



Documentation of the work of the
**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization NMUN simulation***



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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Committee Staff

Director	Sebastian Hieke
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Agenda

1. Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin
2. Promoting Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
UNESCO/1/1	Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin	Adopted without a vote
UNESCO/1/2	Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin	36 in favor, 5 against, 11 abstentions
UNESCO/1/3	Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin	40 in favor, 2 against, 10 abstentions
UNESCO/1/4	Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin	30 in favor, 12 against, 10 abstentions

Summary Report for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held its annual session to consider the following Agenda items:

1. Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin
2. Promoting Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

On Sunday, the committee adopted the Agenda 1, 2, beginning the discussion on the topic of "Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin." By Tuesday, the Dais had received a total of five proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including decolonization, educational initiatives, inter-agency cooperation, and strengthening legal frameworks. Throughout the sessions on Monday and Tuesday, the committee worked productively and effectively on the working papers. Following further negotiations, merging processes were initiated on Tuesday. The atmosphere in the committee was marked by a high level of efficiency and collaboration.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, all of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, one of which was adopted by consensus. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including the role of a variety of actors in the process of identifying and returning cultural properties, data collection on the matter, educational programs, the importance of including indigenous peoples, and developing legal processes. The working processes in the committee were characterized by efficiency, productivity, and an overall positive atmosphere.



Code: UNESCO/1/1

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Topic: Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming Article 27 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948), which affirms the need to preserve culture,

Acknowledging the relevant conventions associated with the protection of cultural property including the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* of 14 May 1954, the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* of 14 November 1970, and the *UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects* of 24 June 1995,

Taking into account clause 17 of the *Final Declaration of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development* (MONDIACULT 2022) that highlights the need to return stolen cultural artifacts,

Highlighting the importance of the World Heritage Sites and the impact this status has on protecting history and cultural awareness and the need to see cultural artifacts in an equivalent manner,

Recognizing the work that needs to be done to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.4 (significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime), to reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the Return of Cultural Property and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 76/16 (2021) on the “Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin” and its emphasis on the utilization of existing UN legal frameworks to address the issue of restitution and Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) on the “Maintenance of international peace and security” Article 17, which recognizes the importance of developing effective legislation on import and export of cultural property,

Applauding the work of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on promoting the human right to access and enjoy cultural heritage in places where there is a disconnect between the population and its culture,

Recognizing the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in making the artifact identification process more efficient through nuclear techniques that identify non-original, trafficked, and the provenance of goods, and the need to further utilize their methods,

Praising the work of UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme (MoW) in combating the erasure of cultural objects and the importance of building upon its framework to best protect the right to preserve one’s history,

Recalling the regulatory body of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) *Code of Ethics* and its purpose in deliberating and keeping museums accountable and transparent during restitution,

Remembering Article 2 of resolution 20 C4 / 7.6 / 5 of the 20th session of the Conference General of UNESCO (1978) and its focus on establishing the purpose and work of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP),

Appreciating the International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property, which occurs annually on November 14th, to promote international frameworks for the prevention of theft and looting, and the return of illegally traded property, in accordance with other advances in the fight against illicit trafficking,

Acknowledging the third meeting of The INTERPOL Expert Group on Stolen Cultural Property that highlights the role the internet plays in the sale of cultural property and the difficulty of ensuring legality due to the size and scale of the market,

Considering the cost and vulnerability of cultural objects in the process of transportation and the need to collaborate for their safety and protection,

Keeping in mind the vital role of educational stakeholders, such as artists, communities, conferenciers, and educational institutions in preserving the connection of local communities to their shared cultural heritage,

1. *Encourages* Member States to enhance existing partnerships with the HRC and the OHCHR, with the support of UNESCO, on the human right to access and enjoy cultural heritage, in order to raise awareness for the voluntary process of restitution, through:
 - a. Utilizing the reports of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (Special Rapporteur) to inform Member States on the importance of recognizing the right to cultural heritage;
 - b. Attending existing HRC and Special Rapporteur workshops and conferences on the importance of cultural heritage alongside relevant international stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN bodies;
2. *Recommends* that Member States and regional bodies create knowledge and resource capacity-building partnerships for information, technology, and methods with IAEA and UNICRI, in order to:
 - a. Increase the efficiency of the object identification and restitution processes using nuclear analytical techniques used by IAEA and UNICRI that identify non-original and trafficked goods and the geographical provenance of goods;
 - b. Act as a supportive resource for bodies, such as UNICRI that provide Member States with analytical services for the authentication and provenance of cultural goods;
3. *Supports* enhanced partnerships between Member States and the International MoW program, particularly in regions whose documentary heritage has gone undocumented and undervalued, to better legitimize cultural heritage;
4. *Further recommends* that UNESCO validates the importance of cultural artifacts as objects needing safekeeping by the international community to respect their cultural heritage in a manner similar to that of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, by being under UNESCO's protection while they are transferring to their original place for the purpose of protecting goods during the process of restitution to their country of origin and the history they represent, by:

