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

Committee Staff

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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Angelina Pienczykowski</td>
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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

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<td>UNESCO/1/1</td>
<td>The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites</td>
<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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<td>UNESCO/1/2</td>
<td>The Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Sites</td>
<td>35 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions</td>
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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.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting the amount of CO2 has increased by 62 percent since 1999 on a general basis, as formulated by the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1994),

1. Endorses the collaboration with UNITAR to further scientific research to better understand the effects of tourism and climate change on World Heritage Sites, as World Heritage Site that are in dire condition from the adverse effects of climate change;

2. Proposes the establishment of mobile training units within UNESCO’s Sustainable Tourism Program and in consultation with an initial assessment done by UNITAR that would provide local citizens with expert and
concrete knowledge on the effects of climate change on selected world heritage sites, such as rising sea levels, increased temperatures, changing landscapes, and extreme weather;

3. *Calls for* cooperation between UNWTO, UNESCO, and UNITAR within the framework of the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit, to provide local heritage site managers with the scientific knowledge necessary to monitor and assess the condition of state conservation;

4. *Suggests* Member States incentivize, according to their own national capacity, the use of tourist transportation and private companies who take measures such as, but not limited to the use of eco-friendly vehicles that use alternative transportation fuels such as propane, natural gas, methanol, ethanol, electricity and hydrogen;

5. *Encourages* the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sector in order to develop cultural tourism itineraries, and work with national corporations to raise public awareness of tourists regarding the significance of the protection of World Heritage Sites, through measures such as:

   a. Developing thematic tourism based on the Guide 5 of UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit which incorporates regional World Heritages into one cultural district;

   b. Encouraging UNWTO sponsored collaborations regarding sustainable tourism between national governments and private corporations in ways such as:

      i. Providing opportunities to Member States by increasing the publicity of private corporations worldwide through introducing them specifically as a green innovative corporation;

      ii. Private corporations launching tourism programs, giving both technological and administrative aids to the national tourism organization linked to sustainable development;

6. *Further encourages* Member States to promote public or alternative transportation in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on World Heritage Sites in ways such as:

   a. Implementing a double-shifting system which recommends the public to use public transportations rather than private vehicles on alternative days within the radius of 10 kilometers from World Heritage Sites;

   b. Replacing petroleum-based vehicles into alternative ethanol-based vehicles for further decrease on CO2 emission;

   c. Expanding the scope of eco-friendly travel routes which would be free of gas emissions within the World Heritage Sites in ways such as:

      i. Establishing travel programs that include cycling tours;

      ii. Promoting tour buses to facilitate the tourists’ mobility;

   d. Promoting the use of buses as an alternative to private vehicles with the goal of having emissions free public transportation by 2050;

   e. Holding workshops with private transportation corporations in order to discuss incentives that would motivate the private sector to adopt environmentally friendly measures, such as the usage of eco-friendly vehicles that use alternative transportation fuels;

7. *Promotes* the advertising of World Heritage Sites, focused primarily on marketing the advantages of emission free practices with the goal of creating social media platforms by 2020 through:

   a. Creating hashtags that work on all social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter;

   b. Creating video advertisements that promote the going green campaign;
c. Investing in marketing of new efforts such as hashtags and video advertisements on YouTube to promote conversations about green initiatives;

d. Supporting the #MakeGreenChoices initiative;

8. **Urges** Member States to support educational initiatives within the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, to include:

   a. Educating children and teachers with technical skills training on the importance and preservation of tangible world heritage (World Heritage Sites, Monuments, documents) and intangible world heritage (traditional literature, songs and dances);

   b. Continuing to support environmental-friendly practices to preserve cultural heritages, as stated in the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit to primary and secondary youth by:

      i. Interactive videos and audio lessons, accessible in different languages, which connect cultural heritages that positively affect tourism and the environment as well as peace and security;

      ii. Technical training session that allow teachers to effectively be trained on the link between World Heritage and the environment, identity, tourism to ensure that students are getting educated on the universal benefits of cultural heritages;

   c. Expansion of World Heritage in Young Hands Kit to local communities through the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), which includes 5600 educational institution in 162 countries, utilizing the curriculum in order to better educate future populations on the effects of climate change on World Heritage Sites;

9. **Calls for** greater bilateral cooperation between Member States through both technology sharing, monetary and co-sponsored advertising campaigns to emphasize cooperation between the environment and human practices in relation to the World Heritage Sites while maintaining individuality between countries.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting the need to strengthen sustainable partnerships between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), researchers, related United Nations (UN) bodies or agencies, and other related international stakeholders in providing assistance for the implementation of projects concerning World Heritage Conservation in relation to effects of climate change,
Expressing its appreciation to the periodic reporting systems of World Heritage Committee (WHC) which ensures the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of the WHS,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Urges Member States to adopt national centers to unify basic criteria in the area of conservation restoration of cultural goods modeled by The National Heritage organization to improve the institutions responsible for cultural heritage in the National Heritage Organization’s Action Plan of 2013-2016 by empowering public servants, modernizing the organization at all levels, and improving the conservation of cultural heritage;

