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Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Conference A
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Committee Staff

<table>
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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Vincent Carrier</td>
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Agenda

I. Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property
II. The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites
III. Fostering Environments for Freedom of Expression

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO/1/1</td>
<td>Combat Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property</td>
<td>31 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 0 abstentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO/1/2</td>
<td>Combat Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property</td>
<td>33 votes in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions</td>
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<td>UNESCO/2/1</td>
<td>The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites</td>
<td>31 votes in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO/2/2</td>
<td>The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites</td>
<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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<td>UNESCO/2/3</td>
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<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO/2/4</td>
<td>The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites</td>
<td>29 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 2 abstentions</td>
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Summary Report

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites
II. Fostering Environments for Freedom of Expression
III. Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

The session was attended by representatives of 36 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including educating the public on the importance of stolen artifacts and how to identify stolen items, as well as a database and law enforcement in terms of keeping better track of stolen items. The debate was diplomatic and cooperative as the delegates worked together.

On Wednesday, two draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had amendments. The committee adopted both resolutions during voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including educating the public on the serious issue of illicit trafficking of special artifacts. The inclusion of law enforcement and how to efficiently educate them in identifying and retrieving artifacts, as well as the creation of a program to enhance the abilities of the public to identify stolen artifacts were also proposed. The committee also began discussion on the second topic, “The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites.” The body submitted 4 working papers that were all accepted as draft resolutions; ultimately, all 4 were all voted into resolutions, with two being passed unanimously.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling further the 11th Goal from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), aiming to strengthen global efforts to preserve the world’s cultural properties, as well as the 16th, which aspires to stabilize peace and development throughout Member States, and therefore avoiding revenues related to internet platforms and services including websites potentially used to sell or trade illegally cultural properties,

Recognizing the accessibility and utilization of online platforms that can be used for illegal trafficking of cultural property, such as Amazon and eBay,

Stressing the urgent need of reform in the way Member States monitor online trade, especially since online platforms have an ever-growing share of the market for cultural goods and illegal trades are particularly difficult to track on illegal online market websites such as Silk road,

Conscious of the work of the International Council of Museums and its existing Red List (2000) database on missing cultural artifacts, the number of which is rapidly rising,

Seeking support from the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which work in regard to international criminal affairs including illegal trafficking of cultural properties,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP), especially concerning the promotion of investigation and public information, and the purpose of the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee, which is to facilitate the ICPRCP’s mission to return illegally collected artefacts to their original Member State,

1. **Recommends** the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), particularly their international communications technologies (ICT) experts, to collaborate closely with the UNODC and share their data regarding the illicit sale of cultural property, in a discussion panel, which:

   a. Would be mediated by and take place in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in the first semester of 2019;

   b. Would aim to:

      i. Prevent theft of cultural artifacts which have historical value for the Member States while sharing information between both bodies;
      ii. Forestall the uprising of online selling websites, which would become a potential illegal marketplace for illicit trafficking of cultural property;
      iii. Encourage prohibition of illicit online trade of artifacts in all Member States;

2. **Calls for** the creation of the Piece of Culture Button (PoC):

   a. Coded with the aid of a group of ICT external experts hired and supported by UNESCO;

   b. Which aims to:

      i. Involve the population in identifying potential sales of stolen cultural property;
ii. Be implemented with the collaboration of online sale platforms such as eBay or Amazon for ease of flagging potential stolen cultural property from 2019 on;

c. Which would be complemented by an informational guide on how to identify cultural artifacts;

d. Which shall collaborate with INTERPOL and UNODC, which:

i. Shall investigate the suspicious cases reported by the customers of the previously mentioned online sales platforms who make use of the PoC;

ii. Shall cooperate with the International Council of Museums in using the existing Red List as a database to identify potential matches with the PoC flagged cultural artifacts;

3. Further requests the collaboration of the ICPRCP to:

a. Create a specific section in the existing common fund to support the introduction of the PoC on internet platforms specialized in selling and trading goods;

b. Carry out further research concerning the development of the efficiency of image recognition of missing cultural property inside the Red List of the International Council of Museums.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Maintaining the importance to respect the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), which expands the definition of cultural property to collections and rare specimens of fauna, flora, and minerals in the definition of cultural property,

Reaffirming target 11.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage,”

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/76 (2015) on the “Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin,” which stresses the urgency of protecting cultural artifacts to prevent illicit trafficking,

Acknowledging Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), which condemns the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, including the destruction of religious sites and artifacts, and the looting and smuggling of cultural property from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives, and other sites, notably by terrorist groups,

Appreciating the cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property (ICPRCP), which facilitates bilateral negotiations between Member States on the origin or the restitution in cases of unlawful appropriation,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 69/196 (2014), on “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences,” which emphasizes the importance of preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural property,

Recalling article 2-3:14 of the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (2015) that states that Member States should work to educate law enforcement and border patrol, on the cultural impact of illicit trafficking as a means to prevent this action in the future,