- a. Improving accessibility to cultural artifacts that are unable to be returned presently due to their fragility through means including but not limited to tourist visas or free museum admission and subsidized travel costs for the public, while continuously working on their eventual return;
 - b. Improving accessibility to cultural artifacts that are unable to be returned presently due to their fragility through means including but not limited to tourist visas or free museum admission and subsidized travel costs for the public, while continuously working on their eventual return;
 - c. Increasing cooperation between Member States and museums, with the ICPRCP, aimed at expanding and improving existing facilities that house cultural artifacts and objects through the sharing of academic expertise in the spirit of free cultural exchange;
5. *Invites* the ICOM to more publicly recognize museums that accurately acknowledge any potential clandestine circumstances of exhibited cultural property, and thereby uphold the ICOM *Code of Ethics*, by:
 - a. Encouraging museums to prominently display their acquisition policy at the entrance to their establishments and their online sites;
 - b. Implementing an international honorific certification that could be published on-site and online in the spirit of rewarding museums that faithfully carry out the ICOM *Code of Ethics*;
6. *Recommends* that the ICPRCP expand the scope of its work to better hold Member States accountable for the restitution of cultural property, by:
 - a. Increasing the number of board members from 22 to 30 to expand its reach and efficiency in handling restitution cases;
 - b. Cooperating with UNIDROIT and the World Heritage Fund to foster coordination with Member States' private institutions, such as museums and private collectors to consider the voluntary restitution of objects of cultural importance to their place of origin in return for monetary compensation from the World Heritage Fund, with the figure of compensation being determined by ICPRCP;
7. *Encourages* online platforms that sell cultural goods to implement verification processes preceding the sales in order to prevent the illegal imports and exports of cultural property, by:
 - a. Utilizing qualified online inspectors trained through specialized agencies, such as the ICPRCP to supervise the online trade of cultural properties;
 - b. Forwarding regulations that could effectively be implemented by the administration of online platforms for a mandatory authentication of the origins of the good and the identification of the parties involved in the sale;
8. *Suggests* the creation of an annual conference regarding the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking, to be held in tandem with the International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property, to encourage Member States, local and regional organizations, and further interested parties to share best practices, report on updates, and strengthen global preparedness against illicit trafficking;

9. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of external actors such as international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support existing local stakeholders involved in educational initiatives regarding the importance of cultural heritage through instigating measures such as:
 - a. Providing financial support through funding from NGOs such as the International Funds Supporting Culture to activists, such as artists, involved in sensitizing their communities to the absence of their cultural property;
 - b. Fostering partnerships between educational establishments and places of cultural display such as museums and monuments to facilitate annual visits of students and community members to cultural institutions that would be included in the school curriculum from the primary level onwards, with supervision from NGOs including, but not limited to Childhood Education International, African Education Foundation, Asha for Education, and Education Development Center and use, if necessary, the allocated budget indicated in sub-clause 1(d) of the resolution 41 C4 / 35 of the 41st session of the Conference General of UNESCO (2022) for Major Programme IV which can be used to integrate culture in the educational curriculum according to sub-sub clause 1 (c) (iv) of this resolution.



Code: UNESCO/1/2

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic: Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Acknowledging Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), affirming that everyone has the right to hold opinions and to seek and access information,

Aware of the ongoing issues associated with the illicit trading of cultural property, and the harmful effects it has on the restitution of cultural and societal restoration and preservations, as well as further referencing the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970 (1970 Convention), and the the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 (1954 The Hague Convention), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with their goals of strengthening international cooperation amongst other Member States,

Appreciating the work put forward by the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP),

Having in mind Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) through better, more effective, and just access to institutions,

Conscious of the harm colonialism has done to countries and their connection to heritage and the importance of cultural artifacts in preserving the connection to heritage in countries,

Acknowledging the resolution 20 C4 / 7.6 / 5 of the 20th session of the Conference General of UNESCO (1978), which supplies strategies to assist with bilateral discussions between nations for the restitution of cultural property,

Recalling the work of the World Heritage Education Programme in allowing young people to be involved in the protection of their cultural heritage,

Acknowledging the Declaration on Universal Access to Information (2023) which protects the right of access to information,

Emphasizing the principles of the Convention of United Nations against Organised Crime resolution 5/7 of 22 October 2010,

Reaffirming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2347 on “Destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict”, to actively condemn and proactively prevent the destruction of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking of artifacts, ceremonial objects, and property from private homes, museums, and other sites by organized crime syndicates and terrorist organizations,

Bearing in mind that Survival International is guided by the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 33/20 on “Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage”, which stresses the need to promote, respect, and protect the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, and guided by the GA resolution 75/123 (2020) on the “Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”, which aims to continue

and intensify efforts towards the eradication of colonialism worldwide and supporting affected territories in achieving self-determination and independence,

Noting with approval all the work achieved by the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL),

Emphasizing the need for UNESCO to continue collaboration with INTERPOL to advance and expand ID-Art for documentation and information sharing, as well as conducting inventory,

Noting with approval that ID-Art, created and maintained by INTERPOL, can be operated by local and international law enforcement, border protection workers, the general public, and those in official positions designated as professionals in the art industry to report stolen artifacts of cultural significance,

Viewing with appreciation that by the end of April 2022, INTERPOL's ID-Art app had been downloaded more than 21,000 times in 164 countries,

Expresses its appreciation for INTERPOL's established ID-Art, which contains over 52,000 objects from 134 Member States,

Taking into consideration ID-Art's continued success in tackling the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage items, ID-Art faces a lack of international publication resulting in fewer cases being studied and reported,

Dismayed by the fact that trafficked artifacts often serve as a source of funding for terrorists fueling conflict within all of our borders, especially in the five Latin American Member States that are especially affected as conduits for the illegal trafficking of cultural assets,

Acknowledging the innovative nuclear analytical imaging methods which are discussed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters in Vienna by IAEA and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in May 2023 and is used to analyze the composition of goods for combating illicit trafficking of cultural goods,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 66/180 (2012) on "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking", therewith adopting the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (2000) in order to reduce the trafficking of cultural property,

Viewing with appreciation for the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws established in 2005 by UNESCO,

Expresses its appreciation for International Council of Museums (ICOM) Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk established in 2000,

Concerned by the decision of the 23rd session of the ICPRCP (2022), which highlighted the lack of a concrete restitution framework in the *UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property*,

Acknowledging that the UN Indigenous Peoples Forum (UNPFII) has identified that official data collection about indigenous peoples tends to be inadequate despite being extremely important for the preservation of indigenous heritage, and applauding the work done by the Expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for indigenous people,

Celebrating the ICPRCP, which is a permanent intergovernmental organization created during the 20th session of the Conference General UNESCO in 1978, that implores strategies to assist with bilateral discussions between nations for the restitution of cultural property, as established by General Assembly resolution 76/16 (2021) on “Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin,”

Strongly encouraging the use and expansion of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) *Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts* to further understand displaced cultural artifacts are often intercepted, and remain at a Member States border, hence not resulting in adequate restitution or return to the country of origin,

