

# NMUN•NY 2018

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25 – 29 MARCH 2018

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



Conference B

# United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Angelina Pienczykowski
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Saeko Yoshimatsu
<b>Chair</b>	Miriam Holtkamp
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Sarah Sakaguchi

## Agenda

- I. The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites
- II. Fostering Environments for Freedom of Expression, Press Freedom, and Journalistic Safety
- III. Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNESCO/1/1	The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites	Adopted without a vote
UNESCO/1/2	The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites	35 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
UNESCO/1/3	The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites	35 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
UNESCO/1/4	The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites	Adopted without a vote
UNESCO/1/5	The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites	35 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
UNESCO/2/1	Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property	35 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions

## Summary Report

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 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, Press Freedom, and Journalistic Safety
- III. Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

The session was attended by representatives of 41 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of seven proposals covering a wide range of subtopics, including using technology to monitor the effects on climate change around World Heritage areas, for both land and maritime areas; online platforms for data collection and sharing; and the use of social media to increase awareness. Other solutions discussed encompassed the promotion of sustainable energy use and supporting Member States in the aid towards this. Throughout Monday and Tuesday, the committee atmosphere remained positive and cooperative as delegates worked to create working papers and later merge their ideas for a total of five proposals.

On Wednesday, five draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had an amendment. The committee adopted five resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including a three-pillar initiative that included technology, education, and collaboration to coordinate information sharing; promoting the use of green transportation near World Heritage Sites; and promoting eco-friendly business practices near World Heritage Sites. Delegates were passionate in their debates as they found new and innovative ways of addressing issues related to climate change and the conservation of World Heritage Sites. Delegates were able to discuss and collaborate as a body on the next topic on “Combating Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.” Delegates were able to vote on a draft resolution which was later adopted without amendments.



**Code:** UNESCO/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Topic:** The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

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1 *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*

2  
3 *Considering Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which promotes the right to freely*  
4 *participate in the cultural life of the community as well as to enjoy and share the benefits of art,*

5  
6 *Guided by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 and 13 which aim to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and*  
7 *sustainable for all citizens which particularly relate to World Heritage Sites and combating the increasing effects of*  
8 *climate change through greener initiatives such as efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions near World Heritage*  
9 *Sites with eco-friendly practices and transportation and the implementation of hashtags for advocacy and awareness,*

10  
11 *Bearing in mind* that World Heritage Sites are increasingly threatened with destruction, not only by the traditional  
12 *causes of decay, but also by the changing climate that aggravates and expedites phenomena of damage or*  
13 *destruction with the unprecedented atmospheric variations occurring in the past 70 years,*

14  
15 *Observing* the work of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and their Green Development  
16 *and Climate Change Programme to provide learning methodology development, and knowledge-sharing,*

17  
18 *Further acknowledging* the work done by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in their  
19 *efforts to generate knowledge addressing the relationships between the tourism sector and climate change,*

20  
21 *Reiterating* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) "World Heritage and  
22 *Tourism in a Changing Climate"* report that analyzed the climate impact such as melting glaciers, rising seas effects,  
23 *worsening droughts, and long wildfire seasons, on sites that hold high tourism benefits,*

24  
25 *Emphasizing* the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Kit in their efforts to offer direction and guidance  
26 *to world heritage tourism destinations to help identify the possible solutions as well as increasing knowledge for the*  
27 *management of each destination,*

28  
29 *Noting* the importance of the mere-exposure effect in advertising, in order to maintain a high level of national  
30 *identity in regard to World Heritage Sites and their contribution to their country's culture, as well as the ability it has*  
31 *to affect someone's level of interest in the preservation of World Heritage Sites,*

32  
33 *Remembering* the efforts presented in both the UNESCO #Unite4Heritage campaigns and the #NoMeansNo  
34 *campaigns as examples of successful marketing frameworks applicable to raising public awareness about the*  
35 *harmful effects that climate change poses to World Heritage sites,*

36  
37 *Recognizing* General Assembly resolution 72/22 "Harmony in Nature" (2017) which promotes sustainable  
38 *development goals and General Assembly resolution 72/219 "Protection of global climate for present and future*  
39 *generations of humankind" (2017) with the motive to protect national identity while promoting the Green Climate*  
40 *Fund,*

41  
42 *Noting* the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased by 62 percent since 1999 on a general basis, as formulated by the *United*  
43 *Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1994),*

- 44  
45 1. *Endorses* the collaboration with UNITAR to further scientific research to better understand the effects of  
46 *tourism and climate change on World Heritage Sites, as World Heritage Site that are in dire condition from the*  
47 *adverse effects of climate change;*  
48  
49 2. *Proposes* the establishment of mobile training units within UNESCO's Sustainable Tourism Program and in  
50 *consultation with an initial assessment done by UNITAR that would provide local citizens with expert and*

- 51 concrete knowledge on the effects of climate change on selected world heritage sites, such as rising sea levels,  
52 increased temperatures, changing landscapes, and extreme weather;  
53
- 54 3. *Calls for* cooperation between UNWTO, UNESCO, and UNITAR within the framework of the World Heritage  
55 Sustainable Tourism Toolkit, to provide local heritage site managers with the scientific knowledge necessary to  
56 monitor and assess the condition of state conservation;  
57
- 58 4. *Suggests* Member States incentivize, according to their own national capacity, the use of tourist transportation  
59 and private companies who take measures such as, but not limited to the use of eco-friendly vehicles that use  
60 alternative transportation fuels such as propane, natural gas, methanol, ethanol, electricity and hydrogen;  
61
- 62 5. *Encourages* the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sector in order to develop cultural  
63 tourism itineraries, and work with national corporations to raise public awareness of tourists regarding the  
64 significance of the protection of World Heritage Sites, through measures such as:  
65
- 66 a. Developing thematic tourism based on the Guide 5 of UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism  
67 Toolkit which incorporates regional World Heritages into one cultural district;  
68
- 69 b. Encouraging UNWTO sponsored collaborations regarding sustainable tourism between national  
70 governments and private corporations in ways such as:  
71
- 72 i. Providing opportunities to Member States by increasing the publicity of private corporations  
73 worldwide through introducing them specifically as a green innovative corporation;  
74
- 75 ii. Private corporations launching tourism programs, giving both technological and  
76 administrative aids to the national tourism organization linked to sustainable development;
- 77 6. *Further encourages* Member States to promote public or alternative transportation in order to reduce  
78 greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on World Heritage Sites in ways such as:  
79
- 80 a. Implementing a double-shifting system which recommends the public to use public transportations  
81 rather than private vehicles on alternative days within the radius of 10 kilometers from World Heritage  
82 Sites;  
83
- 84 b. Replacing petroleum-based vehicles into alternative ethanol-based vehicles for further decrease on  
85 CO2 emission;  
86
- 87 c. Expanding the scope of eco-friendly travel routes which would be free of gas emissions within the  
88 World Heritage Sites in ways such as:  
89
- 90 i. Establishing travel programs that include cycling tours;  
91
- 92 ii. Promoting tour buses to facilitate the tourists' mobility;
- 93
- 94 d. Promoting the use of buses as an alternative to private vehicles with the goal of having emissions free  
95 public transportation by 2050;  
96
- 97 e. Holding workshops with private transportation corporations in order to discuss incentives that would  
98 motivate the private sector to adopt environmentally friendly measures, such as the usage of eco-  
99 friendly vehicles that use alternative transportation fuels;
- 100 7. *Promotes* the advertising of World Heritage Sites, focused primarily on marketing the advantages of emission  
101 free practices with the goal of creating social media platforms by 2020 through:  
102
- 103 a. Creating hashtags that work on all social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter;  
104
- 105 b. Creating video advertisements that promote the going green campaign;  
106

- 107 c. Investing in marketing of new efforts such as hashtags and video advertisements on YouTube to  
108 promote conversations about green initiatives;  
109
- 110 d. Supporting the #MakeGreenChoices initiative;  
111
- 112 8. *Urges* Member States to support educational initiatives within the UNESCO World Heritage Education  
113 Programme, to include:  
114
- 115 a. Educating children and teachers with technical skills training on the importance and preservation of  
116 tangible world heritage (World Heritage Sites, Monuments, documents) and intangible world heritage  
117 (traditional literature, songs and dances);  
118
- 119 b. Continuing to support environmental-friendly practices to preserve cultural heritages, as stated in the  
120 World Heritage in Young Hands Kit to primary and secondary youth by:  
121
- 122 i. Interactive videos and audio lessons, accessible in different languages, which connect cultural  
123 heritages that positively affect tourism and the environment as well as peace and security;  
124 ii. Technical training session that allow teachers to effectively be trained on the link between  
125 World Heritage and the environment, identity, tourism to ensure that students are getting  
126 educated on the universal benefits of cultural heritages;  
127
- 128 c. Expansion of World Heritage in Young Hands Kit to local communities through the Associated  
129 Schools Project Network (ASPnet), which includes 5600 educational institution in 162  
130 countries, utilizing the curriculum in order to better educate future populations on the effects of climate  
131 change on World Heritage Sites;  
132
- 133 9. *Calls for* greater bilateral cooperation between Member States through both technology sharing, monetary and  
134 co-sponsored advertising campaigns to emphasize cooperation between the environment and human practices in  
135 relation to the World Heritage Sites while maintaining individuality between countries.