Further recalling Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), recognizing the illicit trafficking of antiquities as a potential source of financing for terrorist organizations,

Bearing in mind article 7 of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), which provides for the obligation to introduce regulations or instructions aimed at protecting cultural property into the military in time of peace,

Viewing with appreciation the work done by the United States Committee of the Blue Shield, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Smithsonian Institution in the creation of a pocket Guide to Mosul Heritage and its distribution among the troops present in the area before they engage in battle, aiming to protect cultural and religious sites in and around Mosul in preparation of the liberation of the city, by training Kurdish and Iraqi security forces,

Seeking to combat the frequently adapting criminal activity of illicit trafficking of cultural property, further research with respect to its causes, as well as its negative consequences, is needed to understand how to appropriately respond to the previous mentioned and consequently adapt strategies to combat this illegal activity,

Acknowledging that World Heritage Sites are a valuable source of culture, and aid in the process of establishing personal identities, which provide a sense of history and identity among various peoples and ethnic groups,
Recognizing the abilities of Ministries of Culture, in the protection of cultural heritage, as well as its promotion among citizens,

Taking note of the importance of the role of social media in today’s global movements such as UNESCO’s campaign #Unite4Heritage (2015), demonstrated by making thousands of worldwide citizens changing their profile picture on all social networks to support Member States affected by illegally removed and destroyed artifacts,

Reinforcing the #Unite4Heritage movement and the World Heritage Day on 18 April, launched by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),

Emphasizing that the process of educating local populations on the issue will make them more sensitive to the signs of illicitly trafficked cultural properties,

Accrediting the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Database of Stolen Works of Art, the online platform that serves as a key tool for law enforcement by providing necessary information regarding stolen art,

Acknowledging the efforts of organizations like INTERPOL for their international policing, the Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage for their protection of national cultural property, the Heritage Team of the Central Operational Unit of the “Guardia Civil,” for their investigations against crimes with cultural properties, and the Central Offices for the Fight against Trafficking of Cultural Property (OCBC) who fight against theft and stolen properties,

Recalling the capacity-building and awareness-raising workshop on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in Mali, 2017, with the collaboration of UNESCO, the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Mali, and the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara,

Recognizing article 1:11-12 of UNESCO’s Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (2015) that states cultural property means “property which, on religious or secular grounds, is specifically designated by each State as being of importance for archaeology, prehistory, history, literature, art or science,”

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Centre for Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property’s (ICCROM) Architectural and Archaeological Tangible Heritage in the Arab Region (ATHAR) regional conservation center, in the protection of cultural heritage in the Arab region and in the broadening of access, appreciation, and understanding of its rich history,

Acknowledging the World Monument Fund, which orchestrates projects and sponsors programs for the conservation of cultural heritage worldwide, and its World Monuments Watch program aiming at identify imperiled cultural heritage sites and direct financial and technical support for their preservation,

Calling attention to the importance that cooperation with international institutions play in tackling the issue of illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts,

Promoting the GIE ARGOS non profit French insurance group created in 1984, which has the purpose of researching, identifying, and recovering personal property and valuable objects declared stolen by a Member State in preparation for an indemnification,

Recognizing the significance of the innovative French company that is LTU Technologies, which provides commercial and government customers with an LTU engine that stimulates image recognition and similarity mechanisms,

Strongly encouraging universities, as they are spearheading innovation dedicated to the promotion of culture, to continue research on block chain technologies to support the work of the different bodies involved in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property,
Acknowledging the work realized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and other international organizations concerned with the enforcement of law regarding illicit cultural trafficking,

Seeking to combat the frequently adapting criminal activity of illicit trafficking of cultural property, further research with respect to its causes as well as its negative consequences is needed to understand how to appropriately respond to the previous mentioned and consequently adapt strategies to combat this illegal activity,

1. Suggests Member States take into consideration respective national laws regarding trafficking prevention of cultural property with international legal systems, by recognizing the ability for them to choose penalties and administrative sanctions with reference to article 8 of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer and Ownership of Cultural Property;

2. Encourages the collaboration between Member States in an effort to create incentives for states to return stolen artifacts and the creation of bilateral and multilateral agreements by:
   a. Returning a stolen item, if found, to the country of origin so that the cultural integrity may be preserved;
   b. Requesting the help of other Member States through article 9 of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit, Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
   c. Requesting all Member States to ratify or recognize international treaties concerned with the illegal trafficking of cultural goods;
   d. Creating treaties between Member States to ensure that the imports and exports of cultural heritage are under the legal authority of the government;