Deeply concerned by the difficulties of the restitution of artifacts stolen through illicit trafficking, worsened by a lack of a comprehensive international database on existing cultural property, and a lack of preventative measures currently being applied to the issue,

Alarmed by the lack of sufficient evidence to establish if the objects in question were acquired through involuntary loss of possession, especially amongst indigenous populations of colonial territories throughout the world, knowing that the cultural heritage of indigenous people is deeply rooted in the cultural aspect of each Member State. Affecting things such as language, religion, or even celebrations,

1. *Proposes* the establishment of the Heritage Integration and Reparative Directive (HIRED) by the ICPRCP to reinforce legislations and frameworks already being made by the ICPRCP and UNPFII, that would:
 - a. Provide a standardized and consistent framework, facilitating policy recommendations to find solutions, and expediting cases of illicit cultural trafficking of neglected minority groups, acceptable by all affected Member States, thereby:
 - i. Focusing on older cases of restitution disagreements, such as the non-consensual removal of cultural items, for instance, the Herzog family collection, or the Victorious Youth Bronze Statue not covered by the currently existing, non-retroactive international frameworks;
 - ii. Encouraging Member States to report disputes to UNESCO's General Conference;
 - b. Consist of a pool of independent expert personnel to draw from in order to find conclusions, provided by UNESCO, who in their assessment of identified disputes shall first and foremost ask museums or other holders of foreign cultural property to prove the lawful and consenting acquisition of said cultural property, encompassing archeologists, historians, and lawyers specialized in international law coming from and chosen by different Member States which rotate every four years;
 - c. Request meetings upon invitation by UNESCO Member States for accurate information sharing and mediating as a third impartial party in multilateral and bilateral conversations with the rightful owner Member States of stolen cultural property;
 - d. Streamline legislative measures for resolving restitution disputes by utilizing the Rules of Mediation and Conciliation of the ICPRCP, to specifically cater to the indigenous population and illicit theft in conflict-affect zones, and providing agency through a pilot program focusing on;

- e. Produce an annual report identifying the measures and progress implemented by Member States to adapt and adopt national legislation concerning the protection of cultural property and respective pilot programs based on the existing UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and information voluntarily provided by Member States;
2. *Recommends* the creation of a new pilot program model of data aggregation that incorporates indigenous populations and mitigates biases against minority groups, through incorporating the expertise held by the Expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples, by:
 - a. Focusing on giving indigenous population's ability to manage, the legislative procedures needed, in order to manage;
 - b. Establishing a privacy-first storage system that prioritizes the agency of indigenous populations on how their data is stored, and used, and who has access to it as proof of concept;
 - c. Identifying proof of concept in successful indigenous groups to begin funding of the said program in those respective areas;
3. *Invites* the ICPRCP to create a special ad-hoc committee composed of Member States to revise the UNESCO *International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property*, in order to strengthen concrete restitution guidelines and processes;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve the efficiency of the ICPCRCP, while reaching a bigger audience, by recommending Member States to engage with local and indigenous communities in the restitution process, by:
 - a. Presenting their testimonies on the significance of missing artifacts to their communities in front of the ICPCRCP and the Member States involved in the process of return and restitution through the Committee;
 - b. Using funds allocated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) willing to render available part of their budget to the project, such as Survival International, in order to:
 - i. Finance experts traveling to meet with local and indigenous communities to survey the ground and collect opinions and testimonies of these communities;
 - ii. Record the testimonies in the languages of the local and indigenous groups for educational and cultural preservation purposes, and translate the testimonies into English for presentation purposes;
5. *Calls upon* Member States and NGOs to participate in the further implementation and development of the Stolen Works of Art Database from INTERPOL and their ID-Art to include the original provenance as well as the movement of all known cultural property as defined by Article 1 of the 1970 Convention, through collaboration with NGOs such as Returning Heritage, museums, and universities, including indigenous cultural property, in order to consolidate and refine already existing databases of public and private collections, including the Stolen Works of Art Database, to increase accountability in restitution, and combat illicit trafficking, which is firmly advised to be implemented, through:

- a. An obligation of declaration of goods at any national borders for the exportation or importation of cultural property to be added to the database;
 - b. Encouraging registration in the database for every sale and loan of cultural property to keep track of the items' movement;
 - c. The creation of a special national body in association with UNESCO responsible for adding artifacts to the database, handling appropriately any artifacts registered as from illicit trafficking, and responsible for the endeavor and control of the two above obligations in collaboration with NGOs as mentioned in subclauses a and b;
 - d. The establishment of conferences by the UNESCO and Member States in collaboration with the ICPRCP, museums, heritage sites, and local and international institutions, such as the Claims Conference and the ICOM to educate the general public and raise awareness on the matter and to encourage the download and use of ID-Art by museum and heritage site patrons through social media and other means;
 - e. Organizing workshops by the HRC and the UNHCR which aim to educate people about their heritage;
 - f. Recommending that museums and heritage sites within participating Member States register historical and cultural artifacts within the pre-existing INTERPOL databases, in order to increase registered inventory and display artistic merit from all Member States, lessening the need for permanent acquisition;
 - g. Inviting the participation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), the World Heritage Fund, and Survival International in the funding of the expansion of the Stolen Works of Art Database;
6. *Recommends* museums to further utilize existing museum loan systems to display artistic merit from all Member States, lessening the need for permanent acquisition, with the funding made available by voluntary contribution of Member States, as there is a need to pay the experts assessing the state of the objects every time they are moved from one museum to another;
 7. *Suggests* the cooperation of UNESCO with IAEA and UNICRI to share and make use of the innovative nuclear analytic technology, which was discussed by IAEA and UNICRI in 2023, and analyze the composition of cultural goods for the purposes of identifying the origin of cultural goods;
 8. *Encourages* Member States to implement or increase the number of workshops held nationally between national stakeholders such as ministries and departments relevant to culture, education, and justice, to:
 - a. Foster a more coherent national approach to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural property;
 - b. Sensibilize the civilian population to the issues of trafficking and of the return and restitution of cultural property for them to be more aware, involved, and participative in the process;
 - c. Include the voices of indigenous people and minorities that otherwise would not be heard in the debate;