**Code:** UNESCO/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Topic:** The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

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1 *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*

2  
3 *Recalling Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which expresses the right to take part in*  
4 *cultural life as it relates to the preservation of cultural heritage against the negative impacts of climate change,*

5  
6 *Deeply conscious of the significant issue of climate change and the subsequent climate action, and the importance of*  
7 *working with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the United Nations*  
8 *Environment Assembly (UNEA), and the United Environment Program (UNEP) to improve the United Nations*  
9 *Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) strategies in responding to climate change,*

10  
11 *Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 70/1 (2015) and 72/214 (2017), and the importance of international*  
12 *cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism activities at World Heritage Sites (WHS) in order to meet the goals*  
13 *laid out in the Paris Agreement (2015) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), specifically*  
14 *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 9, 11, and 13,*

15  
16 *Considering the groundwork for conservation and preservation in place for Member States, set by the Convention*  
17 *Concerning the Protection of World and Cultural Heritage (1972) which strived to develop methods to research*  
18 *endangered cultural heritage sites worldwide,*

19  
20 *Acknowledging the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage Sites (2002) and the Framework of the Small Island*  
21 *Developing States (SIDS) Capacity Building Project which encourages Member States to improve the quality of*  
22 *governmental policy, education, and technical support at a regional and national level in regard to sustainable*  
23 *solutions to climate change,*

24  
25 *Applauding the role of UNESCO in assisting Member States and its designated sites in strengthening livelihood*  
26 *capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), as well as in further expanding its scientific and technological capacity*  
27 *in monitoring when dealing with disaster hazards,*

28  
29 *Guided by UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (Document 37 C/4), emphasizing heritage as a*  
30 *collaborative platform of UNESCO in the improvement of national capacities to safeguard heritage at an*  
31 *institutional level,*

32  
33 *Recognizing the importance of the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its culturally*  
34 *sensitive approach to DRR and its focus on the protection of cultural heritage from disaster risks,*

35  
36 *Emphasizing the impact that educational and conservation programs have on reducing the impacts of climate change*  
37 *on WHS and highlights the Brushtracks Initiative which promotes sustainable development, heritage conservation,*  
38 *and the preservation of cultural and historical values of WHS,*

39  
40 *Fully aware that the effects of climate change on WHS particular exacerbate existing inequalities experienced by*  
41 *vulnerable and marginalized populations, such that their livelihoods are particularly exposed to climate change*  
42 *impacts due to their lack of resources,*

43  
44 *Noting the need to strengthen sustainable partnerships between non-governmental organizations (NGOs),*  
45 *intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), researchers, related United Nations (UN) bodies or agencies, and other*  
46 *related international stakeholders in providing assistance for the implementation of projects concerning World*  
47 *Heritage Conservation in relation to effects of climate change,*

48

49 *Expressing* its appreciation to the periodic reporting systems of World Heritage Committee (WHC) which ensures  
50 the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of the WHS,

51  
52 *Seeking* to improve the digital infrastructure of informational systems accessed by World Heritage conservation  
53 managers and stakeholders insofar as keeping information up to date and better organized,

54  
55 *Recalling* programs such as the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage developed for information sharing  
56 between local entities and federal government to partner on combating climate change,

57  
58 *Noting the importance* of reports published by UNESCO such as “World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing  
59 Climate” and the “Report On Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” which highlight the importance of  
60 sustainable solutions regarding ecotourism,

61  
62 *Reiterating* the obligation to reactive monitoring, which regards reports submitted by Member States to the WHC  
63 indicating threats to the value of WHS and improvements in conservation as established in Paragraphs 169 to 174 of  
64 the “Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention,”

65  
66 *Commending* the successes of the World Bank Joint Crediting Mechanism in creating fruitful partnerships between  
67 developed and developing states in sharing green technologies to ensure an environmentally conscious way of  
68 decreasing the effects of climate change on WHS,

69  
70 *Recognizing* the decision on Issues Related to the State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties: Strategy for  
71 Reducing the Risks from disasters at World Heritage Properties (WHC-06/30.COM/7.2) which calls for risk  
72 management policies for WHS in developing states,

73  
74 *Affirming* the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the decision of Document 32 COM 7B.129 and  
75 guided by the World Heritage Convention on the The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties plan  
76 to monitor, report, and mitigate the effect of Climate Change through environmentally sound choices and decisions  
77 with multi-level coordination,

78  
79 *Fully aware* of the broad reach of technology across all generations, especially youth, through social media  
80 platforms and the influence rendered by sponsors or public figures who, through innovative posts are able to share  
81 information to broaden the public’s understanding of the impacts of climate change on WHS,

82  
83 *Expressing its appreciation* of the efforts of the International Maglev Board which uses scientists, engineers, and  
84 experts to call for the long-range implementation of magnetic levitation transportation system in areas surrounding  
85 WHS,

- 86  
87 1. *Urges* Member States to adopt national centers to unify basic criteria in the area of conservation restoration of  
88 cultural goods modeled by The National Heritage organization to improve the institutions responsible for  
89 cultural heritage in the National Heritage Organization's Action Plan of 2013-2016 by empowering public  
90 servants, modernizing the organization at all levels, and improving the conservation of cultural heritage;  
91  
92 2. *Calls for* cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to promote sustainable tourism  
93 education through expanding programs such as the Green Passport Initiative and the #Unite4Heritage  
94 Movement that utilize technology such as social media platforms and mobile applications to include:  
95  
96 a. Educating youth on the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage;  
97  
98 b. Raising international awareness for the threat climate change poses to WHS;  
99  
100 c. Posing solutions for individuals to improve sustainability while travelling to and visiting WHS;

101



- 102 3. *Welcomes* Members States to adopt programs similar to the Smart Heritage City Project, which utilizes  
103 innovative big data technology to monitor the conditions of monuments, such as the installment of sensors in  
104 the Avila City Wall detecting humidity, light, cracks, and traffic vibrations to gather analytics and determine the  
105 overall sustenance;
- 106
- 107 4. *Invites* expanding the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and similar  
108 conferences focused on sharing information on the effects of climate change on WHS to include:
- 109
- 110 a. Recruiting researchers to train local communities on how to recognize and analyze climate change  
111 effects in their communities;
- 112
- 113 b. Establishing a system of data-sharing for locals to report changes in their respective areas;
- 114
- 115 c. Highlighting the progress made by individual Member States, and providing follow-up to demonstrate  
116 which strategies have best succeeded;
- 117
- 118 d. Making all information accessible to every individual citizen in order to promote participation for all;
- 119
- 120 5. *Recommends* Member States to expand the availability of education on the importance of preserving cultural  
121 heritage for primary and secondary school children through support of international programs such as  
122 UNESCO’s World Heritage Education Program and region-specific programs such as the South Eastern  
123 Mediterranean Sea Project which incorporate culture and sustainability into mainstream education by:
- 124
- 125 a. Educating youth on the threats facing WHS, including environmental degradation from climate change  
126 and climate related disasters;
- 127
- 128 b. Giving youth the ability to actively participate in the preservation of culture through hands on learning  
129 opportunities;
- 130
- 131 c. Promoting education beyond the classroom though directly connecting the programs to the  
132 community;
- 133
- 134 6. *Further recommends* the expansion of the Operational Guidelines of the List of World Heritage in Danger,  
135 established by the *World Heritage Convention* (1972), for the placement of WHS in Danger to include:
- 136
- 137 a. The deterioration or destruction of materials or structures due to climate change or natural disaster, or a  
138 threat of impact due to climate change based on the location of the WHS;
- 139
- 140 b. The deterioration or threat of destruction to wildlife within natural WHS that would negatively affect  
141 the integrity of the natural site;
- 142
- 143 c. An agenda within the WHC regarding WHS Criterion for Selection X to read “point of view of  
144 science, conservation, or climate change” instead of “point of view of science or conservation”;
- 145
- 146 d. A scale that will determine how highly at risk the WHS is of damage or destruction based on how  
147 directly the WHS matched with the criteria for a site in danger;
- 148
- 149 e. An assessment by the WHC on whether action should be taken in order to protect the site, and if so  
150 what action should be taken;
- 151
- 152 7. *Further Invites* Member States to increase participation in the University Twinning and Networking Programme  
153 (UNITWIN) and UNESCO Chairs Programme, where universities and think tanks collaborate on climate  
154 change strategies to preserve WHS by:
- 155