3. Encourages all Member States to improve effectiveness of international collaboration by:
   a. Instituting international programs that would facilitate global cooperation in preventing illicit cultural trafficking while also maintaining the sovereignty of the nations in question;
   b. Establishing meetings of all Member States, which adopted the proposed regulations twice a year, to discuss its progress by convening a summit starting 2019 at UNESCO headquarters, bringing together national cultural institutions and law enforcement agencies to exchange experiences and knowledge for the betterment of training for law enforcement officers;
   c. Securing the implementation of international law in their respective country by inviting Member States to set up governmental bodies concerned with the monitoring of the implementation, and partnering with organizations such as INTERPOL, the Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Heritage Team of the Central Operational Unit of “Guardia Civil,” the OCBC, and other organizations with the goal of preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural properties;

4. Recommends the development of a framework, in the form of explanatory guidelines on how to train local law enforcement, border patrol, and military forces on the importance of cultural property, in order to prevent the overgrowing illicit trafficking of such property, and further recommends that these explanatory guidelines:
   a. Be written by cultural heritage experts from the five regional groups of the UN, provided by these regional groups and willing Member States;
   b. Be funded by UNESCO, with the help of willing and able Member States, and in cooperation with INTERPOL;
   c. Outline the definitions of cultural property, as defined by UNESCO’s Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import,
Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, on what constitutes cultural property, the importance of cultural property and cultural heritage, what objects can be stolen, the placement and importance of World Heritage Sites, and the impact of illegal trafficking has on these sites for the local population, economy and future generations;

d. Detail the processes and guidelines for reporting these practices to local, national, international law enforcement agencies, and the practices in how to prevent and observe the theft and trafficking of cultural artifacts;

e. Be modeled on the information gained from local workshops in capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, surrounded by national experts, defense and security forces, antique dealers, site managers, cultural associations, technical service agents involved in the field of culture, as modeled by the 2017 Bandiagara Reinforcement of Capacities and Sensitisation in the Fight Against Illicit Cultural Property Trafficking Workshop, on the program already established by INTERPOL, but would emphasize on customs and border protection, striving to improve the verification of imports and exports at national borders, and in cooperation with the training workshops of the World Heritage Centre;

f. Provide specific training pertaining to protecting cultural heritage in a conflict zone;

5. Encourages, based on the outcome of the explanatory guidelines on law enforcement, border control, and military forces, the implementation of a Cultural Property Protection Program (CPPP) for building a culture of heritage and its preservation at national levels, that will share knowledge with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the ICOM for strengthening cross-border security and local museums;

6. Requests the creation of a booklet, “Guide to Syrian Heritage,” in collaboration with ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, and funded by the World Monument Fund, which would be distributed to the troops present on the ground, whether they are about to engage in battle or in a peacekeeping operation, and would provide them with:

a. Maps and coordinates;

b. Satellite images through the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and more precisely its UNOSAT program, which already works with UNESCO to ensure the current damage and looting cease, especially in Syria and the Middle East region;

c. Street view photographs of cultural heritage sites;

d. Instructions explaining the procedure to follow if a cultural artifact is found, in collaboration with the Shirîn initiative and its committee of experts, in order to prevent their stealing, illicit reselling, or destruction;

7. Recommends the enhancement of the current INTERPOL Database of cultural artifacts and properties, in which:

a. Member States could include their storages of cultural and natural artifacts and properties;

b. Member States could alert fellow nations when an item has been lost from their inventories;

c. Reference existing stolen or missing properties to look out for;

d. Private citizens and local museums could report any identified stolen items;

e. Members of the public may be granted the ability to view stolen cultural property that would not compromise the security of the site;
8. Advocates for the implementation of identification software, such as, but not limited to the technology developed by LTU Engine, to assist public and private Websites in countering illicit cultural trafficking from occurring on their own web domains, through:

   a. Image recognition on the photographs of the properties illicitly trafficked online;

   b. Data inspection of the information concerning the location and status of the cultural properties;

9. Further encourages international organizations concerned with the enforcement of law regarding illicit cultural trafficking, such as ICOM, to make efforts towards improving their own databases, and their communication and collaboration with art collectors using technologies such as, but not limited to the one developed by LTU Engines, a software platform which enables image recognition and data collection;

10. Requests that private corporations (e.g. Amazon, eBay, Facebook Marketplace) to take a stand against online illicit cultural trafficking, by:

   a. Welcoming businesses to increase their collaboration with international bodies who are tasked with combating illicit cultural trafficking, namely UNESCO, INTERPOL, and ICOM;

   b. Calling on these sites to provide:

      i. The origin of the item;

      ii. The previous seller of the item;

      iii. Identifiable traits of the item;

      iv. A comprehensive list of the materials of which is item is composed;

   c. Recommending with the above-mentioned information the development of a filtering mechanism by websites that are susceptible to being home to illicit trafficking of cultural objects in order to prevent criminal actors from profiting using their platforms;

11. Encourages the development of block chain technology to serve as the basis of a global database by:

   a. Recommending public and private partnerships between Member States and universities to develop block chain technologies to be used by UNESCO, by organizing a UNESCO-funded contest, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), between specific programs of universities;

   b. Sending requests to the non-governmental organization Internet Society about serving as impartial judges amongst universities involved in the contest;