9. *Calls upon* other Member States to strengthen their commitment to the 1954 Hague Convention and the 1970 Convention by working with other Member States to incorporate national legislation that can aid in establishing national services that are designed to protect cultural heritage, including:
 - a. The establishment of inventories regarding the cultural heritage of Member States, on a recurrent basis, as a vital tool for guiding sustainable heritage practices;
 - b. The establishment of export certificates for each cultural object, that documents specific criteria, such as the issuing authority, export license, type of object, and owner of the property;
10. *Encourages* all Member States to promote cultural competence of respective nearby nations, defined as the ability to understand and respect values, attitudes, and beliefs to advance the development of equal access to cultural properties, and promote the enjoyment of those properties, emphasized by SDG 16 indicator 4 (strengthening the return and recovery of stolen assets), by:
 - a. Creating an educational program about the importance of the preservation of cultural property and their heritage, by:
 - i. Collaborating with the World Heritage Education Programme, museums and libraries;
 - ii. Promoting the use of learning strategies and tools such as Genio in 21 giorni;
 - b. Recommending the creation of an international forum called the United Nations International Forum on Cultural Databases (UNIFCD), to spread awareness of cultural artifact databases and how to utilize them effectively at all facets of society;
 - c. Strengthening recognition and identification training, through a formation with specialized historians, for border experts through an educational and voluntary program, to be able to identify possible cultural artifacts to promote adequate and ethical retribution and return of cultural property;
11. *Calls upon* NGOs, such as Survival International, that are guided by the HRC and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), to emphasize impacted cultural identities while addressing the need to promote, respect, and protect the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, by:
 - a. Funding a pilot program in a museum for properties that are pending restitution, unable to be returned to their country of origin at that time, using it as proof of concept to see a positive return, by:
 - i. Emphasizing that both Member States must agree on the terms of the return;
 - ii. Ensuring that if the conflict or conditions hampering the restitution from being made do not improve, both parties should negotiate again about the time of the return;

- b. Considering the use of Blue Shield, a list of immovable objects of cultural heritage marked with the distinctive emblem of UNESCO, which may help preserve and exhibit movable cultural property to act as a framework to assist indigenous peoples;
12. *Calls for the Commitment of Member States to peacetime preservation efforts and of initiatives aimed at inciting Members to implement the UNESCO agreements such as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and its Protocols of 14 May 1954 and 26 March (1999) on a national and international scale, by:*
- a. Working to evaluate, reevaluate, and propose legislation within Member States in line with the World Heritage Convention, centered around the 5 C's (Credibility, conservation, capacity building, communication, and communities);
 - b. Encouraging participation in capacity-building activities, stepping away from traditional workshops, and stepping towards exchange visits, training, development courses, and system improvements, through collaboration with the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and other capacity-building partners.



Code: UNESCO/1/3

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Topic: Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Using the definition of cultural property, given by the 2009 UNESCO framework for cultural statistics, includes artifacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological, or anthropological, scientific and social significance,

Recalling the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property focused primarily on heritage protection during peacetime (1970) and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage (2003), the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism (Fourth Decade: 2023-2030), as essential frameworks to the holistic discussion about restitution processes and the combatting of illicit trafficking of cultural property,

Referring to the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law (2021) for tackling illicit trafficking of cultural goods as it promotes the rule of law and crime prevention,

Acknowledging that many Member States dealt with the theft of their inheritance in periods of colonization,

Understanding the profound significance of cultural heritage as a universal expression of human creativity, history, and identity, and being deeply concerned by the devastating impact of armed conflict on the preservation, protection, and accessibility of art and cultural artifacts within conflict zones worldwide,

Noting with concern the irrevocable loss of cultural artifacts in zones of conflict, that has been stated in the 1954 Hague Convention, making the cultural restitution process more vulnerable and sometimes even impossible,

Keeping in mind that colonization has played a major role in the displacement of cultural property away from their country of origin,

Believing that the return of cultural property to its country of origin is aligned with article 7 of UNESCO's Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations that states that present generations may use the common heritage of humankind, as defined in international law, provided that this does not entail compromising it irreversibly,

Referring to INTERPOL's mandate and responsibility to enforce law through secure channels, provide police data and information, and incorporate capacity building and training,

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive and mutual assessments such as databases in addressing global threats, including the invaluable insights provided by INTERPOL's annual crime survey "Assessing Crimes Against Cultural Property,"

Highlighting INTERPOL's Assessing Crimes Against Cultural Property (2020) survey on knowledge about crimes against cultural property as a useful analysis of illicit trafficking patterns of cultural goods and heritage,

Noting with concern the illegal excavations of archeological sites as this marks one of the biggest activities in transnational organized crime of cultural objects, especially in Latin American countries,

Remaining deeply aware that conflict zones are vulnerable to target for illicit trafficking of cultural goods, as legal frameworks and controls of trafficking routes are especially difficult in these contexts,

Recognizing the insidious role played by the illegal trafficking of cultural goods as a significant means of financing terrorist organizations, particularly in conflict zones, thereby exacerbating the conflicts,

Acknowledging the importance of bodies such as the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Council, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in the safe repatriation of cultural heritage,

Re-emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with a direct focus on the 11.4 goal, safeguarding and preserving cultural and natural heritage, and the 16.4 goal, underscoring the role of legal frameworks, ethical guidelines, and international cooperation in addressing issues of restitution and the ownership of cultural artifacts,

Aligning itself UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP) established by Resolution 20 C4 / 7.6 / 5 of the 20th session of the Conference General of UNESCO in 1978, which is advocating for the inclusion of cultural property restitution to already existing reconciliation efforts by Member States, highlighting its significance in addressing historical injustices,

Guided by The Provenance Research on the Ethnographic Collection - Herkomstonderzoek op de Etnografische collectie (PROCHE) project between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Belgium, which has already facilitated the repatriation of many cultural objects,

Deeply convinced of the rights and obligations laid out in the *UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects* (1995) expanding this protection and regulating and defining both theft and illicit export and trade for all parties,