- 156 a. Recruiting domestic researchers to attend the two international programs in order to serve as effective  
157 bridge builders in their local communities at home on:  
158  
159 i. Training local communities on how to recognize and analyze climate change effects in their  
160 communities;  
161 ii. Monitoring their system of data-sharing for locals to report changes in their respective areas;  
162  
163 b. Highlighting the progress made by individual Member States, and providing follow-up to demonstrate  
164 which strategies have best reduced the effects of climate change on current WHS;  
165
- 166 8. *Suggests* further transparency among Member States in regard to technical expertise and research on the impact  
167 of greenhouse gases on WHS and share green technologies with developing countries, which are more likely to  
168 use fuels that emit greenhouse gases, in cooperation with the World Bank's Investment Project Financing  
169 program (IPF);  
170
- 171 9. *Encourages* the exchange of experiences in order to better refine existing regional policy frameworks in  
172 collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) such as the Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy  
173 Framework through:  
174  
175 a. Cooperation between regional ministries and departments of tourism and the WTO;  
176  
177 b. Hosting regional summits, such as those already held leading up to the World Education Forum in the  
178 Asia Pacific Region, Latin America and Caribbean Region, Arab Region, African Region, and  
179 European and North America Region, to evaluate and expand on existing policy frameworks affecting  
180 climate change and WHS in relation to sustainable tourism;  
181
- 182 10. *Recommends* Member States to adopt programs and provide continued support to south-lead financing  
183 organizations, such as the Amazon Fund, to empower developing Member States in establishing and expanding  
184 emergency action plans in accordance with the priorities of actions in the Sendai Framework to ensure proactive  
185 protection and preservation of WHS and timely, proactive financing;  
186
- 187 11. *Supports* the reinvigoration of existing guidelines found within the UNESCO World Heritage Management  
188 Plan, designed for international, governmental, and local actors involved in DRR programming for WHS, to  
189 capture the synergy of the *Paris Agreement* (2015), as well as emphasizing the principle of equality and non-  
190 discrimination recognized in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) by:  
191  
192 a. Prioritizing the inclusion of a Human Rights-Based Approach to the DRR Programming for the  
193 safekeeping of WHS, that will incorporate local and surrounding communities near WHS, particularly  
194 otherwise excluded vulnerable and marginalized groups, in the process of protecting and preserving  
195 cultural heritage, artifacts, and the natural environment through their everyday livelihoods;  
196  
197 b. Advising that WHS climate mitigation and adaptation strategies at the national level incorporate the  
198 UNU-FLORES Environmental Management Nexus Approach, which encompass the integration of  
199 assessing the interconnectedness of waste, water, soil, and energy cycles of each ecosystem's WHS, as  
200 these cycles have the potential to affect the outstanding universal value of WHS;  
201
- 202 12. *Welcomes* the bilateral cooperation between the International Maglev Board with UNESCO to produce a report  
203 about the feasibility of introducing the magnetic levitation transportation system in areas with WHS to consider:  
204  
205 a. Information about how the implementation of such transportation systems could aid the protection of  
206 WHS and decrease carbon emissions;  
207  
208 b. The possible measures for non-monetary support of such projects from UNESCO while encouraging  
209 voluntary contributions from Member States and NGOs;  
210

- 211 c. The required infrastructure, technology, and capacity building measures to establish such systems in  
212 both developed and developing Member States;  
213
- 214 13. *Calls upon* Member States to support the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and*  
215 *Natural Heritage (1972)* to ensure disaster preparedness and risk reduction for WHS through:  
216
- 217 a. Implementing and maintaining safety protocols before, during, and after any disaster to reduce the  
218 effects of the disaster expanding upon the protocols used within United Nations Office for Disaster  
219 Risk Reduction (UNISDR), for WHS disaster preparation, specifically the program Global Alliance for  
220 Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) which emphasizes  
221 school safety, prevention, and education efforts for resilience regarding climate issues;  
222
- 223 b. Utilizing UNESCO’s World Heritage Disaster Risk Management (DRM) to increase transparency and  
224 information sharing between Member States to enhance risk prevention for WHS in developing  
225 Member States to improve communication within the international community;  
226
- 227 14. *Reaffirms* the collaboration with UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere Programme to expand the database to include  
228 environmental threats that each ecosystem faces and have solutions to deal with such threats for the protection  
229 of WHS as they are located in different topographical regions to bolster the inclusivity of all Member States as  
230 the database will be tailored to each member;  
231
- 232 15. *Calls for* the worldwide expansion of UNESCO-UNEP collaboration on the Regional Getaway for Technology  
233 Transfer and Climate Change Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) initiative to include an  
234 online knowledge platform to increase coordination with key institutions and regional centers of knowledge and  
235 technology thus providing specific assistance in adaptation to climate change to further protect WHS;  
236
- 237 16. *Encourages* further international collaboration in the sharing of information, strategies, and innovations  
238 through:  
239
- 240 a. Highlighting the work of the WHC Periodic Reporting System through presentations given at future  
241 World Heritage Conventions by individual Member States to report the strategies that successfully  
242 reduced climate effects in their areas;  
243
- 244 b. Assisting Member States currently less involved in information sharing across the WHC Periodic  
245 Reporting System by:  
246
- 247 i. Encouraging the 21 States Parties representatives of the WHC to reinforce and share the goals of  
248 the Periodic Reporting System by incorporating these goals in respective regional event  
249 agendas;  
250
- 251 ii. Supporting the recruitment of climate experts to host workshops or seminars that explain the  
252 challenges and solutions for the impacts of climate change on WHS for Member States less  
involved in information sharing.



**Code:** UNESCO/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Topic:** The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

---

1 *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*

2  
3 *Recalling* the fundamental principles expressed in the *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and*  
4 *Natural Heritage* (1972), and underlying the responsibility of each Member State to protect World Heritage Sites  
5 (WHS) from the further effects of climate change,

6  
7 *Stressing* the pivotal role of the *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* (2001) in the  
8 preservation of underwater heritage,

9  
10 *Recalling* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (2015) notably Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11,  
11 target 11.4, regarding the efforts to globally safeguard cultural, natural, and mixed heritage properties,

12  
13 *Reaffirming* support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) *Policy*  
14 *Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties* focusing on utilizing technology to  
15 understand and address the impact of climate change on WHS,

16  
17 *Urging* the development of a custom-ranged technological systems around each WHS for the purpose of effective  
18 and sustainable monitoring of natural, cultural, and mixed WHS,

19  
20 *Recognizing* the State of Conservation Information System which documents the current conservation status for the  
21 154 properties on the World Heritage List,

22  
23 *Welcoming* the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change and Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation  
24 to Climate Change, which helps developing countries in educating about climate change in an effort to protect their  
25 heritage sites,

26  
27 *Believing* in the principles presented in General Assembly resolution 63/32 (2008) on the “Protection of global  
28 climate for present and future generations” for preventing the escalation of global temperatures as they have had a  
29 significant negative impact on the preservation of WHS,

