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**STATUS OF THE THREE-YEAR MINISTERIAL CYCLE** **OF THE**

**SECTOR OF CULTURE PROCESS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE**

(Approved by CIDI at the regular meeting held May 31, 2022)

The three-year ministerial cycle for culture has been delayed from the deadlines set in the “General Guidelines for Sectoral Ministerial Processes within the Framework of CIDI” (CIDI/doc.228/17).

This is due to the delay in holding the Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Culture Ministerial Process, which was caused by difficulties in coordinating the agendas of the different ministries because of prior commitments and complications inherent to their management, and by the fact that the date scheduled in the aforementioned Guidelines coincided with holidays such as Christmas and New Year. That situation led to delays in the activities of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC). The Planning Meeting should have been held in December 2019, three months after the Ministerial Meeting, but due to the aforesaid circumstances it was held in person on March 5 and 6, 2020, followed by a virtual meeting of the CIC authorities on May 27, 2020.

Subsequently, the global COVID-19 pandemic declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020 placed intense pressure on the response capacity of all government institutions, which were forced to prioritize attention for the national-level challenges arising from the pandemic.

Given that situation, the need arose to establish a way to monitor the progress of the pandemic in order to evaluate the return to face-to-face meetings. Accordingly, the Government of Guatemala, in its commitment to the responsibility and honor of hosting the next ministerial meeting, reiterated its offer verbally at the regular meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) held virtually on April 27, 2021, and presented a proposal of topics for the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities. Comments on that proposal were received from Ecuador and Peru. Since then, the Government of Guatemala has been assessing the proposed date and modality for this important meeting.

It should be noted that despite the exceptional circumstances arising from the pandemic, the CIC Work Plan has been executed successfully thanks to the management and commitment of its members and, in particular, its authorities, the representatives of Colombia, Jamaica, and Costa Rica, and the members of the Troika, the representatives of Paraguay, Barbados, and Guatemala.

For these reasons, in keeping with Guatemala’s reiterated commitment as the host country of the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (verbal note OAS-M4-257-2022) and taking into account that the general provisions of the General Guidelines for Sectoral Ministerial Processes within the Framework of CIDI establish that “in case of unforeseen circumstances, on the advice of the Secretariat, CIDI will have the prerogative to approve changes to a particular ministerial cycle on an exceptional basis and taking into consideration the logistical, budgetary, and organizational implications of the proposed change,” the following update to the three-year schedule of the ministerial process is approved by CIDI. The update will make it possible to hold the ministerial meeting on the dates proposed by the host country.

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| **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE Ninth Inter-American Meeting of**  **Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities**  (October 27–28, 2022) | | | | |
| DATE  2022 | | | BODY RESPONSIBLE | ACTIVITY |
| May | | 31 | Regular Meeting of CIDI | * Consideration and approval of the convocation resolution by CIDI * Presentation of the preliminary draft agenda * Presentation of the preliminary draft annotated agenda |
| June | | 28 | Regular Meeting of CIDI | * Adoption of the draft agenda * Presentation of the provisional list of observers and special guests |
| June–August | | | | * Invitations sent to member states, observers, and special guests |
| July | | 26 | Regular Meeting of CIDI | * Consideration and approval of the provisional list of observers and special guests * Presentation of the preliminary draft declaration * Presentation of the preliminary draft plan of action |
| August–September | | | Host country | * Informal meetings for the negotiation of the draft declaration and the draft plan of action |
| September | | 12 | Preparatory Meeting | * Finalization of the draft agenda and negotiations for the draft declaration and draft plan of action that are to be considered at the ministerial meeting * Presentation of the draft schedule * Consideration of other matters related to the ministerial meeting: election of the chair; composition of the style committee; finalized meeting agenda; agreement on the deadline for presenting proposals; meeting duration. |
| September | | | Secretariat | * SEDI sends the draft agenda and other documents approved by CIDI to the member states |
| October | 25 | | Regular Meeting of CIDI | * CIDI sets the order of precedence for the delegations of member states and permanent observers |
| October 27 - 28 | | | **Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities** | |

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