Noting the important monetary value that these cultural objects can have to museums in matters of tourism,

Realizing the need for increased prioritization and allocation of resources to cultural property protection, mindful of its fundamental importance in fostering global heritage protection,

Encouraging local partnerships for Sustainable Development by referring to the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention to foster cultural diversity,

Acknowledging the importance of bilateral and multilateral agreements between nations for the prompt and fair repatriation of cultural artifacts taken during colonial periods,

1. *Affirms* the moral imperative of cultural property restitution as a fundamental step towards justice, reconciliation, inclusivity, decolonization, and healing for communities impacted by colonial extraction, the impacts of armed conflicts, impacts of occupation, and illicit trade of their cultural property in all regions of the world, the ethical obligation to return unlawfully acquired cultural artifacts to their rightful owners;
2. *Encourages* the restitution of cultural property that was looted in the context of colonization, acknowledging that colonization is not the only reason for restitution of cultural property, in order to further the efforts for decolonization, such as recognition and promoting cultural freedom, that have been undertaken within the international community by:
 - a. *Urging* the ICPRCP to continue working on the return and restitution of cultural property to its countries of origin mindful of the process of decolonization following Resolution 20 C4 / 7.6 / 5 of the 20th session of the Conference General of the UNESCO;
 - b. *Suggesting* that Member States increase the funding of the ICPRCP as the limited resources remain a significant obstacle to the implementation of an effective strategy against the dispersal of cultural property caused by illicit trafficking;
 - c. *Recommending* allocating a dedicated annual budget using the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, to establish and sustain the work of the ICPRCP with the explicit mandate of prioritizing and expediting the restitution process for cultural property looted in the context of colonization;
 - d. *Stressing* the need for implementing innovative processes, such as more optimized procedures and expedited review for the evaluation of restitution claims related to stolen cultural property reducing bureaucratic barriers, and expediting the return of unlawfully acquired artifacts to their countries of origin;
3. *Endorses* the effectiveness of existing frameworks about the illicit trafficking of cultural goods as the theft of these invaluable cultural heritages is a modern scourge significantly hindering the restitution process on top of the centuries-old restitution discussion arising in the context of the decolonization debate by:
 - a. *Recommending* targeted Member States to regularly participate in the INTERPOL's report *Assessing Crimes Against Cultural Property* to analyze patterns of illegal trafficking of cultural goods;
 - b. *Inviting* Member States to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and ensure its effective implementation;
 - c. *Targeting* illicit trafficking of cultural objects more effectively and on multiple levels by enhancing collaboration between UNESCO, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods from the International

Council of Museums (ICROM), in order to combine their expertise and share their resources;

4. *Requests* developed Member States to ensure all Member States can work towards expanding their infrastructure and technology to implement these frameworks and workshops by:
 - a. *Using* the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) that supports activities decided on by the Intergovernmental Committee that aim to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector in developing countries;
 - b. *Encouraging* the values of transparency and knowledge sharing between Member States in scientific research for technological advancements that aid in the restitution of cultural property;
5. *Strongly emphasize* the importance of the proper repatriation of cultural property and heritage to local populations around the world, through enhancing the interconnection between culture and education with the help of expert groups and intergovernmental committee to maintain their heritage by:
 - a. *Intending* on working with representative figures as well as the ICPRCP, while seeing the urgent need for expert groups influenced by the success of the Mexican Unit for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, or the European Commission's informal expert group on cultural heritage, parallel to the Intergovernmental bodies, with the idea of maintaining the national traditions consisting of indigenous and academic experts of the field, funded by the Survival International funds, recalling SDG 11.4, as well as the Assessed Contributions of UNESCO's Culture Programme's allocated funding;
 - b. *Welcoming* working to foster the agency of indigenous people and minority groups by raising awareness through educational campaigns about the 2022 International Decade of Indigenous Languages to preserve and restitution their cultural-linguistic property and history by collaborating with the Global Task Force of this initiative;
 - c. *Instructing* these permanent expert groups to assist governments with surveilling the illegal trade of cultural objects in art markets and revising the collections of museums and cultural institutions, ensuring each state's capability to take timely action at home, abroad, and in illegal markets;
 - d. *Calling on* auction houses, researchers, and individuals equivalent to Associate Expert Scheme, to indicate objects of known or disputed provenance to the respective national expert group to be evaluated and based on its conclusion call on the national foreign ministry to enter bilateral negotiations, aided by the ICPRCP;
 - e. *Allocating* the necessary resources from the UNESCO Culture Programme's funding for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to establish and sustain the activities outlined in the proposal, including the formation and operation of permanent expert groups, educational campaigns, collaboration with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages initiative, and assistance to governments in monitoring and combating the illegal trade of cultural objects;
6. *Calls upon* the UNESCO World Heritage Center to collaborate with experts and private institutions like INTERPOL to track and find all cultural objects around the world by 2035 by:

- a. *Recommending* museums and cultural institutions possessing objects of unknown provenance to increase funding of proper provenance research;
 - b. *Encouraging* an international management and memorandum of understanding agreement between national museums reluctant to give away these objects and the State and to which it belongs by including it within rule of law tools for post-conflict states reparations programs set up by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
7. *Furthering* cooperation with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) through their International Training Centre for Museum Studies (ICOM-ITC) that focuses on cultural heritage and education program, of which UNESCO is already a part of, by:
 - a. *Emphasizing* the advancements of the ICoM's online and regional training programs and workshops to make them accessible to the totality of the UNESCO Member States;
 - b. *Relying* on the expertise that museum researchers acquire through the ICoM to increase their efforts in researching and repatriating objects illegally obtained in private or public ownership;
 - c. *Using* the Fund of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the ICPRCP which aims to support Member States in their efforts to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, the verification of cultural objects by experts, their transport, insurance costs, the establishment of facilities for their proper display, and the training of museum professionals from the countries of origin of cultural property;
8. *Welcomes* Member States to further collaborate with the existing framework INTERPOL's "ID-Art" application by raising awareness on the existence of databases due to the unknown nature of how the interface operates through the education of citizens and stakeholders from departments related to culture and education by:
 - a. *Expanding* upon the program of the workshop in East Africa in Nairobi in 2022 with the mandate of providing informational sessions on how to use existing cultural frameworks to identify missing cultural objects to more Member States, held every two years in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage and International Law;
 - b. *Advertising* national public awareness campaigns to aid in educating civilians and authorities departments about the importance of cultural heritage preservation and how to use "ID-Art" applications efficiently;
9. *Recommends the* specialization of law enforcement services, customs, and judicial authorities dedicated to the protection and restitution of cultural heritage by:
 - a. *Providing* training courses modeled after the INTERPOL Virtual Academy for state authorities that focus on learning how to check exit points in conflict zones and vulnerable regions, as well as assist heritage officials in preventing the illicit export of cultural property;
 - b. *Training* specialized advisory teams in the field of fraud and theft related to cultural property through the development of advisory bodies, encouraging the collaboration