2. Calls for cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to promote sustainable tourism education through expanding programs such as the Green Passport Initiative and the #Unite4Heritage Movement that utilize technology such as social media platforms and mobile applications to include:

   a. Educating youth on the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage;

   b. Raising international awareness for the threat climate change poses to WHS;

   c. Posing solutions for individuals to improve sustainability while travelling to and visiting WHS;
3. Welcomes Members States to adopt programs similar to the Smart Heritage City Project, which utilizes innovative big data technology to monitor the conditions of monuments, such as the installment of sensors in the Avila City Wall detecting humidity, light, cracks, and traffic vibrations to gather analytics and determine the overall sustenance;

4. Invites expanding the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and similar conferences focused on sharing information on the effects of climate change on WHS to include:
   a. Recruiting researchers to train local communities on how to recognize and analyze climate change effects in their communities;
   b. Establishing a system of data-sharing for locals to report changes in their respective areas;
   c. Highlighting the progress made by individual Member States, and providing follow-up to demonstrate which strategies have best succeeded;
   d. Making all information accessible to every individual citizen in order to promote participation for all;

5. Recommends Member States to expand the availability of education on the importance of preserving cultural heritage for primary and secondary school children through support of international programs such as UNESCO’s World Heritage Education Program and region-specific programs such as the South Eastern Mediterranean Sea Project which incorporate culture and sustainability into mainstream education by:
   a. Educating youth on the threats facing WHS, including environmental degradation from climate change and climate related disasters;
   b. Giving youth the ability to actively participate in the preservation of culture through hands on learning opportunities;
   c. Promoting education beyond the classroom though directly connecting the programs to the community;

6. Further recommends the expansion of the Operational Guidelines of the List of World Heritage in Danger, established by the World Heritage Convention (1972), for the placement of WHS in Danger to include:
   a. The deterioration or destruction of materials or structures due to climate change or natural disaster, or a threat of impact due to climate change based on the location of the WHS;
   b. The deterioration or threat of destruction to wildlife within natural WHS that would negatively affect the integrity of the natural site;
   c. An agenda within the WHC regarding WHS Criterion for Selection X to read “point of view of science, conservation, or climate change” instead of “point of view of science or conservation”; 
   d. A scale that will determine how highly at risk the WHS is of damage or destruction based on how directly the WHS matched with the criteria for a site in danger;
   e. An assessment by the WHC on whether action should be taken in order to protect the site, and if so what action should be taken;

7. Further Invites Member States to increase participation in the University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN) and UNESCO Chairs Programme, where universities and think tanks collaborate on climate change strategies to preserve WHS by:
a. Recruiting domestic researchers to attend the two international programs in order to serve as effective bridge builders in their local communities at home on:

i. Training local communities on how to recognize and analyze climate change effects in their communities;

ii. Monitoring their system of data-sharing for locals to report changes in their respective areas;

b. Highlighting the progress made by individual Member States, and providing follow-up to demonstrate which strategies have best reduced the effects of climate change on current WHS;

8. 

Suggests further transparency among Member States in regard to technical expertise and research on the impact of greenhouse gases on WHS and share green technologies with developing countries, which are more likely to use fuels that emit greenhouse gases, in cooperation with the World Bank’s Investment Project Financing program (IPF);

9. 

Encourages the exchange of experiences in order to better refine existing regional policy frameworks in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) such as the Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework through:

a. Cooperation between regional ministries and departments of tourism and the WTO;

b. Hosting regional summits, such as those already held leading up to the World Education Forum in the Asia Pacific Region, Latin America and Caribbean Region, Arab Region, African Region, and European and North America Region, to evaluate and expand on existing policy frameworks affecting climate change and WHS in relation to sustainable tourism;

10. 

Recommends Member States to adopt programs and provide continued support to south-lead financing organizations, such as the Amazon Fund, to empower developing Member States in establishing and expanding emergency action plans in accordance with the priorities of actions in the Sendai Framework to ensure proactive protection and preservation of WHS and timely, proactive financing;

11. 

Supports the reinvigoration of existing guidelines found within the UNESCO World Heritage Management Plan, designed for international, governmental, and local actors involved in DRR programming for WHS, to capture the synergy of the Paris Agreement (2015), as well as emphasizing the principle of equality and non-discrimination recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) by:

a. Prioritizing the inclusion of a Human Rights-Based Approach to the DRR Programming for the safekeeping of WHS, that will incorporate local and surrounding communities near WHS, particularly otherwise excluded vulnerable and marginalized groups, in the process of protecting and preserving cultural heritage, artifacts, and the natural environment through their everyday livelihoods;

b. Advising that WHS climate mitigation and adaptation strategies at the national level incorporate the UNU-FLORES Environmental Management Nexus Approach, which encompass the integration of assessing the interconnectedness of waste, water, soil, and energy cycles of each ecosystem’s WHS, as these cycles have the potential to affect the outstanding universal value of WHS;

12. 