12. Encourages international organizations concerned with the enforcement of law regarding illicit cultural trafficking, specifically INTERPOL and ICOM, to make similar efforts towards improving their own databases;

13. Endorses efforts to host regional yearly conventions to train Cultural Heritage Site managers on improving their management plans in efforts to reduce the likelihood of procuring illicit artifacts by:

   a. Facilitating conferences that will pair managers with management planning mentors that will train them on executing improved management plans to increase efficiency;

   b. Mentors will educate managers in the realms of educational project management, risk awareness and protection techniques;

   c. Analyze the cost effectiveness of site management to ensure better protection of cultural properties;

   d. Reinitiating the plan every five years with new management mentors to ensure fresh ideas and prevent stagnation;
e. Emphasize the importance of training managers on how to better educate and directly involve local populations on this issue;

f. Suggest the implementation of the aforementioned management skills for natural Cultural Heritage Sites administrators;

14. **Calls upon** Member States to self-monitor their statistics on illicitly trafficked cultural goods, with the help of an enhanced INTERPOL Database;

15. **Designates** the creation of Illicit Trafficking Research Subcommittee (ITRS) under UNESCO, which is a committee that will conduct studies to educate Member States on implementing measures against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in conjunction with the ITRS, who will provide states with suggestions and propositions derived from initiatives, these suggestions, propositions, and initiatives will be implemented only with a simple majority consensus vote for their creation or removal through:

   a. ITRS who will focus on researching effective security strategies, and analyzing the history of illicit trafficking within states, this information will be subject to be kept confidential or censored for security reasons;
   
   b. ITRS who requests UNESCO to allocate funds to start off the research, non-governmental individuals can volunteer their time for implementing initiatives;
   
   c. ITRS who recognizes the work of The Antiquities Coalition, an NGO whose mission is to educate interested Member States on research;

16. **Further asks** the international donor community, especially non-profit organizations and Member States, to donate monetary funds to the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFDC), which will support the aforementioned educational programs;

17. **Encourages** all Member States to raise youth awareness about the importance of the cultural heritage sites and other cultural properties by:

   a. The promotion of partnership between schools and already existing civil organizations that are involved in the restoration of tangible artifacts;
   
   b. Courses in the educational system that will educate the youth with understanding their own heritages and educate them about other cultures too, such as the UNESCO and the IITE-ASPnet pilot project, launched in 2012 by the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, entitled “Learning for the Future;”
   
   c. The development of international youth forums as modeled by the 2017 Changsha International Youth Forum: Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Road;

18. **Affirms** the promotion of the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April, that will start in 2019, expecting for a global impact on every citizen by 2025 since time is necessary to increase interest and knowledge by:

   a. Requesting the help of these following actors to promote this event: schools, international media such as newspapers, social networks, advertising agencies spread on all platforms, museums and art galleries, and all the cultural sites personnel;
   
   b. Encouraging Member States or the aforementioned actors to deliver pedagogical conferences, workshops, forums, sensibilities campaigns, gathering experts and the public;
c. Suggesting cooperation with the ICOM (International Council of Museums), governmental properties, and private organizations to open their doors to facilitate access on the purpose of promoting culture to the public;

d. Making sure Member States protect and safeguard heritage in areas threatened by extremists, by creating exhibitions showing the damages made to World Heritage Sites in the Middle East and other endangered areas to make states and citizens aware of their duty to protect their national heritage;

e. Collaborating with the #Unite4Heritage movement to improve informational flow from the world of culture to the citizens;

19. **Recommends** the promotion of the #Unite4Heritage movement started in 2015, so that new audiences can be reached, and awareness created by:

   a. Facilitating funding projects;
   
   b. Investing into online-marketing and promotion;
   
   c. Organizing national and international conferences on the meaning of cultural heritage;
   
   d. Creating expert groups that give workshops and conferences in different cities, and Member States to promote physically these awareness campaigns to both citizens and national authorities;
   
   e. Implementing a campaign to fight against black-market trade of illegally removed cultural artifacts, which will stress the danger for citizens to engage into such grey trade, to raise awareness about the punishments that could follow as a consequence of such actions;

20. **Strongly recommends** all Member States to create a ministry of culture, and enable it to closely collaborate with their educational system in order to expose the youth to their cultural heritage through:

   a. The establishment of regular school-sponsored field trips that expose students to their cultural patrimony and history, as exemplified by the French Education Ministry Circular n°99-136 (1999), which outlines the pedagogical benefits of school field trips;

   b. The creation of youth discount programs to visit museums, historical and cultural locations, in order to make access easier and more affordable for the youth to explore their cultural heritage and realize its importance, as modeled by the European Youth Card Program, which enables the youth to get discounted prices for cultural locations across Europe.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/53 (988) on “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind,” which stresses the urgency of climate change, especially its effects on the next generation, we must realize how devastating these changes can be, especially on World Heritage Sites (WHS),