between UNIDROIT and UNESCO, and ensuring requests are assessed independently and fairly, with nuanced and informed advisors appointed;

- c. *Welcoming* expert groups to assist governments with surveilling the illegal trade of cultural objects in art markets and revising the collections of museums and cultural institutions, supporting member states to take timely action at home, abroad, and in illegal markets;
- d. *Taking into account* the existing INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art Database to track cultural property and facilitate its return to its country of origin;
- e. *Applauding* the operations of cultural property restitution adapted to the local realities of concerned regions, such as the Pandora VII Operation led by Spain and supported by Europol and INTERPOL;
- f. *Requesting* the World Bank's contributions, suggested by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which identifies concrete joint initiatives in an effort to pursue common objectives of the two organizations, UNESCO and the World Bank, in the areas of culture and sustainable development.



Code: UNESCO/1/4

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Topic: Promoting Restitution or the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Guided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) resolution 20 C4/7.6/5 of 1978 and the continuing work of the UNESCO General Conference and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP),

Reiterating the significance of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects,

Understanding the importance of clarifying legal language to have all Member States be on the same level of comprehension for UNESCO resolutions and current legal frameworks and the effectivity of ad-hoc subcommittees and the capabilities of such to determine and correct errors in guidelines and the potential for the ICPRCP to continue and expand their work,

Emphasizing the connection between the restitution of cultural objects and connection with culture as an international public good and the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions),

Recognizing the utility of restitution of cultural objects as a means for Member States and the international community to move past and come to terms with regrettable and shared prior history, including and particularly those items acquired in an illicit context as outlined in the Human Rights Council resolution 40/53 (2019) "Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General", which contained the tenth annual report of the special rapporteur on cultural rights,

Noting with regret the inefficiencies and shortfalls of the current approach and framework for the protection, restitution, and arbitration of cultural objects that have stifled attempts to fulfill the United Nations (UN) resolution General Assembly Resolution 76/16 on Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin, allowing the continuance of illicit trafficking of cultural objects and separation of cultural objects from their Member State and cultural group of origin,

Noting with satisfaction the ongoing work of international organizations that engage in work with cultural rights and cultural objects like The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and their Stolen Works of Art Database and cooperation with customs agencies of Member States to combat illicit trafficking in cultural objects, the Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and their efforts to cooperate with Member States through information sharing to combat international organized criminal networks that traffic cultural objects such as through the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Protection against Trafficking in Cultural Property,

Fully Believing in the administrative efforts of the UNESCO World Heritage Center and their Heritage Emergency Fund which affords critical assistance to cultural object protection and preservation through

voluntary contributions, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their efforts as a result of resolution 2004/34 to increase the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) to better report on ongoing issues concerning cultural objects, the ongoing work of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and their reports on cultural rights in the midst of Member State development, whose mandate facilitates the monitoring and reporting of cultural property disputes, as well as creating essential dialogue between Member States and the work of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) which outline attempts to decolonize museums and make museums more transparent with indigenous groups,

Cognizant of the fact indigenous and marginalized local populations may often lack the means to store and maintain vital cultural property within their community,

Acknowledging the importance of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer or Ownership of Cultural Property (1970 Convention) in emphasizing the need for Member States to return artifacts and the right of Member States to have the artifacts returned while *noting* the potential for expansion and modernization of the operational language of article 1 of the 1970 convention and the expansion of existing frameworks to account for technological innovations and encourage progress to streamline cultural restitution,

Deeply concerned by the propagation of displaced cultural property that arises from the illicit trade of stolen cultural objects and seeking to address this problem as to prevent the continuous displacement, and thus need for continued restoration of, cultural property,

Taking note of the need for new forms of arbitration between Member States on the return of artifacts,

Keeping in mind the difficulty of determining the difference between licit and illicit trade of cultural items, including unique situations where ownership of cultural property has been gifted as legal and acceptable being licit, and the need for a more detailed oriented resolution in line with current understandings of the definition of illicit trafficking under UNODC, Article 3 of the 1970 Convention and tensions between Member States,

Believing in the promotion of cultural competency and the advancement of equal access to cultural properties is critical in cultural preservation,

Having considered the value of expert opinions and newly available technologies,

Noting with deep concern the innovations in illicit trafficking of cultural property and how such trafficking hinders the restitution of cultural objects by obscuring the location of said objects and the tendency for trafficked items to be irreparably damaged or destroyed thus necessitating combating illicit trafficking in order to pursue just restitution of cultural objects,

Recognizing that a lack of museum infrastructure may contribute to the loss of cultural products through a lack of security and maintenance of cultural objects that are otherwise fragile,

Seeking greater connections with local communities and organizations to make the restitution process more accessible and transparent for traditionally marginalized and unheard groups like indigenous peoples due to excluding local communities from efforts to make the restitution process more accessible and transparent risks perpetuating marginalization as a lack of testimony and input from local communities threatens to make the restitution process culturally insensitive and thus violate the

fundamental principles of UNESCO and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),

Aiming to expand connections with organizers of private and public exhibitions for the purpose of building regional and domestic cultural identity and the education thereof,

