

SeniorNet collaborates with global partners to engage in public awareness and policy advocacy related to aging, lifelong learning and technology to extend the reach of SeniorNet's mission and programs.

SeniorNet believes that the senior population has been neglected in the promotion and support of computer technologies to empower individuals and groups. In order to close the gap in this Digital Divide, SeniorNet partners with various organizations to provide education and programs that focus on the needs and interests of older adults.

Seniors can offer a wealth of perspectives and personal histories as background to important national and global issues. SeniorNet helps give voice to those who can provide a long view of issues.

SeniorNet is associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations to disseminate information about United Nations initiatives regarding aging and technology issues. See the [News from the UN](#) section below.

RESOURCES: Articles and Activities

[UN Department of Public Information](#)

[Activities of the United Nations International Institute on Ageing](#)

[Digital Divide Network](#)

U.S. Senate Legislation related to Seniors including information on The Older Americans Act

NEWS: On September 10, 2008 the Senate Finance Committee passed the Elder Justice Act (S. 1070). Next step would be review by the full Senate. Read the [Elder Justice Act](#).

Read about bills related to seniors that have been introduced to the United States Senate. Go to the [U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging](#).

Find contact information for your [U.S. Representative](#).

Find contact information for your [U.S. Senator](#).

Get unbiased biographical information, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and interest group ratings on candidates and elected officials at [Project vote Smart](#).

[Older Americans Act](#) Information and resources related to the Older Americans Act

NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

UN's Intangible Cultural Heritage List Comes into Being with 90 Entries

4 November 2008 – A United Nations-endorsed list of the planet's intangible cultural heritage, ranging from folk music and shadow puppetry to ox-herding traditions and sand drawings, came into being today as part of efforts to safeguard such elements around the world.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was established today in Istanbul, Turkey, with the inclusion of 90 elements that had previously been proclaimed as masterpieces, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported in a news release.

UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura said the List's inauguration "is bringing to life" the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which was adopted by [UNESCO](#) in 2003 and has been ratified by 104 States so far.

“I am confident that with time, this List – designed to give more visibility to our living heritage – will contribute to raising awareness of its importance and instil a sense of pride and belonging to custodian communities,” Mr. Matsuura said.

Both the List and the Convention aim to protect heritage that includes oral traditions, the performing arts, social practices, craftsmanship and knowledge of nature.

The List’s inauguration took place at the start of a week-long session of the intergovernmental committee overseeing the implementation of the intangible cultural heritage Convention.

The 90 elements were proclaimed as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2001, 2003 or 2005, and another 111 applications for inscriptions on the List have been sent to the intergovernmental committee for review next year.

The inaugural list covers every region of the world, and includes the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, ox-herding and oxcart traditions in Costa Rica, polyphonic singing of the Aka Pygmies of the Central African Republic (CAR) and Mexico’s indigenous festivity dedicated to the dead. Indonesian shadow puppetry is also included, as are cross-crafting in Lithuania and Latvia, sand drawings in Vanuatu, initiatory rites in Senegal and Gambia and textile art in Peru.

[See related articles](#) .

ACCESSIBILITY ON THE WEB

There are many commendable efforts on the World Wide Web to champion the cause of improving accessibility for the over half-a-billion people in the world who are disabled. This special report intends to provide an overview of Internet Accessibility and to serve as a select resource to some of the initiatives launched by individuals, organizations and companies.

This report is a result of the lessons learned in a project to launch an electronic "Gateway" for the Division of Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat. The challenge was the development of web pages that would present the work of the Division, aimed at several sets of audiences, and ensure that these pages are accessible to people with disabilities. This is not meant to be an authoritative report. If it can encourage or inspire a few more developers to make accessibility a major consideration in building web pages, it will have served its purpose. [Read more](#) .

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