Expressing concerns about the rise of the sea that is severely damaging WHS, and is a permanent threat to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, Life on Land,

Deeply concerned about the wider risk of climate change on WHS, as underlined in the World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate report of 2016,

Acknowledging the importance of risk preparedness programs in the protection of cultural heritage sites endangered by the effects of climate change,

Appreciating the Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties (2007) presented by the World Heritage Committee,

Recognizing the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference, which discussed the necessity of preserving global marine ecosystems,

1. Building off the ideology of General Assembly resolution 43/53, actions need to be made in order to reduce the effects of climate change, especially its effects on our WHS:
   a. By restoring dams and levees;
   b. By providing assistance in the creation of infrastructure to assist in the protection of WHS;

2. Intends to plant mangrove trees along the coast of Southeast Asia to create a natural border to rising sea levels that:
   a. Would increase the biodiversity of the region;
   b. Would increase the overall cultural heritage of the region, as the mangrove forests have been instrumental parts of the Southeast Asian landscape for centuries;
   c. Should be planted as soon as possible because the forest take years to grow, and the point of planting these forest is to protect the people of tomorrow;

3. Fortify the levees in all Member States that are susceptible to tropical storms, because, as it currently stands, most levees are shallow and weak, and by fortifying these levees we could prevent some floods;

4. Recommends that the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) expand its efforts on periodic reporting to include an analysis on the susceptibility of each site to the various effects on climate change, as well as working with Member States and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on potential short-term and long-term solutions to these issues;
5. *Encourages* the implementation of canals systems in coastal nations, such as but not limited to Viet Nam and Malaysia, that would produce:

   a. Hydroelectric power when this water would be passed through either a dam, or some other type of turbine;

   b. Irrigation for crops;

   c. Clean drinking water to villages that are in desperate need of it;

   d. Reduced damage to cultural heritage sites as the flood water would be directed away from them;

6. *Requests* that the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) assist in the development of managerial disaster preparedness plans for each individual endangered WHS, as well as train professional staff and volunteers of WHS to implement the aforementioned disaster plans at their respective sites, in cooperation with the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

7. * Recommends* these projects be funded by UNESCO, non-profit organizations, and invested Member States.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming the work of the World Heritage Convention (1972), which outlined the need for certain World Heritage Sites (WHS) to be given special attention and established the List of World Heritage in Danger,

Alarmed by the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s Fifth Assessment Report (2008), which recognized the multiple threats posed by climate change and the immediate need for action by the international community,

Acknowledging the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (1992), which achieved a universal climate agreement and called for actions on climate change issues,

Deploring the current lack of attention given to WHS threatened by impacts of climatic, geological, or other environmental factors, and fully aware of the limitations of the resources available for the protection of WHS,

Further seeking means to help all relevant actors prioritize their efforts and effectively allocate their resources in the protection of WHS,

Having examined the works of the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) (2006), and recognizing its insightful conclusions about the policy development on climate change,

1. Supports the creation of an Evaluation Committee, composed of a two-year rotating group of experts in Climate Change (CC), such as geologists and biologists, as well as cultural experts, such as archaeologists, historians, and architects, from the five regional groups and under the supervision of the WHC, in close collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that would, as of 2020, submit annual reports, named List of World Heritage Threatened by Climate Change, which aims to:

   a. List WHS according to their potential and/or present risk from the harmful impacts of CC, which would also include, but is not limited to:

      i. Natural disasters that can, and have affected the area;

      ii. A comparison of the size and condition of natural WHS throughout the years;

   b. Propose effective protection and management requirements for the WHS on the list;

   c. Detail the improvement, or lack thereof, that has been made over the years;

2. Strongly recommends that Member States report any site they judge endangered by impacts of CC to the Evaluation Committee in order to allow for fast actions, with an emphasis on Member States that deem to not have the necessary infrastructure to properly evaluate the risks of CC on their WHS;

3. Further recommends that this List of World Heritage Threatened by Climate Change be used by Member States to facilitate the development and implementation of plans of management of WHS as modeled by the WHC’s Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (2008).
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (2008), which discusses the possible ramifications of climate change on world heritage sites, as well as discusses possible solutions to the problem,

Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11.4, to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage and 13.3, improving education and raising awareness,

Recognizing the past achievements made by the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) World Heritage Education Programme (WHEP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP),

Recalling the responsibilities of States parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of World and Cultural Heritage (1972) and the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) to encourage actions for the protection and preservation of heritage sites with natural and cultural significance,

Recognizing the importance of providing financial mechanisms for the achievement of a long-term environmental protection and adaptation programs that will encourage scientific research and information sharing among Member States,

Reiterating the importance of the State of Conservation Reports carried out by the World Heritage Center (WHC) and the importance of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Values, which are written for all World Heritage Sites (WHS) and are key references for their effective protection and management,

