



Original: English

13th Session

Agenda item: A

**Securing Cultural World Heritage Sites
Protecting Endangered Cultural World Heritage Sites**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference,

Recognizing that according to Article 11 (4) of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites that 52 World Heritage sites are on the list in danger and that 48 of these are located in developing Member States and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Bearing in mind the current looting and trafficking of archeological artifacts from Cultural Heritage sites in Asia, Africa, and South America,

Recalling the 1954 *Hague Convention* and Resolution 2347 adopted in 1954 and in 2017 to confirm the existence of damaged Cultural World Heritage sites due to war and to reaffirm the importance of preserving those sites,

Recalling the statement by Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, who condemned the airstrikes and attacks on the ancient city of Marib and the Heritage sites of other Middle Eastern countries,

Reaffirming the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention adopted in 2019 that refer to the necessity of buffer zones to maintain the property, and the responsibility of a clear explanation when Member States do not define buffer zones,

Recalling that international safeguarding campaigns launched by UNESCO in 1981 are effective in getting international attention, action and support to preserve and restore the Cultural World Heritage sites in danger,

Being concerned that there are Cultural World Heritage sites in immediate danger around the world which could be destroyed or damaged by earthquakes,

Highlighting that urbanization could destroy the landscape of Cultural World Heritage sites as stated by the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape which was adopted in the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference on November 10th, 2011,

Deeply concerned that Ukrainian Cultural World Heritage sites are being destroyed due to armed attacks and that the UNESCO has verified damage to 146 cultural sites as of 13th June 2022,

Realizing the importance of the maintenance of the Cultural World Heritage sites as stated in UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2021),

Realizing the increasing cost of reconstruction of Cultural World Heritage sites in post-war states as a result of advancement in warfare technology and the use of total war strategy as noted by European Investment Bank and World Vision Organization,

Realizing that lack of funds and dangers of natural disasters have immediate detrimental effects for the preservation of Cultural World Heritage sites in developing Member States,

Underlining the importance of launching conservation activities to improve the public understanding of cultural and historical values of Cultural World Heritage sites, as was stated by UNESCO in 2017,

Deeply concerned that lack of basic infrastructure or unregulated development could immediately harm the Cultural World Heritage's continuity of existence,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) work with developing Member States and LDC's to create low interest loans designed to help repair endangered Cultural World Heritage sites by 2024;
2. *Requests* Member States to create international stolen artifact extradition agreements for artifacts stolen from Cultural World Heritage sites by 2025;
3. *Recommends* Member States to launch international education programs together with UNESCO to reaffirm the importance of protecting Cultural World Heritage sites by:
 - a. Creating opportunities for traditional cultural property experts from all over the world to educate each country's government in the importance of Cultural World Heritage with the support of World Heritage Funds;
 - b. Holding education programs in grass-roots scale by recommending teachers to tell students the preciousness of Cultural World Heritage sites with the support of the governments in each Member State;
4. *Urges* Member States to stop sending military support and equipment to armed groups which could endanger Cultural World Heritage sites;
5. *Recommends* Member States to work with UNESCO to take appropriate legal actions to protect and preserve endangered Cultural World Heritage sites from military attack by:
 - a. Defining national legislation of buffer zones surrounding the heritage sites;
 - b. Clarifying the reason for the definition of the buffer zones;

6. *Suggests* all Member States to protect their Cultural World Heritage sites not only short-term but also long-term from frequent earthquakes by:
 - a. Strengthening investigation and prediction of earthquakes by governments of each Member State immediately;
 - b. Teaching local engineers how to reinforce Cultural World Heritage sites by using programs to give necessary skills to local engineers and share them between Member States by holding conferences;
7. *Emphasizes* Member States to create original guidelines about appearance of new structures those are planned to build around Cultural World Heritage sites;
8. *Suggests* Member States provide not only short-term but also long-term support to help to implement the necessary restoration from damage due to armed conflicts by:
 - a. Giving materials such as fireproof materials or rolls of bubble wrap to protect and reduce damage from direct attacks as urgent support;
 - b. Analyzing damages via satellite imagery or through networks to share information to restore them quickly and mitigate the loss;
 - c. Securing personnel skilled in restoring of Cultural Heritage sites in conflict regions to conduct training sessions necessary in maintenance of the Cultural Heritage sites in cooperation with cultural research or academic institutions;
9. *Encourages* museums in Member States to adopt routine maintenance of Cultural Heritage sites by:
 - a. Analyzing the buildings annually by skilled workers;
 - b. Calling for all member states to make the use of the materials and tools specified the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
10. *Recommends* changes in how Fund for Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict distribute their assistance grant by 2024, where it will include:
 - a. A relaxation of policies in how the fund from Fund for Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict Committee's is granted internationally;
 - b. An expansion of the Fund for Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to ensure successful preservation of World Cultural Heritage sites globally;
 - c. Encouragement for greater contribution from Member States to the Fund for Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
11. *Requests* an increase in international cooperation for Member States lacking the capability in preserving their Cultural World Heritage sites from deterioration and lack of funds by:
 - a. Promoting international assistance such as security and funding to Member States lacking the capability in preserving their Cultural World Heritage sites;
 - b. Promoting private investor investment in the tourism sector to preserve Cultural World Heritage sites;

12. *Encourages* activities for education to raise people's awareness toward the importance of Cultural Heritage sites by:
 - a. Teaching the cultural values of heritage sites such as their history and their environment to the local people by the local governments;
 - b. Inviting people from other regions who are willing to learn the traditional techniques and the history, and pass them on to the next generations;

13. *Recommends* Member States in need of improvement on infrastructures which surround Cultural World Heritage sites in order to protect their existence by:
 - a. Receiving technical assistance from other Member States to enable them to undertake planned urban development;
 - b. Requesting assistance from infrastructure funds such as Palestinian Cultural Fund (PCF) when the economic losses are estimated.