30  
31 *Guided by* the Strategy for National Climate Change Management Policy for 2013-2050 to mitigate impacts of  
32 climate change as well as the United Nation’s Framework Convention on Climate Changes Global Climate  
33 agreement to avoid future climate change,

34  
35 1. *Calls upon* the development of a Technological, Educational, and Coordination (TEC) online system facilitating  
36 direct interactions and knowledge sharing between all relevant stakeholders, in cooperation with the World  
37 Heritage Centre, in an effort to promote a multi-level, bottom-up flow of data, ideas and understanding from  
38 local populations, and Best Practices from the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy;

39  
40 2. *Emphasizes* the need for scientific knowledge and technology to regularly and efficiently be updated in the pre-  
41 existing UNESCO World Heritage List by:

42  
43 a. Employing the existing panel of experts that prepared the report on “Predicting and Managing the  
44 Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage” to develop a strategy to assist Member States in  
45 addressing the effects of climate change on World Heritage;

46  
47 b. Publishing these strategies in a manner that is understandable to the global populace by the  
48 aforementioned experts;

49

- 50 c. Updating the TEC system in real time by researchers deployed in missions all over the globe, every six  
51 months;
- 52
- 53 3. *Suggests* the establishment of a Vulnerability Assessment Protocol, a standardized global form, to assist in  
54 accumulating disaster risk data that will be digitized and accessible through TEC by:
- 55
- 56 a. Cooperating with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to develop a  
57 standard global WHS vulnerability assessment system;
- 58
- 59 b. Leveraging the previously mentioned panel of experts by working with the only standardized  
60 benchmarking tool, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Disaster (OECS) and Risk  
61 Management Unit's Vulnerability Benchmarking Tool, to quantify the disaster risk data;
- 62
- 63 4. *Recommends* Member States to centralize data in a single, inter-active, inter-compatible system to be analyzed  
64 by the TEC platform and supervised by the World Heritage Committee, in order to:
- 65
- 66 a. Further the understanding of how climate change is affecting various types of WHS and address the  
67 various needs of land, underwater, and mixed WHS;
- 68
- 69 b. Provide a coherent framework for efficient management and streamlined co-operation of all relevant  
70 stakeholders, to ensure all Member States have access to this database;
- 71
- 72 5. *Reiterates* the reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and sharing the IPCC assessment  
73 reports with all Member States by dispatching the experts of IPCC to educate the status quo of cultural  
74 properties and climate change within the Member States;
- 75
- 76 6. *Urges* Member States to further utilize existing technologies which assist in determining weather patterns, the  
77 rise in climate change, and its impact on WHS, such as:
- 78
- 79 a. Land-based weather and climate monitoring systems, such as the Automated Surface Observing  
80 Systems and Automated Weather Observing Stations (AWOS);
- 81
- 82 b. Air-based weather and climate monitoring technologies such as drones, weather balloons, and  
83 atmospheric condition gauges;
- 84
- 85 7. *Acknowledges* the necessity of empowering public officials and revitalizing infrastructure related to WHS  
86 globally, particularly within less developed Member States;
- 87
- 88 8. *Recommends* developed nations to contribute funds towards the World Heritage Fund, which finance the  
89 maintenance of WHS in aforementioned places;
- 90
- 91 9. *Recommends* financing the TEC initiative via the World Heritage Fund, with additional funding raised by  
92 regional funding instruments, public-private partnerships, voluntary contributions, Fund-in-Trust donations, and  
93 reducing the administrative and operational costs by applying information and communication technology,  
94 including but not limited to e-administration and online tools;
- 95
- 96 10. *Reiterates* the importance of creating new educational programs to raise awareness of the importance of  
97 protecting WHS among younger generations;
- 98
- 99 11. *Suggests* Member States and organizations to enhance research, technology, and scientific observation of  
100 climate change management through biotech, IT, laser, physics research centers located on a global scale;
- 101
- 102 12. *Invites* Member States to contribute to the UNESCO's Memory of the World program which focuses on making  
103 a cultural inventory of heritage assets, the TEC initiative is to further support the cataloging of cultural heritage  
104 sites;
- 105

- 106 13. *Recommends* Member States to advance the enhancement of UNESCO’s e-learning tools using TEC’s online  
107 platform in order to:  
108
- 109 a. Further raise sensitivity to the needs of protecting WHS against climate change via proactive youth  
110 participation;
  - 111
  - 112 b. Encourage knowledge-sharing among teachers concerning creative teaching methods and learning  
113 materials;
  - 114
- 115 14. *Further Recommends* developed nations to create environmental funds similar to the French Global  
116 Environmental Fund which has worked in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Center to:  
117
- 118 a. Help developing nations create and implement strategies and programs to protect WHS such as forest  
119 reserves;
  - 120
  - 121 b. Aid specifically nations with a history of western colonialism so as to better relations between western  
122 and previously colonized countries.



Code: UNESCO/1/4

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Topic: The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

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1 *The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*

2  
3 *Recognizing* that the outstanding universal value of World Heritage Sites (WHS) is threatened by natural and  
4 anthropogenic decay, for instance, by the extreme bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, the continual yellowing of  
5 the Taj Mahal, Thand, Ouadi Qadisha and the Forest of the Cedars of God, Kunya-Urgench, and countless other  
6 instances of degradation,

7  
8 *Emphasizing* in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 12, and 13, which specify the importance  
9 of quality education, responsible consumption and production, as well as climate action,

10  
11 *Noting with regret* the ubiquity of pollution and environmental degradation the world over, specifically such that the  
12 International Union for Conservation of Nature has deemed environmental factors the fastest growing threat to  
13 WHS,

14  
15 *Fulfilling* the expectations and responsibilities set by the *World Heritage Convention* (1972), including promoting  
16 and protecting knowledge of cultural and natural heritage through the advocacy, as well as the conservation of  
17 physical locations which showcase cultural and natural heritage,

18  
19 *Recognizing* that consumer spending is, by extension, equal to consumer voting, funds spent on products give reason  
20 for companies to continue their destructive environmental business practices,

21  
22 *Noting with approval* the efforts that have been made by the Fair Trade Organization to encourage environmentally  
23 friendly business practices and create conscious consumers by designing a program which gives accreditation via a  
24 seal to businesses which adhere to environmentally conscious practices,

25  
26 *Guided* by research from the United Nation Environmental Assembly's 2017 Annual Report and their  
27 #BeatPollution campaign, which was intended to provide the necessary information for consumers to recognize  
28 environmentally friendly businesses and corporations,

29  
30 *Applauding* the adoption of the *United Nations Global Compact* (2000), which sets out 10 principles encouraging  
31 greater corporate social responsibility, and highlighting principles 7, 8, and 9 specifically which spell out substantial  
32 sustainable environmental practices,

- 33  
34 1. *Recommends* a working group bridging the private sector and national governments with the intent to promote  
35 the World Heritage | Verto initiative through:  
36  
37 a. Public and Private workshops of environmentally responsible business practices, hosted by UNESCO  
38 to educate each country on the benefits of using the World Heritage | Verto seal;  
39  
40 b. Workshops for Member States which will demonstrate possible advertising techniques and the  
41 incorporation of WHS in advertising;  
42  
43 2. *Suggests* the establishment of an internationally recognized production certification program, and approves the  
44 above mentioned program to create a visual seal to be known as the World Heritage | Verto Seal, which private,  
45 public, and governmental producers will seek to obtain from Member States and regional organizations;  
46  
47 3. *Emphasizes* the importance of researching and creating statistical models and correlations to show businesses  
48 that consumers are concerned about the environment, and by extension, that consumers are more likely to  
49 support businesses and corporations who promote environmental protection through their practices;  
50