Recognizing the importance of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a program promoted by UNESCO, each Member State should include sustainable and developing issue into teaching and learning,

Appreciating the availability and exhaustivity of the public UNESCO database of WHS, which provides valuable data on every WHS, their cultural and historic value, and the reasoning of UNESCO for their classification as a WHS,

Viewing with appreciation the success of #Unite4Heritage, a 2015 campaign to protect and safeguard heritage in areas where it is threatened by extremists, and the role of social media in raising awareness in population and educating the youth on the effects that climate change has on their local communities and WHS,

Deeply concerned about the wider risk of climate change on WHS, as underlined in the World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate report of 2016,

Recognizing the impact of climate change and the threat it poses to the preservation and conservation of WHS recognized by the WHC,

Bearing in mind the importance of water in the preservation of WHS, stressed in the General Assembly 2005-2015 International Decade for Action,

Recalling Article 11.4 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) that identifies the List of World Heritage in Danger,
Noting with alarm the degradation of many national parks due to climate change, including but not limited to the Donana National Park in Spain, which has lost over 100 species of plant in the past few decades,

Recognizing the importance of the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement (1997) as a pioneer bilateral treaty that address World Heritage Sites issues through financial and technical assistance, and research partnership of UNESCO with the French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP), which is an institute established in 2002 that guarantees the study of archaeological remains,

1. Designates the creation of the subcommittee assigned with the role of informing Member States of efficient strategies to combat climate, further with respect to its causes and consequences to the previous mentioned, and continuously responds to changes by adapting strategies to combat climate change;

2. Calls for collaboration with UNEP and the UNESCO WHEP, on raising awareness about WHS such as, but not limited, to the Primeval Beech forest of the Carpathians in Ukraine, represented on the World Heritage List by creating a guide that includes material to be included in educational institutions such as schools and universities;

3. Encourages the exchange of knowledge and resources multilaterally between Member States (especially those in close geographic proximity and climate conditions), intergovernmental organizations and agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and stakeholders, in order to:
   a. Assist and sustain developing and at-risk countries with protecting their WHS by:
     i. Providing financial aid;
     ii. Promoting cooperation with local NGOs;
   b. Strengthen and establish networks of scientific research between experts on sustainable development with focus on:
     i. The causes of climate change;
     ii. The effects of climate change on WHS;

4. Calls for the launch of a multi-platform awareness campaign on the various consequences of climate change on WHS through:
   a. Social media advertisements, television, internet, and other media;
   b. Celebrating Environment Day in their respective states, as the UN declared a World Environment Day on 5 June to raise awareness around the world for the protection of environment and to combat the effects of climate change;

5. Invites other Member States to improve research about Green Economy and Eco-sustainability, and accelerate their research partnerships in cooperation with INRAP, Ministries of Education, and local research institutes by:
   a. Exploring advanced technologies in relation with eco-sustainability;
   b. Giving particular attention to the potentiality of electric vehicles and renewable energy;
   c. Increasing awareness of climate change among local populations especially by making use of awareness-raising campaigns;
   d. Improving access to high education on sustainable development as ESD is trying to do;
   e. Promoting information sharing and the exchange of exemplary management strategies in protecting and preserving WHS;
f. Encouraging professionals and undergraduates to work on research projects focusing on climate adaptation, climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and management strategies;

6. Urges Member-States to take specific measures to improve the visibility of the risks caused by climate change to WHS, most notably by:
   a. Expanding the currently existing UNESCO database of WHS in every country, to include a level of vulnerability to the effects of climate change of each WHS, that would be determined by several criteria, such as vulnerability to the rise of the sea level, global warming, and others;
   b. Implementing warning messages by each WHS and on any Website related to these, to inform all visitors and tourists of the level of vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and to inform of the impact of tourism;

7. Encourages the establishment of youth programs that connect schools to their local ecosystems, and educates students on the effects of climate change in their community and WHS, such as:
   a. Educational programmes about climate change and WHS in science classes in elementary, high school, and post-high school education;
   b. State-sponsored class trips to WHS in their respective countries, tours to organic farms throughout the country to sensible agriculture production;
   c. The establishment of conferences in schools and in universities with climate scientists and regional representatives;
   d. Motivating educational institutions to establish projects for the youth to engage in preservation and conservation of natural heritage sites;

8. Calls for the creation of six-month internships for archeology, geology, biology, and other associated fields for students, in order to better monitor cultural sites and a larger number of them, which would:
   a. Be led by the UNESCO WHC, as well as:
      i. Experts from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and specialists from ICCROM;
      ii. Representatives of religious communities in the case of religious-affiliated WHS, which according to the UNESCO MAB Program have a vital importance for safeguarding cultural and biological diversity;
   b. Be certified and could be credited by the students’ universities;
   c. Be organized all year long based on the demand from national and international site managers, municipalities and other private or governmental institutions;
   d. Produce a report, which would summarize the state of that particular cultural site and give recommendations on how to better preserve it;
   e. Culminate in joint ventures with journalism or cinema students to film a small documentary on the mission and post it on UNESCO’s YouTube and other social media accounts;

