

13th Session

Agenda item: C

**Securing Cultural World Heritage Sites
Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change**

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

Seriously concerned about the gap in knowledge and technology among Member States, as United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) mentioned in The VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held virtually during the week of 1 to 4 of November 2021, to maintain the conditions of Cultural World Heritage sites and preserve them from the damages caused by climate changes,

Recognizing climatic shifts such as unpredictable rainy seasons, and far less even quantum of rains make dry environment conditions which lead to wildfires which burned 4.89 million square kilometers of land in Africa in 2016, that can be caused destruction of vegetation and wildlife, and destroy Cultural World Heritage sites in the African region,

Concerned about the lack of knowledge, and experience in building critical infrastructure which is the issue was raised at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR) in 2015, and finance to prevent natural disasters that are destroying Cultural World Heritage sites such as river flooding and acid rain caused by climate change,

Recognizing the threats to vulnerable remains such as the stone walls in Cultural World Heritage sites due to building erosion by rising temperatures according to Cultural world heritage at risk published in 2014,

Expressing concern about the loss of historic structures and archaeological deposits in Cultural World Heritage sites due to coastal erosion by sea-level rise according to Climate Change and World Heritage published by UNESCO World Heritage Center in 2007,

Realizing the urgency of safeguarding villages around the area of Quebrada De Humahuaca as it is lacking protective infrastructure and is vulnerable to climate change, the International Council on Monuments and Sites notes that flooding is a major threat to the properties,

Concerned about the lack of human resources to protect and repair the World Cultural Heritage Sites, according to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), it is difficult to conserve Cultural World Heritage sites by themselves for many developing Member States located in Asia and the Pacific,

Alarmed by the vulnerability of Africa's agriculture to climate change, as well as insufficient adaptation and funding as regional climate change is projected to lead to production losses of 30.5 percent for Niger and 19.9 percent for Burkina Faso by 2050 even with perfect adaptation,

Deeply concerned climate change brings various threats to some Cultural World Heritage sites, although carbon dioxide makes climate change worse, huge amounts of greenhouse gasses are still emitted and the United Nation (UN) mentions the richest one percent of the global population account for more greenhouse gas emissions than the poorest 50 percent,

Concerned about an insufficient understanding of the impact of climate change on world heritage and lack of environmental education, UNESCO mentioned making environmental education a core curriculum component in all Member States by 2025,

Concerned about damages to Cultural World Heritage sites caused in areas where desertification is becoming more serious, especially in arid, semi-arid and arid semi-wet areas, as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) stated in 2004 that its "Environment and Development Nexus in Kazakhstan" that lack of effective management of national land and water resources was a factor in accelerating desertification,

Acknowledges that the funding is crucial to develop new technology which contributes to adapting to the ever-changing situation,

1. *Requires* all Member States to work together for the sake of filling the gap in their information and technology about protecting Cultural World Heritage sites from the damages from climate change by:
 - a. Holding annually workshops, webinars, or international annual meetings;
 - b. Promoting technology transfer from developed to developing Member States for the conservation at the regional or international level;
2. *Suggests* Member States investing funds in programs which work on guidance activities in the forestry sector which reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the sustainable management of rainforests such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation + (REDD +) which is funded by some European Member States to reduce global warming;
3. *Suggests* developed Member States send experts who have more knowledge and experience in building critical infrastructure to encourage further qualification training to prevent the destruction of Cultural World Heritage sites from natural disasters and provide official development assistance to developing Member States where there is a issue to secure adequate budgets for protecting Cultural World Heritage sites until 2027 by:
 - a. Asking developed Member States' Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) or other civil society organizations to send experts who are well-versed with natural disasters;

- b. Asking developed Member States for Grants-in-aid, the provision of funds to developing Member States without imposing repayment obligations, and paid financial cooperation, in which development funds necessary for developing Member States to develop are lent, and developing Member States are obliged to repay the borrowed funds within the specific date;
4. *Reminds* Member States to take action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in order to mitigate damage to Cultural World Heritage sites due to rising temperatures by:
 - a. Promoting the development of technologies like Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) with financial supports from developed European Member States;
 - b. Introducing carbon offsets by planting trees or through forest conservation;
 - c. Introducing carbon taxes which should be used for the conservation of cultural landscapes and historic urban landscape;
 - d. Having Low Emission Zones built around and inside Cultural World Heritage sites for improving the surrounding environment and for preventing the occurrence of heat island effect around Cultural World Heritage sites;
 - e. Encouraging member states to set the dates when they want to reach carbon neutrality and for those who have set their countries carbon neutrality dates to uphold their commitments as promoted in 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
5. *Encourages* Member States to avoid landslides by planting or maintaining trees in order to mitigate the negative effects of coastal erosion in Cultural World Heritage sites;
6. *Encourages* all Member States to support and provide the management and conservation of properties in through;
 - a. General training to local communities to enhance the capacities of disaster risk management plans;
 - b. Building a protective dam to ensure the safety of the inhabitants in the area and other local communities;
7. *Recommends* Member States to make educational opportunities by:
 - a. Developing human resources who will protect and monitor Cultural World Heritage sites and repair damage from climate change;
 - b. Introducing a licensing system, which will be effective to brush up the skills of specialists to protect the World Cultural Heritage Sites from natural disasters;
8. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to financially support the Adaptation of African Agriculture program (AAA) which plays two important roles which are reducing the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change and attract a significant portion of climate funds by :
 - a. Taking note of unstable agricultural conditions such as crop failure, soil degradation, and lower vegetative yields, which will cause deforestation and the destruction of biological systems within the Cultural World Heritage sites;

- b. Recognizing the partnerships among 38 African members and cooperate together to strengthen financial support, agricultural development, and scientific research and the private sector;
 - c. Designating that the climate funds are mandated to provide assistance, advice, capacity building and technical support to policy makers, local institutions, project developers,
9. *Encourages* Member States to have regional cooperation to promote renewable energy, especially in the small-scale industrial sector, and limit the price of carbon for mitigating climate change to protect Cultural World Heritage sites which are influenced by climate change;
10. *Suggests* Member States to restore nature through farm management by sending experts from Member States where agriculture is advanced as a measure against desertification;
11. *Reminds* Member States to uphold and update on the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13;
12. *Recommends* Member States provide capacity and deepen understanding of Cultural Heritage Sites protection against climate change for ethnic groups, elementary to university students, professionals, and other local peoples by:
 - a. Encouraging Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and local architects to start planning on its building design and set a goal to complete by 2030;
 - b. Including climate education as part of the school curriculum in educational systems from primary school, as well as building a training center near Cultural World Heritage sites;
 - c. Drawing attention Including raising awareness among younger generation of the danger to Cultural World Heritage sites and encourage them to promote natural disaster risk reduction caused by climate change;
 - d. Treating environmental education as one of the basic pillars that will help to reach historic milestones and make it as essential for future generations to stay informed;
13. *Recommends* Member States focus on investing in the development of eco-friendly systems such as carbon dioxide reduction systems by:
 - a. Taking note of the introduction of new eco-friendly systems to protect Cultural World Heritage for future generations;
 - b. Being aware that Cultural World Heritage sites encompass not only buildings, but also people's activities and items such as monuments and documents, thus incorporating new protection technologies and methods which will lead to the protection of Cultural World Heritage sites.