Welcomes the bilateral cooperation between the International Maglev Board with UNESCO to produce a report about the feasibility of introducing the magnetic levitation transportation system in areas with WHS to consider:

a. Information about how the implementation of such transportation systems could aid the protection of WHS and decrease carbon emissions;

b. The possible measures for non-monetary support of such projects from UNESCO while encouraging voluntary contributions from Member States and NGOs;
c. The required infrastructure, technology, and capacity building measures to establish such systems in both developed and developing Member States;

13. **Calls upon** Member States to support the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)* to ensure disaster preparedness and risk reduction for WHS through:

a. Implementing and maintaining safety protocols before, during, and after any disaster to reduce the effects of the disaster expanding upon the protocols used within United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), for WHS disaster preparation, specifically the program Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) which emphasizes school safety, prevention, and education efforts for resilience regarding climate issues;

b. Utilizing UNESCO’s World Heritage Disaster Risk Management (DRM) to increase transparency and information sharing between Member States to enhance risk prevention for WHS in developing Member States to improve communication within the international community;

14. **Reaffirms** the collaboration with UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere Programme to expand the database to include environmental threats that each ecosystem faces and have solutions to deal with such threats for the protection of WHS as they are located in different topographical regions to bolster the inclusivity of all Member States as the database will be tailored to each member;

15. **Calls for** the worldwide expansion of UNESCO-UNEP collaboration on the Regional Getaway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) initiative to include an online knowledge platform to increase coordination with key institutions and regional centers of knowledge and technology thus providing specific assistance in adaptation to climate change to further protect WHS;

16. **Encourages** further international collaboration in the sharing of information, strategies, and innovations through:

a. Highlighting the work of the WHC Periodic Reporting System through presentations given at future World Heritage Conventions by individual Member States to report the strategies that successfully reduced climate effects in their areas;

b. Assisting Member States currently less involved in information sharing across the WHC Periodic Reporting System by:

i. Encouraging the 21 States Parties representatives of the WHC to reinforce and share the goals of the Periodic Reporting System by incorporating these goals in respective regional event agendas;

ii. Supporting the recruitment of climate experts to host workshops or seminars that explain the challenges and solutions for the impacts of climate change on WHS for Member States less involved in information sharing.
Recalling the fundamental principles expressed in the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), and underlying the responsibility of each Member State to protect World Heritage Sites (WHS) from the further effects of climate change,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

   b. Publishing these strategies in a manner that is understandable to the global populace by the aforementioned experts;
c. Updating the TEC system in real time by researchers deployed in missions all over the globe, every six months;

3. **Suggests** the establishment of a Vulnerability Assessment Protocol, a standardized global form, to assist in accumulating disaster risk data that will be digitized and accessible through TEC by:
   a. Cooperating with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to develop a standard global WHS vulnerability assessment system;
   b. Leveraging the previously mentioned panel of experts by working with the only standardized benchmarking tool, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Disaster (OECS) and Risk Management Unit’s Vulnerability Benchmarking Tool, to quantify the disaster risk data;

4. **Recommends** Member States to centralize data in a single, inter-active, inter-compatible system to be analyzed by the TEC platform and supervised by the World Heritage Committee, in order to:
   a. Further the understanding of how climate change is affecting various types of WHS and address the various needs of land, underwater, and mixed WHS;
   b. Provide a coherent framework for efficient management and streamlined co-operation of all relevant stakeholders, to ensure all Member States have access to this database;

5. **Reiterates** the reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and sharing the IPCC assessment reports with all Member States by dispatching the experts of IPCC to educate the status quo of cultural properties and climate change within the Member States;

6. **Urges** Member States to further utilize existing technologies which assist in determining weather patterns, the rise in climate change, and its impact on WHS, such as:
   a. Land-based weather and climate monitoring systems, such as the Automated Surface Observing Systems and Automated Weather Observing Stations (AWOS);
   b. Air-based weather and climate monitoring technologies such as drones, weather balloons, and atmospheric condition gauges;

7. **Acknowledges** the necessity of empowering public officials and revitalizing infrastructure related to WHS globally, particularly within less developed Member States;

8. **Recommends** developed nations to contribute funds towards the World Heritage Fund, which finance the maintenance of WHS in aforementioned places;

9. **Recommends** financing the TEC initiative via the World Heritage Fund, with additional funding raised by regional funding instruments, public-private partnerships, voluntary contributions, Fund-in-Trust donations, and reducing the administrative and operational costs by applying information and communication technology, including but not limited to e-administration and online tools;

10. **Reiterates** the importance of creating new educational programs to raise awareness of the importance of protecting WHS among younger generations;

