Latin America and the Caribbean).

Considering all the inventories, beyond text, 80% use imagery, 51% publish videos and 30% add audio (Fig. 5). In respect of these resources, it is in development a more detailed qualitative analysis about shape, style,

sharing systems, authorship and ownership of the content present in the e-inventories.

Note that out of 158 inventories, 42 have project pages in social networks, mostly on Facebook and on Twitter. Of these, only 10 share the videos on YouTube and only 9 share photos in Instagram. On the other hand, whether they do or do not have proper profiles, 20 e-inventories allow visitors to share content on their personal profiles, once again, mostly on Facebook and on Twitter.

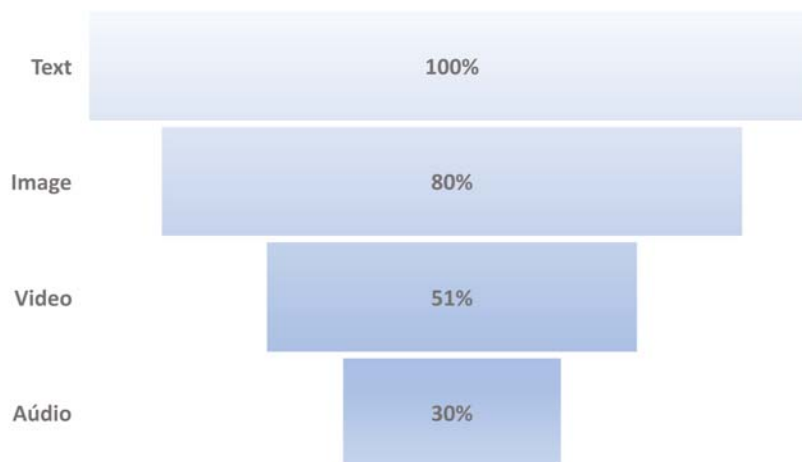


Figure 5 – Percentage of e-inventories mapped according to audiovisual resources.

Promoter entities, and reference to 2003 Convention in the e-inventories

There are 4 types of organizations associated with the authorship, coordination and financing of projects of the mapped inventories. On this particular point, are evidenced the high number of inventories promoted by public institutions of the States Parties - Ministries, Departments, Regional Governments or Departments linked especially to the Culture sector, but also linked to Tourism, Economy, Foreign Affairs and to other sectors - sometimes associated with State Universities, UNESCO National Commissions or, less

often, NGOs. It is concluded, therefore, that have been the national government organizations to establish the implementation of the e-inventory: of the total of 158 inventories registered, 118 are under the custody of the States (75%). These are followed by 20 inventories coordinated by Category 2 UNESCO Centres, highlighting the work done by ICHCAP⁹ with Asia-Pacific countries and by CRESPIAL with the Latin America and the Caribbean countries; 12 inventories are promoted by NGOs, associations or foundations; 7 by National Commissions for UNESCO and 1 is developed under individual title (Fig. 6).

⁸ Among these 35%, 11% also have pages in other languages apart from the official and English.

⁹ International Information and Networking Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.

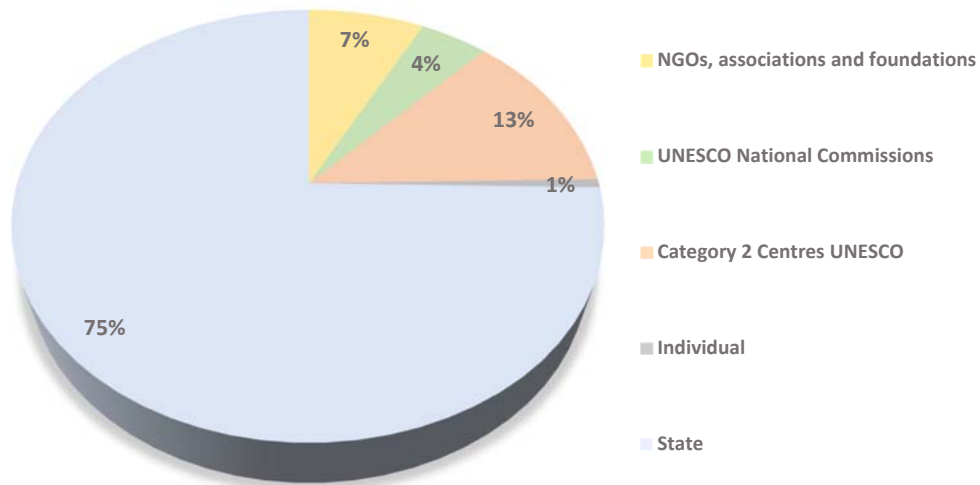


Figure 6 – Percentage of e-inventories mapped by type of promoter entity.