Appreciating the work of the United Nations Artificial Intelligence (AI) Advisory Body in coordinating international governance on the matter of AI to realize the potential role AI can play in the authentication and preservation of cultural goods, such as through the use of machine learning algorithms behind computer vision authentication,

Fully aware that stolen cultural goods are frequently smuggled undetected through air and seaports inhibits the restitution process,

Conscious of the traumatic histories cultural objects have been subjected to at the hands of unauthorized entities,

1. *Calls for* the creation of a new sub-committee within the ICPRCP, the Committee of Artifact Ownership (CAO), which will be responsible for advising and facilitating arbitrations and resolving disputes between Member States on the return of artifacts relating to resource distribution and the establishment of infrastructure and resources in museums and other preservation sites to maintain and preserve the artifacts, by:
 - a. Offering Member States, the capability to voluntarily submit claims to the sub-committee concerning cultural objects unlawfully taken from them, and offer the CAO as a forum to facilitate and mediate any cultural object restitution dispute between the two Member States;
 - b. Supporting Member States with claims to cultural property and effectively developing and maintaining a system whereby the artifacts can be returned to the original or legitimate owner if the property in question was obtained unlawfully or if the legality is otherwise disputed under the regulations of the 1970 Convention;
 - c. Providing financial compensation or other equally appropriate compensation for cultural property that has been destroyed, lost, or damaged determined by the CAO and remunerated by the Member States responsible for the damage or loss;
2. Encourages Member States that have signed the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention to follow the guidelines set in this convention as it serves as a framework similar to UNESCO's mission to provide clarification on the restitution or return of illegally exported cultural objects through a more clear and methodical procedure for restitution beyond the current procedure of the ICPRCP, which serves as a starting point for which clause three will expand and clarify which will modernize this international agreement;
3. *Proposes* the idea of a UNESCO-sponsored ad-hoc subcommittee, the Cultural Heritage Repatriation and Legal Terminology Enhancement, which will receive cases in which restitution has proven legally difficult under CAO and particularly dedicated to the review, analysis, and modernization of the verbiage of current UNESCO and third party guidelines to close legal loopholes, while also specifying the differentiation between what is the legal ownership of cultural property previously owned by other Member States, for example as through reparations, and

what is considered the illegal trade of stolen culturally significant artifacts, convening regularly with participating Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), and a rotating council of Member States being elected to serve three-year terms by splitting continents fairly by the number of Member States per continent, as represented from:

- a. North America with four participating members;
 - b. South America with three participating members;
 - c. Asia with five participating members;
 - d. Africa with six participating members;
 - e. Europe with five participating members;
 - f. Australasia with three participating members;
4. *Welcomes* initiating negotiations to create plans for how the return of specific cultural goods to their respective Member States will take place, with improving museum infrastructure and resources to guarantee these important artifacts and objects of heritage are preserved, by:
- a. Fostering cooperative bilateral relations between the two member states to move past and face the trauma of colonialism and encourage collaboration on the maintenance of the artifact in its home country;
 - b. Clarifying an effective budget and plan for the country involving the support of museum experts and artifacts called upon by the ICPRCP, to improve access to available resources for museums in these Member States;
 - c. Encouraging the Member States involved in this negotiation to work together and develop partnerships in accordance with the ICOM Code of Ethics to improve the museums of the Member States receiving the artifacts to further preserve and maintain these important artifacts of world and cultural heritage;
5. *Encourages* the ECOSOC to ensure a draft of the extension of the Rules of Mediation and Conciliation within the existing mandate and functions of the ICPRCP, as it currently does not include independent experts during dispute resolution and is missing a reporting body, by launching the Heritage Integration and Repatriation Directive (HIRED), by:
- a. Drawing from the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Protection against Trafficking in Cultural Property's pool of independent experts who have experience in the field of cultural heritage, law, history, anthropology, and other relevant disciplines, appointed by the ICPRCP or by the parties of a dispute with the agreement of both sides and are supervised by the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights;
 - b. Welcoming Member States to report disputes to the ICPRCP which supervises and evaluates the implementation of agreements and provides guidance and recommendations for further actions;
 - c. Inviting the use of the same funds that support the ICPRCP directing it towards the initiatives of HIRED, specifically targeting the additional efforts the ICPRCP has to undergo due to the reporting of disputes to its conference;

6. *Invites* Member States to coordinate the actions of specific governmental organs of Member States such as departments, ministries, and committees dedicated to culture, tourism, and information alongside public education institutions, public libraries, and other institutions in accordance with SDG 16.3 (Rule of Law), 16.6 (Transparent Institutions), 16.7 (Inclusive Decision-Making), 16.8 (Broaden Participation), and 17.16 (Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) to establish multilateral partnerships in the model of the 2005 Faro Convention in neighboring Member States through regional partnerships such as the African Union, Council of Europe, Organisation of American States and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, through:
 - a. Providing expanded, internationally minded access to vital cultural information, property, provenance, and necessary information across national borders through information sharing between the above-mentioned institutions and customs authorities within Member States;
 - b. Promoting the integration of NGOs in Member States' civil society, dedicated to cultural protection by way of bi-yearly cooperation summits organized through the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property;
 - c. Encouraging regional and international conferences such as UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT) attended by Member States' governmental and educational institutions alongside NGOs to discuss further restitution of cultural property and facilitate greater integration and collaboration by establishing clear agendas and policy directions for participating bodies;
7. *Draws attention* to the need to tailor the process of returning cultural property to the specific indigenous and vulnerable peoples by establishing direct connections with specific Indigenous governments and populations via the UNESCO Secretariat and field offices in collaboration with regional unions such as the African Union, Organization of Ibero-American States, European Union and others to provide technical and administrative support to assist these groups ability to care and store returned cultural property in accordance with UNDRIP and the 2018 UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples;
8. *Advocates for* international organizations such as the ICPRCP, ICOM, UNODC, ECOSOC, and INTERPOL as well as individual Member States and other stakeholders like indigenous communities and professional associations with unique lived experience, expertise, and insight into the harm of lack of restitution of cultural objects to increase their coordination with each other through more consistently attending and providing reports to the meetings of the ICPRCP to offer a unified and quicker restitution consultation process for cultural groups and Member States to better provide integrated and streamlined support including technical expertise and cultural object management insights regarding best practices for engaging cultural groups and caring for cultural objects to the restitution process and make this process more efficient, by:
 - a. Calling attention to how the testimony and input of impacted cultural groups and communities like indigenous peoples with lived experience or connection to a concerned cultural object to any negotiation concerning a particular cultural object in recognition of the need to listen to the voices of groups that have been deprived of their cultural property to understand why restitution is being sought in the first place;