11. **Suggests** Member States and organizations to enhance research, technology, and scientific observation of climate change management through biotech, IT, laser, physics research centers located on a global scale;

12. **Invites** Member States to contribute to the UNESCO’s Memory of the World program which focuses on making a cultural inventory of heritage assets, the TEC initiative is to further support the cataloging of cultural heritage sites;
13. **Recommends** Member States to advance the enhancement of UNESCO’s e-learning tools using TEC’s online platform in order to:

a. Further raise sensitivity to the needs of protecting WHS against climate change via proactive youth participation;

b. Encourage knowledge-sharing among teachers concerning creative teaching methods and learning materials;

14. **Further Recommends** developed nations to create environmental funds similar to the French Global Environmental Fund which has worked in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Center to:

a. Help developing nations create and implement strategies and programs to protect WHS such as forest reserves;

b. Aid specifically nations with a history of western colonialism so as to better relations between western and previously colonized countries.
The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Recommends** a working group bridging the private sector and national governments with the intent to promote the World Heritage | Verto initiative through:
   a. Public and Private workshops of environmentally responsible business practices, hosted by UNESCO to educate each country on the benefits of using the World Heritage | Verto seal;
   b. Workshops for Member States which will demonstrate possible advertising techniques and the incorporation of WHS in advertising;

2. **Suggests** the establishment of an internationally recognized production certification program, and approves the above mentioned program to create a visual seal to be known as the World Heritage | Verto Seal, which private, public, and governmental producers will seek to obtain from Member States and regional organizations;

3. **Emphasizes** the importance of researching and creating statistical models and correlations to show businesses that consumers are concerned about the environment, and by extension, that consumers are more likely to support businesses and corporations who promote environmental protection through their practices;
4. **Recommends** that Member States create public advertising campaigns which utilize WHS as a tool and a means to inform consumers of the World Heritage | Verto Seal by:
   a. Creating a social media campaign with majestic images of the WHS and clean production;
   b. Utilizing the influence and existing credibility of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

5. **Encourages** the creation of a social media campaign with majestic images of the WHS and clean production, in order to inform users of the existence businesses whose practices are in harmony with protecting WHS and utilizing the existing influence and credibility of UNESCO;

6. **Emphasizes** the importance of creating a website that will allow consumers to immediately identify local products and businesses that practice comparatively safe environmental practices;

7. Recommends that site managers at WHS provide information on local businesses’ pollution in order to analyze business worthiness for accreditation;

8. **Further Recommends** that businesses and governments work together in designing a physical rendition of a seal which will, at a future date, possibly be placed on packaging of products as a means of informing consumers that the product in safe practices to protect WHS near their business;

9. **Recommends** that Member States in collaboration with their respective consumer law regulatory bodies:
   a. Implement and enforce standards for environmentally sustainable business practices that do not harm local WHS;
   b. Verify compliance with standards;
   c. Provide approval for the World Heritage | Verto Seal;

10. **Reiterates** the importance of creating a website which will allow consumers to immediately identify local products and businesses who practice comparatively safe environmental production;

11. **Further Recommends** that businesses and governments work together in designing a physical rendition of the aforementioned seal which will, at a future date, possibly be placed on packaging of products as a means of informing consumers that the product is environmentally responsible, which will be advertised using WHS;

12. **Recommends** the establishment of an internationally recognized production certification program that will:
   a. Create a visual seal to be known as the World Heritage | Verto Seal;
   b. Encourage private, public, and governmental producers to seek approval through member states and regional organizations to utilize the World Heritage | Verto seal;

13. **Encourages** Member States to act in collaboration with their respective consumer law regulatory bodies to:
   a. Implement and enforce standards for environmentally sustainable business practices;
   b. Verify compliance with standards;
   c. Provide approval for the World Heritage | Verto Seal;

14. **Recommends** that the criteria for obtaining approval for the use of the World Heritage | Verto Seal may potentially include the following as determined by Member States, while recognizing that Member States ultimately determine their respective standards:
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:
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.
The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Expressing the need to support those regions most affected by the consequences of climate change,

Aware of the necessity to expand the education of all citizens in order to promote the values and importance of World Heritage Sites,

Commending the efforts exerted by Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) namely SDG 13 in regards to combating climate change, SDG 14 concerning life below water, and SDG 15 concerning life on land,

Deeply concerned by the severe impacts of climate change and rising sea levels on maritime life and coastal environments,

Acknowledging the importance of the development of technology and its capacity to assist in protecting and monitoring World Heritage Sites on or near coastlines,

Fully aware of the United Nations commitment to the advancement of Developing States and Small Island Developing States and their respective Cultural Heritage Sites,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), which calls upon Member States to share information on the importance of the underwater cultural heritage,

Alarmed by the rise in ocean acidification, that if unchanged, will increase ocean acidity by 150 percent by 2100 rendering coral reefs inhabitable according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), RIO +20, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Deeply concerned by the need for a more balanced distribution of World Heritage Sites regarding geography and categories with special regard to the Marine World currently accounting only for 4.6 percent of the overall World Heritage Sites,