There are 111 e-inventories (70% of the total) which make reference to UNESCO and, in particular, to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). These, as expected by the data presented previously, 82 (74%) are promoted by the States Parties. These institutions report frequently, on the page that describes the project or on specific pages, on the process of ratification of the Convention; about the national legislation that regulates the issues of cultural heritage; on the definitions of the domains of the Intangible cultural heritage according to the Convention and on the

recommendations of UNESCO for the inventorying and safeguarding of this heritage.

Through the review of the effective date of publication (identified in the information on the site itself or searching web.archive.org), it is concluded that most of the inventories were published online subsequently the countries had ratified the Convention - 65% have been published, in the maximum, 5 years ago; 25% have 6 to 10 years and only 10% have more than 10 years (Fig. 7).

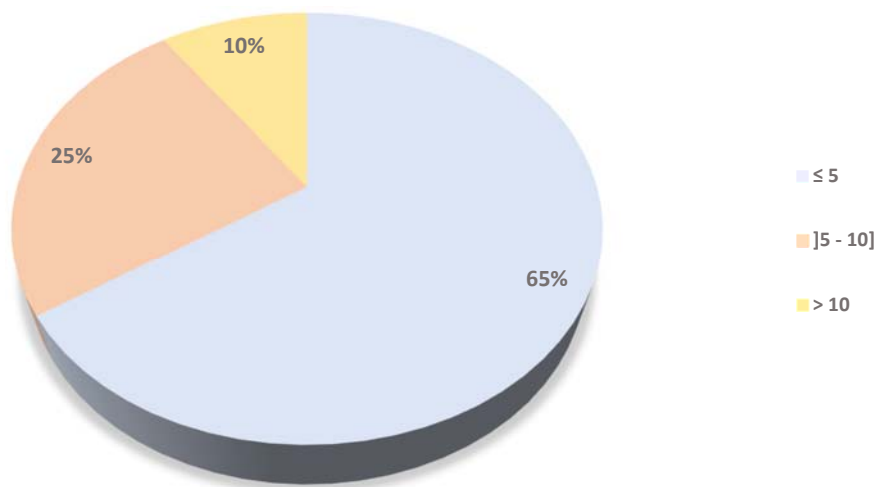


Figure 7 – Percentage of e-inventories, mapped by number of years from its effective publication date.

Of the total analysed inventories, 105 inventories (66%), in the light of the Convention, set out the importance of the involvement and participation of those who “create, maintain and transmit such heritage,” in safeguarding intangible culture (UNESCO, 2003, Article 15).

The method of participation of the communities, groups and/or individuals in the inventory process is, however, little detailed. Frequently, merely quoting article 15 of the Convention without explaining how such operationalization occurred. States often declare that “customary practices” were respected and the “communities’ consent” was obtained for the safeguard and implementation of the respective process of inventory (general information given in an introduction or in inventory-items, for each of the elements registered), but rarely described the process that led to this consent. That is, UNESCO recommends, in the context of the processes of safeguarding, the use of community intervention methodologies, democratic and participatory, where the role of social actors is predominant. Yet, however, few inventories clearly demonstrate the use of this type of methodologies. Nonetheless, 22 inventories (14% of the total) were identified that, in a visible way, announce the character of the collaborative process of inventory and call for the direct participation of the practitioners of cultural expressions, local institutions and other actors involved

. Some of these inventories provide user manuals and instruct on how to register and access to the data input fields; other inventories suggest the contact with the administrator to get more information; others

explain the access to a restricted area of the inventory that enables the submission of applications of elements, but under guidance, moderation and subject to later approval.

New data, new analyses, updates, and revisions

The *Map of e-Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage* is intended to be, simultaneously, a work tool and an object of study. The project will have much to gain from new approaches and new readings on the mapped e-inventories. We present in this paper a preliminary analysis of some characteristics of these inventories. Nevertheless, many other aspects can be object of research. It all depends on the interest and willingness to explore the information available from the published links on the Map. The access to the different inventories allows to move forward not only with case studies on the specific inventory, but also with comparative studies on the various dimensions of the inventory processes.

This resource should be useful, used and shared among the interested parties on issues of the intangible cultural heritage, in general, and in its inventory process, in particular. We also request that analyses produced and based on the information available on the Map, should be shared with the project coordinators for further dissemination or for publishing on the World Map *site*.

We reinforce the call for reviewers of the content now published. If you are aware of these and other e-inventories of the ICH, report us with information that may supplement, update or improve this Map. We appreciate all collaboration with this subject.