- 51 4. *Recommends* that Member States create public advertising campaigns which utilize WHS as a tool and a means  
52 to inform consumers of the World Heritage | Verto Seal by:  
53
- 54 a. Creating a social media campaign with majestic images of the WHS and clean production;  
55
  - 56 b. Utilizing the influence and existing credibility of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
57 Cultural Organization (UNESCO);  
58
- 59 5. *Encourages* the creation of a social media campaign with majestic images of the WHS and clean production, in  
60 order to inform users of the existence businesses whose practices are in harmony with protecting WHS and  
61 utilizing the existing influence and credibility of UNESCO;  
62
- 63 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of creating a website that will allow consumers to immediately identify local  
64 products and businesses that practice comparatively safe environmental practices;  
65
- 66 7. *Recommends* that site managers at WHS provide information on local businesses' pollution in order to analyze  
67 business worthiness for accreditation;  
68
- 69 8. *Further Recommends* that businesses and governments work together in designing a physical rendition of a seal  
70 which will, at a future date, possibly be placed on packaging of products as a means of informing consumers  
71 that the product in safe practices to protect WHS near their business;  
72
- 73 9. *Recommends* that Member States in collaboration with their respective consumer law regulatory bodies:  
74
- 75 a. Implement and enforce standards for environmentally sustainable business practices that do not harm  
76 local WHS;  
77
  - 78 b. Verify compliance with standards;  
79
  - 80 c. Provide approval for the World Heritage | Verto Seal;  
81
- 82 10. *Reiterates* the importance of creating a website which will allow consumers to immediately identify local  
83 products and businesses who practice comparatively safe environmental production;  
84
- 85 11. *Further Recommends* that businesses and governments work together in designing a physical rendition of the  
86 aforementioned seal which will, at a future date, possibly be placed on packaging of products as a means of  
87 informing consumers that the product is environmentally responsible, which will be advertised using WHS;  
88
- 89 12. *Recommends* the establishment of an internationally recognized production certification program that will:  
90
- 91 a. Create a visual seal to be known as the World Heritage | Verto Seal;  
92
  - 93 b. Encourage private, public, and governmental producers to seek approval through member states and  
94 regional organizations to utilize the World Heritage | Verto seal;  
95
- 96 13. *Encourages* Member States to act in collaboration with their respective consumer law regulatory bodies to:  
97
- 98 a. Implement and enforce standards for environmentally sustainable business practices;  
99
  - 100 b. Verify compliance with standards;  
101
  - 102 c. Provide approval for the World Heritage | Verto Seal;  
103
- 104 14. *Recommends* that the criteria for obtaining approval for the use of the World Heritage | Verto Seal may  
105 potentially include the following as determined by Member States, while recognizing that Member States  
106 ultimately determine their respective standards:



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- a. Clean production practices:
    - i. Materials used in manufacturing to be sourced in a manner that is not detrimental to WHS;
    - ii. Factories and production plants are to keep pollutants to a designated level, individually set by national governments based on location and the industry in question;
  - b. Clean packaging practices:
    - i. Packaging that is accredited from the Biodegradable Products Institute, USDA Certified Biobased Products, Non-GMO Project, and International Member;
    - ii. Using recycled materials to produce packaging as well as agricultural by-products such as wheat-straw and bagasse (plant-fiber products) (Lactips, Edible packing);
  - c. Clean transportation practices including:
    - i. Utilizing shipping and exportation vehicles which meet emissions standards dependent on location;
    - ii. Prevalence of hybrid and electric vehicles in product sourcing and supply chain;
    - iii. Transporting goods in large quantities to provide efficiency and to curtail unnecessary emissions created by low-volume and high-frequency transportation and distribution methods;
15. *Emphasizes* the need for an already existing working group within the *World Heritage Convention* (1972) to review the above regulations every five years;
16. *Recognizes* the need for the cooperation of business leaders in establishing international environmental expectations to:
- a. Recognize that local and international corporate leaders have been willing to take on advisory roles in various NGOs focused on promoting eco-friendly business practices, giving helpful feedback to organizations in order to expand the campaigns' influence without detriment to businesses;
  - b. Recommend that local regulatory boards establish a wise and well-meaning business executive council that will act as an advisory board tasked with aiding in the solution finding for businesses desiring to gain the World Heritage | Verto seal of approval;
17. *Further resolves* to raise consumer awareness of the significance of purchasing World Heritage | Verto certified products through:
- a. Social media advertisements which highlight the environmental degradation at or near WHS;
  - b. Corporations and NGOs that are willing to advocate for sustainable production, transportation, and distribution practices, and that seek to highlight their environmental practices;
  - c. Collaborating with other eco-friendly programs such as the *UN Global Compact* in order to raise awareness of the initiative by partnering with these programs in advertising and in negotiating with businesses and Member States;
18. *Seeks to* raise awareness of the damaging and irreversible impact climate change has had on WHS;
19. *Further seeks* to inform consumers of the significance of the World Heritage | Verto Seal and the influence they hold over business operations, with the ultimate goal of raising consumer awareness of sustainable business practices and allowing consumers to make informed and environmentally friendly decisions in support of those practices through:

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- a. Distinguishing between sustainable and unsustainable business operations;
  - b. Deciding of their own free will to exclusively support businesses which are engaged in environmentally friendly activities;
  - c. Gaining the awareness to cease business interaction with financial institutions who support unethical and environmentally damaging projects, industries, and companies.



**Code:** UNESCO/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Topic:** The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites

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1 *The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*  
2  
3 *Expressing* the need to support those regions most affected by the consequences of climate change,  
4  
5 *Aware of* the necessity to expand the education of all citizens in order to promote the values and importance of  
6 World Heritage Sites,  
7  
8 *Commending* the efforts exerted by Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) namely  
9 SDG 13 in regards to combating climate change, SDG 14 concerning life below water, and SDG 15 concerning life  
10 on land,  
11  
12 *Deeply concerned* by the severe impacts of climate change and rising sea levels on maritime life and coastal  
13 environments,  
14  
15 *Acknowledging* the importance of the development of technology and its capacity to assist in protecting and  
16 monitoring World Heritage Sites on or near coastlines,  
17  
18 *Fully aware* of the United Nations commitment to the advancement of Developing States and Small Island  
19 Developing States and their respective Cultural Heritage Sites,  
20  
21 *Reaffirming* the *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* (2001), which calls upon  
22 Member States to share information on the importance of the underwater cultural heritage,  
23  
24 *Alarmed* by the rise in ocean acidification, that if unchanged, will increase ocean acidity by 150 percent by 2100  
25 rendering coral reefs inhabitable according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
26 (UNESCO), RIO +20, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,  
27  
28 *Deeply concerned* by the need for a more balanced distribution of World Heritage Sites regarding geography and  
29 categories with special regard to the Marine World currently accounting only for 4.6 percent of the overall World  
30 Heritage Sites,  
31  
32 *Fully supporting* multilateral global action, evidenced by the commitment of 160 Member States in the *Paris*  
33 *Agreement* (2015),  
34  
35 *Cognizant of* the necessity for further protection of biodiversity as mentioned in criteria IX and X of the criteria for  
36 the selection of World Heritage Sites and expanding the number of recognized World Heritage Sites,  
37  
38 *Recognizing* the need to reform Article 11(4) of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, which sets out the criteria for  
39 adding World Heritage Sites,  
40  
41 *Appreciating* the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction while acknowledging the need for a reform in its  
42 designation regarding the localities of at risk sites,  
43  
44 *Recalling* the *World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy*, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2011, which  
45 emphasizes the need for improved information sharing and capacity building,  
46  
47 *Further noting* programs such as the Joint Credit Mechanism, which provides aid and support to developing states  
48 for the purpose facilitating the diffusion of low-carbon technologies and emission reduction activities,  
49