Fully supporting multilateral global action, evidenced by the commitment of 160 Member States in the Paris Agreement (2015),

Cognizant of the necessity for further protection of biodiversity as mentioned in criteria IX and X of the criteria for the selection of World Heritage Sites and expanding the number of recognized World Heritage Sites,

Recognizing the need to reform Article 11(4) of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, which sets out the criteria for adding World Heritage Sites,

Appreciating the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction while acknowledging the need for a reform in its designation regarding the localities of at risk sites,

Recalling the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2011, which emphasizes the need for improved information sharing and capacity building,

Further noting programs such as the Joint Credit Mechanism, which provides aid and support to developing states for the purpose facilitating the diffusion of low-carbon technologies and emission reduction activities,
Guided by the Group of Seven initiative in establishing a network between Ministries of Culture or similar governmental entities aiming, to ensure the continuous update of strategies utilized in preserving World Heritage Sites,

Having adopted the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts to address the risks linked to climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing Member States that are particularly vulnerable,

Bearing in mind Article 5, 6 and 7 of the Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change (2017) in regard to complying with principles in dealing with climate change, inter alia Sustainable Development, Solidarity and Scientific Knowledge and Integrity in Decision-Making,

Firmly convinced of the value of a social media campaign to spread awareness of the plight of World Heritage Sites in coastal and marine environments due to climate change exemplified by UNESCO’s #MyOceanPledge initiative,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of encouraging collaboration between programs regarding marine research, observation services, and capacity development in order to understand the ocean and effectively manage the resources of the oceans and coastal areas,

Further recognizing the previous contributions provided by the Scientific and Technical Advisory (STAB) which focuses on the technical matters related to the implementation of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,

1. Encourages financial support and dialogue between Member States related to coastal and maritime World Heritage Sites by:
   a. Enhancing and strengthening voluntary contributions between government donors, intergovernmental organization (IGO) donors, and private sector donors;
   b. Developing aforementioned partnerships with regional agencies, including the European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Union (AU) and multilateral development banks through annual coordination meetings held during the annual World Heritage Committee session, to discuss joint advocacy and capacity building, as well as the co-financing of projects, in particular at the regional levels;

2. Further encourages Member States to contribute to the World Heritage Fund, which assists and contributes financially to less affluent, developing states, to empower these states to promote, maintain and revitalize their respective World Heritage Sites;

3. Encourages Member States to develop their disaster response plans according to the needs of their specific regions by:
   a. Recognizing the adverse effects of climate change on World Heritage Sites across the globe;
   b. Seeking local communities’ input concerning the adverse climate effects in their areas;
   c. Echoing the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan, which tailors their disaster response plans to the impact of climate change on islands;

4. Invites Member States to assist existing programs, such as the World Heritage In Young Hands Educational Resource Kit, setting the goal for a targeted campaign in 10 years which aims to educate all citizens, especially youth, on the value and importance of World Heritage Programs;

5. Calls for the utilization of big data integrated sensor technology, resembling the variety of technologies sponsored by the European Union’s regional development fund (FEDER) across Europe, to benefit all UNESCO Member States, focused on environmental conditions, such as rising sea levels and ocean
acidification on World Heritage Sites at marine and coastal areas to enable the swift response to existing problems and predicting future issues;

a. The distribution of such technology should be decided on by the UNESCO Executive Board on a biannual basis by giving priority to at-risk WHS in accordance with the List of World Heritage in Danger;

b. The technology shall be financed by the World Heritage Fund and sponsored by the European Union’s regional development fund (FEDER);

c. Member States will work in conjunction with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, such as Nova University Lisbon which specializes in energy efficiency, and companies like the French Nobatek, to develop specific and innovative technologies aiming to protect the coastal regions from a rise in sea levels and temporary flooding;

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

a. Working alongside the Climate Action Network (CAN), which works to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels through:

i. Information exchange

ii. Coordination and development of NGOs strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues

iii. Climate Action Network (CAN) regional network hubs that coordinate efforts around the world such as the low carbon development project;

b. Working alongside the Natural Resources Defense Council which works in the preservation of earth its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems through the efforts of three million members and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the wild;

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

a. Further establish an understanding of the natural and man-made mechanisms of ocean and coastal variability through the World Climate Research Programme to continue to incorporate data from all coastal zones, ranging from local to regional;

b. Incorporate ideas from initiatives such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA) and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (IPoA), which refer to the vulnerability of SIDS and Least Developing Countries (LDC), into the Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) program, to all coastal zones;

c. Expand the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme of the IOC of UNESCO which seeks to enhance marine research, exploitation and development, by facilitating the exchange through the World Heritage Center’s existing online platform of oceanographic data and information to which Member States have access;

