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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa

10-17 July 2005

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of the State of conservation of World Heritage properties

7A. State of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 190-191 of the revised *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2005), the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required:

The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the Draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

CULTURAL HERITAGE

JERUSALEM

31. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (proposed by Jordan) (C 148rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (vi)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1982

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.29

28 COM 15A.31

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

February-March 2004, World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS-ICCROM

Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s):

- Natural risk factors
- Planning, governance and management processes
- Impact of archaeological research
- Conservation of archaeological heritage
- Deterioration of monuments
- Alteration of the built fabric, urban environment and visual integrity
- Traffic, access and circulation
- Tourism management.

Current conservation issues:

At the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Centre presented a report on the state of conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem based on previous reports by the Special Advisers to the Director-General of UNESCO for Jerusalem, and on the report of the mission carried out in February-March 2004 by UNESCO, the Director-General of ICCROM and the President of ICOMOS (Document WHC-04/28.COM/15A).

This issue has been also examined by the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO. 32 C/Resolution 39 (adopted by the General Conference

in October 2003) reiterated “its support for the initiative announced by the Director-General at the 31st session of the General Conference to prepare a comprehensive plan of action to safeguard the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem”. Paragraph 7 of 170 EX/Decision 3.6.1. adopted by the Executive Board in October 2004, encouraged the Director-General “to continue his efforts for the establishment, as soon as possible, of the international committee of independent experts, highly qualified technically and professionally, entrusted with proposing the guidelines of the programmed plan of action and proposals for its implementation and to do so in consultation with the parties concerned”.

Therefore, the Director-General of UNESCO invited a Committee, composed of twelve high level experts, to meet at UNESCO Headquarters on 26 and 27 January 2005. The experts first reviewed the factors affecting the state of conservation of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem. On this basis, the experts defined the approach for UNESCO’s action and identified possible activities, stressing the need for immediate concrete and visible projects focusing on awareness-raising, community participation and capacity-building. A set of guidelines was agreed upon, providing UNESCO with a framework for elaborating the Action Plan. Based on the guidelines set and proposals made by the Committee of experts, and taking into account the level of resources which will be made available, the Secretariat has started elaborating the Action Plan, and will do so in close consultation with all the concerned parties. Thanks notably to financial contributions expected from the Governments of Italy and Spain, new developments towards safeguarding activities in the Old City of Jerusalem are foreseen in the near future.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29 COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling decision 28 COM 15A.31 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Referring to 171 EX/Decision 18 taken at the 171st session of the Executive Board of UNESCO in April 2005, notably “affirming that nothing, in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem”,
4. Reiterates its concern as to the threats to the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, as stated in Decision 28 COM 15A.31;

5. *Takes note with satisfaction of the continuing efforts of the Director-General of UNESCO in pursuing a comprehensive initiative for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem;*
6. *Welcomes and supports the preparation by UNESCO of an Action Plan based on the set of guidelines provided by the International Committee of experts, as well as proposals for its implementation;*
7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress of these recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;*
8. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*