50 *Guided by* the Group of Seven initiative in establishing a network between Ministries of Culture or similar  
51 governmental entities aiming, to ensure the continuous update of strategies utilized in preserving World Heritage  
52 Sites,  
53  
54 *Having adopted* the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change*  
55 *Impacts* to address the risks linked to climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing  
56 Member States that are particularly vulnerable,  
57  
58 *Bearing in mind* Article 5, 6 and 7 of the *Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change (2017)* in  
59 regard to complying with principles in dealing with climate change, inter alia Sustainable Development, Solidarity  
60 and Scientific Knowledge and Integrity in Decision-Making,  
61  
62 *Firmly convinced* of the value of a social media campaign to spread awareness of the plight of World Heritage Sites  
63 in coastal and marine environments due to climate change exemplified by UNESCO's #MyOceanPledge initiative,  
64  
65 *Noting with satisfaction* the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of encouraging  
66 collaboration between programs regarding marine research, observation services, and capacity development in order  
67 to understand the ocean and effectively manage the resources of the oceans and coastal areas,  
68  
69 *Further recognizing* the previous contributions provided by the Scientific and Technical Advisory (STAB) which  
70 focuses on the technical matters related to the implementation of the 2001 *Convention on the Protection of the*  
71 *Underwater Cultural Heritage*,  
72  
73 1. *Encourages* financial support and dialogue between Member States related to coastal and maritime World  
74 Heritage Sites by:  
75  
76 a. Enhancing and strengthening voluntary contributions between government donors, intergovernmental  
77 prganization (IGO) donors, and private sector donors;  
78  
79 b. Developing aforementioned partnerships with regional agencies, including the European Union (EU),  
80 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Union (AU) and multilateral development  
81 banks through annual coordination meetings held during the annual World Heritage Committee  
82 session, to discuss joint advocacy and capacity building, as well as the co-financing of projects, in  
83 particular at the regional levels;  
84  
85 2. *Further encourages* Member States to contribute to the World Heritage Fund, which assists and contributes  
86 financially to less affluent, developing states, to empower these states to promote, maintain and revitalize their  
87 respective World Heritage Sites;  
88  
89 3. *Encourages* Member States to develop their disaster response plans according to the needs of their specific  
90 regions by;  
91  
92 a. Recognizing the adverse effects of climate change on World Heritage Sites across the globe;  
93  
94 b. Seeking local communities' input concerning the adverse climate effects in their areas;  
95  
96 c. Echoing the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan, which tailors their disaster response  
97 plans to the impact of climate change on islands;  
98  
99 4. *Invites* Member States to assist existing programs, such as the World Heritage In Young Hands Educational  
100 Resource Kit, setting the goal for a targeted campaign in 10 years which aims to educate all citizens, especially  
101 youth, on the value and importance of World Heritage Programs;  
102  
103 5. *Calls* for the utilization of big data integrated sensor technology, resembling the variety of technologies  
104 sponsored by the European Union's regional development fund (FEDER) across Europe, to benefit all  
105 UNESCO Member States, focused on environmental conditions, such as rising sea levels and ocean

106 acidification on World Heritage Sites at marine and coastal areas to enable the swift response to existing  
107 problems and predicting future issues;

- 108
- 109 a. The distribution of such technology should be decided on by the UNESCO Executive Board on a  
110 biannual basis by giving priority to at-risk WHS in accordance with the List of World Heritage in  
111 Danger;
- 112
- 113 b. The technology shall be financed by the World Heritage Fund and sponsored by the European Union's  
114 regional development fund (FEDER);
- 115
- 116 c. Member States will work in conjunction with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),  
117 academic institutions, such as Nova University Lisbon which specializes in energy efficiency, and  
118 companies like the French Nobatek, to develop specific and innovative technologies aiming to protect  
119 the coastal regions from a rise in sea levels and temporary flooding;
- 120

121 6. Further encourages UNESCO to continue their collaboration with non-governmental organizations by:

122

- 123 a. Working alongside the Climate Action Network (CAN), which works to promote government and  
124 individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels through:
- 125
- 126 i. Information exchange
- 127 ii. Coordination and development of NGOs strategy on international, regional, and national climate  
128 issues
- 129 iii. Climate Action Network (CAN) regional network hubs that coordinate efforts around the world  
130 such as the low carbon development project;
- 131
- 132 b. Working alongside the Natural Resources Defense Council which works in the preservation of earth its  
133 people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems through the efforts of three million members  
134 and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the  
135 wild;
- 136

137 7. *Calls for* the participation of Member States in the Regional Sea Level Changes, Coastal Impacts Conference  
138 and the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in ways in which it could:

139

- 140 a. Further establish an understanding of the natural and man-made mechanisms of ocean and coastal  
141 variability through the World Climate Research Programme to continue to incorporate data from all  
142 coastal zones, ranging from local to regional,
- 143
- 144 b. Incorporate ideas from initiatives such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway  
145 (SAMOA) and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (IPoA), which  
146 refer to the vulnerability of SIDS and Least Developing Countries (LDC), into the Integrated Coastal  
147 Area Management (ICAM) program, to all coastal zones;
- 148
- 149 c. Expand the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme of the  
150 IOC of UNESCO which seeks to enhance marine research, exploitation and development, by  
151 facilitating the exchange through the World Heritage Center's existing online platform of  
152 oceanographic data and information to which Member States have access;
- 153

154 8. *Encourages* strengthened actions to counter the major risk factors that Natural World Heritage Sites face by:

155

- 156 a. Recommending measures to prevent deforestation which is a cause of climate change as well as a  
157 leading cause of the endangerment of biodiversity in Natural World Heritage Sites, similar to the  
158 program Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation by:
- 159
- 160 i. Promoting the efforts of the UNFCCC through information sharing
- 161 ii. Training local farmers to discourage deforestation and developing better human practices

- 162                   iii. Encouraging global cooperation on safeguarding forests through the implementation of  
163                   educational initiative which is to be overseen by the UN-REDD public-private interests;  
164
- 165           b. Suggesting the expansion of programs to eradicate invasive species in Natural World Heritage Sites  
166           that are a result of climate change using Working for Water Program as a prototype by:  
167
- 168                   i. Encouraging the training and education of people on the issue of controlling and containing  
169                   invasive plants  
170                   ii. Restructure existing comprehensive lists of all invasive species invading Natural World  
171                   Heritage Sites to become more straightforward and to detail species abundance and threat level  
172                   to the native species;  
173                   iii. Supporting the development of drought management systems in Natural World Heritage Sites  
174                   by encouraging the exchange of ideas and policies between Member States;  
175
- 176 9. *Recommends* developed states to partner with developing states in expanding their capacities to preserve and  
177           monitor cultural preservation by taking part in the activities of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), a  
178           joint initiative sponsored by UNESCO, UNEP, and the WMO which monitors biodiversity levels, salinity,  
179           pollution, and acidity of ocean in order to create recommendations to best manage ocean variables;  
180
- 181 10. *Calls for* the expansion of the World Heritage Risk Criteria in order to mitigate the impact of climate change on  
182           World Heritage Sites:  
183
- 184           a. To be included into the next UNESCO executive board agenda;  
185
- 186           b. To be presented to the body by the Member States who believes that their World Heritage Sites are  
187           in danger of damage due to climate change;  
188
- 189           c. To be assessed and voted on by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to determine the capacity on  
190           which the issue shall be tackled;  
191
- 192 11. *Recommends* the redistribution of the offices of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), taking  
193           into account the World Risk Report as well as the List of World Heritage in Danger, in order to address the  
194           concerns of World Heritage Sites that are most at risk based on urgency as well as financial and technical need;  
195
- 196 12. *Encourages* Member States to participate in regional programs similar to the Risk Preparedness and World  
197           Heritage Properties in Africa initiative, which establishes a network of nature experts and World Heritage Site  
198           managers to better facilitate the sharing of information between sites by:  
199
- 200           a. Providing opportunities for site managers to share information and ideas on the protection of World  
201           Heritage Sites,  
202
- 203           b. Helping site managers create effective risk preparedness plans to better mitigate the impacts of natural  
204           disasters on World Heritage Sites  
205
- 206           c. Involving local communities in the protection of World Heritage Sites and providing educational and  
207           economic opportunities;  
208
- 209 13. *Encourages* UNESCO to increase the number of maritime world heritage sites to 10 percent of World Heritage  
210           Sites worldwide by recommending a quota to the World Heritage Committee for the nominations of World  
211           Heritage Sites by 2021;  
212
- 213 14. *Further invites* UNESCO members to adopt the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage*  
214           *associated with Climate Change Impacts* which will enhance knowledge and understanding of comprehensive  
215           risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,  
216           including slow onset impacts, by facilitating and promoting  
217