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

a. Recommending measures to prevent deforestation which is a cause of climate change as well as a leading cause of the endangerment of biodiversity in Natural World Heritage Sites, similar to the program Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation by:

i. Promoting the efforts of the UNFCCC through information sharing

ii. Training local farmers to discourage deforestation and developing better human practices
iii. Encouraging global cooperation on safeguarding forests through the implementation of an educational initiative which is to be overseen by the UN-REDD public-private interests;

b. Suggesting the expansion of programs to eradicate invasive species in Natural World Heritage Sites that are a result of climate change using Working for Water Program as a prototype by:

i. Encouraging the training and education of people on the issue of controlling and containing invasive plants

ii. Restructure existing comprehensive lists of all invasive species invading Natural World Heritage Sites to become more straightforward and to detail species abundance and threat level to the native species;

iii. Supporting the development of drought management systems in Natural World Heritage Sites by encouraging the exchange of ideas and policies between Member States;

9. **Recommends** developed states to partner with developing states in expanding their capacities to preserve and monitor cultural preservation by taking part in the activities of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), a joint initiative sponsored by UNESCO, UNEP, and the WMO which monitors biodiversity levels, salinity, pollution, and acidity of ocean in order to create recommendations to best manage ocean variables;

10. **Calls for** the expansion of the World Heritage Risk Criteria in order to mitigate the impact of climate change on World Heritage Sites:

   a. To be included into the next UNESCO executive board agenda;

   b. To be presented to the body by the Member States who believes that their World Heritage Sites are in danger of damage due to climate change;

   c. To be assessed and voted on by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to determine the capacity on which the issue shall be tackled;

11. **Recommends** the redistribution of the offices of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), taking into account the World Risk Report as well as the List of World Heritage in Danger, in order to address the concerns of World Heritage Sites that are most at risk based on urgency as well as financial and technical need;

12. **Encourages** Member States to participate in regional programs similar to the Risk Preparedness and World Heritage Properties in Africa initiative, which establishes a network of nature experts and World Heritage Site managers to better facilitate the sharing of information between sites by:

   a. Providing opportunities for site managers to share information and ideas on the protection of World Heritage Sites,

   b. Helping site managers create effective risk preparedness plans to better mitigate the impacts of natural disasters on World Heritage Sites

   c. Involving local communities in the protection of World Heritage Sites and providing educational and economic opportunities;

13. **Encourages** UNESCO to increase the number of maritime world heritage sites to 10 percent of World Heritage Sites worldwide by recommending a quota to the World Heritage Committee for the nominations of World Heritage Sites by 2021;

14. **Further invites** UNESCO members to adopt the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts* which will enhance knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts, by facilitating and promoting
a. The collection, sharing, management and use of relevant data and information for stakeholders and
governmental agencies to strengthen dialogue efforts;

b. The encouragement of member states to nominate representatives to join the executive committee of
the *Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage* encouraging:

15. *Suggests* the coordination of research programs between IGOs, NGOs and Multinational Corporations (MNCs)
   willing to work under the supervision of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO
   in order to help preserve and protect marine life and underwater cultural sites by:
   a. Asking for an associate partnership between these entities on an Ad Hoc basis alongside the Scientific
      and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) focusing on concrete actions specializing on key areas of
      underwater world heritage sites such as the acidification of the ocean, rising sea levels and amount of
      pollution;
   b. Calling upon the contribution of UNESCO to start a fund assisting the implementation of a multilateral
      approach between NGOs and IGOs, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Pacific
      Marine Life Foundation (PMLF) which administers support to projects dedicated to the preservation of
      the environment and underwater WHS;

16. *Recommends* the use of social media platforms by UNESCO to raise awareness for rising sea levels in
    accordance with NGOs in manners of:
   a. Working with Attentively to promote the protection of World Heritage Sites, by developing the
      influence of non-governmental organizations;
   b. Presenting the impact of climate change and rising sea levels on World Heritage Sites on a global scale
      as well as a clear documentation on work done to counter them by partnering with social media
      platforms to provide a more dynamic global understanding of the concern of WHS;
   c. Building up on the works of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),
      associations for restoration and preservation and tourism offices to strengthen local volunteers support
      in building up resilience and promoting a common pressure to convince one another to join the
      cause.
   d. Facebook on their Aquila project providing Internet access in developing countries and help share
      information especially in regions that are excluded from sustainable infrastructure.