References

- UNESCO, (2003), Convenção para a Salvaguarda do Património Cultural Imaterial. In <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/00009-PT-Portugal-PDF.pdf> [Accessed on July 2017]

ICH UNESCO Electoral Group	Country
Group I	Andorra
Group I	Áustria
Group I	Belgium
Group I	Cyprus
Group I	Denmark
Group I	Filand
Group I	France
Group I	Germany
Group I	Greek
Group I	Iceland
Group I	Ireland
Group I	Italy
Group I	Luxembourg
Group I	Malta
Group I	Monaco
Group I	Netherlands
Group I	Norway
Group I	Portugal
Group I	Spain
Group I	Sweden
Group I	Switzerland
Group I	Turkey
Group II	Albania
Group II	Armenia
Group II	Azerbaijan
Group II	Belarus
Group II	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Group II	Bulgaria
Group II	Croatia
Group II	Czech Republic
Group II	Estonian
Group II	Georgia
Group II	Hungary
Group II	Latvia
Group II	Lithuania
Group II	Montenegro
Group II	Poland
Group II	Republic of Moldova
Group II	Romania
Group II	Serbia
Group II	Slovakia
Group II	Slovenia
Group II	Tajikistan
Group II	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Group II	Ukraine

Group II	Uzbekistan
Group III	Antigua and Barbuda
Group III	Argentina
Group III	Bahamas
Group III	Barbados
Group III	Belize
Group III	Bolivia
Group III	Brazil
Group III	Chile
Group III	Colombia
Group III	Costa Rica
Group III	Cuba
Group III	Dominica
Group III	Dominican Republic
Group III	Ecuador
Group III	El Salvador
Group III	Grenada
Group III	Guatemala
Group III	Haiti
Group III	Honduras
Group III	Jamaica
Group III	Mexico
Group III	Nicaragua
Group III	Panama
Group III	Paraguay
Group III	Peru
Group III	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Group III	Saint Lucia
Group III	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Group III	Trinidad and Tobago
Group III	Uruguay
Group III	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Group IV	Afghanistan
Group IV	Bangladesh
Group IV	Bhutan
Group IV	Brunei Darussalam
Group IV	Cambodia
Group IV	China
Group IV	Cook Islands
Group IV	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Group IV	Fiji
Group IV	India
Group IV	Indonesia
Group IV	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Group IV	Japan
Group IV	Kazakhstan

Group IV	Kyrgyzstan
Group IV	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Group IV	Malaysia
Group IV	Marshall Islands
Group IV	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Group IV	Mongolia
Group IV	Myanmar
Group IV	Nauru
Group IV	Nepal
Group IV	Pakistan
Group IV	Palau
Group IV	Papua New Guinea
Group IV	Philippines
Group IV	Republic of Korea
Group IV	Samoa
Group IV	Sri Lanka
Group IV	Thailand
Group IV	Timor-Leste
Group IV	Tonga
Group IV	Turkmenistan
Group IV	Tuvalu
Group IV	Vanuatu
Group IV	Vietnam
Group Va	Bénin
Group Va	Botswana
Group Va	Burkina Faso
Group Va	Burundi
Group Va	Cabo Verde
Group Va	Cameroon
Group Va	Central African Republic
Group Va	Chad
Group Va	Comoros
Group Va	Congo
Group Va	Côte d'Ivoire
Group Va	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Group Va	Djibouti
Group Va	Equatorial Guinea
Group Va	Eritrea
Group Va	Ethiopia
Group Va	Gabon
Group Va	Gambia
Group Va	Ghana
Group Va	Guinea
Group Va	Guinea-Bissau
Group Va	Kenya
Group Va	Lesotho

Group Va	Madagascar
Group Va	Malawi
Group Va	Mali
Group Va	Mauritius
Group Va	Mozambique
Group Va	Namibia
Group Va	Niger
Group Va	Nigeria
Group Va	Rwanda
Group Va	Sao Tome and Principe
Group Va	Senegal
Group Va	Seychelles
Group Va	South Sudan
Group Va	Swaziland
Group Va	Togo
Group Va	Uganda
Group Va	United Republic of Tanzania
Group Va	Zambia
Group Va	Zimbabwe
Group Vb	Algérie
Group Vb	Bahrain
Group Vb	Egypt
Group Vb	Iraq
Group Vb	Jordan
Group Vb	Kuwait
Group Vb	Lebanon
Group Vb	Marocco
Group Vb	Mauritania
Group Vb	Oman
Group Vb	Palestine
Group Vb	Qatar
Group Vb	Saudi Arabia
Group Vb	Sudan
Group Vb	Syrian Arab Republic
Group Vb	Tunisia
Group Vb	United Arab Emirates
Group Vb	Yemen
Non -States Praties	Angola
Non -States Praties	Australia
Non -States Praties	Canada
Non -States Praties	Guyana
Non -States Praties	Israel
Non -States Praties	Kiribati
Non -States Praties	Kosovo
Non -States Praties	Liberia
Non -States Praties	Libya

Non -States Praties	Liechtenstein
Non -States Praties	Maldives
Non -States Praties	New Zealand
Non -States Praties	Russia
Non -States Praties	San Marino
Non -States Praties	Sierra Leone
Non -States Praties	Singapore
Non -States Praties	Solomon Islands
Non -States Praties	Somalia
Non -States Praties	South Africa
Non -States Praties	Suriname
Non -States Praties	Taiwan
Non -States Praties	UK (Scotland)
Non -States Praties	USA
Non -States Praties	Vatican City (Holy See)