



### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY: COLLECTIVE RIGHTS OR STATES' OBLIGATIONS?

The international protection of cultural identity has some relevant aspects compared with the general issue of the human rights protection. In fact, while the rights recognized to human persons have a special spot in the studies about the human rights protection, just in few norms of the acts about the protection of cultural diversity (specially the acts of UNESCO and Council of Europe) the diversity becomes a right of the single person; “groups” and “communities” are usually the real subjects whose cultural diversity needs to be protected. This kind of protection has to be granted providing precise obligations, not recognizing “collective rights”, as set in the UNESCO convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005). The theory about the existence of “collective rights” doesn’t appear on international acts, where the necessity to protect the collectivity from the assimilation by the prevalent culture is satisfied just with few obligations binding the States Parties.