17. *Encourages* the extension of UNESCO’s social media #MyOceanPledge awareness campaign to include Marine
    World Heritages Sites.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting that many Member States are living under impoverished conditions that do not allow for the maintenance of cultural heritage sites are therefore sold under undocumented sites and under illegal conditions,
Taking note of the role of corruption in the continuation of activities related to the illicit trafficking of cultural property,

Noting the successes of African World Heritage Fund which provides support and assistance for the conversation and management of heritage, including aiding the battle against cultural property trafficking,

Reaffirming the allocations of funds to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to collect data on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage,

Considering the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 and 11 regarding peace, justice, and strong institutions, which would inevitably lead to the eradication of illicit trafficking of cultural property,

Noting with great concern the lack of funding available to underdeveloped countries,

Commending the effectiveness of past UNESCO training workshops that teach ministers of tourism and police officers in developing nations better techniques to defend against illicit trafficking of cultural goods,

Deeply concerned that cultural property, heritage sites, and artifacts are at an increased risk of being trafficked, looted, and destroyed in armed conflict zones,

Recognizing that advances in technology, specifically that of communication technology, allow for greater avenues for networking among traffickers,

Recognizing the existing working relationship between UNESCO and INTERPOL on the fight against illicit trafficking,

Noting the already existent Art Loss Register,

Acknowledging the important role museums play in housing and protecting cultural goods, through providing a safe haven, with trained professionals responsible for the safekeeping of the goods and the resources available in case of an emergency,

Appreciative of efforts exerted by the African Union (AU) Commission in developing the AU Model Law on the protection of cultural property and heritage,

Draws attention to the necessity of collaboration between private tech companies and national policing organizations in order to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage,

Taking into consideration the continuing efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property,

Recalling the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the UNIDROIT Convention (1995) and the other consecutive conventions adopted to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural properties committed by non-state actors, including extreme terrorists,

Recognizing the importance of the SDGs and specifically the importance of ensuring the sustainable solutions to combating the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage,

Further recognizing the importance of cooperation between international organizations and Member States to prevent further crimes on world heritages,

Noting with deep concern the 30 percent rise in artifact theft and displacement since 2011,
Underlining the importance of the INTERPOL and UNESCO partnership on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods,

Recalling the UNIDROIT Framework which establishes conditions for claims of restitution of stolen or illegally exported cultural properties,

Emphasizing the importance of educating individuals on the vital role the public plays in protecting cultural items,

Expressing a deep concern with the amount of cultural treasures, artifacts, and properties being stolen by occupying forces and conducted through illegal activities at a rate of $2.5-$5 billion a year, with only 10-15 percent being returned,

Noting the successes of African World Heritage Fund which provides support and assistance for the conversation and management of heritage, including aiding the battle against cultural property trafficking,

Reaffirming Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) and the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention and the importance of protecting cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict as areas of political instability are significant targets for illicit trafficking,

1. Recommends collaboration between the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Telecommunications Union with the purpose of developing cyber security measures in order to eradicate mediums through which illicit trafficking of cultural property occurs;

2. Recognizes the need for anti-corruption efforts that may be modeled after the OECD-Latin America anti-corruption program of 2007 that aims to combat corruption and strengthen institutions;

3. Encourages a continuation of training programs of how to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural goods with IGOs, NGOs, and police task force sponsored through UNESCO;

4. Further recommends the expansion of currently implemented frameworks, such as partnerships with INTERPOL and UNODC to ensure technical assistance and resources as well as training and providing civil officials;

5. Suggests strengthened cooperation with local governments to battle the illicit trade by establishing checkpoints throughout nation borders to strengthen security by:
   a. Working with local police and local militia in a regional workshop to better prepare law enforcements and employees;
   b. Initiating INTERPOL’s Integrated Border Management Task Force (IBMTF) to access;
   c. Calling for a gender sensitive approach in the recruitment, training, and deployment of national border security forces, national police, and military operatives;

6. Encourages fellow Member States to prohibit the illegal trade of cultural property by expanding on regional projects dedicated to combating the illicit trade of cultural property such as:
   a. A task force dedicated to Africa and the Middle East focused on preventing terrorist organizations from illicitly trading cultural property;
   b. A task force dedicated to Europe focused on creating a database to track cultural property;
   c. A task force dedicated to Central and South America focused on;

7. Suggests fellow Member States to host and support educational forums to educate its population on how to protect their cultural heritage through refocusing on the necessity of combating the illicit trafficking of cultural
properties, through a current project called the Cultural Reconciliation for Lebanese Youth, which promotes the education of peace to instill the importance of culture and advocate for a peaceful future;

8. **Invites** Members States to improve the procedures of national and international control concerning illicit trafficking through:
   a. Themed workshops to local policemen and border guard staff in order to allow this personnel to update their information and skills leading them towards more effective interventions;
   b. The UNIDROIT convention in 1995 highlighted key points from the previous convention in 1970 to work towards developing an agreement regarding illicit or stolen cultural property;
   c. Ensuring that the incidents being reported by civilians concerning artefact dealers and looted cultural goods are seriously treated and receive proper attention from local authorities;

9. **Recommends** further collaboration between UNESCO and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, European Commission, UNDROIT and ICOM to improve monitoring activities to combat the illicit theft, looting and trade of cultural property;

10. **Urges** Member States to strengthen and fully implement technical, legislative, financial mechanisms to strengthen international law enforcement cooperation, in order to combat trafficking in cultural property, in particular online marketplaces, sales sites and social media;