- 218 a. The collection, sharing, management and use of relevant data and information for stakeholders and  
219 governmental agencies to strengthen dialogue efforts;  
220
- 221 b. The encouragement of member states to nominate representatives to join the executive committee of  
222 the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage* encouraging;  
223
- 224 15. *Suggests* the coordination of research programs between IGOs, NGOs and Multinational Corporations (MNCs)  
225 willing to work under the supervision of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO  
226 in order to help preserve and protect marine life and underwater cultural sites by:  
227
- 228 a. Asking for an associate partnership between these entities on an Ad Hoc basis alongside the Scientific  
229 and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) focusing on concrete actions specializing on key areas of  
230 underwater world heritage sites such as the acidification of the ocean, rising sea levels and amount of  
231 pollution;  
232
- 233 b. Calling upon the contribution of UNESCO to start a fund assisting the implementation of a multilateral  
234 approach between NGOs and IGOs, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Pacific  
235 Marine Life Foundation (PMLF) which administers support to projects dedicated to the preservation of  
236 the environment and underwater WHS;  
237
- 238 16. *Recommends* the use of social media platforms by UNESCO to raise awareness for rising sea levels in  
239 accordance with NGOs in manners of:  
240
- 241 a. Working with Attentive.ly to promote the protection of World Heritage Sites, by developing the  
242 influence of non-governmental organizations;  
243
- 244 b. Presenting the impact of climate change and rising sea levels on World Heritage Sites on a global scale  
245 as well as a clear documentation on work done to counter them by partnering with social media  
246 platforms to provide a more dynamic global understanding of the concern of WHS;  
247
- 248 c. Building up on the works of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),  
249 associations for restoration and preservation and tourism offices to strengthen local volunteers support  
250 in building up resilience and promoting a common pressure to convince one another to join the  
251 cause.  
252
- 253 d. Facebook on their Aquila project providing Internet access in developing countries and help share  
254 information especially in regions that are excluded from sustainable infrastructure.  
255
- 256 17. *Encourages* the extension of UNESCO's social media #MyOceanPledge awareness campaign to include Marine  
257 World Heritages Sites.



**Code:** UNESCO/2/1

**Committee:** The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

**Topic:** Combating The Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

---

1 *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,*

2  
3 *Having studied* the efforts of the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed*  
4 *Conflict* (1954) issues in conflict zones which introduced procedures for the protection of cultural properties  
5 threatened by armed conflict,

6  
7 *Reaffirming* the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of*  
8 *Ownership of Cultural Property* (1970), which calls upon Member States to develop their own national frameworks  
9 for protecting and preserving cultural property,

10  
11 *Taking into consideration* the Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015) which puts forward an international  
12 moratorium on the trafficking of cultural objects from conflict-ridden zones,

13  
14 *Recalling* the importance of the Kimberley Process on the trade of diamonds, which calls for a transformation of the  
15 extraction, trade, and production of diamonds in global supply chains, thereby is imperative in eliminating conflict  
16 in resource-rich fragile and conflict affected States,

17  
18 *Recognizing* the efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its  
19 countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICRCP) and the Fund established by ICPRCP  
20 to facilitate and guide countries to establish agreements for the return of illegal cultural heritage to the country of  
21 origin,

22  
23 *Recognizing* the extent of retrieved cultural goods of 41,000 artefacts by the cooperation of UNESCO and  
24 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in the winter of 2018 alone,

25  
26 *Noting further* the #Unite4Heritage campaign, launched by UNESCO in 2015 which summoned regions and  
27 organizations to collaborate to safeguard heritage in the Middle East,

28  
29 *Concerned by* the fact that illicit trafficking of cultural property is utilized as a means to fund terrorist activities,

30  
31 *Taking in consideration* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO)  
32 initiatives in combating trafficking in cultural property, including its specific mandate within the context of  
33 unanimously adopted Security Council resolution 2347 (2017),

34  
35 *Alarmed by* more than 41,000 objects including coins, furniture, paintings, musical instruments, archaeological  
36 pieces and sculptures have been seized by Operation Athena, the first joint customs and police operation,

37  
38 *Deeply concerned with the* loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any  
39 acts of vandalism or damage directed against cultural property, in particular in areas of international or internal  
40 armed conflict,

41  
42 *Encourages* Member States to comply with intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the International  
43 Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT),

44  
45 *Recalling* the project for Preventive Conservation of Iraq's Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at  
46 Imminent Risk and the Emergency Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq which were created to combat the  
47 illicit trading of cultural property by terrorist organizations,

48  
49 *Noting* that many Member States are living under impoverished conditions that do not allow for the maintenance of  
50 cultural heritage sites are therefore sold under undocumented sites and under illegal conditions,



51  
52 *Taking note* of the role of corruption in the continuation of activities related to the illicit trafficking of cultural  
53 property,  
54  
55 *Noting* the successes of African World Heritage Fund which provides support and assistance for the conservation  
56 and management of heritage, including aiding the battle against cultural property trafficking,  
57  
58 *Reaffirming* the allocations of funds to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to collect data on illicit  
59 trafficking of cultural heritage,  
60  
61 *Considering* the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 and 11 regarding peace, justice,  
62 and strong institutions, which would inevitably lead to the eradication of illicit trafficking of cultural property,  
63  
64 *Noting with great concern* the lack of funding available to underdeveloped countries,  
65  
66 *Commending* the effectiveness of past UNESCO training workshops that teach ministers of tourism and police  
67 officers in developing nations better techniques to defend against illicit trafficking of cultural goods,  
68  
69 *Deeply concerned* that cultural property, heritage sites, and artifacts are at an increased risk of being trafficked,  
70 looted, and destroyed in armed conflict zones,  
71  
72 *Recognizing* that advances in technology, specifically that of communication technology, allow for greater avenues  
73 for networking among traffickers,  
74  
75 *Recognizing* the existing working relationship between UNESCO and INTERPOL on the fight against illicit  
76 trafficking,  
77  
78 *Noting* the already existent Art Loss Register,  
79  
80 *Acknowledging* the important role museums play in housing and protecting cultural goods, through providing a safe  
81 haven, with trained professionals responsible for the safekeeping of the goods and the resources available in case of  
82 an emergency,  
83  
84 *Appreciative* of efforts exerted by the African Union (AU) Commission in developing the AU Model Law on the  
85 protection of cultural property and heritage,  
86  
87 *Draws attention to* the necessity of collaboration between private tech companies and national policing  
88 organizations in order to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage,  
89  
90 *Taking into consideration* the continuing efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of  
91 Cultural Property,  
92  
93 *Recalling* the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of*  
94 *Ownership of Cultural Property* (1970), the *UNIDROIT Convention* (1995) and the other consecutive conventions  
95 adopted to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural properties committed by non-state actors, including extreme  
96 terrorists,  
97  
98 *Recognizing* the importance of the SDGs and specifically the importance of ensuring the sustainable solutions to  
99 combating the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage,  
100  
101 *Further recognizing* the importance of cooperation between international organizations and Member States to  
102 prevent further crimes on world heritages,  
103  
104 *Noting* with deep concern the 30 percent rise in artifact theft and displacement since 2011,  
105

106 *Underlining* the importance of the INTERPOL and UNESCO partnership on the fight against illicit trafficking of  
107 cultural goods,  
108  
109 *Recalling* the UNIDROIT Framework which establishes conditions for claims of restitution of stolen or illegally  
110 exported cultural properties,  
111  
112 *Emphasizing* the importance of educating individuals on the vital role the public plays in protecting cultural items,  
113  
114 *Expressing a deep concern* with the amount of cultural treasures, artifacts, and properties being stolen by occupying  
115 forces and conducted through illegal activities at a rate of \$2.5-\$5 billion a year, with only 10-15 percent being  
116 returned,  
117  
118 *Noting* the successes of African World Heritage Fund which provides support and assistance for the conservation  
119 and management of heritage, including aiding the battle against cultural property trafficking,  
120  
121 *Reaffirming* Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) and the *Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention* and  
122 the importance of protecting cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict as areas of political instability are  
123 significant targets for illicit trafficking,  
124  
125 1. *Recommends* collaboration between the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International  
126 Telecommunications Union with the purpose of developing cyber security measures in order to eradicate  
127 mediums through which illicit trafficking of cultural property occurs;  
128  
129 2. *Recognizes* the need for anti-corruption efforts that may be modeled after the OECD-Latin America anti-  
130 corruption program of 2007 that aims to combat corruption and strengthen institutions;  
131  
132 3. *Encourages* a continuation of training programs of how to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural goods with  
133 IGOs, NGOs, and police task force sponsored through UNESCO;  
134  
135 4. *Further recommends* the expansion of currently implemented frameworks, such as partnerships with  
136 INTERPOL and UNODC to ensure technical assistance and resources as well as training and providing civil  
137 officials;  
138  
139 5. *Suggests* strengthened cooperation with local governments to battle the illicit trade by establishing checkpoints  
140 throughout nation borders to strengthen security by:  
141  
142 a. Working with local police and local militia in a regional workshop to better prepare law enforcements  
143 and employees;  
144  
145 b. Initiating INTERPOL's Integrated Border Management Task Force (IBMTF) to access;  
146  
147 c. Calling for a gender sensitive approach in the recruitment, training, and deployment of national border  
148 security forces, national police, and military operatives;  
149  
150 6. *Encourages* fellow Member States to prohibit the illegal trade of cultural property by expanding on regional  
151 projects dedicated to combating the illicit trade of cultural property such as:  
152  
153 a. A task force dedicated to Africa and the Middle East focused on preventing terrorist organizations  
154 from illicitly trading cultural property;  
155  
156 b. A task force dedicated to Europe focused on creating a database to track cultural property;  
157  
158 c. A task force dedicated to Central and South America focused on;  
159  
160 7. *Suggests* fellow Member States to host and support educational forums to educate its population on how to  
161 protect their cultural heritage through refocusing on the necessity of combating the illicit trafficking of cultural