9. Calls upon the creation of the Climate Change Research Subcommittee (CCRS) with the power to initiate international studies that test innovations for clean energy and installations of clean-energy-producing technology in regions of the world, and adaptations to the changing climate to determine effective strategies for the education of interested Member States, will inherently help preserve WHS for all the future generations of our international community by:
a. The CCRS having the power to research by creating and evaluating strategies designated or related to the combat of the promoting factors and harmful consequences of climate change and adaptation to the changing climate, which are derived from initiatives, these suggestions, propositions, and initiatives will be implemented only with a simple majority consensus vote for their creation or removal;

b. CCRS requesting UNESCO to allocate funds to start off the research so that non-governmental individuals can volunteer their time for implementing initiatives;

c. Encouraging the partnership of NGOs such as the Carbon War Room, Climate Solutions, Climate Trust, Green For All, Pew Center on Global Solutions, and World Resources Institute;

10. Extends the scope of the State of Conservation reports to all existing endangered sites including those that maybe do not have the qualification and status of WHS:

a. To broaden the evaluation and periodic reporting of respective sites regarding the impacts and evolution the risk of climate change to all heritage sites, cultural, natural or mixed alike;

b. To improve the monitoring and adaptation capabilities of endangered sites through the identification of factors affecting the property and possible adequate measures for respective sites;

11. Recommends the consolidation of international responses to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire where:

a. Managers of WHS prepare draft Statements of OUV of the properties and their responsibilities;

b. Managers of WHS prepare cartographic information for Retrospective Inventory;

12. Suggests the creation of an online media contest #ThePowerofWater, which:

a. Invites young participants world-wide to submit a short video, at most 10 minutes, demonstrating the importance of water in our planet and in the preservation of WHS that holds value in their Member State;

b. After a three-month submission period starting in July, will close and videos will be uploaded to UNESCO social media sites in order to allow users to vote on their favorite, for the duration of two weeks;

c. Shall provide the top three winners the opportunity to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland;

d. Aims to:

i. Highlight the importance of water for WHS;

ii. Stress the significance of climate change adaptation;

iii. Involve the population on this matter by giving them a creative and motivational framework.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting with deep concern that most of the pollution emitted by tourists is due to the means of transportation they use to come to the site,

Appreciating the research done by universities in the field of climate-neutral transportation technologies that can be used to implement,

Acknowledging the importance of making visitors contribute to the preservation and restoration job of damaged World Heritage Sites (WHS),

Recognizing that visitors habits can have a negative impact on the preservation of WHS,

Bearing in mind the work already done by the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2014) on the matter of public awareness and education concerning national actions, mainly but not limited to developing Member States,

Highlighting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11, 13, and 14, which call upon Member States to strive towards making the world a more environmentally-conscious place,

Recognizing the Paris Climate Agreement (2016) and the commitments of 195 Member States to combat the existential threat of climate change,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/228 (2016), which aims to protect the global climate and its culture for future generations,

Recognizing the fact that deforestation exacerbates climate change, as the International Congress for Plant Pathology reports that deforestation accounts for 23% of rising CO2 levels,

Noting with concern that an increasing number of tourists lead to overuse of local resources and native species, for example overfishing in coastal regions which has a negative effect on local cultures such as maritime heritage,

Acknowledging the need for programs, legislation, and adaptation to promote the transition from mass tourism to ecotourism, in efforts to create a more sustainable form of tourism that protects heritage sites,

Welcoming all work done by the UN, especially through the UN Water Program as an interagency mechanism sensitizing Member States to use water responsibly,

Recognizing the importance of providing financial mechanisms for the achievement of a long-term environmental protection and adaptation programs that encouraged scientific research and information sharing among Member States,

1. Calls upon Member States to implement a “Go the extra mile” zone around WHS, in which:
   a. Energy consumption would be carbon-neutral;
   b. Carbon-emitting transportation would be deterred;
c. Eco-friendly public transportation would be provided;
d. Bikes could be rented to come to the site;
e. Construction of service infrastructure would be limited;

2. Encourages the development of climate-neutral transportation technology to be used for the issue of ecotourism towards World Heritage Sites, by:
   a. Offering discounted tickets for tourists who used eco-friendly transportation to come to the site;
   b. Advertising those transportation solutions on the Websites of the tourist institutions;
   c. Creating public and private partnerships between Member States and universities to develop climate-neutral transportation technologies, especially for long distance;

3. Stresses the importance to set daily visitor quotas to avoid overcrowding and its damaging impact on WHS, following the example of the Peruvian WHS, Machu Picchu:
   a. By implementing online registration;
   b. And simultaneously making sure potential visitors are aware of those systems in order to prevent the decrease of tourism income, as it often represents a significant part of a Member State’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