11. **Takes note** of the guidelines of INTERPOL, UNESCO and ICOM’s Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for sale over the Internet;

12. **Recommends** the need for a pilot project on online monitoring exclusively focused on social media platforms in order to investigate and advocate for a better prevention and operate in a more effective manner with competent authorities in regards to:
   a. Identify sources of the online trafficking sales and mapping trafficking routes through;
   b. Engage with the 24-hour Operational Coordination Unit run by the World Customs Organization (WCO), INTERPOL and Europol 24/7 Operations Centre;
   c. Refer also to various international and national databases, such as INTERPOL’s database of Stolen Works of Art and the SIENA information exchange tool in Europe;

13. **Recommends** the collaboration between ICPRCP and WCO to implement training workshops with the purpose of educating custom officials to identify arts that have been or soon to be illicitly trafficked;

14. **Further Recommends** that cultural property be removed from conflict zones for safekeeping in the British Museum, to be repatriated once the conflict and the risk of destruction to cultural property ends;

15. **Encourages** UNESCO to collaborate with groups such as INTERPOL to share information known about cultural traffickers across regions:
   a. To foster regional data-sharing concerning known violators of borders;
   b. To encourage jo among law enforcement across state lines;

16. **Invites** regional organizations such as ASEAN and AU to develop similar legal frameworks targeting the illicit trafficking of cultural property and world heritage modeled after the AU Model Law on the protection of cultural property and heritage;
17. *Calls upon* UNESCO to expand the Systemic Targeting of Cultural properties (STOCs), which is an initiative that invites regional partners to develop workshops and educational materials such as:

   a. International databases which target illicit trafficking of all sorts with special focus on cultural property;

   b. The cultivation of partnerships with the International Council of Museums and Intelligence Committees;

18. *Encourages* full Member State participation in funding, providing manpower for, and assisting in the operations of the Blue Helmets of Culture task force, which works to physically defend cultural heritage against illicit cultural property trafficking;

19. *Recommends* a regional framework to be adopted, similar to that of the African World Heritage Fund (AHWF) which works to assist developing African States in the preservation of their cultural heritage, to ensure an effective network against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, through:

   a. Capacity building training programs that focus on World Heritage Site (WHS) management and conservation similarly to those that AWHF currently runs;

   b. Providing access to funds for the aforementioned WHS capacity building training programs

20. *Encourages* Member States who have not yet done so to implement the Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in order to adequately adopt the principles of the *Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention* into legislation that will safeguard cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict;

21. *Encourages* the development of informational databases similar to Sudiapedia to collect cultural data on existing cultural heritage in the hopes of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage inside of Member States;

22. *Strongly recommends* all Member States to cooperate on establishing international law regarding repatriation of cultural heritages and punishing illicit trafficking criminals;

23. *Suggests* the implementation of border trafficking projects to be modeled after Save the Rhino: Connecting Conservation and Communities, in order to effectively training border security officers in a similar manner;

24. *Encourages* full Member State participation in funding, providing manpower for, and assisting in the operations of the Blue Helmets of Culture task force, which works to physically defend cultural heritage against illicit cultural property trafficking;

25. *Calls for* further support of the #Unite4Heritage program by Member States through:

   a. Continuing existing education campaigns on the importance tangible and intangible culture;

   b. Expanding the reach of this program through increasing the base of volunteers and their locations of operation;

26. *Reiterates* the importance to tackle the online illicit trafficking by reinforcing the existing cooperation of UNESCO, INTERPOL and EUROPOL in order to supervise the e-commerce on such platforms as Ebay;

27. *Highlights* the exploitation of underwater cultural property through illegal private salvaging operations that rob coastal and island states of their rich underwater cultural heritage, encouraging an investigation into possible solutions to this complex problem in accordance with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas* (1982);
28. **Encourages** the development of informational databases similar to Sudiapedia to collect cultural data on existing cultural heritage in the hopes of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage inside of Member States;

29. **Supports** the INTERPOL's Integrated Border Management Task Force (IBMTF) in supporting law enforcement officers by:

   a. Utilizing operations at air, land, and sea border points to access INTERPOL databases that focus on enforcement efforts on combating illicit trafficking on cultural property;
   
   b. Delivering training to build capacity so as to certain border points;
   
   c. Improving worldwide border management policy through cooperation between UNESCO Member States.

30. **Recommends** strengthening public-private partnerships to track sales and transportation of cultural property, including internet sales, in accordance with the ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk;

31. **Suggests** a combined list of INTERPOL and national museums of artefacts likely to be stolen to be given out to the public on the internet, to:

   a. Produce an internationally accessible database where individual private persons can inform themselves on potential buys, that are proposed to them on the internet;
   
   b. Make it easier for private observers to mark a specific object as potentially found and the information sent to INTERPOL and local authorities;
   
   c. Be funded by the UNESCO budget for the major programme III for culture and national budgets.