- b. Encouraging the ICPRCP to request greater input from the ICOM regarding the factors of fragility, maneuverability, and viable public educational access;
 - c. Consulting with the INTERPOL to utilize their existing Stolen Works of Art database on cultural objects to provide parties in restitution disputes with information regarding the status and location of the relevant cultural object and through national reviews of customs and trafficking activities within Member States to assess safety and security of cultural objects where such information is not otherwise available and always in accordance with the sovereignty of involved Member States;
 - d. Supporting the development of regional and local workshops sponsored by the ICPRCP on tangible culture repatriation including existing stakeholders such as NGOs, law enforcement agencies, museum professionals, and private and professional sectors, and more by incorporating internationally recognized experts in anthropology, law, history, sociology, international affairs, and more to develop programs and educate on the importance of tangible cultural property restitution;
9. *Encourages* relationships between regional and national entities with local communities and organizations, such as NGOs, IGOs, and local grassroots organizations, to better the protection of cultural property by ensuring the same goals and convictions through the participation of local and indigenous communities, through:
- a. Providing additional funding, sponsored by the World Heritage Fund, and encouraging Member States to create UNESCO-partnered Funds-in-Trust, government grants, support from the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Monuments Fund, to regional organizations, and authorized entities, supervised by UNESCO field offices, to boost already existing efforts towards improving infrastructure that protects cultural property;
 - b. Prioritizing the local communities, who are the main benefactors of the cultural restitution process, in the restitution process by making these communities the focal point of such initiatives to ensure they can participate in these measures;
10. *Desires* the institution of regional workshops on the importance of fighting illicit trade to make educational and resource-enhancing efforts to prevent the continued need for future restitution of and preservation of cultural objects on a local level, modeled after the 2023 Uzbekistan Central Asia Regional workshop, and funded by advocates for indigenous populations and local initiatives by Survival International, aiming to further intertwine in a mutual partnership of regional entities with the same goals of preservation for cultural objects that provide equitable access to the enjoyment and education of cultural heritage;
11. *Supports* the creation of new international guidelines for the INTERPOL and Member States' national law enforcement agencies during the next session of the UNESCO Subsidiary Committee, in order to:
- a. Provide guidelines for how the INTERPOL and Member State's national police and customs agencies to better carry out the 1970 Convention with regards to import and export controls;

- b. Establish clear methods for how the INTERPOL can best assist local and regional law enforcement agencies on how to best curtail illicit extraction of cultural and archaeological sites;
12. *Requests* the development and improvement of authentication processes pre-distribution, such as in airports and seaports, as a means of supporting the integrity of cultural property, by:
 - a. Welcoming Member States to voluntarily integrate limited-memory AI systems with feedback loops and risk management into pre-existing regional and national frameworks as a supportive asset for national repatriation disputes;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to collaborate with the United Nations AI Advisory Body and INTERPOL in developing rigorous training with regard to the management of illicitly trafficked cultural property for existing airport and seaport forces so as to enable the effective implementation of AI technologies as a means of fact-checking and improving tracking and authentication methodologies, such as computer vision, which is capable of analyzing irreplicable microscopic properties of cultural artifacts;
 - c. Inviting Member States to mobilize domestic local and regional law enforcement bodies in each Member State in collaboration with INTERPOL and implement limited-memory AI as a means of verifying property before it reaches museums, businesses, and the private and public sector;
13. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) domestically and regionally with UNESCO in partnership through the agency in funding educational programs and providing new training and capacity implementation initiatives that address heritage practitioners, communities, and other institutions and combining with relevant expertise in the public sector and private sector towards providing information regarding the importance of cultural objects to Member States and communities with shared cultural heritage, as well as the history of the object itself, as it pertains to the transport, change of ownership, or discovery of cultural objects;
14. *Aims* to foster greater partnership between the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO and ICOM to coordinate, authorize, and facilitate the exchange of cultural artifacts and encourage agreements between private and public exhibition entities at a global level in partnership with existing regional networks, wherein they may encourage, on loan, the temporary exchange of cultural property and artifacts for the purpose of collective education and expanding the reach of cultural heritage to underrepresented and marginalized groups, subject to reevaluation every four years;
15. *Suggests* all parties currently participating in bilateral or multilateral cultural restitution in addition to cultural property at risk of damage or destruction due to hostilities be transferred to an authorized safe haven, which is to be understood as a neutral site designated by each party in collaboration with one another until such time that the restitution may be completed safely in accordance with the sovereignty of Member States or hostilities threatening the damage and destruction of cultural property have ceased, by:
 - a. Authorizing these safe havens via a diligent and ongoing process to ensure the safety of these properties in question during the return of cultural property or preservation of

cultural property through a regular accreditation process overseen by the ICOM while the current owner retains the duty to maintain the property in question;

- b. Ensuring the continued accountability and safety of the safe haven every five years through the accreditation process without exceptions;
 - c. Providing resources, with the consent of the Member States, to safely exhibit such cultural property in a respectful manner for educational purposes and the accessible enjoyment of such property while at a safe haven;
16. *Recommends* the streamlining of the definition in future conversations, understanding illicit cultural property trafficking includes several actions, such as theft, destruction, or removal, that strip original groups of irreplaceable, invaluable items, for-profit as outlined in the INTERPOL's report *Assessing Crimes Against Cultural Property* (2020);
17. *Welcomes* Member States to abide by all relevant UNESCO and UN conventions to safeguard cultural property and heritage for posterity and for the good of all peoples as a global public good.