4. Pushes for the creation and the promotion of:
   a. Protect Your Site (PyS) tickets, which price would include:
      i. One part to handle the fees related to the regular running of the natural, cultural, and mixed sites;
      ii. And the other will be used to fund restoration and preservation actions of such endangered sites;
   b. Sustainable World Heritage Shops promoting refillable water bottles, reusable bags;

5. Invites all Member States to implement:
   a. A well-defined fine system, which would discourage citizens not to respect regulations implemented before;
   b. Sponsorship programs to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private, and public organisations that act proactively in awareness-raising programs;

6. Requests UNESCO’s GAP to launch a campaign directly connected to the issue regarding the lack of information given to tourists concerning the respect of the integrity of vulnerable WHS, by:
   a. Designing banners informing travellers and visitors on the consequences of human impact their presence can have on the original structure of those sites, which would be implemented in the following infrastructures:
      i. The surrounding area of the WHS and on its premises;
      ii. Inside of airports and transportation hubs covering the sector of the WHS;
   b. Creating guidelines via brochures distributed to visitors of the WHS at the entrance;
7. **Recommends** WHS managers to preserve the integrity of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of their respective sites:
   a. By setting up an elaborated infrastructure of waste disposal containers;
   b. By clearly defining pathways to facilitate the circulation of visitors on the site;
   c. By improving the sustainability of all sold items on the site;
   d. By improving the access to non-bottled water, in order to encourage visitors to reuse their own bottles;
   e. By elaborating and promoting, in the light of the general principles enhanced by UNESCO’s GAP Campaign, a specific code of conduct for their site, this code could include the behaviour expected from visitors when in contact with wildlife, inform them of the consequences of their presence on our heritage, and about their vulnerability;

8. **Encourages** the implementation of reforestation projects, which will be executed by:
   a. Partnering with a geopolitical panel of scientists who will focus on researching reforestation methods and then provide Member States with a comprehensive plan to execute reforestation at their discretion;
   b. Incentivizing more developed countries to participate by recruiting a panel of economists who will provide Member States with statistical evidence regarding the amount of GDP their state is foregoing, and create a financial plan that will help states allocate funds to subsidize the areas in which reforestation will occur;
   c. Establishing a task force that will help Member States execute the comprehensive plan stated above;

9. **Recommends** Member States implement an ecotourism program by:
   a. Identifying mass touristic areas that are in need of transformation to ecotourism;
   b. Defining the areas in need of protection in regard to ecological, scientific, and recreational values;
   c. Establishing a management authority that includes local residents and stakeholders in efforts to ensure job creation and involve local communities in protecting their own heritage sites:
      i. Which would involve a long-term financing plan;
      ii. Monitor the effects of mass tourism on local and native resources;
      iii. Develop guidelines for site planning and ecotourism development;

10. **Promotes** the increase of imports of fishery in areas in which overfishing is a predominant issue;

11. **Further recommends** the safeguarding and promotion of sustainably caught fish within maritime cultures;

12. **Encourages** the partnerships with the private sector and NGOs to provide certification sustainable fishery, in order to make sure the fish that is being sold is coming from sources that abide from overfishing regulations;

13. **Urges** Member States with WHS that are particularly vulnerable to rising sea-levels to protect these sites by:
   a. Cooperating with relevant international organizations to expedite the installation of mangrove trees and shrubs along bays, estuaries, and lagoons, which will act as a buffer between rising sea tides and any WHS that sits below sea-level;
b. Capitalizing on technologies and methods developed during the Ayutthaya Historic City World Heritage site’s post-flood recovery in 2013, which will utilize hydraulic modelling and computer simulations for flood risks at the site;

c. Using the information generated by these projects to develop more thorough disaster risk mitigation plans for vulnerable WHS;

14. *Recommends* all UN bodies responsible for the UN Water Program to extend the program to focus also on the impact of drought and water scarcity on heritage sites and natural heritage sites by:

   a. Establishing a cooperation of the UN Water programme and UNESCO;

   b. Emphasizing the importance of water sharing and responsibility of states for cross-border water usage, i.e. the Nile, for granting all Member States enough water resources to avoid erosion of their heritage sites;

15. *Further recommends* implementing a sustainable heritage certificate for sites with emission-free organization to inform both tourists and governments of ecological responsibilities taken to supply green travels without negative impact on nature and heritage sites;

16. *Recommends* for the Member States the climate financing mechanism, as following:

   a. The Financial Transaction Tax, and carbon pricing in international air and sea transport that provide a percentage of the revenue to the Green Climate Fund, which is a fund initiated within the framework of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) (1992);

   b. The allocation of funds from the tourism collection of fees to the rehabilitation and risk reduction programs of the local government and communities;

   c. The strengthening, in the longer run, of the World Heritage Fund.