162 properties, through a current project called the Cultural Reconciliation for Lebanese Youth, which  
163 promotes the education of peace to instill the importance of culture and advocate for a peaceful future;  
164

- 165 8. *Invites* Members States to improve the procedures of national and international control concerning illicit  
166 trafficking through:  
167
- 168 a. Themed workshops to local policemen and border guard staff in order to allow this personnel to update  
169 their information and skills leading them towards more effective interventions;  
170
  - 171 b. The UNIDROIT convention in 1995 highlighted key points from the previous convention in 1970 to  
172 work towards developing an agreement regarding illicit or stolen cultural property;  
173
  - 174 c. Ensuring that the incidents being reported by civilians concerning artefact dealers and looted cultural  
175 goods are seriously treated and receive proper attention from local authorities;  
176
- 177 9. *Recommends* further collaboration between UNESCO and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime,  
178 INTERPOL, European Commission, UNIDROIT and ICOM to improve monitoring activities to combat the  
179 illicit theft, looting and trade of cultural property;  
180
- 181 10. *Urges* Member States to strengthen and fully implement technical, legislative, financial mechanisms to  
182 strengthen international law enforcement cooperation, in order to combat trafficking in cultural property, in  
183 particular online marketplaces, sales sites and social media;  
184
- 185 11. *Takes note* of the guidelines of INTERPOL, UNESCO and ICOM's Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects  
186 being offered for sale over the Internet;  
187
- 188 12. *Recommends* the need for a pilot project on online monitoring exclusively focused on social media platforms in  
189 order to investigate and advocate for a better prevention and operate in a more effective manner with competent  
190 authorities in regards to:  
191
- 192 a. Identify sources of the online trafficking sales and mapping trafficking routes through;  
193
  - 194 b. Engage with the 24-hour Operational Coordination Unit run by the World Customs Organization  
195 (WCO), INTERPOL and Europol 24/7 Operations Centre;  
196
  - 197 c. Refer also to various international and national databases, such as INTERPOL's database of Stolen  
198 Works of Art and the SIENA information exchange tool in Europe;  
199
- 200 13. *Recommends* the collaboration between ICPRCP and WCO to implement training workshops with the purpose  
201 of educating custom officials to identify arts that have been or soon to be illicitly trafficked;  
202
- 203 14. *Further Recommends* that cultural property be removed from conflict zones for safekeeping in the British  
204 Museum, to be repatriated once the conflict and the risk of destruction to cultural property ends;  
205
- 206 15. *Encourages* UNESCO to collaborate with groups such as INTERPOL to share information known about  
207 cultural traffickers across regions:  
208
- 209 a. To foster regional data-sharing concerning known violators of borders;  
210
  - 211 b. To encourage jo among law enforcement across state lines;  
212
- 213 16. *Invites* regional organizations such as ASEAN and AU to develop similar legal frameworks targeting the illicit  
214 trafficking of cultural property and world heritage modeled after the AU Model Law on the protection of  
215 cultural property and heritage;  
216

- 217 17. *Calls upon* UNESCO to expand the Systemic Targeting of Cultural properties (STOCs), which is an initiative  
218 that invites regional partners to develop workshops and educational materials such as:  
219
- 220 a. International databases which target illicit trafficking of all sorts with special focus on cultural  
221 property;
  - 222
  - 223 b. The cultivation of partnerships with the International Council of Museums and Intelligence  
224 Committees;
  - 225
- 226 18. *Encourages* full Member State participation in funding, providing manpower for, and assisting in the operations  
227 of the Blue Helmets of Culture task force, which works to physically defend cultural heritage against illicit  
228 cultural property trafficking;
- 229
- 230 19. *Recommends* a regional framework to be adopted, similar to that of the African World Heritage Fund (AHWF)  
231 which works to assist developing African States in the preservation of their cultural heritage, to ensure an  
232 effective network against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, through:
- 233
  - 234 a. Capacity building training programs that focus on World Heritage Site (WHS) management and  
235 conservation similarly to those that AWHF currently runs;
  - 236
  - 237 b. Providing access to funds for the aforementioned WHS capacity building training programs
  - 238
- 239 20. *Encourages* Member States who have not yet done so to implement the Model Law on the Protection of  
240 Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in order to adequately adopt the principles of the *Second*  
241 *Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention* into legislation that will safeguard cultural heritage in the event of  
242 armed conflict;
- 243
- 244 21. *Encourages* the development of informational databases similar to Sudiapedia to collect cultural data on  
245 existing cultural heritage in the hopes of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage inside of Member States;
- 246
- 247 22. *Strongly recommends* all Member States to cooperate on establishing international law regarding repatriation of  
248 cultural heritages and punishing illicit trafficking criminals;
- 249
- 250 23. *Suggests* the implementation of border trafficking projects to be modeled after Save the Rhino: Connecting  
251 Conservation and Communities, in order to effectively training border security officers in a similar manner;
- 252
- 253 24. *Encourages* full Member State participation in funding, providing manpower for, and assisting in the operations  
254 of the Blue Helmets of Culture task force, which works to physically defend cultural heritage against illicit  
255 cultural property trafficking;
- 256
- 257 25. *Calls for* further support of the #Unite4Heritage program by Member States through:
- 258
  - 259 a. Continuing existing education campaigns on the importance tangible and intangible culture;
  - 260
  - 261 b. Expanding the reach of this program through increasing the base of volunteers and their locations of  
262 operation;
  - 263
- 264 26. *Reiterates* the importance to tackle the online illicit trafficking by reinforcing the existing cooperation of  
265 UNESCO, INTERPOL and EUROPOL in order to supervise the e-commerce on such platforms as Ebay;
- 266
- 267 27. *Highlights* the exploitation of underwater cultural property through illegal private salvaging operations that rob  
268 coastal and island states of their rich underwater cultural heritage, encouraging an investigation into possible  
269 solutions to this complex problem in accordance with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas*  
270 (1982);
- 271

- 272 28. *Encourages* the development of informational databases similar to Sudiapedia to collect cultural data on  
273 existing cultural heritage in the hopes of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage inside of Member States;  
274
- 275 29. *Supports* the INTERPOL's Integrated Border Management Task Force (IBMTF) in supporting law enforcement  
276 officers by:  
277
- 278 a. Utilizing operations at air, land, and sea border points to access INTERPOL databases that focus on  
279 enforcement efforts on combating illicit trafficking on cultural property;
  - 280
  - 281 b. Delivering training to build capacity so as to certain border points;
  - 282
  - 283 c. Improving worldwide border management policy through cooperation between UNESCO Member  
284 States.  
285
- 286 30. *Recommends* strengthening public-private partnerships to track sales and transportation of cultural property,  
287 including internet sales, in accordance with the ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk;  
288
- 289 31. *Suggests* a combined list of INTERPOL and national museums of artefacts likely to be stolen to be given out to  
290 the public on the internet, to:  
291
- 292 a. Produce an internationally accessible database where individual private persons can inform themselves  
293 on potential buys, that are proposed to them on the internet;
  - 294
  - 295 b. Make it easier for private observers to mark a specific object as potentially found and the information  
296 sent to INTERPOL and local authorities,
  - 297
  - 298 c. Be funded by the UNESCO budget for the major programme III for culture and national budgets.