



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Special committee of government experts to prepare a draft convention and a draft recommendation to Member States concerning the protection of monuments, groups of buildings and sites

Unesco House, 4-22 April 1972

SHC-72/CONF.37/21
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DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
AT NATIONAL LEVEL, OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in Paris, at its seventeenth session, from
to 1972,

Considering that, in a society where living conditions are changing at an accelerated pace, it is essential for man's equilibrium and development to preserve for him a fitting setting in which to live where he will remain in contact with nature and the evidences of civilization bequeathed by past generations, and that, to this end, it is appropriate to give immovable cultural and natural property an active function in community life and to integrate into an overall policy the achievements of our time, the values of the past and the beauty of nature,

Considering that such integration into social and economic life must be one of the fundamental aspects of regional development and national planning at every level,

Considering that particularly serious dangers engendered by new phenomena peculiar to our times are threatening the cultural and natural heritage, which constitute an essential feature of mankind's heritage and a source of enrichment and harmonious development for present and future civilization,

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Considering that each item of immovable, cultural or natural property is unique and that the disappearance of any one item constitutes a definite loss and an irreversible impoverishment of the cultural and natural heritage,

Considering that every country in whose territory there are elements of the cultural and natural heritage has an obligation to safeguard this part of mankind's heritage and to ensure that it is handed down to future generations,

Considering that the study, knowledge and protection of the cultural and natural heritage in the various countries of the world are conducive to mutual understanding among the peoples,

Considering that the cultural and national heritage form a harmonious whole, the components of which are indissociable,

Considering that a policy for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage thought out and formulated in common, is likely to bring about a continuing interaction among Member States and to have a decisive effect on Unesco's activities in this field,

Noting that the General Conference has already adopted international instruments for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage consisting in land and buildings, such as the Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations (1956), the Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding of the Beauty and character of Landscapes and Sites (1962) and the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works (1968),

Desiring to supplement and extend the application of the standards and principles laid down in such recommendations,

Having before it, proposals concerning the protection, at national level, of the cultural and natural heritage, which question appears on the Agenda of the session as Item ,

Having decided, at its sixteenth session, that this question should be made the subject of international regulations, to take the form of a recommendation to Member States,

Adopts this day of..... 1972, the present recommendations.

I. DEFINITION OF THE IMMOVABLE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

1. For the purpose of this Recommendation the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, including cave dwellings and inscriptions, and elements, groups of elements or structures of special value from the point of view of archaeology, history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of special value from the point of view of history, art, or science;

sites: topographical areas, the combined works of man and of nature which are of special value by reason of their beauty or their interest from the archaeological, historical, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

2. For the purpose of this Recommendation the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":

natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups

of such formations, which are of special value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of species of animals and plants, valuable or threatened, of special value from the point of view of science or conservation;

natural sites or strictly delineated natural areas of particular value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty, or in their relation to the combined works of man and of nature.

II. NATIONAL POLICY

In conformity with their jurisdictional and legislative requirements, each State should formulate, develop and apply as far as possible a policy whose principal aim should be to co-ordinate and make use of all scientific, technical, cultural and other resources available to secure the effective protection and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3. The cultural and natural heritage represent collective wealth, the protection and development of which impose responsibilities on the States in whose territory they are situated, both vis-à-vis their own nationals and vis-à-vis the international community as a whole; Member States should take such action as may be necessary to meet these responsibilities.
4. The immovable cultural or natural heritage should be considered in its entirety as a homogeneous whole, comprising not only works of great intrinsic value, but also more modest items that have, with the passage of time, acquired cultural or natural value.
5. None of these works and none of these items should, in principle, be dissociated from its environment.

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6. As the ultimate purpose of protecting and enhancing the immovable cultural and natural heritage is the development of man, Member States should, as far as possible, give their work in this field a new direction, so that the cultural and natural heritage may no longer be regarded as a check on national expansion but as a determining factor in such expansion.
 7. The protection and effective presentation of the cultural and natural heritage should be considered as one of the essential aspects of regional development plans, and planning in general, at the national, regional or local level.
 8. An active policy for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage and for giving it a place in community life should be developed. Member States should arrange for concerted action by all the public and private services concerned, with a view to drawing up and applying such a policy. Protective and corrective measures relating to the cultural and natural heritage should be supplemented by others, designed to give each of the components of this heritage a function which will make it a part of the nation's social, economic, scientific and cultural life for the present and future, compatible with the cultural or natural character of the property in question.

Action for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage should take advantage of scientific and technical advances in all branches of study involved in the protection and development of the immovable cultural or natural heritage.

9. Increasingly significant financial resources should, as far as possible, be made available by the public authorities for the safeguarding and developing of the immovable cultural and natural heritage.
10. The general public of the area should be associated with the measures to be taken for the protection and conservation and should be called on for suggestions and help, with particular reference to the regard for and surveillance of the cultural and natural heritage. Consideration might also be given to the possibility of financial support from the private sector.

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- (d) provision of facilities for scientific and technical training abroad, by allowing young research workers and technicians to take part in architectural projects, archaeological excavations and the conservation of natural sites;
 - (e) co-ordination, within a group of Member States, of large-scale projects involving conservation, excavations, restoration and rehabilitation work, with the object of making the experience gained generally available.